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# THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS



THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

Volume 15. No. 10.

PRICE 6d.

JULY, 1921.

Annual Subscription, 6/-

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

## THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS' CONFERENCE ON THE TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

OUR readers will remember that the League of Nations some months ago sent out invitations to practically every country in the world to send representatives to a Conference on the Traffic in Women and Children, to be opened in Geneva on June 30. The invitation was addressed to the Governments of the various countries, and asked that a delegate and not more than one technical adviser should be sent to the Conference. It was, we think, regrettable that the invitation was so narrowly framed, and that the League did not definitely ask that among the representatives sent from each country there should be women as well as men, for, framed as it was, it was obvious from the outset that the chance of a woman being sent as delegate or adviser was in many cases extremely remote. Happily, France has sent Madame de Witt Schlumberger as alternate delegate, and Denmark has appointed Miss Henni Forchammer as full delegate to this Conference. The British Government has been urged continually during the past months to appoint a woman either as delegate or adviser, but with no effect. It is true that the National Vigilance Association have been asked to send two representatives to the Conference, one of whom will be a woman, and the Government have sheltered themselves behind this fact. But it is far from being a satisfactory state of affairs. Britain, with her many dependencies with a mixed population, and the moral problems inevitably arising therefrom, should have been the first to recognise the necessity of sending experienced women in an official capacity to this Conference.

The International Woman Suffrage Alliance

recognised immediately that women and women's organisations would undoubtedly be able to submit valuable information to the Conference on the whole subject of the traffic in women and children, and therefore circulated to its auxiliaries the questionnaire issued by the League of Nations. Answers to this questionnaire have been sent in by France, Greece, Hungary, Denmark, Great Britain, and, we believe, by other auxiliaries which have not yet reported direct to us on the matter. In addition the League of Nations asked the Alliance to submit proposals in connection with this Conference, and the following Memorandum and Appendices have been sent in.

We are particularly glad that the Alliance has been able to place before the Conference its firm belief that the State regulation of prostitution is an important contributing cause of the continuance of the traffic in women. It is obvious that while any State licences the individual prostitute and the brothel, it literally creates a market for women which the slave-trader is quick to take advantage of.

### MEMORANDUM FROM THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE FOR THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS' CONFERENCE ON THE TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN. GENEVA, JUNE, 1921.

The International Woman Suffrage Alliance, which is a federation of national organisations in thirty countries, at its Conference held in Geneva in 1920 considered the question of the traffic in women and children, and there adopted certain resolutions in which its general policy on the question are embodied (see Appendix I.). The Alliance begs to submit these resolutions to the Conference and makes the following suggestions as to the practical application of the principles embodied in them :—



1. *Extension of the White Slave Traffic Conventions to other countries and to colonies.*

Since the traffic in women and children can only be adequately dealt with when all States agree to co-operate in its suppression, and since certain States, including some State Members of the League, have not yet acceded to the Conventions, it would seem to be desirable that the Conference should adopt a resolution on the following lines:—

"Since the traffic in women and children cannot be adequately dealt with so long as certain countries do not co-operate for its suppression, this Conference urges all States not yet signatory to the White Slave Traffic Conventions of 1904 and 1910, especially State Members of the League of Nations, to signify their adherence thereto; and, further, since the dangers of this traffic are greater among the people of the less developed communities of many of the colonies, the Conference makes a special appeal to all signatory States who have not already done so to extend the application of the Conventions to their colonies and dependencies."

2. *Application of International Anti-Slavery Laws.*

At the Alliance Congress special attention was drawn to the fact that the international laws against ordinary chattel slavery (as distinct from the traffic *directly* for immoral purposes) was not always adequately enforced where women and girls were concerned. (See Appendix I. (a).) This practice of treating women as chattels places her in a very helpless position, and in itself contributes towards the traffic for immoral purposes.

In this connection the Alliance urges the Conference to consider the whole question of the adequate enforcement of these laws where women are concerned, whether the women or girls are sold into industrial or domestic employment, into so-called adoption, or into marriage or concubinage.

In particular, the Alliance calls attention to the custom of selling children into adoption which obtains in Hong Kong, and of which particulars are given in Appendix II.

3. *Detention of Women in Brothels against their will.*

While the gravity of the practice of detaining women in brothels against their will is recognised in the last White Slave Traffic Convention (final Protocol, Section D), it was not then found possible to take any action on the matter.

The Alliance submits that to exercise compulsion on a woman to remain in a brothel is to deny her her rights as a free woman, and to put her in the position of a slave, and they therefore advocate that some definite action should be taken by the Conference to propose the abolition of this practice.

They suggest that this might be done by a general resolution condemning the practice, or, inasmuch as the methods of international co-operation have been extended by the formation of the League of Nations, that it might be done by adopting the methods by which the International Labour Office approaches the question of internal legislation as set forth in Article 405 of the Treaty of Versailles, namely, by the adoption of a proposal on the subject in the form either—

(a) Of a recommendation to be submitted to the Member States for consideration with a view to effect being given to it by national legislation or otherwise; or  
(b) Of a draft International Convention for ratification by the Member States.

The following suggested clause of a draft International Convention (should this be found to be the suitable way of dealing with the matter) is submitted.

"Whoever detains a woman or girl in a brothel against her will shall be punished."

4. *Regulation a contributing factor to the Traffic in Women.*

The important contributing cause of the continuance of the traffic in women which the Alliance has singled out as the one that should be specially attacked is the official regulation of prostitution. It was on this aspect of the question that the Alliance definitely resolved to approach the League of Nations, and to urge the League to recommend to its constituent States the abolition of the State regulation of prostitution. (See Appendix I., Resolution (c).)

5. *Dangerous Conditions for Women in Cuba.*

In Appendix III. is given some information recently received by the Alliance from a reliable source in Cuba which shows the dangers which surround young women going to that country. It is hoped the information may be useful to the Conference.

## APPENDIX I.

RESOLUTIONS ON THE QUESTION OF THE TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN, ADOPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE AT ITS CONFERENCE HELD IN GENEVA IN JUNE, 1920, WHERE THIRTY NATIONS WERE REPRESENTED.

A. *Personal Rights.*—That women, equally with men, should have the protection of the law against slavery such as still exists in some parts of Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa.

B. *Moral Rights.*—That a higher moral standard, equal for men and women, should be recognised; that the traffic in women should be suppressed; the regulation of vice and all laws and practices differentiating against women, or any class of women, in this matter be abolished.

C. *Regulation of Prostitution.*—This Congress notes the resolution of the League of Nations on the question of the traffic in women and children. Since the regulation of prostitution is an important contributing cause of the continuance of this traffic in women, this Congress declares for its abolition, both nationally and internationally. It therefore urges the League of Nations to adopt the following policy:—

(a) To recommend to its constituent States the abolition of the State regulation of prostitution.

(b) To grant mandates for the administration of undeveloped countries, subject to the condition that within the mandatory territory there shall be no regulation, segregation, or official toleration of prostitution.

D. *Deported Children.*—That such children as have been deported shall be found and returned to their families, or placed under the guardianship of a committee of the nationality to which they belong. (This had special reference to war deportation.)

E. *Deported and Slave Women.*—That such women as have been deported or sold into slavery shall be traced and liberated, and given an opportunity of returning to their own country if they shall so desire. (This had special reference to war deportation.)

## APPENDIX II.

## SELLING OF CHILDREN INTO ADOPTION IN HONG KONG.

Attention is called to the following facts with regard to the child slavery in the British Colony of Hong Kong.

(1) The Under-Secretary for the Colonies admitted in the House of Commons on November 4, 1920 (see Hansard Report), that a custom does exist in Hong Kong whereby children and girls can be transferred from one person to another by means of a money payment.

(2) The Under-Secretary admitted on December 8, 1920, that no wages are paid to the children and girls who, after the transaction referred to above, are put to work by their employer.

(3) The Under-Secretary admitted on December 21, 1920, that no provisions are made with regard to the hours of labour and the kind of labour which can be demanded of even the youngest child thus handed over for a money payment.

(4) The Governor of Hong Kong in his report of 1920 (on which all the statements made by the Under-Secretary are based) stated that the allegations made by Colonel John Ward and Lieut.-Commander Haslewood as to the traffic in girls going on in the Colony as a result of the allowance of this custom were unfounded, and that it could not be called slavery.

(5) On October 28, 1920, the Attorney-General of Hong Kong stated at a meeting of the Legislative Council "that the evil resulting from the traffic in girls in this Colony is so great that further powers are required for dealing with it," and he suggested the amendment of Ordinance 1897 for the Protection of Women and Girls.

The facts not admitted by the Colonial Office are as follows:—

(1) That brokers transact the sale and purchase of children and girls in the Colony, and are not prosecuted for so doing. (See Police Court Evidence attached.)

(2) That further measures are needed to protect children from ill-treatment.

(3) That girls are bought and sold into prostitution under this system, and to supply the licensed brothels of the Colony. (See Press Evidence attached.)

(4) That many of the girls thus sold are under age. (See Press Evidence attached.)

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has suggested to the Governor of Hong Kong that he should form Committees for the "protection and improvement in the condition of these girl domestics." This may bring to light more of the evils which naturally are of constant occurrence as a

result of this custom, but no word in his suggestion prohibits the buying and selling of human beings in the Colony into conditions of slavery.

In view of the fact that in the case of numbers of the children in Hong Kong "transferred for a money payment" they are paid no wages by their owners, no matter how many years they work for them; that they are liable at any time to be beaten, insufficiently fed, re-sold, and also put to injurious and excessive labour (there being no legislation in the Colony to control the labour they are put to do), it is contended that they are being used as slaves, and not as adopted children, or domestic servants, and that paragraph 11 of the Slavery Law of 1825 is not therefore being enforced by "all the officers, civil and military, in the Colony," as ordered and proclaimed when Hong Kong became the possession of Great Britain.

H. I. HASLEWOOD,

Lieut.-Commander, R.N. (Retired).

Whitchurch, Oxon, February 18, 1921.

## APPENDIX III.

## MORAL ENVIRONMENT OF IMMIGRANT GIRLS IN CUBA.

Extracts from letter from correspondent in Jamaica.

"I am sending you a copy of a letter I received from Cuba, which gives valuable information about the conditions at present obtaining there for women emigrating from Jamaica, and, of course, for those going over from other places.

