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THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE NEWS



THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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THE NEW YEAR OF 1926.

By MARGERY CORBETT ASHBY.

A HAPPY New Year to feminists the wide world over. A happy New Year to the women of the forty countries who will taste the joys of comradeship at our Congress in Paris in May. A happy New Year to our dearly loved pioneers, the brave and far-seeing, who faced with steady courage, ridicule and misunderstanding. And a happy New Year to the younger women who follow after.

In Greek myth the hero opposed and slew the dreaded Hydra of a hundred heads. In 1926 the heroine still faces a thousand-headed monster, each head exactly similar to the other 999.

No woman should ride a bicycle—off went that head; no woman should drive a car—off went head No. 2; no woman must drive an aeroplane—alas! head No. 3 is still on its shoulders, and an international certificate is refused to the woman who has flown the Andes. Will it fall in 1926?



Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

No woman might be a trained nurse, yet women are doctors and surgeons. No woman might be a lawyer, yet women are judges. No woman might vote, yet women are Ministers in two countries, and in the diplomatic service of three. In the 29 countries where women have the vote they have won the right to give untiringly of their health and strength, their brains and their hearts to every form of social service; the hydra heads have fallen. But should the heroine expect her services to be measured by ribbons or titles, salary or pension, prestige or power, the heads grow again with remarkable vigour, and a cry goes up that the work (well paid) is unsuitable to women and will adversely affect the birthrate. The hardest physical work is done by the young wife of the unskilled labourer in the smoky slums of our industrial towns or in primitive agricultural com-

munities. Ill-health among married women is such a chronic condition that insurance companies will not face the risks of maternity insurance, yet Government Departments will hypocritically dismiss married women from well-paid and pensioned Government or municipal service, or the honourable profession of teacher. 1925 records victories against the servitude of the Code Napoleon. Women have won or are winning political freedom, personal freedom to dispose of themselves and their property, and to rear and protect their children. Unmarried women have won the first instalment of economic freedom, but the married woman in many countries has not yet the elementary personal right of selecting the work for which she deems herself fit. Yet without this freedom it is impossible for woman to give of her best to the race and the State. How bitterly we resented the years we spent in asking for the vote: years in which we might have used it to reform the laws to help the weak and guide national policy towards peace. As 1926 dawns we lament the old prejudices that fetter our economic freedom, because we want to use our womanhood to build a race with healthy bodies and alert brains, to safeguard peace, to purify our pleasures and our foods, our cinemas and our milk supply, to make the best of each brain and each acre, for waste is abhorrent to us.

At each step forward some faint-hearted cry out "enough"; but we wish a happy New Year to those who never falter, but press steadily on, till men and women shall be truly comrades, their only rivalry that of ungrudging, loving service to the race.

CONGRESS NEWS.

The public meetings of the Congress promise to be of particular interest, especially the meeting at which prominent men will give their testimony of the favourable results of woman suffrage. Invitations are being sent to distinguished statesmen in the enfranchised countries, and already a promise to attend has been received from Mr. Marchant, a member of the Dutch Lower House, who was recently invited to form a Government. Senator Leslie, of the Northern Ireland Parliament, has expressed his hope of attending if possible.

LETTER FROM MISS ROSA MANUS.

To the Presidents of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

Dear Presidents,

Having been appointed by the International Board as the Honorary Organising Secretary and Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements for the Congress in Paris, many of the details will fall upon me. I therefore come to you, Presidents of the Alliance, to ask you to spread my communications as far as needed in your own country.

Hotel Arrangements for Paris Congress.

For the benefit of auxiliaries at a long distance who must know at once, this first notice is published, though full arrangements can't be given yet.

Owing to the great kindness and generosity of "La Bienvenue Française," the services of M. Frédéric Hébert (a distinguished organiser) have been put at our disposal. He will make all arrangements for housing delegates and visitors to the Congress. There will be accommodation at all prices, from first-class hotels (including rooms with bathroom attached), to small single rooms in small hotels or pensions. Hotels within easy reach of the Sorbonne will be selected unless some other quarter of Paris is desired.

Naturally a room with two beds is generally a rather cheaper arrangement than having two single rooms. In all cases full board will *not* be included; in no case more than bed and petit déjeuner (*i.e.*, early breakfast in the French style with tea or coffee and rolls and butter), as the work of the Congress and many invitations make it more convenient for Congress members to be free for lunch and dinner.

Arrangements will be made for meals at a fixed price at restaurants near the Sorbonne.

Arrangements will be made to meet parties at their station of arrival and to convey them to their hotels.

Remember that in May and June Paris is crowded, and but for the services of M. Hébert it would practically be impossible to get rooms in most cases.

Write to:—

Monsieur Frédéric Hébert,
18 bis Rue de Ranelagh,
Paris, XVIe.,
France.

and give him full particulars of the kind of accommodation you want, and when you will arrive and leave. He will do everything for you and see that you are really comfortable.

Prices will probably range from about 65 francs per night for a single room with bathroom in a first-class hotel to 20 francs for a room in a small hotel or pension (plus from 3.50 francs downwards for early breakfast), but the uncertain state of the French exchange makes it difficult to be quite sure yet.

International Stall.

It has been decided to organise a sort of International Stall at the Sorbonne during Congress week.

Will Presidents bring then to Paris some typical sort of woman's needlework or speciality of their country, which would be attractive to exhibit? This work may be sold for the benefit of the I.W.S.A.

1. Please let me know if your country will send me exhibits.

2. What kind of articles will they be?

All details you would like to know about this stall I will be pleased to give you at any time.

Peace Meeting.

The last evening of the Congress, Sunday, June 6, will be the Peace Meeting.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt has been asked to preside over that meeting, and we hope she will address the audience, and several distinguished people will be invited to speak.

It is our idea to ask each president of our affiliated countries to be on the platform, and to bring a ribbon of the colours of their country (about 15 centimetres or 9 inches wide), long enough to wear over the shoulder across the front.

We hope a resolution will be adopted by all the members showing that we stand for the Peace of the World. These presidents, in their national colours, will show that the resolution is indeed international.

Yours sincerely,

For the Committee of Arrangements,
ROSA MANUS,
Plantage Parklaan, 15,
Amsterdam.

PASSPORTS FOR THE PARIS CONGRESS.

Delegates or visitors to the Congress from countries which still require a visa for entering France are requested to apply before March 1, 1926, to the French Consul in their own country in order to secure exemption from this necessity. If any difficulty is encountered, please communicate to the French Committee, 53, Rue Scheffer, Paris.

For countries which do not require visa, it is advisable to see that passports are in order before April 15, 1926, so that in case of any difficulty arising there will be time to communicate with the French Committee as above.

JERSEY.

The nomination of Mrs. Trachy, the first woman to come forward to stand for the Jersey Parliament, has been refused by order of the Crown officers. It had been suggested that women were not eligible, but Mrs. Trachy was prepared, if elected, to carry the matter to the courts. Mrs. Trachy, in protesting, said that if women were not eligible then the lawyers had made a mess of the Bill. Guernsey, as our readers know, has an able woman deputy in Miss Randall; we do not believe that Jersey will be able to lag behind much longer. We wish Mrs. Trachy and her supporters good luck in getting the law altered.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS. INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION.

The Paris Institute, which is to be the headquarters of the International Committee for Intellectual Co-operation, will open its doors on January 14, 1926. This has been made possible by the generous grant of the French Government of two million francs, and of the Polish Government of 100,000 francs. The Institute, provided by the French Government, is placed at the disposal of the League of Nations for the use of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, to act as a liaison and information centre for everything concerning intellectual relations. The work is divided into the following sections:—

1. General Section.
2. University Relations Section.
3. Bibliography and Scientific.
4. Arts and Letters.
5. Legal Section.
6. Information Section.

The University Relations Section is to continue the activities of the International University Information Office and the publication of its Bulletin.

The section dealing with Arts and Letters will work in conjunction with the sub-committee on Arts and Letters which it was recently decided to create, and on which Mdle. Vacaresco is to serve. To this sub-committee individuals are to be appointed who have special qualifications in art and literature. Mdle. Gabrielle Mistral, head mistress of Santiago College, has been appointed chief of the Section of Arts and Letters at the Institute; Miss Hocking, chief of Service for Records. Salaries are based on the principle of family endowment, a married man receiving an increase in respect of his wife and of each child under age; otherwise salaries for men and women will be equal, it appears.

The governing body of the Institute is the International Committee for Intellectual Co-operation, upon which Mme. Curie and Professor Bonnevise serve. The Director of the Institute is M. Luchaire, Inspecteur-Général de l'Instruction Publique. We hope the Institute has a big future before it; it should add to the many attractions of Paris.

There is no better way of breaking down barriers between nations than this intellectual fraternising. The work of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation is becoming more and more appreciated, and still greater services are expected of it in the future. The effort being made to introduce reforms in teaching and in school manuals should have far-reaching effects if at all successful. In accordance with a resolution brought forward by Señor Casares, the National Committees on Intellectual Co-operation are to be invited to draw the attention of one another to text books containing errors of fact prejudicial to international friendship. If they accept the invitation their work will not suffer from lack of material, and they will need much tact, even leaving aside the question of commentary, as the resolution wisely does.

The question of the instruction of youth in the ideals of the League of Nations is now under consideration. The Sixth Assembly, while recording its satisfaction that most of the states members of the League have acted on the resolution adopted by the Fifth Assembly touching the instruction of youth in the ideals of the League and the encouragement of contact between young people of different nationalities, expressed the opinion that the report should be regarded as a first stage. It therefore invited the Council—

(a) To consider the possibility of requesting all states members of the League of Nations and non-member states to keep the Secretary-General informed of the progress made in their respective countries as regards the various points mentioned in the report, and to forward to the Secretary-General all publications on this subject as soon as they appear.

(b) To instruct the Secretary-General to collect the information mentioned above. This information should be communicated from time to time to states members of the League and to other states interested in the question.

(c) To forward the Secretary-General's report, together with the proposals submitted by the Chilean, Haitian, Polish, and Uruguayan delegations, to the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, and to request it to consider the possibility of summoning a sub-committee of experts to consider the best methods of co-ordinating all official and non-official efforts designed to familiarise young people throughout the world with the principles and work of the League of Nations, and to train the younger generation to regard international co-operation as the normal method of conducting world affairs.

Women's societies in many countries are asking that qualified women should be appointed to this sub-committee, whose work may have so great an influence on future generations.

L. DE ALBERTI.

RHODESIA.

THE following interesting report of conditions in Rhodesia comes from Mrs. J. B. Dark, President of the Rhodesian Women's League:—

Conditions of life in this country, our mode of living, our social and economic problems, are so different from those of England that one almost has to live here in order to understand them.

After dealing with the difficulties of education, and the assaults on white women by natives, the writer goes on to say: A great evil is that of white men living with black women. In the outside districts this is a common practice. Many of these men have families of half-caste children, and when the time comes for the fathers to marry a white woman, the black wife with her family is discarded, the white father having no responsibility whatever towards them. The greatest sympathy should be felt for these half-castes, who are held in the greatest contempt by the black races, which is only equalled by the whites, who regard these poor creatures of misfortune with the greatest disdain. However, our Society has passed a resolution to try to get these children legitimised, as follows:—

"That this meeting is of the opinion that, in the interests of justice and for the general benefit of the country, all children, one or both of whose parents are white, should be legitimised, and that the Government should be respectfully requested to bring forward the necessary legislation." A copy of the resolution was sent to all members of Parliament for South Rhodesia.

So far our Government has done very little in the way of assisting women in their endeavour to make reforms. But we must take into consideration the peculiar position of our present Government. For thirty years we were governed by a chartered company. When the charter expired we elected our own men, and chose to have responsible government in preference to joining our neighbours in the South, so that our Government is not only young—having been in power about 18 months,—but they have to gain experience. In order to do that, they are taking the advice of our first Governor, Sir John Chancellor, who, in his first speech delivered in Bulawayo, said: "My advice to you is to make haste slowly."

We have no women on the municipalities. Our Society nominated two of our members some two years ago, but they were badly defeated. The majority of our citizens are old-fashioned as regards women's work, and will not have us in any public work. We managed to get two women on the School Advisory Board, but though we have tried repeatedly to get on the Library and Hospital Boards, we have always been turned down. We hope that in time public opinion will alter, when we shall take our rightful place in public work. We are under the Roman-Dutch law, which is extremely old-fashioned.

The following resolutions are being brought forward by our Society at the next Sessions, besides the resolution quoted above: (1) Amendment of the 1916 Ordinance, making it equally criminal for men as well as women to cohabit with natives; (2) a Bill to be introduced dealing with married women's property, similar to the Act of New South Wales. The women are supporting Mrs. Tawse Jolly in her endeavour to carry through a Bill for free and compulsory education.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

By ANN WEBSTER

(National League of Women Voters).

ONE of the most important sub-committees of the Women's Joint Congressional Committee (which is made up of representatives of twenty-two national organisations) is the sub-committee organised to oppose the so-called equal rights amendment to the Federal Constitution. The membership of the sub-committee is interesting. It is composed of national organisations of women, numbering millions, the leaders of whom were most active in supporting woman suffrage in many instances, and who have been unalterably pledged to work for equality in opportunity for women, and many other measures in the interest and for the advancement of women, since the enactment of the Federal suffrage amendment.

There is nothing contrary to the sustained policies of the organisations in the stand they have taken against the proposed amendment. *Equality of opportunity* has been the watchword of many of them; equality of opportunity in industry, in the professions, in law, in politics. In fact, so anxious are they to secure this equality, this opportunity for women to stand on a really equal footing with men, that they are devoting the resources of their combined organisations to the task of removing discriminations against women which exist in law and in law enforcement in the United States. But the organisations of the sub-committee cannot be led astray by appealing catchwords: by phrases which strike the ear and catch the eye of the less thoughtful. This equality must be real when it comes. Equality to them is not merely something written in the statute books—something which says with a broad, sweeping gesture, "Men and women shall have equal rights," and then leaves to the legal fraternity and the courts the interpretation. The sub-committee is not afraid to face facts, and it holds, in true Yankee fashion, that the way to remove discriminations is to remove discriminations! Then it sets itself to the task of doing it.

It is a long, hard road to equality, and seasoned feminists know just how long and how hard the road is. The United States has forty-nine law-making bodies—the national Congress and the forty-eight State legislatures. Some of these bodies meet every year, others every two years. Each is composed of two houses and all are busy grinding out new laws. So many new laws are enacted every year in the United States that it can almost be said that enacting laws is a national custom. Of the thousands of laws which are on the statute books of every State there are many which discriminate against women unjustly. But there are many laws written for the safeguarding of women which discriminate, in that they provide measures for the protection of women and make no similar provision for men—protection which assures actual equality. These laws have been enacted through the efforts of men and women who had a keen understanding of the needs and requirements of women employed under modern industrial conditions; of women before and after childbirth; of women handicapped by the care of small children. Any blanket method of removing discriminations *per se* would wipe out protective as well as unjustly discriminatory measures, and this, say the organisations of the sub-committee, they will not permit.

Instead of the spectacular amendment method the sub-committee, through its organisations, is undertaking to remove every disadvantage to women which exists in every law. Step by step this method is progressing. Carefully, critically, each law is studied, so that when the amendment is written into it it will meet the real situation and not a theoretical one. By this method nearly three hundred discriminations have been removed by the enactment of new laws and the amendment of old ones in the last three years. Discriminations are being removed in the United States in a sane, practical way, but protective measures, those precious advantages for which women have fought, will not be jeopardised for the sake of a "campaign."

A correspondent in the *American Bar Association Journal* recently asked: "... is it the women who do not work in factories, anyhow, and do not need their husbands' support, who desire an empty equality at the expense of their unfortunate sisters' real welfare?" Fortunately for the factory woman and the economically dependent, the sponsors of the so-called equal rights amendment are represented by a small group, while virtually every representative group of women in the States is opposed.

WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

THE Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, an organisation composed of twenty-one national societies of Great Britain, held its annual meeting on November 30. Among the resolutions passed was one urging the British Government to send a woman as fully accredited delegate to the next Assembly of the League; another called attention to the probability of the establishment of a sub-committee of the Health Committee to investigate the question of infant mortality and the protection of children from the hygienic point of view, and expressed the opinion that on any committee appointed to inquire into problems of infancy there should be equal representation of the sexes. The Council also asks that women should form part of the sub-committee of experts, which, it is suggested, should be appointed to consider the question of inculcating in the minds of the youth of all nations sympathy with the work of the League of Nations. For some years the Council has been endeavouring to induce the British Government to include women among the technical advisers who accompany the British delegates to the Council of the League. The question of women advisers to delegates who represent their respective countries on the Council of the League is one that should be taken up by women's societies in all countries which are members of the League of Nations. It is obvious that women can never take their proper place within the League whilst they are entirely excluded from all the deliberations of the Council of the League.

The Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations is anxious that publicity should be given to the tribute paid to the Duchess of Atholl by M. Montigny, French delegate on the Fifth Committee, when the proposal for the settlement of Armenian refugees was being considered by the Assembly. "I feel it my duty," said the French delegate, "to express to Her Grace the Duchess of Atholl our gratitude for the able manner in which she presided over the work of the sub-committee. It is due to her firm yet enlightened leadership that this difficult question has been solved. After our experience of the eminent services rendered to the Fifth Committee by the Duchess of Atholl I should like to say, if the head of my delegation will allow me, that I think those delegations which do not yet include women delegates are depriving themselves of a vast wealth of understanding and sympathy." The Council feels that this speech will help societies who are working for the appointment of women as delegates to the Assemblies of the League.

At the public meeting which followed the business session the Duchess of Atholl spoke on the work of the 6th Assembly of the League, and took the opportunity of speaking with warm admiration of the work done by the five other women substitute delegates at the Assembly, and by Miss Karen Jeppe. Mr. John H. Harris spoke of the Slavery Convention, and appealed to women's societies in all lands to help to put an end to the great evil of slavery. The chair was taken at both meetings by the President of the Council, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon. Among the representative women in the audience were Dame Millicent Fawcett and Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Vice-President of the Council, both of whom in proposing and seconding a vote of thanks to the speakers and chairman, took the opportunity of urging the importance of getting women appointed to the Commissions of the League and as delegates to the Assemblies.

L. DE ALBERTI,
Hon. Sec. Council of the Representation of
Women in the League of Nations.

A VISIT TO MRS. CHAPMAN CATT.

For the second time this year I crossed the ocean, and this time also an International Conference was the reason for my journey. In May, the leading women from thirty-eight self-governing States met in Washington to discuss, among other matters, such questions as international understanding and World Peace. In October the Inter-Parliamentary Union, with representatives from forty-one States, mostly men in this case, met in the same city with the intention of helping forward the solution of similar problems. The coming months will show if these gatherings have succeeded in bringing peace any nearer, but in any case, those who took part in these Conferences, if they kept their eyes and ears open and their sympathies awake, will have returned home the richer for many experiences and with more understanding for other countries.

On the occasion of my second visit I met again a number of those whose friendly hospitality I had had the opportunity of enjoying in the spring. But nothing on this second occasion gave me so much pleasure as the visit to Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, in her charming country home not far from New York. The invitation came quite as a surprise to the Danish delegate, Fru Elna Munch, and myself. A comfortable motor-car soon carried us away from the bricks and mortar of New York, first along the Hudson, the American Rhine, then up among the wooded spurs of the Allegheny Mountains.

A grey mist hung over the woods, brilliant in their autumn colouring. We had a glimpse of the Hudson, then again came the silent woods. We dashed through small villages, passed lonely riverside cottages, then pushed still deeper into the mountains. After two hours' fast driving we turned into a park, and after a short climb through woods heavy with rain, the car stopped before a country house covered with roses, where, under the porch, our kind hostess, Mrs. Chapman Catt, awaited us. As she stood there to welcome us, with her tall slim figure, beautiful white hair, and clever eyes, I remembered that at Washington I had heard Mrs. Catt called "the uncrowned Queen of the American women." The view from the house on to the line of hills was glowing in colours unknown to us in Germany. A pleasant warmth greeted us indoors after our long drive, and the daintily set out tea-table promised an hour of friendly talk. Nor were we disappointed. We shall neither of us forget the opportunity we had of intimate conversation with this great woman, who belongs not only to America, but is ready and willing to serve all women in every part of the world. We spoke of many things—women's rights and duties, political and social problems, questions of law and peace, all these passed under review. Mrs. Catt was interested in everything, and knew about everything. She asked many questions, but what impressed us most was that she stood above party in the fullest sense of the word. She unites in her person the ripe wisdom of age with an unexpected youthfulness of spirit. It is this that makes a cup of tea with Carrie Chapman Catt a very special experience. She desires peace for other nations as well as for her own. At the same time she is a proud patriot, and scorns any kind of weakness. She has struggled for women's rights and women's duties, but, the franchise gained, she wants women to take their part in national life and serve their country side by side with men. She has the necessary courage to be a leader; even when her followers do not think as she does she never allows herself to be led or pushed.

Only too quickly the time passed, and we had to take our leave and return to the noisy turmoil of the town of skyscrapers, back to our political work. Fru Munch and I both brought away with us the same impression of the "uncrowned queen," which will always remain a link between us. We need leaders like Mrs. Chapman Catt in all countries, women who stand above party, ready to serve their nation to the fullness of their capacity. We hope that circumstances may be kind, and bring Mrs. Catt once more across the ocean, and so enable more of our women to see and hear this wonderful leader for themselves.

CLARA MENDE, M.P.

—Bulletin, International Council of Women.

THE TURKISH WOMAN OF TO-DAY.

Notes of a Lecture Given by Halide Edib Hanoum.

HALIDE HANOUM wishes to contradict the statement frequently made that she was Minister for Education in the first Government of Angora. In 1920 she was condemned to death by a religious court in Constantinople for inciting to rebellion against the Sultan, together with others, and it was possibly this occurrence that caused her name to be used for what was, probably, a piece of propaganda. Although it was not true, its reception at least showed that Muslims were prepared to accept women in such positions.