"I am investigating the needs of the women of Jamaica, with a view to the possible foundation of the Y.W.C.A. in Kingston, and of some help being given also eventually to the country districts and small towns, where the moral and economic position of young girls is deplorable. The rate of illegitimacy is 69 per cent. to-day, and there are no signs of its getting much better at present.

"Those negro and more or less coloured Jamaican girls who go to U.S.A. and Canada to domestic service, or as clerks and typists, seem in the majority of cases to do well, but I heard sad accounts of those who go to Cuba, where the moral surroundings are similar to, or perhaps worse than, those in their own island."

Letter from Cuban Correspondent with Notes by Jamaican Correspondent.

In reply to your letter of the 16th instant, I take pleasure in reporting as follows:—

(1) Only an approximate statement can be made regarding the number of Jamaicans arriving at this port.

I would calculate, however, that during 1920 some 9,000 arrived in Cuba, of both sexes, of which probably 1,000 were women. In 1918 the total was 7,350.

(Note by Jamaican Correspondent.—In the Jamaican Permit Office there are records of 4,500 men and women having gone to Cuba in January alone, but the greater proportion of these were men, as that is the special month of departure for those who go to help in the sugar harvest.)  
(2) Control.—There is not, so far as I can find out, any control for inspection of steamers carrying these passengers, with regard to stewards, discipline or segregation of sexes on board, or of the agents catering for them.

(Note by Jamaican Correspondent.—There is a licence given in Jamaica to steamers plying with passengers, but no conditions seem to be made with regard to such details. At the same time, any complaints sent to the Collector-General, Kingston, of conditions on board any vessels might lead to their losing their licence.)

(3) Reception.—Neither the Government nor any private society make any provision for the reception of the immigrants, and, as a matter of fact, they are absolutely unprotected, unless they apply to me. If they do, they naturally receive my counsel as to the best mode of obtaining employment, and in many cases I personally canvass amongst my friends to find places for them.

On many occasions I have been enabled to prevent the entrance of young girls into houses of ill-fame, but I fear that in many cases they are taken away before I can have an opportunity of protecting them.

There is no doubt whatever but that agents of these houses make it their business to meet the boats and tempt the girls away. I know of at least one case where the young girl, who came to be employed in a man's house here, was taken by him to his house. But during his absence the following day one of the women keepers of a brothel called at the house with an automobile and took the girl ostensibly for a ride, with the result that she was lost to respectability.

(4) Regulation of Vice.—The regulations in Cuba governing the houses of ill-fame throughout the Island have within the last two years been abolished, so that officially there is no recognition and no registers of these women,

and the practical result is an increase of these establishments, with the additional evil of an unrestricted increase of the diseases peculiar to them.

It would be difficult for a girl to leave one of these houses as they are practically slaves.

Street soliciting, which is so common in the great centres of our countries, is unknown.

(5) *Homes and Employment Bureaux.*—There are no homes or boarding houses for women, in any part of Cuba, and the Convents do nothing for them.

The employment bureaux, so far as women are concerned, are mostly procurators, that is to say, for younger and better looking girls, and anyone can open an employment office by simply paying a small tax.

(6) *Employment.*—Women from Jamaica can usually only hope to find employment as domestic servants. Usually the servant has to sleep outside the house, and that is where the trouble begins usually.

Wages are from 15 to 25 dollars, and hours are from about 7 a.m. to 7 or 8 at night.

(7) *Desirability.*—I can state from experience that it is most undesirable for young women to come to Cuba, especially those of the very light mulatto class.

There is very little employment for them and the chances of their going wrong are very great.

There is no danger for one who respects herself in walking about the decent parts of the city with reasonable hours. The trouble is that a great number of the women who come here do not sufficiently respect themselves, and that it is their own countrymen who most often lead them astray.

I am of opinion that the emigration to Cuba of unmarried women should be discouraged.

(8) *Protective Measures.*—I do not think your Association, or any other, can help women leaving home, by anticipative preparation, but I consider that much could be done by looking after them here.

The Salvation Army have approached us respecting this matter, and I have expressed my views to them fully on these lines. I do not think the men require very much attention here, in Santiago, as they are usually in transit to the interior. But usually the unmarried women do not get very far from the city.

I think if your Association could take a building here where these women could be housed until they could find respectable employment, and if they were not only sent to that home by your branch in Jamaica, but also met on the boat (this point is essential) by your agents and taken to the home, a great step would be taken towards the prevention of procurator for houses of ill-fame, which is now so rife.

On going to press we learn that the Memorandum and Appendix I. will be circulated to the Conference, and that Appendices II. and III. will be brought up by the rapporteurs who have charge of special subjects. This is excellent news. In addition, several women's organisations in Great Britain, and we doubt not in other countries, have been asked to send representatives to the first open session of the Conference; and, finally, we learn that there is every likelihood that all the sessions of the Conference will be open to such representatives, who will, however, be unable to take any active part in the business of the meetings. Everyone hopes that this Conference may be the means of striking a death-blow at the traffic in women and children. That traffic is by no means in a moribund condition, and it will take a heavy blow indeed to kill it. Our hopes would have run higher if instead of asking women to come in at the back door at the eleventh hour and be the dumb spectators of the work of the Conference, they had been at the outset invited to enter at the front door and to take an official part in dealing with a social tragedy which is supremely woman's. E. A.

## LATE NEWS.

Information has reached the International Woman Suffrage Alliance that Miss Henni Forchammer, the Danish Government Representative, has been elected a Vice-President of the League of Nations' Traffic in Women Conference now in session in Geneva.

July 1, 1921.



## EQUAL PAY AND RIGHT TO WORK SECTION.

## THE INDUSTRIAL WOMAN AND PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION.

## In favour of Protection.

## Wage-earning Women's Working Hours in the United States.

By FLORENCE KELLEY.

THE National Consumers' League has stood for thirty years for the short working day and week for wage-earning men, women and children. It operates in all efforts to this end, whether the method used is negotiation by bona-fide labour organisations, or prolonged enforced school attendance by children, or statutory limitation of the hours of labour of any or all of these three groups.

Since all white women have had votes by federal action, employers have successfully raised the question before several State legislatures whether political equality should not entail identical treatment of men and women in industry. To this there are obvious answers. No maternity hospitals are built for men on grounds of political equality. Men do not need them. Yet, if the legislators are logically bound to treat men and women identically, why should they not build maternity hospitals for men?

In the United States, railroad employees and miners in most of the States have the eight-hour day. For the former it is established by federal statute, for the latter by State constitutions or statutes. All these employees are men, except a few hundred women still employed by the railroads. Tens of thousands more men than women have the eight-hour day by law. These are chiefly engaged in occupations in which there are no children and a trivial minority of women. According to the reasoning of the employers, on grounds of identical treatment all women voters should have the eight-hour day because these men have it; not as we contend, because the welfare of the race requires that all women should have it as their maximum in the interest of their own well-being and that of their homes and families.

Where an industry employs children, women, and tens of thousands of non-English-speaking, unorganised, recently immigrated men, nightwork for women is common, and the long working day and week are the rule for all. These categories are prevented, in the textiles for instance, by the employers' organisations from maintaining trade unions. But public opinion demands for the women and children restrictions varying from the forty-eight-hours week in Massachusetts to ten hours maximum at night in several Southern States and in New Jersey and Rhode Island. The unskilled or semi-skilled work of women is largely in trades which men do not invade, because hitherto in the United States there has not been a sufficient surplus of labour to force men to work for the wretchedly inadequate wages women receive in these occupations. For these reasons it has been feasible to restrict, virtually without hardship, the length of the working day for women, although the working day of men outside the railroad and mining industries is unlimited by law.

As to work at night the problem of continuous industries involves certain complications. A limited number of occupations of women have obviously to be exempted from any prohibition of nightwork. Physicians, graduate nurses, domestic servants, singers, actresses, dancers, and women who hold a limited number of positions connected with the morning papers, cannot be subjected to rigidly defined prohibitions of nightwork. The same applies to women ticket sellers on railroads, both steam and electric. These occupations seem all to involve either skill or responsibility, with accompanying pay sufficient to command rest and quiet—for the employees—in their homes by day.

Naturally, the only women who should be exempted are clearly adults. The difficulty of enforcing any age limit for nightwork appears, however, to be an insuperable one. It has never been possible to invent any method applicable in this country for learning with certainty who is nineteen years old, or even seventeen, and who is twenty-two. The universal registration of births is still an iridescent dream, and the incoming masses of immigrants bring with them whatever evidence of age they can. Naturally, this is largely untrustworthy.

Can any sane person defend the thesis that, in the textile industries which are not continuous, mothers of young children should be deprived of a statutory period of rest at night throughout all the long years that would be necessary to get it by law for their husbands? Yet this cruel retrograde step would have to be taken in Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania if the doctrine of identical treatment of men and women wage-earners were logically applied.

## Against Protection.

To the Editor of the I.W.S.N.

MADAM,—It seems to be agreed by your correspondents that protective legislation is desirable in itself for the benefit of the workers, both men and women; that it is, indeed, the only way in which the vast majority of human beings can obtain the possibility of leading human lives. It has not, however, been explained to my satisfaction why women alone should reap the advantages of shorter hours, minimum wage laws, etc. Why should not the women join with the men and make a real push to get human conditions for both? Men are so much better organised than women that their assistance would be of real value in the struggle. This would be more practical and far more convincing than to drag in the mother and her young children as an argument for special protection. There are undoubtedly mothers with young children working in industry, but the figures quoted by "Phylax" for men show that in all probability the percentage is small. Neither is the average woman the nervous wreck, unable to stand a strain, which men delight to picture her. From our war experience we know just enough to estimate that a woman, properly trained and earning enough to be well fed and housed as a man doing the same work, can hold her own in a large range of processes. Neither on the grounds of health or of efficiency can the claim to special protection be sustained. Protection is indeed needed, and a general improvement in conditions greatly to be desired, but not only for women as a sex.

Of course, if men and women are to join hands in a joint effort to improve their position the men must be persuaded that they, too, will gain by protection. I admit that this will be difficult, but it will be worth doing both for its immediate object and as a means of dissipating the distrust with which men regard women workers. At present men show very little anxiety to get "human" conditions for themselves, and a suspicious alacrity that they should be imposed upon women. Mrs. Strachey mentions the attempt which was made in Great Britain to exclude women from working on the two-shift system. The debates in Parliament on this subject (Women, Young Persons and Children Employment Act, 1920) reveal with singular clearness the attitude of the average man. He does not wish women to be employed at all in industry. If he is a representative of organised labour he is specially keen on the advisability of "sheltering" women. But, unfortunately, the average man is not a very clear thinker. He does not want women to work for wages, but he does not want to keep all his female relations in idleness. Also, quite a number of average men do not want to lose a supply of cheap and docile labour. His compromise is, therefore, that women may do cheap and unskilled work only, and that conditions should be arranged in such a way as to make this inevitable. Oddly enough, this compromise is as agreeable to the employer of labour as to the male trade unionist.

Women may be blind, but men are fully aware that women will never be their serious competitors in the labour market while any kind of unequal conditions can be maintained. They are willing to wax sentimental over the mother and her young child so long as there is no chance of the mother earning a living for herself and the child in any well-paid industry. Women must choose whether they prefer "protection" or freedom. The women of to-day who were born and reared without the rights of citizenship, and in a firm belief in the essential inferiority of women, must be forgiven if their choice reflects the traditions of the past. But it is only a question of time. Sooner or later—and may it be sooner—the eyes of the women will be opened and they will become worthy of freedom.

Yours truly,  
ROSAMOND SMITH.

## Councillor Crawford's Speech to the International Congress of Societies of Catholic Women against "Protective Legislation" for Industrial Women.

COUNCILLOR MRS. V. N. CRAWFORD represented the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society at the recent international Congress of societies of Catholic women held recently in Paris. Mrs. Crawford took part in the discussion on women's work, and gave the views of the C.W.S.S. on woman's right to liberty in matters concerned with her own work.

"Unfortunately," she said, "our Society has not been able to agree wholeheartedly with the resolutions adopted by the Washington Convention. We agree fully with the resolutions concerning maternity and the six weeks' enforced rest before and after childbirth; it is on the subject of nightwork that we wish to make a protest, and here I may say that we are in complete accord with other Suffrage Societies in England. Clearly, we are all agreed that nightwork for women is unhealthy; but surely it is unhealthy for everybody, and ought only to be tolerated under exceptional circumstances. In the opinion of many people, to exclude women from nightwork is likely to prolong it for men. If all nightwork for women is to be forbidden, they are likely to be shut out altogether from certain industries. Again, if they are to be excluded from all

## SOUTH AFRICA.

## Woman Suffrage Bill introduced.

THE Bill for the Enfranchisement of Women at present before the House is the direct result of the Monster Petition and deputation of over 500 women to the Prime Minister on March 11.

The terms of the Bill are as follows:—

1. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Constitution of the Cape of Good Hope, the Charter of Natal, the Transvaal Constitution Letters Patent, 1906, or any amendment thereof, whereby persons of the male sex only are entitled to be registered as voters for the election of members of the House of Assembly and Provincial Councils, the said Ordinance, Charter and Letters Patent and all amendments thereof shall be read and construed as if the provisions thereof relating to the qualifications of voters included persons of the female as well as of the male sex.
2. Where by any law in force for the time being in any Province the possession, occupation or renting of property or premises of a certain value is prescribed as entitling persons to be registered as voters for the election of members of the House of Assembly and Provincial Councils, a married woman, who is not living apart from her husband, shall be entitled to be so registered in respect of property or premises possessed, occupied or rented by her husband provided that the value of such property or premises, as reckoned for the husband's qualification, is at least twice the amount prescribed by such law.
3. Nothing in this Act shall be construed so as to deprive any man who, if this Act had not been passed, would have been entitled to be registered as a voter, of the right of being so registered.
4. This Act may be cited for all purposes as the Women's Enfranchisement Act, 1921.

The second reading took place on April 28, and the debate was eventually adjourned to May 19. Considerable pressure is being brought to bear on the Government to give time for the Bill, so we may reasonably hope it will reach the Committee Stage this Session. The prejudice against any coloured woman having a vote is so strong among certain sections of the House

so-called dangerous trades, they may become the victims of the most arbitrary decisions. The moment employers are controlled as regards the hours and conditions of work of their female employees, they are tempted to replace them by men or boys. This danger has already been pointed out by the women of Holland and Denmark and by certain industrial organisations in the United States. Frankly, we have not sufficient confidence in male disinterestedness to be willing to place our labour conditions in their hands. It is very tempting to serve one's own economic interests under the cloak of chivalrous solicitude for the weakness of the other sex.

"But it is more especially as regards the principle that no special prohibitions shall be adopted for women until they are in a position to vote freely for or against that the English Society wishes to record its views. People are too much in the habit of coupling women with children and settling their careers without even consulting them. As a basis of legislation we insist on the absolute equality of the sexes in the eyes of the law. It might then happen that women would be willing to accept special regulations for their factory labour. But let us never forget that the evil industrial conditions from which we wish to release women are quite as harmful to men, and that the true remedy lies in laws which would apply to men and women alike. Let us take as an example what happened in agriculture during the war. Agricultural labour in England was so wretchedly paid, and the conditions of work were so bad, that the whole industry suffered and public opinion was emphatically against all field work for women. But during the war we all realised that improved methods of agriculture were essential to victory, and that women's labour was a matter of vital concern to the nation. Straightway agricultural conditions were improved all round, wages increased and hours of labour decreased, and it was soon proved that with higher wages, shortened hours, and a becoming costume, agricultural work offered great advantages to healthy girls and, as a matter of fact, many adopted it with enthusiasm.

"I would therefore beg of you, ladies, to reflect well before adopting a policy of restrictive legislation dictated by men on our behalf, but not inspired, in full freedom, by ourselves.

it seems unlikely that it will be allowed to pass in that form. On the other hand, a goodly proportion of members will refuse to vote for any measure which will exclude the coloured woman, being strongly opposed to a new colour bar being raised.

## Girl Protection Act.—Washington Conventions. Native Affairs Commission.

It is satisfactory to be able to state that the proviso in the Girl Protection Act, which women's organisations have so long striven to get removed from the Statute Book, will be dealt with by a prominent member of the S.A.P. The Labour Party have been asked to move for certain improvements regarding the employment of women and children in the Factory Act, bringing the South African Act into line with some of the conventions of the Washington Conference.

Action has also been taken to try to obtain the appointment of a woman on the Native Affairs Commission. This is not possible at present, however, because the personnel of the Commission is complete, and the Prime Minister will not contemplate adding an additional member. It is hoped, however, that it will be feasible to have an educated Native woman on one of the Advisory Boards, who will be able to represent the grievances of the Native women to the proper authorities.

Woman's Outlook, April, 1921.

## MEETING OF I.W.S.A. BOARD OF OFFICERS.

The Board of Officers will meet in Geneva, Switzerland, from July 9 to 11. A full report of their decisions will be published in our next issue.



EQUAL MORAL STANDARD SECTION.

At its Geneva Congress (June, 1920), the International Women Suffrage Alliance passed the following resolutions:—

Prostitution and Venereal Disease.

This International Congress of Women, being deeply concerned with the protection of the race, urges that a vigorous campaign be undertaken against venereal disease by all means compatible with freedom and justice.

This Congress affirms its belief that:—

- (a) A high moral standard equal for men and women should be recognised.
- (b) That laws which strike at women without touching men are ineffective and unjust.
- (c) That the regulation of prostitution in any form should be abolished.
- (d) That education in sexual matters should be extended.
- (e) That numerous centres for the free treatment of venereal diseases should be established.

We open the Equal Moral Standard Section of the INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS by two views on methods of combating venereal diseases. This problem is an international one, and there are differences in various countries, as in Great Britain, as to the means of its solution. Roughly speaking, there are two schools of thought—one which advocates compulsory notification of venereal

disease, detention of sufferers till cured, the use of public funds for the teaching of self-disinfection, or the creation of ablation centres for men; the other school believes in the definite teaching of a high moral standard and every facility for free and secret treatment of sufferers from venereal disease as the only sound and moral method of dealing with the problem. Compulsory notification and compulsory treatment equally open the door to abuses, one of which would inevitably be discrimination between the sexes. Detention of sufferers who are in prison or institutions leads to the same evil and is a serious infringement of the liberty of the individual. The hounding down of the prostitute only drives the evil underground—it does not abolish it. The letter we publish to-day deals with but one aspect of the question—whether or not public funds should be spent on teaching self-disinfection after exposure to danger. Miss March supports the teaching of self-disinfection. Miss Neilans opposes it. The Geneva resolutions calling for the establishment of a high moral standard equal for men and women bring the Alliance unhesitatingly into accord with the view taken by Miss Neilans. Articles on various aspects of the Equal Moral Standard will appear in subsequent issues of the INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS.—*Editor.*

## IS THE TEACHING BY THE STATE OF SELF-DISINFECTION COMPATIBLE WITH A HIGH MORAL STANDARD?

### Prevention of Venereal Disease.

MADAM,—We were told by the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases (Great Britain), which published its report early in 1916, that the chief channel whereby venereal diseases are spread is the channel of promiscuity in sex relationships. Many times has this observation of the Royal Commission been supported by investigators, medical and lay, into the social problem of venereal disease. The obvious direction which emerges from appreciation of this fact is that to reduce the amount of venereal disease we must reduce the amount of promiscuity.

But this is no simple matter. The voluntary adoption of the clean, healthy mode of life governed by high principles, is the result of experience and of education—using the term education in the broadest sense as implicating all the organised influences of home, social, and religious life under which each individual comes. Casual experiences of a detrimental nature, moreover, may go far towards spoiling what might otherwise have been the wholesome effect of education, if that education has not been such as to prepare the individual to meet effectively such casual experiences as life provides. The problem of promiscuity must be regarded in the light of these ideas. We have not hitherto done very much, if, indeed, anything at all, to fit the individual to meet the eventualities and responsibilities of life connected with sex. Home, social and religious influences, though they may in many cases have been of a high ethical value, have frequently failed to be sufficiently protective against the great urge of sex, while for those persons whose lives had not been permeated by such educational influences of a high ethical order, there was even less chance of them resisting the sex claim as it arose.