Mistaken ideas as to the life and conditions of Turkish women in the past had been very prevalent in the West. As a matter of fact, only two things differentiated them from Western women—polygamy and seclusion. A study of primitive Turkish life, such as still existed in Anatolia, showed that a perfect state of sex equality existed, with an equal moral standard and no divorce, polygamy being practically, if not entirely, non-existent, and the women being unveiled. Nor was it the adoption of the religion of Mahomet which had brought in these customs—Mahomet having done much to raise the standard of woman's status, but rather corruptions which crept into Islam in its spread through Persia.

The emancipation of the Turkish woman started when the first schools were opened in Constantinople in 1839; in 1879 this movement spread, but there were still few schools for girls in the provinces. It was not till 1908 that a wider system was established, and at the present day there are few illiterate women in any of the larger towns. The Balkan War provided Turkish women with a great opportunity to show their patriotism and their capacity, and with the Great War came a further chance, especially of economic freedom. In 1916 a new Family Law was passed, which, while it hesitated expressly to forbid polygamy, gave a woman the right to make whatever marriage contract she chose and thus to exclude polygamy. In this same year the University, with the exception of the Law and Medicine Schools, was opened to women, though with separate departments from the men. In 1917 the co-educational system was adopted, and later on the Schools of Law and Medicine were also opened to women. The Nationalist movement was really only made possible by the determination and devotion of the women. The first army of irregular troops contained many women fighting as soldiers, though later on, when regular troops were formed, women were no longer in the fighting line but employed on transport, etc.

When the Nationalist Government was established women were emancipated from the veil; they are allowed to mix freely with men in the streets and the trams; they can dance, and appear on the stage; and, in fact, social life differs little from the social life of the West. They have not yet, however, been given the right to vote, though they have given ample evidence of their fitness for it. As regards sitting in Parliament, Halide Hanoum thinks that the time is as yet hardly ripe for that—the Turkish woman needs more experience of affairs.

EGYPT.

L'Egyptienne prints a speech delivered by Madame Charaoui Pacha at the Woman's Party Club, Washington, which gives an encouraging review of the new position of women in Egypt. Madame Charaoui Pacha pays a generous tribute to Kassem Bey Amin, who came forward in 1900 to plead the cause of the emancipation of women. He succeeded in arousing the women themselves, and great progress has been made since then. The Nationalist movement in 1919, in which women played an important part, broke down many of the old barriers which kept women in subjection. As a result when the Egyptian Feminist Union was formed several points in its programme were easily obtained. Notably the age for marriage for girls was raised to sixteen, and the demand for schools for girls and the provision for the higher education of women is now being realised.

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

ADELAIDE, S. AUSTRALIA.

The Marriage Bill.

The Hon. J. Carr moved the second reading of the Deceased Husband's Brother's Marriage Bill, which, he said, provided that all marriages which had been, or would be, solemnised between any woman and her deceased husband's brother should be declared valid.

The Bill was taken through Committee without amendment, read a third time, and passed.

GERMANY.

Women's Questions in Parliament.

THE results of the first Session of the Reichstag, elected in December, 1924, were rather poor as regards women's wishes and special interests, making, indeed, a very unsatisfactory balance for 1925—some slight facilities for married women in the tax legislation, on one side, and fatal defeats in the most important matters of the new Public Houses Bill and the Dismissal of Functionaries Bill, on the other (see reports in the May and October issues). Though in both cases the women members of all parties bravely and effectively, and with regard to the latter Bill unanimously, stood for their cause, all we obtained by these transactions was another confirmation of the knowledge that, besides our direct representation in the legislative bodies, a strong woman's movement is still needed—and more needed, perhaps, than ever—to influence these bodies from outside. In this knowledge the organisations concerned will never lose an opportunity to bring forward their claims by petitions and resolutions, etc., as was shown, for instance, by the various strong resolutions to Government and other Bills carried at the last biennial of the National Council of Women in Dresden. Lately two memoranda were submitted to the Chancellor, the Reichs and States Ministries, and to the women members of the Reichs and States Parliaments, by the National Council and its Committee of Professional Women's Organisations, containing claims of amendments and ample proposals for a mild application, as much as possible, of that most unjust and cruel dismissal paragraph for married women functionaries. It may be hoped that at least these well-founded claims and proposals will not be cold-shouldered.

As to the present Session, the Reichstag will most probably have to deal this winter with a series of other Bills already in committee or in preparation, and involving most important and burning questions and claims affecting women. First I will mention the "eternal" Bill to fight venereal disease, which was carried by the former Reichstag, but was vetoed by the Reichsrat, and which, as we hope, will become law definitely at last this time. As an amendment to the Civil Code, another important Bill, on the Rights of Illegitimate Children, has been submitted to the Reichsrat, and must be dealt with by this body before the Reichstag can decide upon it. A Bill for the Care of Women in Child-birth, which likewise was checked by the opposition of the Reichsrat, is further expected to return to the Reichstag in a much extended form, namely, as a Bill for the Protection of Mothers in general. The Committee on Population Politics have, for this purpose, asked the Government for a memorandum on the present state of things. The various Bills concerning "cultural and social hygiene legislation" (as mentioned in my report on the respective resolutions of the National Council), which are in preparation or have already reached a more or less advanced Parliamentary stage, will also occupy the Reichstag during this Session, as, for instance, the new Reichs laws for the protection of neglected or defective persons, tramps and vagabonds, for legal protection of the young in public amusements, and, likewise, against bad literature; further, on the reform of Article 218 (Artificial Abortion) in the Criminal Code.

Another already mentioned indispensable Bill, brought in by the Socialists, and promised by the Government long ago, a special Reichs-law for domestic assist-

ants, is, for various reasons, not likely to come before the Reichstag this time. Nor will the reform of the divorce law which for many years was claimed by the women's movement and by all progressive circles, be settled this time, though a draft of such Bill was brought in, more than three years ago, by several democratic members (amongst them Dr. Elizabeth Lüders). The present Reichs Minister of Justice energetically declared that as long as he was in office he would object to any change, *i.e.*, to any facilitation in the divorce law. But Ministers have been known to lose office.

Notwithstanding the two last-mentioned important matters, whose solution must be reserved to a later date, the German women have good reason to watch with the utmost interest the legislative work of the Reichstag during this Session, for their own and their children's welfare is at stake. The women members of the Reichstag will, to be sure, as always, do their best to further women's interests in all directions.

Dresden, December 16.

MARIE SERRIT.

GREAT BRITAIN.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

The Parliamentary Session.

Parliament has adjourned for the Christmas recess, and the 1925 Session is at an end. Unfortunately, the Legitimacy Bill and the Married Women (Torts) Bill, which we confidently expected to become law, have been withdrawn owing to lack of time. The Prime Minister has promised to include the Legitimacy Bill amongst the measures that will be referred to in the King's Speech at the opening of next Session, which will probably take place about the beginning of February.

The Criminal Justice Bill, which is of special interest to women in that it encourages the appointment of probation officers and removes the presumption of coercion of a wife by a husband, will have reached the Statute Book.

The Equal Franchise Campaign.

Meetings are being held among our affiliated societies all over the country, and a great effort is being made in order that the mass meeting which we are organising for Friday, February 26, at 8 p.m., in the Central Hall, Westminster, may be a great success. The speakers on that occasion will be Miss Maude Royden, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., and Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E. It is hoped that men and women of all parties, including a large section of factory workers, will attend. All women's organisations realise the importance of bringing pressure to bear on the Government to put forward serious proposals next Session for the extension of the vote to women on the same terms as men. We have recently published a revised edition of "The Case for Equal Franchise," which gives a full account of the reasons for granting equal franchise, and the present political situation concerning it. This can be obtained (post free) for 2d.

Women Police.

On December 8 Miss Wilkinson introduced into the House of Commons, under the Ten Minutes Rule, a Bill which imposed on the Watch Committees of the larger towns the necessity for appointing women police in their areas. This Bill, which was mainly for purposes of propaganda, passed its first reading with no opposition, but it was too late in the Session for its later stages to be taken.

A very large and representative deputation to the Home Secretary was organised by the N.U.S.E.C., and met with a very sympathetic reception. The Home Secretary, though in favour of women police, was of the opinion that it was only by converting the town councils that it would be possible to extend the movement very widely, and was against compulsion. At the same time he foreshadowed an increase of the women police in the London Metropolitan Police Force, which is directly under the control of the Home Office.

Annual Council Meetings.

The annual Council meetings of the N.U.S.E.C. have been fixed for February 24 to 27 inclusive, and promise to be of unusual interest. Owing to the political and industrial situation many contentious matters, will inevitably find their place on the agenda. These include questions particularly affecting women with regard to the reform of the Lunacy Laws and the reform of the Poor Law, amendments to the National Health Insurance Act, resolutions relating to the employment of married women, restrictive legislation for women in industry, information on birth control, and the new measures which the N.U.S.E.C. is endeavouring to promote in both Houses next Session.

The chief events during the Council meeting will be a public luncheon on Thursday, February 25, at the Holborn Restaurant, among the guests of honour at which will be Sir Martin Conway (M.P. for the English Universities) and Captain Walter Elliot (Parliamentary Under Secretary for Health for Scotland) (tickets, price 7s. 6d., may be had from the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15, Dean's Yard, London, S.W.1); and the mass meeting on equal franchise to be held in the Caxton Hall, as referred to above.

Visitors from overseas will be very welcome, and special arrangements can be made for their hospitality during the Council days.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

The Women's Freedom League was represented on the recent deputation to the Home Secretary, organised by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, to inquire into the law of Solicitation and the State of the Streets. Since that deputation, we have urged upon the Home Secretary that, in our view, any such inquiry will be practically worthless unless an adequate number of capable, experienced women are on its committee; that, as women are stated to be the chief offenders in our streets, women as well as men should be responsible for investigating this matter.

We are also represented on the deputation to the Home Secretary, organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, on the subject of women police, and we have enthusiastically supported the Bill introduced in the House of Commons by Miss Wilkinson, M.P., the object of which is to make it compulsory on all local Watch Committees to appoint women as well as men police.

The cause of equal franchise is being vigorously pursued by our branches, and many public meetings on this subject are being held in the near future in various parts of the country. In London, Miss Wilkinson, M.P., and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence have promised to speak at a public meeting at Caxton Hall, Tuesday evening, January 19, to a resolution calling upon the Government to introduce and pass into law without delay a Bill conferring the Parliamentary vote on women at the same age and on the same terms as it is granted to men. We are also looking forward to taking our share in a demonstration for equal franchise in Hyde Park next June.

In January we are arranging a conference to discuss women's work in the home, and a meeting against the imposition of any restrictions upon the work of women which are not also imposed on the work of men.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

As the first payments under the new Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act will be made on January 5, the Alliance thought it would be doing a useful service to many women by offering to send a speaker to mothers' meetings to explain the conditions necessary for obtaining a widow's or orphan's pension. A letter to this effect was sent to the Catholic Press. As a result, speakers have been sent to several convents and parishes which have women's guilds, and letters of inquiry from widows in all parts of the country have been dealt with at the office.

A letter has been sent to the Ministry of Health protesting against the small number of higher posts which

have been allotted to women in the administration of Widows' Pensions.

A letter has also been sent to the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorder, pointing out the need for more women in the administration of the Lunacy Laws. A member of St. Joan's Alliance, Mrs. C. J. Mathew, J.P., is one of the two women sitting on this Commission.