We, as a society, expect continence till marriage takes place, and that each partner shall be faithful to the other within the bond of marriage. Such is our accepted social code; nevertheless, it is

obvious to all students of social life, and particularly to students of the venereal disease problem, that many people fail to observe that code. It must be recognised that, in these days when many old conventions have passed or are passing away, and when women are freer, more independent in their views than formerly, and further, when the age of marriage tends to be so much delayed, this is, for many people, a code most difficult to obey. It involves a severe discipline of mind and body, a discipline which can only be achieved if life's experiences have prepared the way for it. The foundations of physical as well as of mental control, it has often been reiterated, are laid in childhood, even in infancy. Moral fortitude is a power of slow growth. The adolescent and the mature individual may fail to exercise it effectively if the power of self-control and the spiritual force of high ideals have not been obtained earlier. Herein lies, to a large extent, the reason why moral education of adults has proved of so little avail, so far, in this country as an effective force against venereal disease. During the last six years or so we have had more moral education of adults on sex matters and more systematic education on the dangers of venereal diseases than ever before. Yet the indications are that, so far from venereal disease being lessened in amount, it has increased during the war and during the years subsequent to the war. We have no means of knowing the exact number of cases of venereal disease in this country, for the diseases are not notifiable, save in the case of *ophthalmia neonatorum* (inflammation of the eyes of the new-born, which is held to be, in a large percentage of cases, gonorrhoeal in origin). There are, however, many signs, which I need not enlarge upon at the moment, that venereal disease has increased, an indication that our present educational efforts, if not actually ineffective entirely, are, at any rate, slow to manifest any effective value. To the student of psychology the reason for this is plain. The effective education

is that beginning with the infant and the little child. It is difficult, often almost impossible, to remodel the emotional interests of the adult, whose mind is more or less past the plastic period of growth.

Many people in this country feel that at the present juncture something more must be done. It has been shown by science that the microbes of the venereal diseases may be destroyed by the action of certain disinfectants, and that they are particularly easy to assail when first deposited on the surface of the skin. For this reason it is urged by a very large and influential section of the medical public that those persons who persist in exposure to risk of infection should realise the full responsibility attached to their acts in this way, and should regard it as a personal obligation to disinfect themselves after promiscuous intercourse. The National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases urges that such persons should cleanse themselves immediately with soap and water or such disinfectants as may be recommended by a medical practitioner. The Society for the Prevention of Venereal Diseases, a body largely composed of eminent medical persons, has issued instructions in regard to appropriate disinfectants and their use. Both organisations urge, and most rightly so, that if any symptoms, no matter how slight, of these diseases manifest themselves, the individual should immediately seek medical advice.

At a recent meeting of Medical Officers of Health, held in London, the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

That in view of the terrible effects of venereal diseases on the health of the nation, and especially because of their effects on women and children, there is urgent need for health authorities to institute active measures to protect the inhabitants of their districts against these diseases. Of those measures by far the most important is education of the public as to the dangers of venereal diseases, as to the manner in which they are spread, and, above all, education in the methods of immediate self-disinfection, by which venereal disease can be largely prevented.

The opponents of the policy of disinfection fear that such information, by giving a sense of security, may increase promiscuity. No reliable evidence, so far, has been brought forward that this would or does happen. Those who advocate the giving of such information to the public do not in any way depreciate the value of chastity; rather do they urge its adoption—but to those who fail to adopt it, immediate self-disinfection is urged as a personal responsibility, in order that they may prevent the possible evil effects of their behaviour from afflicting others.

Women must face the facts of the case, for they are equally responsible with men for the social order. The equal moral standard—that principle so precious in itself to women—is establishing itself by degrees, but slowly. Women must face the fact that, greatly though it is to be deplored, promiscuity is likely to continue to be a large factor in the social problem, for the reasons that I have indicated above. "It must nevertheless be recognised," said the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases, in a recent memorandum, "that there exists a large number of individuals, men and women, who do not respond either to the moral or to the social appeal, but indulge more or less frequently in promiscuous sexual intercourse, and thereby incur the risk, not merely of contracting the diseases themselves, but of being the source of infection to other and often innocent persons."

We have never yet given a real moral education a chance. A constructive moral education, founded in infancy, continued in childhood and adolescence,

will result in a generation capable of making conduct inspired by high ideals the voluntary and joyful choice of the individual. To individuals thus equipped and guided, promiscuity will be impossible.

To rear that generation is largely the task of woman.  
NORA MARCH.

MADAM,—If Miss March means in her third paragraph that society has expected from men and women continence before marriage, and faithfulness afterwards, I must disagree with her. That is the ideal Christian code, but it is certainly not the social one. It is applied to women, yes; but not to men, and probably never has been. The result of the actual code practised and tacitly accepted by society has been to keep most women continent, while permitting men a wide freedom, at least before marriage. Obviously such a one-sided code, being in itself immoral, could never have any real moral effect. It bludgeoned women into chastity, and provided men with prostitutes from among those women who had broken the code. I make this point because my contention is that we have never yet tried the effect of real moral teaching for both sexes, and Miss March admits this in her last paragraph. Men and women are, primarily, spiritual beings, and, while the flesh is often weak, the spiritual self rarely fails to respond to an appeal based on high moral principles. Venereal disease has increased as it always does after a war, but I am convinced that a sincere and intelligible moral appeal made to young people—adolescents—would even now give far better health results than any teaching of self-disinfection after voluntary exposure to venereal disease.

Miss March, in her note, under-estimates the reasons for our opposition to the public teaching, at public expense, of self-disinfection. Modern science is coming more and more to recognise the importance of suggestion and auto-suggestion to people of all ages. It is not only the sense of false security which may be given by such teaching which prompts our opposition; it is much more the fact that we cannot effectively teach continence and disinfection at the same time. If young people are to be taught venereal disinfection after exposure, then such teaching must be based on the expectation that these young people will expose themselves to infection. It is not possible to teach them that society expects them to be chaste and at the same time that it does not expect them to be chaste.

Young men and women are very open to suggestion: then we must decide which line of conduct we are going to suggest. The older and habitually vicious are not debarred from information about disinfection, but I see no reason why, on their account, we should set ourselves to undermine the moral resistance of the young by expecting a low standard from them.

Miss March omits to state that effective self-disinfection is practically impossible for women.

ALISON NEILANS.

Secretary, Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

### The Unequal Moral Standard in Australia.

"SEVEN girls were charged with having no visible means of support. One was remanded for medical observation, while two first offenders signified their willingness to go to a Salvation Army Home for three months, and four were sent to gaol for six months, without the option."

(Continued on page 154.)



## NOUVELLES FÉMINISTES.

**Afrique du Sud.**—Comme résultat de l'immense pétition présentée au Gouvernement au sujet du suffrage féminin, une nouvelle loi a été rédigée et placée devant le Parlement de l'Afrique du Sud. Il y a sujet d'espérer que cette loi sera acceptée durant cette session.

**Allemagne.**—L'Union des juges de l'Allemagne passa dernièrement une résolution condamnant le concours des femmes sur les bancs du jury. En dépit de ceci, le Reichstag introduit une loi divisant le service des jurés également entre hommes et femmes.

**Brésil.**—Une loi concernant le suffrage féminin a été lue pour la première fois au Sénat brésilien.

**Chine.**—Un mouvement féministe se fait à Canton (Chine). Une députation de 500 femmes envahit la Chambre des représentants en demandant les droits politiques et civils.

**Espagne.**—Une députation de femmes espagnoles se présenta récemment devant les membres du Parlement, pour demander qu'on leur donne les mêmes droits civils et politiques qu'aux hommes. Leur pétition sera placée devant les membres du Gouvernement.

**Etats-Unis d'Amérique.**—Le degré de LL.D. a été conféré à Mrs. Chapman Catt par les Universités de Sowa et Wyoming.

Une loi a été rédigée qui propose que les femmes fumant des cigarettes seraient mises à l'amende. La première offense serait punie par une amende de £5 et les offenses suivantes par une amende de £25.

Le Procureur-Général, Monsieur Armstrong, a déclaré que la police n'avait pas le pouvoir d'envoyer les femmes prisonnières, sans leur consentement, dans les hôpitaux ou les cliniques, pour les faire examiner en cas de maladie vénérienne.

## FRANCE.

Monsieur Briand, Président du Conseil, a reçu, le 16 juin 1921, en audience une délégation suffragiste qui lui a été présentée par Madame de Witt Schlumberger, Monsieur Louis Martin, sénateur, et Monsieur Justin Godard, député, président du Groupe des droits de la femme à la Chambre des députés.

Ces délégués ont entretenu le Président du Conseil de la question du vote des femmes; ils lui ont rappelé que le projet de loi avait été voté par la Chambre à une énorme majorité, le 20 mai 1919, et que lui-même avait, par son discours en faveur du suffrage féminin, fortement contribué au succès. Monsieur Briand a affirmé que son opinion n'avait pas changé, mais qu'il aurait voulu voir dans le pays de plus nombreuses manifestations des femmes en faveur du suffrage.

Les délégués ont demandé avec instance l'appui du Gouvernement pour que le projet de loi vienne en discussion devant le Sénat le plus rapidement possible et avant les vacances d'été.

Monsieur Aristide Briand a déclaré qu'il se tiendrait tout d'abord à la disposition de la commission sénatoriale du suffrage, mais qu'il n'était pas seul au Gouvernement et qu'il soumettrait la question au Conseil des ministres.

Malheureusement, le lendemain, au Sénat, un sénateur profondément suffragiste mais qui ne s'était pas suffisamment entendu avec Monsieur Louis Martin, a brusquement demandé à l'Assemblée la mise immédiate à l'ordre du jour de la discussion du projet de loi concernant le suffrage. C'était une erreur de tactique, et le rapporteur de la Commission, Monsieur Alexandre Berard, qui est antisuffragiste et qui cherche toujours à faire retarder la discussion, a refusé de rien faire sans avoir l'avis du Gouvernement et a fait repousser la mise à l'ordre du jour. Peut-être, malgré nos efforts, sera-t-elle repoussée jusqu'en automne, les vacances du Parlement étant proches.

DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER.

**Grande-Bretagne.**—Une loi qui réformerait les conditions de l'héritage en cas de mort sans testament, les rendant égales pour femmes comme pour hommes, a passé pour la troisième fois devant la Chambre des "Lords." Cette loi abolit aussi le droit d'aînesse.

## GRÈCE.

## La question féministe devant la Chambre et les partis.

Il est intéressant de constater les progrès inattendus que la question féministe a fait, d'une manière générale, ces derniers temps en Grèce, et surtout depuis qu'elle a été portée au parlement et discutée au point de vue politique.

C'est dans sa séance du 3 janvier 1920 que la Chambre grecque a été saisie pour la première fois d'une proposition de loi sur l'égalité des droits des deux sexes. La Chambre a renvoyé immédiatement la proposition à une commission spéciale de dix-sept membres.