At the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations a resolution was moved on our behalf by Miss A. M. F. Cole, and signed by 16 other societies, urgently calling upon the Government for adequate legislation to stop the export of live horses for butchery.

LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.

This Society (formerly the Church League for Women's Suffrage) has been concentrating most of its energies on *one* item of its programme, viz., the position of women in the Church. The revision of the Prayer Book, especially by the Churches of England and America, has given opportunity for much propaganda on the position of women as set forth in the Marriage Service. The American Church has eliminated the word "obey" and other anomalies, but the House of Bishops in the Anglican Church has not yet reached the Marriage Service in its deliberations.

In September, the following resolution, moved on behalf of the League of the Church Militant by Mrs. Marston, and seconded by Miss Picton-Turbervill, was passed at the conference of the National Council of Women, at Birmingham, by 195 to 87 votes: "That this meeting respectfully urges the authorities of the churches to do all in their power to secure that a vocation to the Ministry of Religion shall receive official recognition, whether its possessor be a man or a woman." It was interesting to note that more than the necessary two-thirds majority was secured. This vote disposes finally of the argument that women themselves do not want, and would not submit to, the ministrations of women in the sacred ministry of the Churches.

In October, during Church Congress week, held this year at Eastbourne in the Chichester Diocese, the League ran a successful campaign. The Pier music pavilion was crowded to hear Miss Maude Royden speak on "Christianity, Psychology, and Some Problems of To-day," one of the problems to be dealt with being the position of women in the Church. The Rev. Canon J. G. Simpson, of St. Paul's Cathedral, president of the League of the Church Militant, was in the chair. Other meetings were also held: a conference on "Women and the Outlook To-day," a discussion on "The Need for the Revision of the Marriage Service," and a platform dialogue on "Women and the Priesthood" were all equally useful for propaganda purposes.

Information on the position of women in the churches of other countries is gratefully received by the overseas correspondent of the League, and inquiries are always welcomed at the office, Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster.

E. LOUIE ACRES (Chairman of Committee).

HOLLAND.

IT is with the deepest regret that we have to record the death of Mrs. Wilhelmina Drucker, who for almost half a century was one of the foremost in the vanguard for women's franchise.

She was a rare personality and of uncommon worth, steadfast in her convictions and never swerving from her purpose. For thirty years she edited *Evolutie*, a periodical chiefly devoted to women's interests, and in the pages of the first issue she wrote: "Give women freedom for general education, freedom to express their thoughts; but above all, freedom to work." In 1894 she was among the women who founded the Alliance for Woman Suffrage in Holland, and in 1899 joined the Council of Women.

Many prominent women and men attended the funeral, mourning the loss of one who was from the beginning a staunch supporter of the women's movement and who did valuable work for women's franchise.

The first result would have rejoiced the heart of Kartini, the late daughter of a Javanese prince, the young girl sower of the newer ideas about woman's work among Javanese women; we can report that in our Colonies already two Hindu women have qualified as doctors, and are employed by the Government in this capacity. Moreover, at the University for Law at Welfreden, two Javanese girls entered as students, and one of their sisters is a teacher at the Hindu College in Jogja.

C. KEHRER STUART.

NOTES FROM IRELAND.

A Feminist Victory in the Irish Free State.

In November last the Free State Government introduced the Civil Service Regulation (Amendment) Bill, the object of which was to give the Civil Service Commissioners the power to restrict examinations to men only or to women only. An effort to do this without legislation had previously failed, owing to the action taken by the Irish Women Citizens' Association. The present Bill was keenly opposed in the Dail, and only passed the second reading by a majority of five.

An energetic canvass of members of the Senate was carried out, and the result was seen in the division on December 18. The Bill was defeated by a majority of eleven, twenty voting for and nine against. This, as the *Irish Times* remarks, is the first time that the Senate has rejected a Government measure. The Bill will now be held up for nine months. At the end of this time it will become law automatically, unless the Senate demand a referendum. In this case there will be another delay of ninety days while the popular vote is being taken.

The moral for the feminist is clear. Organise, organise, organise; support your organisation when formed. For the partially unfranchised, work for full equality, but bear in mind the experience of the women in the Irish Free State, and let this be the equality of citizenship. Had the Government amendment to the Constitution been carried, and the famous Article III. stood "Equal political rights," the Sex Discrimination Bill would not have been needed, for the examinations could have been restricted without any legislative action.

DORA MELLONE.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

ORGANISED women of the United States are anticipating an interesting political and legislative year in 1926. The 1st of December marked the beginning of a busy legislative session in Washington, and the focusing of serious attention on many subjects which will have particular bearing on the political situation in the elections of 1926 and 1927.

The Women's Joint Congressional Committee—the national legislative clearing-house similar to the Women's Consultative Committee in England—had its first meeting December 1, and mapped out its course for the Congressional session. The opening of Congress on December 7 brought three new Congresswomen to Washington, an event in itself to occasion much interest and comment. Members of the Women's National Press Club had the distinction of being the first group to entertain Mrs. Edith N. Rogers, of Massachusetts, one of the three Congresswomen, at a luncheon the week preceding the opening of Congress.

"The World Court" is the topic of the day in Washington. While December 17 was the day set for the opening of the discussion in the United States Senate, even at this writing (two weeks before) it is safe to predict that December 17 will represent only "the beginning." There is no doubt in Washington that the United States will ultimately become a member of the Permanent Court of International Justice, but judging by the determination of the opponents, the winter months may be far spent before ratification will become a reality.

Every conceivable group is lined up for support. The "militant minority" will be powerful in oratory, if not in numbers. The National League of Women Voters proposes to keep track of World Court doings on Capitol

Hill, and has appointed a special committee, headed by Mrs. Maud Wood Park, counsellor on legislation for the League, to handle this particular work. The World Court proposal is the major measure in the League's legislative programme. Until the Senate acts, it will be accorded almost exclusive consideration by the legislative department of the League.

The 1925 November elections, which were mostly local, brought few changes as far as women office-holders are concerned. One of the surprises was the election of Mrs. John T. Pratt (Republican) as a member of the New York City Board of Aldermen. She is the first woman to sit in that body. Miss Mary Garrett Hay, of suffrage fame, very appropriately designated Mrs. Pratt as the "mother of aldermen" at a special luncheon in Mrs. Pratt's honour.

"We have been fathered to death," said Miss Hay. "It will be a splendid thing to have a little mothering going on down at the City Hall."

Particular attention is being given to a women's industrial conference to be held in Washington under the direction of the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labour, from January 18 to 21. Women representatives of national organisations throughout the country will be present, and will take part in a programme which will emphasise the development of industry and the accompanying problems affecting women in gainful employment. This will be the second occasion on which the federal department has called together the women of the country who are concerned with industrial and economic problems. Miss Belle Sherwin, president of the National League of Women Voters, will preside at one of the sessions.

ANNE WILLIAMS.

NOTES FROM NEW ZEALAND.

[The English Press announced a few weeks ago that Miss Melville had been elected; Miss Kane's news is a great disappointment. We did not publish the news of Miss Melville's election, as we believed it to be incorrect.]

The Parliamentary elections have just been held, and have resulted in an overwhelming majority for the present Government (Conservative), following precedent all over the world. Only one woman candidate stood on this occasion—Miss Melville, of Auckland,—but, unfortunately, she was again unsuccessful. Miss Melville has been a City Councillor of Auckland for a number of years, is a lawyer in practice in her native city, and was president of the New Zealand National Council of Women from 1919-23. The women were therefore very hopeful on this occasion, especially as Miss Melville had the official Government nomination. The constituency given her, however, was largely a Labour district, and she lost the seat by a few hundred votes. She, however, secured a larger number of votes than has been polled by a woman candidate before, and we are hopeful that that is an augury of better things in the future. Miss Melville stood on two previous occasions, in 1919 and 1922, and this makes her failure this time even more regretted. Meantime, New Zealand remains for another three years at least in the regrettable position of being almost the last of the British Dominions which refuse to have women in their Parliament.

The Referendum on National Prohibition is taken at the same time as the elections. Prohibition, which nearly won the day in 1922, has had a bad set-back on this occasion. With regard to women's questions, the Prime Minister, when interviewed by members of the National Council after the annual Conference, practically promised, if elected, to bring down a Bill allowing for the appointment of women J.P.s and women on juries, etc.

The outstanding feature of the last session of Parliament was the passing of the Child Welfare Bill. This establishes Children's Courts, and provides for the care of children committed to the State. Unfortunately, there is a grave omission, from the women's point of view; for although provision is made for the appointment of one or more "persons" to be associated with the magistrate in the Children's Courts,

a woman is not specified, and it is feared that according to precedent "persons" may again mean men only.

At the Dominion Conference of the New Zealand National Council of Women, held in September, just after the return of the President (Miss Kane), who had been attending the Quinquennial Meeting at Washington and International Week in London, the President's address contained many references to International work, and especially to the British Empire League Conference on the Citizen Rights of Women within the British Empire, at which she had represented New Zealand. Much interest was manifested at this offshoot of the old Overseas Committee. The annual report of the Council spoke of this Conference in the following terms:—

Citizen Rights of Women.

A conference that compels reference, and which is directly of greater importance to British women than even the International Conference at Washington, was held in London on July 9 and 10 last, the subject for discussion being: "The Citizen Rights of Women Within the British Empire." The Conference was remarkable in that every shade of political thought and opinion was represented on it, and the speakers included prominent men and women actively associated with the three great British political parties. It is refreshing indeed to note that in the Old Land members of all parties and creeds can come together when the occasion demands it, and discuss, from an imperial and non-party point of view, questions that affect women materially, no matter to what party they belong. At this conference New Zealand was worthily represented by Miss Amy Kane, Miss M. England, and Miss Lyra Taylor, LL.B.

AMY G. KANE.

A WOMAN JUDGE IN LITHUANIA.

We are indebted to Mlle. Zilevicaite for the pleasant news that there is a woman holding the position of Judge at Kaunas, the provisional capital of Lithuania. Judge Elena Jackevrciate was born in Lithuania in 1895, studied law at Moscow, 1913-1918, and passed her examinations with the highest honours. We are told that she is highly respected in the courts, where she delivers her judgments with firmness and surety, is kind when possible, and severe when necessary. An exemplary judge at all times. She has held office for two years.



Elena Jackevrciate.

BELGIUM.

The Pope has conferred on the Queen of the Belgians the Order of the Golden Rose. This is the highest recognition that a Catholic woman can receive, and is very seldom awarded.

ARGENTINE.

The Bill for the Reform of the Civil Rights of Women, which was passed by a full sitting of the Senate in September last, reads as follows:—

Article I. Women of full age (single, divorced, or widowed) shall have all civil rights allowed in law to men.

Article II. A married woman of full age has the following rights: The guardianship of her children by a previous marriage; she has power to act in the following cases without permission from her husband or from the law: To practise a profession, trade, or industry, or to fill any paid position, and to dispose of the wages, salary, or income she thus earns; to acquire property with her earnings and to administer and to dispose of it in her own right; in the course of her profession to become a member of a private firm or company or of an association, to administer herself the means she acquires from her marriage, or which come to her as the result of marriage settlements or from gifts, inheritance or legacies, or from the dissolution of the marriage régime of "communauté des biens"; to administer the property of her children by a previous marriage, unless the usufruct of such property is included in the existing marriage régime of "communauté des biens"; to have power to set aside marriage settlements made by her parents; to act herself in civil or criminal proceedings which affect her own person, her property or that of her minor children by a previous marriage.

Article III. During the continuance of the marriage and so long as the condition of community of goods exists, a wife whose husband is serving a sentence of more than two years may dispose of her husband's property in order to provide for the support of herself and her minor children by permission of the Court, in cases where the wife has no other means of support.

Article IV. A wife's goods shall not be liable to distraint for the debts of her husband, nor shall the husband's goods be so liable for the debts of his wife.

Article V. The goods of either spouse are therefore only liable to distraint for debts contracted for the upkeep of the household, the upbringing of the children or the maintenance of their common property.

Article VI. The provisions of those civil or other laws which are contrary to the present law shall be repealed.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

The feminists of Newfoundland are not resting on their laurels. Having now the vote, they are bestirring themselves to get women elected councillors and to the Legislative Assembly. The Newfoundland League of Women Voters has recently held a great rally at the Casino Theatre, the chief speaker being Principal L. Paton, M.A., who did not scruple to say that, looking at the world-wide unrest to-day, one should remember that against the havoc caused by the war a great moral reserve had been called out by the granting of the franchise to women. He advised the audience to get together and see that women were elected to the Legislature. Mr. Paton looks to womanhood to deliver the world from war.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

Result of Elections.

The Suffrage Committee of Prague sends word that as a result of the late elections ten women have been returned for the Chamber of Deputies, and five for the Senate. Unfortunately one of the latter has since died. We note with pleasure that the President of the Suffrage Committee, Mme. Plaminkova, is one of the Senators.

MISS PATTIE FIELD, VICE-CONSUL.

AT the American Consulate at Amsterdam there is a Consul-General, a Consul, and two Vice-Consuls, of which Miss Field is one. She is a very fine, sweet young woman of 24 years, very attractive and intelligent. She studied international law for two years in Paris, where she did her exam., and last April in Washington she had to take her exam. for the diplomatic service. There were 150 candidates, of which she was the only woman. In all 20 passed their exam., amongst whom she was one of the most successful. The officials asked her to what country she would like to go, and she at once said "Holland," as she always had liked that country. She then was appointed as Vice-Consul at the Amsterdam Consulate in September. Her actual Home was Colorado. She lost her father some years ago. She has two brothers, one studying law in New York, and one studying engineering in Boston.

Her mother accompanied her to Amsterdam. They are living in a nice, comfortable little Dutch flat, with a Dutch maid. Miss Field takes Dutch lessons, and means to get to understand the Dutch people and their customs.

Mrs. Field is a real American club woman, who belonged to different clubs in America, and has been speaking for them. They are members of the "Netherlandsche Vrouwenclub" (the Amsterdam Women's Club), the members of which gave a dinner in honour of the first woman Consul on December 22.

ROUMANIA.

The Theosophist Society celebrated in November the 78th birthday of its President, Monsieur Berant, under the presidency of Miss Fanny Seculia (whose pseudonym is "Bucura Dumbrowa"). There was a large attendance at the wonderful meeting, and many floral tributes.

The League for the Duties and Rights of Women, whose President is Mme. de Reuss Janculesco, began its activities by meetings at the President's house and by conferences at the National Party's Club, which were very well attended. The Section of Peasant Women (President Maria Pепенаро) have founded a workroom for Roumanian work, such as beautiful carpets and Roumanian embroidery—a great undertaking. Mrs. Smaragda Maltopolu is proposing to undertake a campaign for the moral improvement of vagabonds.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF ROUMANIA.

It was an excellent idea on the part of the N.C.W. of Roumania to hold a congress of feminist associations representing minorities. Following complaints, more or less vague, which had reached Princess Alexandrine Cantacuzène at the Washington Congress, an appeal was issued by her on her return to Roumania, inviting all feminist associations, representing minorities, to send delegates to a congress to discuss their grievances, more especially as regards the protection of women and children, educational problems, and any questions tending to bring about a sincere reconciliation. The Congress was held at Bucarest in October, and was a great success. Six hundred associations, representing minorities of every race and creed, sent delegates. As a result a permanent committee has been formed for the collaboration between minorities and the N.C.W. When the questions raised have been studied, another meeting will be held in Transylvania.

PALESTINE.

Under pressure from the ultra-orthodox and the anti-feminists the Jewish National Committee of Palestine has agreed to take a referendum, including women, upon the question of Jewish women's right to vote. The League of Jewish Women point out that this is a dangerous proceeding, because of the number of Jewish women from the East, who are very backward from a feminist point of view, and will no doubt vote as their husbands tell them to do, and against their own rights. We hope, none the less, that justice may prevail.

SOCIAL HYGIENE IN URUGUAY.

DR. PAULINA LUISI, who occupies the newly created chair for Social Hygiene of the Training College of Montevideo, has begun a course of lectures. The first was given before a distinguished audience of professors, presided over by the Director-General of Education. Dr. Luisi dealt with private, public, and social hygiene. Disease being a menace to the whole human race, the nations were united in combating it. Dr. Luisi emphasised the great work being done by the Health Commission of the League of Nations as a proof of this solidarity. In sociology, medicine, and even in politics, prevention is always better than cure. This first lecture covered a wide field: infant mortality, tuberculosis, cancer, venereal diseases, prostitution, and moral vices and the resulting evils.

The distinguished lecturer, so well known to all feminists, promises to deal later with the "Value of Human Capital"; the "Influence of Hygiene on Industrial Productivity"; the "Influence of Physical and Social Circumstances on the Individual"; the "Rights of Childhood as Proclaimed at Geneva." She also promises to give special attention to the question of physical aptitude in the choice of a profession.

In a later lecture Dr. Luisi dealt with industrial fatigue. Dr. Luisi also gave a lecture before the Medical Society upon the "Problem of Prostitution: Regulation or Abolition of Regulation," which was a great success, and has alarmed the upholders of Regulation. There were splendid press reviews of the lecture, and it was remarked that there was nothing to add to what the lecturer had said.

WOMEN UNDER ENGLISH LAW.

The National Council of Women of Great Britain (Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W.), with the assistance of the Stansfield Trust, is publishing a book on "Women Under English Law," by Mrs. Crofts, M.A., LL.B., a woman solicitor. The book is a compact and useful précis of the position. It would be of interest to any and every class of woman in England, and to Continental students of English positions. Nor are the Scottish women of any degree forgotten, for there is a chapter on Scots Law, by Miss Kidd, and there is a foreword by Dame Millicent Fawcett. The book contains summaries of legislation, up to date, as to women as mothers, wives, citizens, and in less estimable positions. None could fail to be interested in what the volume reveals as to the position of women in the past, and their privileges and remaining disabilities in the present.

FOR DELEGATES AND VISITORS FROM CANADA AND NEW YORK.

In the matter of transportation the Cunard Line have sailing facilities which are commended for consideration. New and commodious steamers leave United States and Canadian ports at frequent intervals, the following sailings beings available:—

Carmania, from New York, Saturday, May 8, to Cherbourg.

Antonia, from Montreal, Saturday, May 15, to Cherbourg.

Cameronia, from New York, Saturday, May 15, to Cherbourg.

Berengaria, from New York, Wednesday, May 12, to Cherbourg.

Samaria, from New York and Boston, Saturday, May 15, to Liverpool.

In the case of the Carmania, from New York, and the Antonia, from Montreal, these steamers carry cabin and third class passengers only, and enable travellers to enjoy most excellent accommodation at a moderate rate as compared with the three-class steamers.

The passage rates for cabin and second class accommodation vary from 145dols., and any of the Cunard Company's offices and agents in the U.S.A. will be pleased to obtain and offer suitable accommodation.

SOME EVENTS CONCERNING WOMEN IN 1925.

Argentina.—Bill passed giving women equal civil rights. Buenos Aires appoints 50 women police.

Australia.—Dr. Roberta Jull appointed Warden of Convocation of Western Australian University—first woman to hold such position. Queensland passes Child Endowment Bill (Family Allowances). New South Wales Legislative Assembly—Miss Preston Stanley first woman member. Dr. Jean Greig included in Royal Commission on National Health appointed by Commonwealth Government. Western Australian Legislative Assembly—Miss Holman elected as member (Mrs. Cowan was the first woman member, but lost seat last year).

Austria.—Frau Olga Rudel Zeynek, M.P., introduced Midwives Bill, which was immediately enacted (registration, etc.). Dr. Marianne Beth first woman barrister on list of Counsels (corresponding to K.C.).

Bahamas.—A Woman Suffrage Bill introduced for the first time. Unfortunately, not passed.

Belgium.—Mme. Brown de Tiege appointed Burgo-master. Now seven women so acting.

Bermuda.—First Suffrage Bill introduced. Unfortunately, lost.

Canada.—Equal divorce law passed.

Chile.—Law passed giving married woman right to her earnings and to act as witness. Woman appointed as judge for first time.

Denmark.—Nationality of Married Women law passed (right to retain nationality on marriage with alien while residing in Denmark, or in any case if she does not acquire the nationality of husband).

Egypt.—First women's club opened in Cairo.

Finland.—Eighteen women elected among special electors for election of President.

France.—Ten women Communists elected in municipal elections, though not legally eligible. Women made eligible for Chambers of Commerce, having already right to vote.

Germany.—Bill restricting public-house licences, prohibiting sale of liquor to minors, etc., introduced through women's organisations, but not passed.

Great Britain.—Peereses Bill introduced, but defeated by two votes. Miss Amphlett first woman notary admitted. Resolution passed in Parliament admitting right of married women to retain nationality or marriage with alien. Guardianship of Infants and Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bills passed. Miss Niven first woman to secure Brunton Memorial Prize at Glasgow University. Order of Dame Grand Cross of British Empire conferred on Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Ellen Terry, and Miss Aldrich Blake. Miss Rathbone appointed as assessor on behalf of the International Women's Organisations to the Committee for the Protection of Children, League of Nations.

Greece.—Law passed giving women of 30 municipal suffrage without eligibility, to come into force in 1927. Women barristers allowed to plead.

Hungary.—Woman suffrage included in Constitution, having already been practised under Ministerial decrees.

India.—Punjab tables woman suffrage resolution. Mrs. T. Madhavi Amma nominated to Cochin Legislative Council—first woman directly chosen on any Indian Legislature. Bengal Legislative Council passes resolution giving woman suffrage. Act of Consent (14 unmarried, 13 married) Bill passed. First woman elected to Madras Municipal Corporation.

Irak.—First women's club opened in Bagdad.

Ireland.—Miss Keogh elected first woman member of Dublin Stock Exchange. Women get notice of Civil Service Examinations with word "Male" withdrawn, new announcements being issued stating that exams. are open to both sexes—in accordance with wording of Civil Service Registration Act. Northern Ireland passed Widows and Orphans Pensions Bill (on English model). Mrs. Chichester elected only woman member of Northern Parliament.

Italy.—Administrative Vote Bill finally approved.

Japan.—Women made eligible to practise law.