Après de nombreuses séances et de longues discussions, la commission a admis le principe de l'égalité des droits des deux sexes. Mais alors que le projet réalisait cette égalité entière et immédiate, la commission estimait qu'il valait mieux procéder par étapes: D'abord, par une loi spéciale, abolir les incapacités de la femme, puis, par d'autres lois, lui accorder le *jus suffragii* par échelons, établissant finalement l'égalité des deux sexes en matière de droit public et privé.

Le rapport de la commission a été déposé dans la séance du 15 mai 1920. Sur les conclusions de ce rapport, j'ai remanié la proposition primitive. Le projet modifié, remis le 29 mai, supprimait toute incapacité de la femme en matière civile, commerciale et administrative; il solutionnait certaines questions posées depuis trop longtemps déjà; les droits des enfants naturels étaient reconnus et la recherche de la paternité admise; mais il ne touchait pas encore au droit de vote.

L'opinion publique dans tout le pays, ancienne et nouvelle Grèce, s'est beaucoup occupée de cette proposition qu'elle a accueillie assez favorablement. Les associations féminines existantes ont travaillé, de concert avec les nouvelles associations qui se créaient, pour revendiquer les droits de la femme; elles ont soumis à la Chambre des pétitions, des mémoires, des vœux. Citons parmi les auteurs de ces manifestations:

Le Lyceum Club de Grèce;  
Le Conseil National des Grecques;  
La Ligue des Femmes grecques pour les droits de la femme;  
Le Groupe des Femmes socialistes;  
Le Femmes de Crète.

Après communication à la Chambre de ces requêtes et sur la proposition de quelques députés, l'impression de ces pièces a été décidée, pour être ensuite distribuées aux députés et insérées dans les documents parlementaires.

La question en était là, au point de vue parlementaire, lorsqu'elle a été reprise par l'Assemblée Nationale. Dans l'avant-projet de la revision de la Constitution, la commission, chargée de l'élaborer, a admis l'égalité des droits des deux sexes et elle a ajouté que, par une loi spéciale, on accorderait aux femmes le droit de vote. Il est à noter que l'ancienne Constitution n'édicte spécialement aucune différence de traitement pour les femmes, elle déclarait seulement que tous les citoyens grecs sont égaux devant la loi d'où l'on pourrait conclure que les femmes doivent jouir de l'égalité des droits puisqu'elles, aussi, font partie des citoyens grecs.

Cette égalité de droits a été accueillie, non moins favorablement, par les chefs des partis politiques. M. Vénisélou, interrogé par le député Vassilakakis dans la séance du 20 janvier 1920, a déclaré que toutes les incapacités légales de la femme sont surannées et doivent être abolies. "Quant au droit de vote, a-t-il ajouté, il leur sera accordé si elles le demandent." M. Gounaris, dans son discours-programme électoral,

(La suite à la page 153.)

a fait connaître qu'il ne refuserait pas d'accepter l'abolition de la distinction des sexes au point de vue du droit public.

Devant la section législative du premier congrès féministe d'Athènes, réuni récemment, M. Stratos a surenchéri sur les déclarations que nous venons d'exposer. Enfin, la famille royale n'a cessé de s'intéresser à ce congrès qui a obtenu un réel succès.

On ne saurait donc nier que la question féministe a reçu le meilleur accueil et réalisé des progrès surpassant toutes espérances, dans ce pays, imbu des sentiments d'équité et de liberté il est vrai, mais subissant encore, dans une certaine mesure, l'influence des sentiments et des traditions du proche Orient.

A. TYPALDO-BASSIA.

## SUISSE.

## Deux échecs suffragistes.

Le mois de mai n'a pas été heureux pour la cause du suffrage en Suisse. A deux jours de distance, nous avons eu deux défaites à enregistrer, l'une à l'est, l'autre à l'ouest de notre pays. Il est vrai que cela a été dans des cantons agricoles, généralement rebelles à toute nouveauté, et notamment à notre revendication.

Le dimanche 1<sup>er</sup> mai, c'était dans le canton de Glaris. Les lecteurs de JUS SUFFRAGII se souviennent peut-être de l'article qui a paru à ce sujet dans le numéro d'avril, exposant comment Glaris est un des cantons qui a gardé la tradition des "Landesgemeinde," soit des Assemblées de tous les citoyens réunis une fois l'an seulement, en plein air, et dans lesquelles se discutent et se votent à main levée toutes les lois proposées. Déjà ce mode de faire promettait peu de chances de succès au suffrage féminin, d'autant plus que l'idée en était toute neuve là-bas, et que nos partisans eux-mêmes, trouvant le terrain insuffisamment préparé, avaient décidé de demander à la Landesgemeinde de remettre la discussion d'une année, afin d'avoir le temps d'éclairer l'opinion publique par une campagne de propagande. Mais les adversaires du vote des femmes ont aussitôt fait bloc contre cette proposition et réclamé la discussion immédiate, qui, dans ces conditions, ne pouvait aboutir qu'à un échec. Cinq orateurs seulement ont pris la parole, trois pour nous, deux contre nous, et à une écrasante majorité le suffrage féminin a été "définitivement enterré," annonce d'un air de triomphe un journal catholique antisuffragiste. Mais, dans une démocratie, rien n'est définitif, et il suffirait qu'à la Landesgemeinde de l'année prochaine une nouvelle proposition fût faite pour que toute la discussion recommençât. Nous ne le souhaitons pas, cependant, car il est inutile de provoquer de gaité de cœur des échecs, qui nuisent à la cause dans d'autres cantons, et nous estimons qu'il est nécessaire que les féministes de Glaris s'organisent en une association locale avant de courir l'aventure d'une nouvelle proposition suffragiste.

Deux jours plus tard, c'était le tour du canton de Vaud, où, comme le télégraphe vous l'a appris, le Grand Conseil s'est prononcé par 140 voix contre 53 contre le vote des femmes. On ne peut pas dire là alors que cela ait été une votation mal préparée, car la question était pendante depuis 1917, et successivement une Commission du Grand Conseil, le Conseil d'Etat, puis une nouvelle Commission du Grand Conseil l'avaient étudiée. Mais le résultat a été le même, et l'opinion de ces messieurs que "les temps ne sont pas encore venus pour l'avènement du suffrage dans le canton de Vaud" a prévalu. On peut se demander quand ces temps viendront? et combien de siècles il faudra encore attendre pour que la femme obtienne enfin dans notre pays ses droits de citoyenne.

## Les Conventions de Washington aux Chambres fédérales.

Il faut que je revienne, avec un peu plus de détails, sur ce que je n'ai pu qu'indiquer rapidement dans le dernier numéro de JUS SUFFRAGII: les débats qui ont eu lieu aux Chambres fédérales à propos de la ratification des Conventions et Recommandations de

Washington. Ces débats n'ont d'ailleurs rien qui puisse nous satisfaire, et ont été si rapidement menés que nous avons pu nous rendre compte que les questions de protection ouvrière n'intéressent que médiocrement nos législateurs. Seule, la Convention relative à la semaine de 48 heures a soulevé une vive discussion, mais a été finalement repoussée. Il en a été de même pour la Convention instituant l'assistance aux femmes en couches ou l'assurance-maternité, qui a été repoussée — parce que son application coûterait trop cher!

Il est juste, d'autre part, de dire que la Suisse se trouve, à l'égard de ces Conventions, dans une situation particulière. Quelques-unes d'entre elles d'abord sont difficilement applicables avec notre législation, qui réserve certains droits aux cantons, et qu'il aurait fallu de ce fait modifier sur plusieurs points. D'autre part, toute loi nouvelle chez nous peut être soumise au referendum, c'est-à-dire que, si dans un délai donné un certain nombre de citoyens le demandent, les électeurs sont appelés à se prononcer directement sur la loi en question, et peuvent de la sorte annuler complètement la décision des Chambres. Or, toute notre population agricole étant très fortement opposée à la législation du travail qui l'inquiète parce qu'elle y voit une menace pour son propre compte, les grands industriels et les financiers n'étant pas non plus de chauds partisans de ces mesures de protection ouvrière, on aurait risqué, à faire adopter par notre Parlement les décisions de Washington, de voir celui-ci désavoué par les électeurs. C'est une chance que l'on a trouvé plus prudent de ne pas courir.

En ce qui concerne l'assistance aux femmes en couches et pour remplacer dans une certaine mesure la Convention No. 5 à laquelle la Suisse a donc refusé d'adhérer (comme la Grande-Bretagne, si je ne me trompe?), le Conseil Fédéral a remis à l'étude d'une Commission spéciale la question de l'assurance-maternité, assurance qui serait ensuite incorporée dans la loi fédérale sur l'assurance-maladie que l'on s'approprie justement à reviser. La Commission, qui comprenait — grande nouveauté! — trois femmes, a présenté des propositions intéressantes. L'assurance-maternité serait étendue à toutes les femmes, et non pas seulement, comme le prévoyait la Convention de Washington, aux ouvrières. Elle serait obligatoire pour tous, hommes et femmes, célibataires et femme mariées, partant du principe que chacun est intéressé à la santé de la femme en couches et de l'enfant, et qu'il est juste, par conséquent, que tout individu y participe. Ce n'est là d'ailleurs qu'un avant-projet, mais que je tenais à signaler tout de suite.

Quant à la Convention No. 6, interdisant le travail de nuit aux femmes seules, elle a été acceptée très facilement parce qu'on n'a pas demandé l'opinion des femmes! C'est contre ce procédé et ces lois d'exception visant les femmes seulement que notre Association pour le suffrage a protesté par une lettre, remise à chaque député, puis communiquée à la presse. Mais... autant en emporte le vent!

Notre III<sup>e</sup> Cours de Vacances suffragiste.

Tout ce qui précède est assurément un peu décourageant. Mais nous ne sommes pas découragés. La preuve en est que nous continuons de plus belle, malgré le vent de réaction qui souffle chez nous, notre travail de propagande, et que nous organisons notre III<sup>e</sup> Cours de Vacances pour le mois de juillet à Lucerne.

S'il en est parmi les lectrices de JUS SUFFRAGII, qui se trouvent en Suisse, ou qui aient l'intention de s'y rendre au moins de juillet, et que notre cours de vacances puisse tenter, qu'elles n'hésitent pas à me l'écrire. Nous serons très heureuses de recevoir parmi nous des suffragistes de tous les pays.

EMILIE GOURD,  
Présidente de l'Association suisse pour le Suffrage féminin.

Genève, le 25 mai 1921.