Jersey.—Act passed similar to Married Women's Property Act.

Newfoundland.—Parliamentary vote and eligibility given to women of 25.

Sweden.—Civil Service Bill passed giving equal pay, except that men receive one more increment than women. Mrs. Sophie Wessmann elected to Riksdag, making five women in Parliament.

Uruguay.—Chair of Social Hygiene established in Montevideo—Dr. Luisi appointed. Chamber of Deputies drafts Bill for suppression of maisons de tolérance as result of Dr. Luisi's campaign. Bill introduced for complete equality in civil and political rights (September, 1925). Under discussion.

United States.—Miss Pattie Field appointed to post of Consul at Amsterdam—first woman Vice-Consul from U.S.A. Word "obey" deleted from marriage service of Episcopalian Church. Three women elected to Congress. Congress on Causes and Cure of War held in Washington under presidency of Mrs. Catt. Inauguration of two women State Governors—Mrs. Miriam Ferguson in Texas, and Mrs. Ross Taylor in Wyoming. Miss Lucille Atcherson appointed Secretary of Legation at Berne—first woman to hold diplomatic post from U.S.A.

REVIEWS.

WOMEN: AN INQUIRY. By Willa Muir. Published by the Hogarth Press, 52, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1. Price 2s. 6d.

This little book states in its introductory paragraph that its aim is to find a conception of womanhood as something essentially different from manhood, but it frankly states that the exhaustive study of secondary physiological or social differences between the sexes requires scientific information which is beyond its scope. That being so, one rather wonders whether it was worth while to turn over an old subject in order to come to the conclusion that there is one essential difference—namely, motherhood. You never would have guessed it, would you?

Having stated this important difference, the conclusion is drawn that as a consequence of her maternity, actual or potential, woman's strength is in unconscious and man's in conscious life. It is difficult to know exactly what meaning to attach to this, but it appears that what is intended is a restatement of the old contention that woman is emotional, spontaneous, irrational, while man is thinking, rational, orderly. It is true that the author disclaims any intention of dividing all men and women on these lines, but she says that it would be just to say that some men are more intellectual than any woman, while some women are more intuitive than any man. The evidence on which it would be just to make this statement is, however, lacking.

The opening statement as to the causes and results of male domination is interesting, but in the subsequent conclusions the author has not been able to continue to distinguish between genuine sexual differences and differences probably due to the results of that domination. If women are, in fact, as she says, largely interested in human relationships rather than in more abstract questions, how can anyone state with certainty that this is "natural" and not the result of an artificial stimulation caused by their long exclusion from the larger affairs of life?

Frankly, it does seem that the essential thing at this time of day is to let men and women have freedom to give their contribution to life in accordance with what is in them. If that contribution proves more or less the same, then we shall none the less see humanity fulfilling itself; if it proves to be different in kind for the two sexes, the same satisfactory conclusion will be reached. And until that freedom has been won, it boots little to discuss (at any rate from any superficial standpoint) what, if any, are the differences, because all our premises are falsified from the very beginning by the lack of it. K. B.

WHAT INDIAN WOMEN HAVE GAINED BY THE REFORMS.

WE have received for review an excellent pamphlet, by Mrs. Cousins, Hon. Secretary of the Indian Women's Association, entitled "What Women Have Gained by the Reforms," from which we quote the following extracts:—

... Not only on the side of citizenship, but in matters regarding the entrance of women into the legal profession, in matters regarding sex problems and labour conditions, a detailed examination of the Bills passed by the Legislatures under the Reforms Act shows a most remarkable power possessed by these bodies, and exercised by them, in support of the advancement of women's status. There can be no question that the Reforms Act has definitely increased the power of Indians to legislate in relation to questions affecting the status and conditions of women and the care of children, the result being that a number of important and far-reaching reforms have already been passed into law.

Undoubtedly the most important of the reforms relating to women since the Reforms Act has been the passing of the Woman Suffrage Resolution on terms of equality with men by the Madras and Bombay Legislative Councils in 1921 and 1922 by substantial majorities, unanimously in 1923 by the United Provinces, and in Burma, after a unanimous vote in favour of it by the old Council, its incorporation as an integral part in the new Burmese Reforms Bill.

Woman suffrage in India is based entirely on property, rent assessment, or academical qualifications. There is no different age qualification for men and women, such as the British women still chafe under. By a large majority the Legislative Assembly voted in favour of granting its franchise to the women of any Province which might previously have granted the Legislative Council vote to its women. Thus women have been immediately recognised as a responsible and helpful half of the nation right at the outset of its career to self-government. . . .

It is recognised that the administration of Local Government forms an excellent training ground for the more difficult decisions necessary in casting the legislative vote. Women in Bombay Presidency and in the United Provinces had had the municipal vote for many years before the reforms, but in Madras Presidency and Bihar and Orissa the power of nomination and election to all the self-governing bodies, such as Taluk Boards and Municipal Councils, has also been granted to women, and in a number of places it is being taken advantage of. Women voters have come forward surprisingly well in many of these elections. It was a direct result of the Reforms that four women were entitled to stand for election to the Bombay Corporation, for instance, and the voters of that city are to be congratulated on having returned all the four women candidates. Even Bengal, which is so conservative in its treatment of women, has now a woman Municipal Commissioner for one of its Calcutta districts. Already about fifteen women are serving on Local Government Boards throughout the country. Both negatively, through the Non-Co-Operation movement, and positively, through their interested share in local elections, the interest of women in politics has been greatly stimulated by the results of the Reforms. In November of this year the qualified women of Provinces comprising a population of 150 millions will vote for the first time under British administration.

The introduction of the Reforms influenced at once a number of the Indian States to grant greater recognition and powers of service to their women. Travancore took the lead and enfranchised its women, granting them also the right to be nominated as members of the Legislative Council. Cochin State made a clean sweep of the sex disqualification, and gave women and men equal rights as citizens, but as yet no woman has gone into the Council. The important State of Mysore has

granted to women the right to vote for the Representative Assembly, but not as yet for the Legislative Council, though this body was the first in the world to give a unanimous vote in favour of extending this legislative franchise to women. The small State of Rajkot has the honour of being the first place in India to elect women (two) to its new State Council. The education of women also has progressed much more rapidly in these States than in British India, and other social reforms have followed in consequence.

Not only as electors who send forward their representatives to make the laws of the land, but also as administrators of that law and the application of it, women have come into their kingdom. For the first time in Indian history a woman has been appointed as an honorary magistrate, and takes her seat with a quorum of three First Class bench magistrates. This would hardly have happened had not the Reforms first made it possible for women in this country to be recognised as responsible citizens. Equally remarkable has been the promptitude with which the legal profession has been thrown open to women by the Legislative Assembly. For long this step has been needed for the protection of women's interests, especially in the purdah-keeping areas of India. Several times Indian women academically qualified to act as lawyers had applied to the Indian Courts to be enrolled as pleaders, but unsuccessfully. The opening of the legal profession to women in Great Britain gave a precedent that the Indian Legislatures hastened to follow, with the result that in the record space of five minutes' time the Government of India introduced and passed an amendment to the Legal Practitioners' Act which has removed the disqualification of sex from its provisions for the enrolment of vakils and barristers. Two women are now enrolled in the Courts of Allahabad and Patna.

In no sphere of Indian life is there greater need for reforms than in matters relating to sex. Child marriage is deeply rooted in the higher castes, and yet it is recognised as a cause of physical deterioration. Its *raison d'être* is the promotion of morality, but the debate on a resolution in the Legislative Assembly to raise the age of consent for married girls from 12 to 14, raised a storm of opposition, which disclosed a serious state of legalised licence within marriage, which entirely refutes the possible good that this early marriage is supposed to bring to the girls.

Both the Assembly and the Council of State, however, put themselves quite willingly in line with the resolution of the League of Nations and Western countries that the age of consent for unmarried girls be raised from 16 to 18 years of age, though this is still below the ideal aimed at—that of 21 years. This has been a particularly useful step made possible by the Reforms Act, but, unfortunately, suffering also from the limitations of the same Act; for the Home Member has delayed enforcement of this new law on the unjustifiable excuse (as women think) of its being inconsistent with other sections of the Penal Code, where 14 remains the age. . . .

Mrs. Cousins has also something to say about the position of women as wage-earners. She thinks the Workmen's Compensation Act will undoubtedly be of assistance to women engaged in hazardous employments, such as the building of high houses, and in certain factories. The new Indian Mines Act has brought prominently before the public the fact that about 90,000 women work underground in mines. The Reform Legislatures have abolished child labour in mines, but have temporised with the prohibition of women's underground labour, recommending that arrangements be made for such work to cease within the period of five years.

This interesting pamphlet is one of the National Conference series.

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

LE 25^{ME} ANNIVERSAIRE DE L'ENTRÉE DES FEMMES AU BARREAU.

La sagesse populaire prétend que tout arrive... Tout arrive, en effet, puisque le Palais et le Barreau féminin viennent de fêter solennellement leurs noces d'argent!

Vingt-cinq ans se sont écoulés, depuis la date mémorable—1^{er} décembre, 1900,—où le *Journal Officiel* promulgua les termes laconiques de la loi "ayant pour objet de permettre aux femmes munies de diplômes de licenciées en droit de prêter serment d'avocat et d'exercer cette profession." Vingt-cinq ans, depuis que la voix de Jeanne Chauvin s'élevait pour la première fois dans le prétoire, au grand émoi des vieux échos bousculés dans leurs habitudes séculaires.

Elle ne laisse pas d'être assez piquante—en ces jours de congratulations officielles,—la rétrospective de "l'époque héroïque"! Époque toute proche encore, et que peuvent dépeindre, en quelques traits expressifs, des pionnières telles que Maria Véroine, Agathe Dyvrande, Suzanne Grinberg, Marie-Thérèse Moreau, qui ont vaillamment combattu pour conquérir droit de cité dans cette petite ville jalouse de ses chartes qu'était le Palais masculin.

Tant d'efforts ont enfin recueilli leur moisson. Le léger vent acideulé, qui circulait naguère autour des "intruses," s'est assagi. Les nouvelles venues en sourient comme d'une légende et c'est par centaines, à présent, que les robes féminines doublent la sévère robe noire.

Favorisées par une meilleure ambiance, par une plus sincère confraternité, les annales du Palais féminin se constituent; les sanctions officielles interviennent, décernant la palme enviable du secrétariat de la Conférence successivement à Jeanne Rospars, Lucile Tinayre, Suzanne Blum et Juliette Veillier—cette dernière honorée entre toutes, puisqu'appelée à prononcer, en qualité de 2^e secrétaire, un solennel discours de rentrée.

Il importait, dans l'actuel accomplissement des choses, de marquer avec éclat le souvenir de ce 1^{er} décembre qui ouvrit aux femmes l'accès d'une des plus belles carrières. Il y eut, à cette fin, nombre de cérémonies, parmi lesquelles une brillante réception à l'Hôtel de Ville, par la Municipalité, de l'Amicale des Avocats, présidée par Mme. Dyvrande. Dans un cadre somptueusement fleuri et devant une nombreuse assistance, M. Guillaumin, Président du Conseil Municipal; M. Bouju, Préfet de la Seine, et M^e Aubépin, Bâtonnier de l'Ordre des Avocats, prirent successivement la parole en termes éloquentes et fins. Mme. Agathe Dyvrande leur répondit, au nom du Barreau féminin, avec une chaleur, une émotion et une autorité qui lui valurent le plus vif succès. La musique de la Garde Républicaine et un excellent buffet terminèrent cette première consécration.

La seconde se déroula le même soir dans le grand amphithéâtre de la Sorbonne, sous les auspices de "l'Association Nationale des Avocats inscrits aux Barreaux de France et des Colonies." Il s'agissait, cette fois, d'atteindre le grand public, et celui-ci répondit à l'appel avec un empressement, un enthousiasme, qui dépassèrent toute prévision. Ce fut—devant une table joliment décorée d'œillets roses,—une véritable fête de la parole et de l'esprit, rehaussée par une atmosphère d'élégance, de culture distinguée.

On entendit d'abord M. Jean Appleton, Président de l'Association Nationale des Avocats inscrits, dont l'allocation nuancée de délicatesse érudite et de chaude conviction fut infiniment goûtée. Puis Mme. Suzanne Grinberg, qui dans un émouvant hommage à Jeanne Chauvin, donna toute la mesure de son beau talent souple—tour à tour spirituel, grave et vibrant.

Mlle. Chauvin répondit alors, avec une modestie émue, et rendit à César ce qui appartient à César en exprimant bien haut sa reconnaissance envers les grandes féministes qui lui avaient montré la voie en travaillant, sans défaillance, à la libération de la personnalité féminine.

On vit ensuite une charmante avocate de Bruxelles—car plusieurs barreaux étrangers s'étaient fait repré-

senter—offrir à Mlle. Chauvin, au nom de "ses sœurs belges," une splendide corbeille de fleurs. Enfin, il appartenait à Juliette Veillier, 2^e secrétaire de la Conférence, héroïne des temps nouveaux, de clore dignement cette brillante théorie de talents féminins, en faisant longuement applaudir le charme prenant de sa parole diaprée-malicieuse, énergique, et marquée au coin d'une culture raffinée.

M. Lévy-Oulmann, représentant le Garde des Sceaux, conclut de la façon la plus séduisante. Et la cérémonie s'acheva par une partie artistique fort réussie, organisée par le Palais musical—jadis de brillante renommée parmi les amateurs de goût et heureusement ressuscité, à l'occasion de cette soirée.

Ajoutons que la T.S.F., précieuse collaboratrice, porta en province et à l'étranger discours et concert.

Nous remercions les féministes de s'être groupés nombreux autour de nous ce soir-là. Grâce au chaud concours de toutes les présences amies, "notre" anniversaire a atteint l'éclat qui devait lui assurer sa signification complète.

GERMAINE SEILLIER, Avocat à la Cour.

—La Française.

V^{ME} ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE DE L'UNION FÉMININE POUR LA SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

L'Union féminine pour la Société des Nations, créée en 1920 par l'Union française pour la suffrage des femmes, a tenu, le 25 octobre, sa cinquième Assemblée générale dans la grande salle du Cercle des Femmes universitaires américaines.

Le rapport moral et le rapport financier ont été présentés par Mme. Puech, secrétaire générale; elle a insisté sur la collaboration de l'Union féminine pour la Société des Nations avec d'autres groupements visant le même but: atteindre les publics les plus divers pour les intéresser au fonctionnement et à l'œuvre de la Société des Nations. Si l'Union a organisé moins de conférences au cours du dernier exercice, c'est qu'elle a pu profiter d'invitations à des manifestations préparées par le *Groupement universitaire*, l'*Association française pour la Société des Nations* et la *Fédération des Associations françaises pour la Société des Nations* dont elle a fait partie dès 1920, et dont elle constitue un des membres les plus vivants. Elle entretient également les meilleurs rapports avec la branche parisienne de la *League of Nations Union* qui l'a priée de faire un exposé de la collaboration des femmes à la Société de Nations dans une de ses réunions publiques. Dans ce même esprit, l'Union organise avec le *Groupement universitaire* une série de Conférences sur les organismes techniques de la Société des Nations.

Parmi les rapports de province dont il fut cité des extraits, il convient de signaler celui de la section de Marseille dont le Mémoire obtint, en 1924, un prix au Concours Filene et qui a consacré ce prix à la publication de son mémoire et de celui d'une autre femme, le Dr. Noémi Stricker.

Après la réélection de membres anciens et l'élection de nouveaux membres (Mmes. Lapie, Rouché, Béziers et Thibert), l'Assemblée générale vota l'envoi d'une lettre à M. Briand, ministre des Affaires étrangères, pour le féliciter de l'heureux résultat de la Conférence de Locarno.

La Conférence de M. Ruyssen, qui suivit, fut un excellent exposé de l'*Œuvre de la sixième Assemblée de la Société des Nations*. Le secrétaire général de l'Union internationale des Associations pour la Société des Nations montra que cette Assemblée, moins brillante que la précédente a peut-être fait un travail plus solide. . . . Des initiatives comme celles de la France, qui a proposé par la voix de M. Loucheur une grande conférence économique, seront toujours bien accueillies par la majorité des Etats qui veulent la paix et l'entente par la bonne collaboration internationale.—*Pour la Société des Nations*, Nov., 1925.

VŒUX POUR 1926.

Heureuse année aux féministes du monde entier; aux femmes des 40 nations qui goûteront les joies de la solidarité à notre Congrès de Paris en mai; à nos chères et braves pionnières, qui voient de loin et affrontent avec constance le ridicule et l'incompréhension; aux jeunes femmes qui nous suivent.

Dans le mythe grec, le héros combat et tue l'hydre aux cent têtes. En 1926, l'héroïne fait encore face à un monstre à mille têtes.

La femme ne devait pas monter à bicyclette, conduire une auto, piloter un avion. Deux têtes coupées, mais la troisième reste à abattre.

La femme ne pouvait être ni infirmière diplômée, ni avocate, ni électrice. Aujourd'hui, plusieurs sont médecins, chirurgiens, juges, ministres, diplomates. 29 pays lui ont accordé le vote, et elle peut se consacrer au service social, les têtes de l'hydre sont tombées. Mais si elle compte sur des rubans ou des pensions, du prestige ou du pouvoir, immédiatement les têtes repoussent, et le cri s'élève: Le travail (bien payé) ne convient pas aux femmes, il nuira à la natalité. Pourtant le travail matériel le plus dur est fait par la jeune femme de l'ouvrier dans les taudis fumeux de nos villes industrielles. Si fréquente est la mauvaise santé chez les femmes mariées que les compagnies refusent d'assurer les risques de la maternité. Et des gouvernements expulsent, des postes bien payés, les fonctionnaires mariées. 1925 a vu des victoires sur la servitude du Code Napoléon. Les femmes gagnent leurs droits civiques et civils, mais, sauf en dehors du mariage, elles n'ont pas encore, en maints pays, de droits personnels. Tout le temps que nous avons lutté pour le vote, nous aurions pu en user pour le bien du peuple. A l'aube de 1926, de vieux préjugés nous privent de la liberté économique nécessaire pour bâtir une race saine de corps et d'esprit, sauvegarder la paix, purifier la vie, etc. Heureuse année à celles qui, sans se lasser, iront de l'avant, jusqu'à ce que l'homme et la femme ne rivalisent plus que dans le dévouement au bien public.

MARGERY CORBETT ASHEY.

NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES. ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE POUR LE SUFFRAGE DES FEMMES.

Lettre de Miss Rosa Manus aux Présidentes des Unions Nationales.

Chères présidentes,—Ayant été nommée par le Board international hon. secrétaire organisatrice et présidente du Comité des arrangements pour le Congrès de Paris, je viens vous prier de répandre dans votre pays les informations que je vous envoie.

Choix d'hôtels pour le Congrès.—La bienvenue française nous a offert généreusement les services de M. Frédéric Hébert (organisateur distingué). Il se chargera de tous les arrangements pour loger les congressistes. Il y aura des hôtels et pensions à tous les prix, de 20 à 65 frs. environ par nuit, et 3.50 pour le petit déjeuner (prix soumis aux fluctuations du change). Les hôtels seront choisis de préférence près de la Sorbonne, et des repas à prix fixes seront servis dans les environs. Les groupes seront reçus à l'arrivée et conduits à leurs hôtels respectifs. Ecrire en donnant tous les détails nécessaires à M. Frédéric Hébert, 18 bis rue du Ranelagh, Paris.

Exposition internationale.—Il a été décidé d'ouvrir une exposition à la Sorbonne pendant le Congrès. Nous prions donc chaque Présidente d'apporter à Paris des spécialités ou des ouvrages à l'aiguille faits par les femmes de leur pays et de nous faire connaître d'avance la nature et la quantité des articles à exposer. Ils seront vendus au profit de l'Alliance. Nous répondrons à toutes les demandes de renseignements.

Meeting pour la paix.—Ce meeting aura lieu le dernier soir du Congrès, dimanche, 6 juin. Mrs. Chapman Catt présidera. Nous prions chaque présidente de prendre place sur l'estrade et de porter un ruban aux couleurs de son pays (15 centimètres de large) pour montrer le caractère international de cette manifestation. Une résolution sera votée en faveur de la paix.

Passeports.—Les membres du Congrès devront se munir d'un passeport avant le 15 avril, et, pour les pays

à visa, avant le 1^{er} mars. En cas de difficulté, s'adresser au Comité français, 53 Rue Scheffer, Paris, XVI.

Traversés.—La Cunard Line offre des avantages spéciaux pour la traversée des voyageuses du Canada et des E.U. Ses bateaux quittent Montréal samedi, 15 mai; New York, 8, 12, et 15 mai.

Grande-Bretagne.

Union Nationale des Sociétés pour l'Egalité Civique.

La session parlementaire.—Le bill sur la légitimation et sur les femmes mariées n'a pas passé encore, faute de temps; le ministre a promis de l'insérer parmi les projets de la prochaine session. Le bill de justice criminelle qui supprime la coercion de la femme par le mari et lui accorde la surveillance officielle prendra force de loi.

Campagne pour la franchise.—Des meetings sont organisés par toutes les sociétés provinciales pour préparer le grand meeting de Londres au Central Hall, le 26 février, à 8 heures. Les oratrices seront Miss Maud Royden, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, député, et Dame M. Fawcett.

Les femmes dans la police.—Le 8 décembre, Mrs. Wilkinson a présenté à la Chambre des Communes un bill imposant aux Comités de surveillance des grandes villes l'obligation de nommer des femmes. Le bill a passé en première lecture sans opposition, mais les vacances ont tout interrompu. Le ministre de l'intérieur, qui a reçu une députation de l'Union nationale et de la Ligue pour la liberté, s'est montré sympathique à cette cause; il a promis de faire augmenter le nombre des femmes dans la police de Londres qui dépend de son ministère.

Ligue internationale des femmes.—Cette ligue prépare une campagne pour le printemps et l'été prochain en faveur de l'arbitrage et du désarmement, et propose une grande démonstration à Hyde Park par des femmes venues de toutes les parties de l'Angleterre et faisant leur propagande en route. Cette démonstration pourrait se faire avec la coopération de l'Union pour la Ligue des Nations et des autres sociétés féministes.