**Turquie.**—Une femme a été nommée Ministre de l'éducation dans le Gouvernement de Mustapha Kémal.



The above news paragraph appeared in the *Sydney Evening News*. The case bears on the points in the Health Act, over which a deputation from our Union and other societies met the Minister for Health last December. Under this Act the bad old system of regulation is being enforced secretly. We call the attention of all thinking women to this case and what it involves. The following letter was sent to the Press and has evoked considerable attention. These iniquitous Acts are being worked solely against girls and women in New Zealand and also in Western Australia. In Queensland the regulations are still more drastic and one-sided. Secret forces are working to keep women ignorant of these happenings. We must keep in mind that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. Any woman is liable to be arrested on police suspicion, convicted and sent to gaol.

#### Bad Start at 17.

Under the above heading you report what is justly termed 'the pathetic story' of seven young girls. These girls were arrested by Miss Armfield, special constable. They were charged with being idle and disorderly persons, with no lawful means of support. Evidence was given to show that they were continually about the streets in company with sailors. Four of those arrested were sent to gaol for six months, one was placed under medical observation, and two first offenders were persuaded to go to a Salvation Army Home. On the surface this appears as the story of naughty girls who well deserve their punishment. Beneath the surface there is a serious social menace to women.

The case wants analysing. The accusation is 'no lawful means of support.' That clearly implies they had an unlawful one; and the further evidence, 'going about with sailors,' explains the situation. These girls are girls of a 'certain class.' They are indulging in a vice where not one, but two, are concerned every time. But in the administration of the law one is to be punished and sent to gaol, and the partner in the offence—whether sailor, soldier, butcher, baker, or clerk, etc.—is to be let go scot-free. Are we living under laws which discriminate between women and men, or are we all citizens, free and equal?

The menace to women involved in this case is that against which women have fought in England since the days of Josephine Butler. Several Acts of Parliament passed within recent years (one under the name of the Health Act) in New South Wales are placing a power in the hands of police and magistrates and medical practitioners which leads to girls being arrested, punished and detained in prison for an offence which men are able to commit with impunity. Under the Prisoners' Detention Act these girls are liable to be kept in prison under the indeterminate sentence, and evidently the reason for their arrest is to get them there. What will happen to the sailor boys whose names are not disclosed with whom these girls have been keeping company? Will they give up their vicious habits or will they look out for a fresh set of girls? This sex discrimination is no remedy for social evil.

M. JAMIESON WILLIAMS.

Contributed to the *Woman's Voice*, May, 1921, by the *White Ribbon*.

#### BRAZIL.

##### Woman Suffrage Bill introduced.

The *Times* of June 15 reports that:—

The first reading of a Bill for the enfranchisement of women has been approved by the Brazilian Senate.

#### CANADA.

##### Deputation to the Minister of Justice.—Reforms Demanded.

A DELEGATION from the National Council of Women waited on the Rt. Hon. C. J. Doherty, Minister of Justice, consisting of Mrs. O. C. Edwards, National Convener of the Committee on Laws and Provincial Vice-President for Alberta; Mrs. Adam Shortt, National Vice-President; Miss C. Carmichael, Provincial Vice-President for Nova Scotia; Mrs. Thorburn, National Treasurer, and Mrs. J. A. Wilson, President of the Ottawa Local Council of Women, urging that new laws and amendments to existing laws be enacted.

Recommendations made by the delegation were:—

- (1) That women be included in the panel of all juries sitting on cases where women are concerned.
- (2) That adultery be made a crime.
- (3) That legislation be enacted to give to women the same rights to homestead as are now enjoyed by men.
- (4) That an extension of the indeterminate system of sentence be applied to those men and women convicted

#### A Successful Appeal against Compulsory Examination in U.S.A.

THAT the police have no authority to send women prisoners, against their consent, to hospital clinics for examination is the body of an opinion just sent to Police Commissioner Gaither by Attorney-General Armstrong.

Last fall Commissioner Gaither, at the request of the Just Government League, issued an order discontinuing the practice of forcing women prisoners to submit to an examination. Following this order, Commissioner Gaither wrote to the Attorney-General asking for an opinion, but it was only recently that the Attorney-General was able to make a study of the situation and render his opinion, which upholds the stand taken by the League.

It has been the common practice of police captains to order women prisoners to be taken, in charge of police-women, to the hospital clinics. Many young women, innocent of any wrong-doing, it was reported to the League, were thus forced to suffer indignities. The attention of Commissioner Gaither was called to the practice by a delegation from the J.G.L. after the arrest of Viola Frick on the charge of disorderly conduct. An investigation was made by Commissioner Gaither at the instigation of Mrs. Donald R. Hooker, president, and the order followed.

*Maryland Suffrage News*, June 2, 1921.

#### Bombay's Social Evil.

THE Social Purity Committee, after seven months' investigation, has issued a serious indictment of Bombay morals.

Nearly 900 brothels have been discovered, with 5,200 inmates.

"Terrorism of the worst sort is an inevitable incident of the state of slavery in which many, if not most, of these unfortunate women live," says the report.

It is strongly urged that brothel-keeping be made a criminal offence.

*Daily Mail*, June 16.

under the criminal code sections dealing with sexual offences

(5) That section 44 of the criminal code be amended by substituting the word "eighteen" for "sixteen." This section deals with the age of those who come under the jurisdiction of the juvenile courts.

(6) That punishment by fines for crimes of an immoral nature be abolished.

(7) That wife desertion be made an extraditable offence.

(8) A uniform divorce law for Canada.

(9) That the English law respecting divorce in force in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, be so amended that "there shall be no distinction of sex in the grounds for granting an application for divorce, and that for the purpose of granting an order of divorce a wife's domicile shall be considered the place where she resides."

The delegation further maintained the right of a married woman to take out naturalisation papers as if she were a femme-sole, which right was granted to her by the Naturalisation Act of 1919, but is not contained in the present Act.

Appreciation was expressed of the Government's action last session in raising the age of consent from sixteen years to eighteen years, in line with repeated petitions presented by the National Council of Women. Mrs. Adam Shortt, National Vice-President, emphasised the need for a detention place for examination as to the mental and physical condition of those brought before the courts.

The Minister of Justice promised consideration of the requests of the delegation. Some of the matters referred to would, he thought, be subjects of discussion at the Imperial Conference in London.

*Woman's Century*, May, 1921.

#### CHINA.

##### Woman Suffrage Agitation in Canton.

THE *Vote* of June 3 reports that in Canton a bold attempt has been made to secure votes for women. Chinese women living in Canton had protested without any result that they should be enfranchised. As no notice was taken of their petition a large body, some 700 strong, marched to the Provisional Assembly, and, finding the way open, invaded the Chamber where the deputies were sitting. A fracas took place in which several of the women were hurt. The friends of the injured women have now presented a bill for damages, and demand that the Assembly shall pay it.

#### DENMARK.

##### League of Nations.—Miss Henni Forchammer's Double Appointment.

THE Danish Government has appointed Miss Henni Forchammer, President of the Danish National Council of Women, to be Denmark's sole representative to the International Conference on Traffic in Women and Children, which is to be held at Geneva on the 30th June.

Miss Forchammer was a member of the Danish Delegation (as technical adviser on women's questions) at the first Assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva, and our Government has renewed her appointment for the next Assembly of the League in September. At the first Assembly of the League of Nations Miss Forchammer was speaker of the Commission on the question of repatriating women who had been forcibly exiled during the war.

Danish women are glad and proud of seeing Miss Henni Forchammer representing them and their country on these occasions; she is an able, experienced and warm-hearted advocate of the women's cause.

##### Married Women's Right to Trade.

According to the Danish Trade Law of 1857, married women who are not widows or divorced are excluded from obtaining a trade-licence in their own name. A revision of the Trade Law is now under preparation, and *Dansk Kvindesamfund* has handed in a petition asking that married women should no longer be barred from obtaining such a personal licence. Since 1857 the legal position of women in Denmark has undergone such enormous alterations that it seems impossible to maintain this old bar to married women's trade liberty.

##### Stronger Punishment and Preventive Measures against Sexual Offences.

*Dansk Kvindesamfund* is collecting signatures from men and women all over the country to a petition asking Government and Parliament for such amendments in the Penal Law:—

(1) Which might assure society against a ravisher repeating his crime.

(2) Increasing punishment for sexual intercourse with children—boys and girls—to hard labour, so that this crime be branded as an outrage of the gravest character.

(3) That sexually abnormal individuals having committed any of the above crimes be detained under medical supervision until recovery, and incurable abnormal individuals be detained for life.

This petition—which is caused by the fact of frequent sexual crimes against children, followed by too mild punishments—has been seconded by a number of associations, amongst which are the Y.W.C.A., Women's Labour Union in Denmark and Denmark's Teachers' Association.

#### Danish Woman Decorated.

Countess Henrietta Knuth, President of the Danish Y.W.C.A., has been decorated by H.M. the King with the Medal of Merit in gold for her lifelong successful work for this association.

LOUISE NEERGAARD,

*Secretary of Dansk Kvindesamfund.*

Copenhagen, June 5, 1921.

##### Visit of City Councillors of Paris.

Copenhagen has for some days in this beautiful month of May been visited by several prominent members of the City Council of Paris, headed by their president, M. Le Corbeiller, deputy of Paris. As guests of Copenhagen they were honoured with a festival dinner in the magnificent banqueting hall of the Council House. Among the speakers at the dinner was Mrs. Elna Munch, member of the City Council and of the Danish Parliament.

Speaking for the French guests she very strongly complained that Paris had sent no women representatives. She emphasised that though Copenhagen in many directions could not compete with Paris, and though we were unable to show them things which they had not better, greater and more beautiful at home, yet there was one domain where Denmark excelled France. Here in Denmark we had men whose liberality, disinterestedness and sense of justice had made them give women admission to the political and municipal representation of our country. She, for her part, very well remembered the eloquent words of MM. Briand and Viviani in the French Legislative Chamber, mentioning the splendid work of French women during the war, which was due to be rewarded with the vote. But apparently the Frenchmen had forgotten these eloquent words.

She hoped that the Parisian representatives would bring home to France the impression that women's taking part in the government was not at all the fateful revolution as most people would think; and she enjoined the French guests to raise a movement at their return to home, so that our French sisters should not have a worse position than Danish women. Then, she felt quite sure, when next our French guests paid us a visit—very soon, of course—we need not put this ominous question: "Où est la femme?"