Ligue de la liberté des femmes.—Cette ligue s'est fait représenter dans les députations que l'Association de l'hygiène morale et sociale et l'Union nationale ont organisées auprès du Ministre de l'Intérieur. L'Association d'hygiène sociale réclame la nomination de femmes expérimentées dans les comités d'enquête au sujet de la loi sur le racolage et l'état moral des rues. La Ligue mène une campagne vigoureuse avec les autres sociétés pour l'obtention de l'égalité des droits civiques.

Ligue de l'Eglise militante.—Cette ligue a concentré toute son énergie sur la position des femmes dans l'Eglise. Elle demande que les autorités ecclésiastiques reconnaissent officiellement le droit des femmes à être ministres de la religion comme les hommes. Elle demande aussi que le mot obéissance soit rayé de la formule du mariage, comme en Amérique.

Allemagne.

Les questions féminines au Parlement.—Les résultats de la première session du Reichstag sont peu favorables aux femmes. Le bilan est comme il suit: d'un côté, légère facilité pour les femmes mariées en matière de taxes; de l'autre, défaite sur la matière la plus importante, révocation des femmes fonctionnaires (voir mai et octobre). A la prochaine session, le Reichstag aura à étudier quelques questions sérieuses: projet de loi contre les maladies vénériennes, projet de loi sur les droits des enfants illégitimes, projet de loi sur la protection aux mères et sur l'accouchement, etc. Les femmes députées feront comme toujours leur possible pour nous soutenir.

Hollande.

Nous avons le regret d'annoncer la mort de Mme. W. Drucker, qui a été une pionnière de l'affranchissement des femmes; elle a dirigé pendant 30 ans "Evolutive," revue consacrée aux intérêts féminins. Dans les colonies, deux femmes hindoues ont reçu le grade de docteur et sont employées par le gouvernement. A Welturoden, deux jeunes Javanaises sont entrées comme étudiantes à la faculté de droit, et une de leurs sœurs enseigne au Collège hindou à Jogfa.

Lithuanie.

Une femme, E. Jackeviciate, a été nommée juge à Kannas. Elle a fait de fortes études de droit à Moscou (1913-1918), et elle est très appréciée.

Roumanie.

Conseil national des femmes.—Au Congrès de Washington, des plaintes plus ou moins vagues étaient venues aux oreilles de la Princesse Cantacuzene. A son retour en Roumanie, elle invita toutes les associations féministes représentant les minorités à envoyer des déléguées à un congrès pour présenter leurs réclamations au sujet de la protection des femmes et des enfants; des problèmes d'enseignement, etc. Le congrès s'est tenu à Bukharest en octobre avec succès; 600 associations représentant les minorités de toutes les races et croyances envoyèrent des déléguées et un comité a été formé pour la collaboration entre les minorités et le Conseil national.

Etats-Unis.

"La Cour internationale" est à l'ordre du jour à Washington. Le 17 décembre était le jour choisi pour le début des discussions au Sénat, la détermination des adversaires rendra la tâche ardue; aussi la ligue des électrices emploiera tous les moyens pour soutenir les efforts en faveur du projet.

Aux élections de novembre, Mrs. Pratt (républicaine) a été la première femme nommée alderman de la Cité de New-York.

Une conférence industrielle des femmes se tiendra à Washington sous la direction du Bureau féminin du Département du Travail du 18 au 21 janvier. Les représentantes de toutes les sociétés nationales y prendront part.

"Egalité d'opportunités."—Cette expression a été le mot d'ordre de beaucoup de sociétés féministes aux E.U. Egalité d'opportunités dans l'industrie, les professions libérales, le droit, la politique, etc. Elles consacrent toutes leurs ressources à faire disparaître de la législation les lois d'inégalité contre les femmes. Près de 300 lois injustes ont été ainsi corrigées dans les différents Etats depuis trois ans. D'autre part, il y a des lois de protection (protection maternelle, etc.) qu'il s'agit de distinguer des autres et elles en font une étude attentive.

Argentine.

Loi votée en septembre sur les droits civils des femmes.—1° Toutes les femmes célibataires, divorcées ou veuves, ont les mêmes droits civils que les hommes. 2° Une femme mariée majeure a les droits suivants: elle a la garde de ses enfants d'un précédent mariage et peut administrer ses biens; elle peut, sans la permission de son mari, exercer une profession libérale, commerce, industrie, etc., et disposer de son salaire, acquérir une propriété avec ses gains et l'administrer, faire partie d'une compagnie ou association, administrer ses biens, agir dans les procès civils ou criminels qui la concernent. 3° Si le mari est condamné pour plus de deux ans, elle peut disposer pour elle et ses enfants des biens de celui-ci avec l'autorisation du tribunal. 4° Les conjoints ne répondent pas des dettes l'un de l'autre. 5° Les biens de la femme ne peuvent être aliénés que pour des dettes contractées pour la maison ou les enfants.

Nouvelle-Zélande.

Les élections parlementaires ont eu lieu et ont donné une grosse majorité conservatrice. La seule femme candidate, Miss Melville, n'a pas passé, mais a recueilli plus de votes que les candidates précédentes. Le trait de la dernière session a été le vote de la loi sur l'enfance. Cette loi établit des tribunaux d'enfants; elle s'occupe du sort des enfants confiés à l'état, etc.

Rhodesia.

Les conditions de vie diffèrent de celles des autres Dominions, dit Mrs. Dark, présidente de la Ligue des femmes de Rhodesia. Les difficultés de l'enseignement sont très grandes, les attaques de femmes blanches par les noirs sont fréquentes. Une coutume déplorable est la liaison des blancs avec les négresses. Beaucoup d'entre eux ont des enfants et quand ils épousent des blanches, ils abandonnent la négresse et les petits mulâtres qui sont méprisés et rejetés par les noirs et par les blancs. La Ligue des femmes, à l'un de ses meetings,

a passé une résolution que dans l'intérêt de la justice et pour le bien du pays, tous les enfants dont les pères sont des blancs devraient être légitimés et elle prie le gouvernement d'établir une loi à ce sujet. Une copie a été envoyée à tous les membres du Parlement pour la Rhodesia méridionale. Le gouvernement est très nouveau (18 mois) et sans expérience. Il n'y a pas de femmes dans les municipalités, bien qu'elles soient éligibles, le pays est encore soumis aux anciennes lois hollandaises et l'opinion publique est peu éclairée.

Egypte.

Le mouvement nationaliste de 1919 dans lequel les femmes ont joué un rôle important a brisé les vieilles barrières qui les tenaient en sujétion. En particulier, des écoles ont été ouvertes pour les jeunes filles, un système d'enseignement a été créé et enfin l'âge du mariage a été élevé à 16 ans.

Palestine.

Sous la pression des ultra-orthodoxes et des anti-féministes, le Comité national juif de Palestine a accepté un référendum d'hommes et de femmes sur la question du droit de vote. La Ligue des femmes juives estime que cette mesure est dangereuse à cause du nombre des femmes juives de l'est qui sont très arriérées au point de vue féministe et qui voteront, sur l'ordre de leurs maris, contre leurs droits.

Société des Nations.

Comité international pour la coopération intellectuelle.—L'inauguration aura lieu le 14 janvier, 1926, à l'Institut de Paris qui est le siège social. Le gouvernement français a donné généreusement deux millions de francs, et le gouvernement polonais 100,000 francs. Ce Comité sera un centre d'informations pour les relations intellectuelles internationales. Il se divise en six sections: (1) Section générale; (2) section des relations universitaires; (3) bibliographie et sciences; (4) arts et lettres; (5) droit; (6) renseignements. Le Comité de direction de l'Institut de Paris sera le Comité international. Le directeur est M. Luchaire.

Les femmes dans la Ligue des Nations.—Le Conseil pour la représentation des femmes dans la Ligue de Nations, qui comprend 21 sociétés en Grande-Bretagne, a tenu son meeting annuel le 30 novembre. Parmi les résolutions votées, l'une demande instamment au gouvernement d'envoyer une femme déléguée pleinement accréditée à la prochaine assemblée de la Ligue. Une autre appelle l'attention sur la possibilité de l'établissement d'un sous-comité d'hygiène pour enquêter sur la mortalité infantile et d'hygiène de l'enfant, et demande que ce sous-comité comprenne au moins la moitié de femmes. Le Conseil demande et prie toutes les nations de demander que des femmes soient parmi les conseillers techniques qui accompagnent les délégués.

M. Montigny, délégué français au 5^e comité, a rendu l'hommage suivant à la Duchesse d'Atholl: "J'estime de mon devoir d'exprimer à S.G. la Duchesse d'Atholl notre gratitude pour la manière habile dont elle a présidé les travaux du sous-comité. C'est grâce à sa direction ferme et éclairée que la question des réfugiés a été résolue. Après avoir constaté les éminents services rendus au 5^e comité par la Duchesse d'Atholl, je tiens à déclarer que les délégations qui ne contiennent pas de femmes se privent d'une source importante de compréhension et de sympathie."

Au meeting public qui suivit, la Duchesse d'Atholl parla des travaux de la 6^e assemblée, et fit un grand éloge des 5 femmes déléguées suppléantes. M. John Harris parla de la convention contre l'esclavage et fit appel aux sociétés féministes de tous les pays pour qu'elles travaillent à mettre fin à ce fléau. Les deux meetings furent présidés par Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon.

LA BELGIQUE. L'Abandon de Famille.

La Comte Carton de Wiart vient de déposer à la Chambre, avec quatre députés de divers groupes, une proposition de loi tendant à réprimer le délit d'abandon de famille. Nous le félicitons vivement de cette heureuse initiative, en une matière où vraiment l'intervention du

législateur s'impose. La question est assez importante pour les intérêts féminins pour que nous reproduisions le texte de cette proposition et l'exposé des motifs qui l'accompagne . . .

ART. 1^{er}.—Sera tenue pour coupable d'abandon de famille et sera punie d'un emprisonnement de huit jours à trois mois et d'une amende de cinquante à cinq cents francs (50 à 500 frs.) ou d'une de ces peines seulement, toute personne qui, ayant été condamnée par une décision judiciaire passée en force de chose jugée, à fournir une pension alimentaire à son conjoint, à ses descendants ou à ses ascendants, sera volontairement demeurée plus de trois mois sans acquitter les termes de la dite pension.

Les pères et les mères condamnés pour abandon de famille pourront être privés de la puissance paternelle et de leurs droits civiques.

Il pourra être fait application, en cette matière, des dispositions légales sur les circonstances atténuantes ainsi que sur la condamnation et la libération conditionnelles.

ART. 2.—Lorsqu'une personne débitrice d'aliments dans les conditions prévues à l'article premier, au profit de son conjoint, de ses descendants ou de ses ascendants, est demeurée plus de trois mois sans acquitter les termes de sa pension, elle sera appelée devant le juge de paix à la requête de toute personne intéressée ou du ministère public, et ce, au moyen d'une lettre recommandée signée et adressée par le greffier avec accusé de réception.

Le juge de paix recueille les explications des parties et dresse du tout procès-verbal qu'il transmet au Procureur du Roi. *Féminisme Chrétien.*

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