The speech was greatly applauded, and some of the Parisian representatives expressed their sympathy and their wish that French women might soon win the vote.

SARAH ORTH,

*Secretary Dansk Landsforbund for Kvinders Valgret.*  
May, 1921.

#### FRANCE.

M. BRIAND received a deputation from the French Suffrage Society on June 16, led by Madame de Witt Schlumberger. The deputation asked that in view of the big majority for the Suffrage Bill obtained in the French Chamber in May, 1920, the Government should insist on the matter coming before the Senate for discussion.

M. Briand promised to submit the matter to the Cabinet and to do what he could, but reminded the deputation that he was not the only Minister in the Government.

There is considerable doubt if the matter will be brought before the Senate before the autumn session.

#### GERMANY.

AN old German proverb says, "Care is taken for the trees that they shall not grow up to heaven," which, in a feminist interpretation, means that men always will take care that women do not outgrow their "sphere," especially when their own "man's" professions come into question. This was recently proved again by the *Union of the German Judges*, who, at their fourth convention in Leipzig, discussed the question of woman judges and jurors as the main object of the agenda. A



resolution was carried, nearly unanimously, that women, once for all, are *wifit* not only for the professional judicial career, but also for the office as lay judges and jurors, even for juvenile courts, and that their admission to the boards would involve a *great danger for the jurisdiction*. The oldest and most threadbare arguments played, of course, a prominent part in the discussions—that "the" woman will always judge by her feelings, instead of an impartial intellect (which, as everybody knows, is strictly confined to "the" man!), and that many criminal cases would, by the nature of the offence, hurt these women's feelings (not as much, we guess, as the fact that women are mostly the victims of such offence!), etc. Probably this resolution was an official answer to the announcement the Minister of Justice made in the Reichstag on a question of the independent Socialist member, Frau Wurm—that the Bill providing for woman jurors (on which I have reported in the April issue of the I.W.S.N.) was drawn up and would be brought before the House in a few days.

Even if the resolution of the judges should have some influence on the Conservative parties, there can hardly be any doubt that the Reichstag will decide in favour of the Bill and of the women, but the position of the professionals evidently shows that, notwithstanding all legal rights, the woman jurors will have to face a very strong opposition in practice and to fight an ardent fight against prejudice and sex-conceit.

At the last elections for the Reichstag in several places belonging to eighteen different constituencies in all parts of the country, men and women have voted separately, i.e., they had to cast their ballot in different rooms. The National Statistical Bureau (*statistisches Reichsamt*) have now issued interesting statistics on the percentage of men's and women's votes in these places on behalf of the *political parties*. They show a slight tendency of the women to conservatism on one side—which seems to confirm the former prophecies—and a rather strong dislike of radicalism—which is contradictory to all former prophecies. The greatest percentage of women voters belonged to the Catholic Party (fifty-nine per cent. to forty-one per cent. men), the smallest (thirty-seven to sixty-three per cent. men) to the Communists. The percentage for the National People's Party was fifty-six women to forty-four men; for the German People's Party, fifty-one women to forty-nine men; for the Democratic Party, forty-seven women to fifty-three men; for the Socialists, forty-three women to fifty-seven men; for the Independent Socialists, forty-one women to fifty-nine men. It has been suggested to make this method of separate voting obligatory for *all* elections, to get a correct view on women's influence on the political parties, but for financial reasons it will be postponed.

An important convention has taken place in Heidelberg from May 24 to 27. The annual meeting of the National Association of the Housewives (*Verband Deutscher Hausfrauenvereine*), which was established in 1915 by the National Council of Women, has in a very short time spread out over the whole country, and represents, with its many State and provincial and local branches, at present one of our largest, if not the largest, woman's organisation. The importance of the housewife's labour, as consumer and producer, the many difficult economic and social problems of housekeeping in these hard times, the burning question of domestic servants, etc., made this meeting a most interesting event. Hundreds of delegates, amongst them two woman members of the National Economic Council (*Reichswirtschaftsrat*), were present and were cordially welcomed by Government and city authorities. Interesting reports and papers were read and discussed—on nourishment questions, domestic training in school and house, apprenticeship of domestic servants—and resolutions were passed as to the admission of housewives to the Consumers' Councils and to the State and Provincial Economic Councils. The most characteristic feature of the meeting was the discussion on *housekeeping as a profession*, that led to a resolution which, in principle, declared housekeeping to be a profession, and claimed

that the Government shall record all housewives as professional workers in the next official statistics. Though one may, from the point of view of principle and logic, *not* agree with this opinion—I, for instance, do not—it seems at present to be the only way to gain the admission of housewives, *in accordance with their number*, to the economic boards and councils on which the different trades are proportionally represented.

MARIE STRITT.

Dresden, June 19.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

#### National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. League of Nations Demonstration.

CONTINGENTS from all parts of London marched, in spite of extreme heat, to Hyde Park on Saturday, June 25, to celebrate the second anniversary of the League of Nations. Many different nationalities and many different types of organisation were represented, and the final rally, when the processions from different directions converged at the Reception Tent in Hyde Park, was an inspiring and picturesque spectacle.

Large crowds gathered around the ten platforms in the Park to hear Lord Robert Cecil, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice, and many other distinguished speakers. Perhaps the most interesting platform was that at which representatives of twelve different nationalities testified to their faith in the League. From our point of view the next most interesting was our own platform. The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship organised its own unit in the procession, and, under the leadership of Mrs. Fawcett (Miss Rathbone was taking part in a similar demonstration in Liverpool), marched about 100 strong, with flying banners, from the Embankment to the Park. The N.U.S.E.C. platform was gaily decorated with our colours and attracted an immense crowd, who followed the speeches with deep interest. Our speakers were Miss Helen Ward, who presided, Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Rackham and Mrs. Philip Snowden, former members of our Executive Committee, Miss K. D. Courtney and Mrs. Stocks, and last but not least, Lord Robert Cecil, who, to our delight, paid us a visit and made a short speech from our platform.

At the sound of a bugle a resolution declaring the League to be the first-fruits of victory and the best hope of world-wide peace and security was carried with much enthusiasm.

The League of Nations, and the practical application of the principle of equal opportunity for men and women within it, is on the immediate programme of reform for which our Union stands, and we welcomed this opportunity of demonstrating to the public that our ideas are not narrowly confined to matters which immediately affect the interests of women, but that we believe in the League of Nations and are pledged to its support.

#### The Protection of Youth. Criminal Law Amendment Bill.

The Criminal Law Amendment Bill which was introduced to the House of Lords by the Bishop of London is an instance of legislation which is initiated by the House of Lords instead of the House of Commons. It has now passed through all its stages successfully in the Upper House and is ready to come to the House of Commons. The main features of this Bill are—

1. It removes the plea of "reasonable cause to believe" in the case of criminal assault.
2. Raises the age of consent of young persons to indecent assault from thirteen to sixteen.
3. Extends the time in which an action for criminal assault may be brought from six to twelve months.
4. Increases the penalties of brothel-keepers.
5. Provides that incest cases shall not necessarily be heard in camera.

All women's organisations are unanimous in supporting this Bill as a step towards what is required to secure the adequate protection of young people. In order to make the Bill non-contentious and increase its chances of passing into law, changes which would bring about a larger measure of reform have been sacrificed. In spite of continued pressure from these organisations it is uncertain whether the Government will find time this Session for the later stages of the Bill. Unfortunately there are signs that it will be opposed, in which case progress is very doubtful, for at this stage of the Session a private member's Bill is only likely to succeed, or to be taken over by the Government, if it is practically without opposition.

#### Bill to amend the Law dealing with Separation and Maintenance Orders.

The N.U.S.E.C., encouraged by the success which has so far attended the "Guardianship, Maintenance and Custody of Infants" Bill, is promoting another important piece of legislation, dealing with Maintenance and Separation Orders. It has drafted a Bill called the Summary Jurisdiction (Married Persons) Bill, which will shortly be introduced into the House of Commons. This Bill adds to the grounds on which a separation order can be claimed—that either party has committed adultery and that either party is suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form. It enables a man to claim a separation order on the same grounds as a woman and enables the court to grant a maintenance order whether the parties are living together or separately (instead of as at present, only after separation has taken place). In many matters connected with the status of married women, Great Britain is behind other countries, and we hope for an early opportunity of introducing this reform.

#### Nationality and Naturalisation of Married Women.

The question of Nationality and Naturalisation is one which appeals to the women of all nations. As time goes on, and the League of Nations becomes more of a reality, this question will naturally cause less heartburning, but at any time it is surely right that no woman should be unwillingly deprived of her nationality.

The N.U.S.E.C. has, in common with other women's organisations, approached the British Empire Delegation on this subject.

We are asking the Government to introduce a measure to provide that a woman on marriage with an alien shall not be deprived of her nationality against her will, but that she shall be given the same choice of nationality as a man, including the right to naturalise independently of her husband. We are, moreover, asking that British delegates shall vote in favour of recommending the adoption of similar laws throughout the Empire.

We know that the organised women in the Dominions are also trying to have the law altered in this sense, and that Australia and Canada have already on their Statute Books legislation which is slightly less severe as regards married women than the nationality laws of the United Kingdom.

We have therefore urged the Delegation to appoint a Committee on this subject, promised by the Government in 1918, to include women members, to draft a Bill to give effect to their demand.

ELIZABETH MACADAM.

June 25, 1921.

#### Equalising the Laws of Inheritance.

A correspondent writes: The Lord Chancellor is to be congratulated on his inclusion of a further instalment towards the removal of "all existing inequalities in the law as between men and women" in the Law of Property Bill which has recently passed its third reading in the House of Lords. He is deserving, too, of a double measure of appreciation, inasmuch as he has included the reform of the intestacy laws in his Bill without any explicit demand from the women's organisations, and in exactly the form in which the women's societies themselves would have formulated it. It is true that there is not the same burning urgency for removal of this particular inequality of the law as there is for the recognition of women's right to work with full opportunities for equal pay and promotion in the Civil Service or for the abolition of the solicitation laws, which are based on the double moral standard, or the other reforms on the women's programmes. Nevertheless it is an important sign of the times, and a valuable direct result of the enfranchisement of women, that a change in the old-established laws of inheritance should come as a free gift from the Government to the women of the country.

Buried in this fat and, to the lay reader, particularly unintelligible Bill are the clauses which provide that when there is no will property left by a man or woman who has no surviving spouse, that a wife shall inherit the same from the husband dying without a will as the husband would from the wife in the same circumstances; that a mother shall inherit the same as a father, and that where both a father and mother survive an intestate child they shall each inherit the same. But an even

more revolutionary proposal is that abolishing primogeniture, and provides that all children, boys or girls, shall rank equally in inheriting from an intestate parent.

June 30, 1921.

### INDIA.

#### The Women's Indian Association.—Letter from Mrs. Jinirajadasa.

MANY thanks for your letter of congratulation. We know that you rejoice with us in our victories. We hope very much to be able to tell you of success in Bombay Presidency later on. Mrs. Cousins, one of our best workers, is going up to Bombay in the middle of next month and she will organise the campaign. We have a very good branch there and many members who are able and willing to do good work. Also, in the provinces (Mofussil) there are good branches which will get up public meetings—so we hope for success this time.

In Bengal I have been writing to some of the leading women, and we hope to get the work going, but it is more difficult there because of the *purdah* system. Many of the women are well educated and cultured, but they keep strict *purdah*.

You ask me how many Indian States have any form of representative government. In Cochin and Travancore there are Legislative Councils elected by the people, men and women, and in Jhalwar the women have suffrage, but I do not know how far the Council represents the people. Baroda and Mysore have Legislative Councils with a nominated majority. Gwalior is preparing to have a Council. Most of the Indian States have a small Council of about four members and a Diwan, who, under the Rajah, administer the State. These Councils are nominated by the Rajah, and usually twice or four times a year people can go to the Diwan and Councillors and put forward any grievances or ask for any reforms that they want.

Some of the Indian States are very well governed, indeed, in many ways better than parts of India under British rule, but on the other hand some Indian States are very badly governed and the people are tyrannised over.

In Mysore State we are just beginning to organise our suffrage movement. I am going to Bangalore next week, and while there I hope to arrange a deputation to the Diwan. There is a very limited male suffrage in Mysore, but a Reform Scheme will shortly be introduced, I believe. It is one of the very enlightened States where education is good.

DOROTHY JINARAJADASA.

May 28, 1921.

#### Bengal and Woman Suffrage.

*Stri Dharma* for April reports that the Bengal Liberal Federation has passed a resolution in favour of Woman Suffrage, and we have also received a letter from Mrs. Kumudini Basu, of Calcutta, telling us that the Reforms Provincial Conference of the Moderate Party passed a resolution in favour of woman suffrage which had been moved by Mrs. N. C. Sen (who attended the Geneva Congress of the I.W.S.A.) and seconded by Mrs. Basu. Mrs. Basu is trying to form a Bengal Woman Suffrage Association, which she desires to affiliate to the I.W.S.A.

#### The Reformed Councils and Girls' Education.

In all the Provinces the new Councils are making increased grants for the opening of more Secondary Schools for Girls. Half a dozen such schools are under the consideration of the Madras Government, and one is to be opened almost immediately in Tanjore. Hostel accommodation is also to be provided. Large grants are also being made for the extension of facilities for university education for women.

June 30, 1921.



### THE NETHERLANDS.

**The Dutch Union for Women's Interests.**  
(*Nederlandsche Unie voor Vrouwenbelangen.*)

AFTER the adoption in 1919 of Woman Suffrage several societies in Holland had to adapt their rules to the new state of things. At the same time many women and men also who had been very keen trying to get the suffrage, thought that now their work was at an end. Others, who for years had undertaken the education of women with a view to the coming duties, could not agree that the time for dissolving had come.

One of the oldest societies in Holland, "The Society for Improvement of the Social and Legal Position of Women in Holland" (called, for short, "The society with the long name"), was in the same position as the Netherlands League for Woman Suffrage (*Nederlandsche Bond voor Vrouwenkiesrecht*). The two societies joined hands and on March 14, 1920, the "Dutch Union for Women's Interests" was formed.

And wherein consists the task of this Union? Its task and its purpose is to give women advice with regard to the many problems being of interest to them, and further, to see to it that women having received the suffrage they learn to use it, so that they may not be put aside from their places. For here a great danger threatens women. During the mobilisation women's assistance was asked for, they were appointed to various posts where there was a shortage of men labour; women did their task well and conquered a position for themselves. When men returned to their work they wanted to push women aside, just as in other countries.

Dutch women are threatened with the prohibition of factory work for married women, and family wages and allowances for children are being propagated as a man's right. Equal pay for equal work being one of the Union's principles, the initiative was taken for the action through the whole of the country and help was sought and found from other societies.

Women will never be able to compete with men if their work is not equally remunerated. Women's work will be considered to be of inferior quality so long as the same wages are not paid for the same work.

Another important point asking for the Union's attention has been the maternity welfare problem in all its different forms, as maternity insurance, maternity benefit, motherhood endowment, etc. Although full suffrage has been granted to the women in Holland, this has only been done by an ordinary Bill, and to make these rights quite sure they have still to be added to the Fundamental Law of the country.

Voting for Parliament will not happen before 1922. Meanwhile the women of Maastricht, Leiden and Amsterdam have voted for new town councils. Of the forty-five elected members in Amsterdam, six are women.

The local branches of the Union are absolutely independent in their work, as they are better acquainted with local needs than headquarters. These latter, the board of officers consisting of three men and three women, keep an eye on all the new laws being issued and the way old ones are enforced.

The Amsterdam branch of the Union organised throughout the town offices, where voters could be enlightened about their duties, and could get neutral information about candidates. Also at various meetings exact replicas of the polling booth were shown and everything was done, as at a real election, to make people understand the way and the meaning of voting.

G. PLUYGERS ROOSEBOOM,  
Secretary D.U. for W.I.

May, 1921.

### NORWAY.

**Women and Holy Orders.**

THE *Manchester Guardian* of June 22 reports that, as a result of the discussion as to the right of women to preach at church services, arising out of Fru Steinsvik's sermon at Gronland Church, the Norwegian Women's National Council sent a deputation

requesting the Presidency of the Norwegian Diet to work for a law granting women the right of ordination. After deliberation in the Church and School Committee and a discussion in the Diet the sanction was granted unanimously. Among the speakers on the question was Gunnar Knudsen, former Minister of State. This staunch defender of the franchise for women said that even if it should take a long while before one could overcome general opinion, yet he would still urge consent to the proposition. He held that the ecclesiastical vocation was especially the women's province, and that the proposition was consistent with intellectual and Christian interests.

### Attempt to Reduce Minimum Wage for Clerical Workers.

The Mercantile Federation have recently made a proposal to reduce the wages of women clerical workers from kr. 3,200 to kr. 2,800 per annum, and to increase their working hours to fifty-four hours per week. A temporary Government measure secured a minimum of kr. 3,200 per annum to these women, but that measure is about to expire. The Norske Kvinders Nationalraad have sent a petition to the Chamber of Commerce begging them not to reduce the minimum wage for women workers until the price of living has fallen.

### SPAIN.

THE first decided act of the Spanish suffragists took place on June 3, when they went to the Congress and Senate to present their petitions.

The advanced programme, as shown below, points to the fact that Spanish women are not standing still. The chief points in the petition presented are:—

(a) Complete equality of political rights and, moreover, to be electors and eligible for election under the same conditions as the men.

(b) Equal civil rights.

(c) Repeal of the laws which close the door against women in certain careers and employments.

(d) Juries to be constituted of equal numbers of the two sexes.

(e) That investigation of paternity shall be allowed, and children, legitimate and illegitimate, shall be considered to have equal legal rights.

(f) Prostitution to be prosecuted and suppressed instead of being permitted and regulated by the State.

The petition was signed with thousands of signatures, amongst which could be found those belonging to women of all classes. It is the first time that suffragists dared to appear in the streets with this courage and audacity.

O Mundo.

June 4, 1921.

### SWITZERLAND.

**The Washington Conventions.**

THE Federal Council remitted the question of Maternity Benefit to a Special Commission of which three members were women. This Commission has now reported and recommends that maternity benefits shall be paid to all women—and not only to working women, as suggested by the Washington Convention.

With regard to Convention 6—prohibiting night-work to women—this was accepted without question by the Federal Council, and naturally so, as Miss Gourd remarks, since women were not consulted on the matter. The Swiss Suffrage Association has protested against the passing of this clause.

### TURKEY.

**A Woman Cabinet Minister.**

THE *Daily Mirror* of June 3 reports that Her Excellency Mme. Khalide Edib Khanum has been appointed Minister of Education in the Government of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, better known as the "Angora Government," of which Mustapha Kemal is the head.

This lady belongs to a family of Turkish intellectuals and graduated with distinction at the Robert College for girls at Constantinople.

She has contributed to *Le Temps* and many prominent French, English and American newspapers on Far Eastern problems.

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

**Wyoming and Iowa Confer Honorary Degrees on Mrs. Chapman Catt.**

TWO Western universities will award the degree of Doctor of Laws to Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt during their commencement ceremonies this month. Wyoming University, of the State which has had equal suffrage always, and the University of Iowa, of the State which gave Mrs. Catt to the nation, are the two institutions honouring themselves and Mrs. Catt. It might well be asked why so obvious a proceeding had been so long deferred, considering the conspicuous intellectual attainments of the foremost suffrage leader. But her career was bound up in a political cause, and colleges and universities do not want to seem to take sides. The appropriate time to honour the leader is when the cause has triumphed, and Mrs. Catt's degrees will be not only a tribute to personal worth, but a celebration of the conclusion of the half-century of suffrage pleading on the part of American women.

*New York Tribune, June 9, 1921.*

**Penalties for Women Smokers.**  
**Bill in U.S. Congress.**

The *Times* of June 22 reports that a fine of £5 is the proposed punishment for women smokers in a Bill introduced in the House of Representatives yesterday. For subsequent offences a penalty of £25 may be inflicted for each cigarette consumed. If the outrage is committed in a place of public entertainment the proprietor is made liable to the same penalty.

In introducing the measure, Mr. Paul Johnson said he had long objected to women smoking in public, "but the last straw came yesterday evening when, walking in Washington, he saw a young woman outside a picture theatre remove a cigarette from her escort's mouth and take several puffs."

The Editorial comment of our British contemporary, *The Woman's Leader*, on this imbecile tyranny over women is: "Words fail us." On the contrary, words do not fail us. . . . But we suppress them.

**WOMEN VOTERS AND STATE LEGISLATURES.**

**Minnesota.**

THE Legislative Council of the Minnesota League of Women Voters did not get all the measures it went out for passed in the 1921 session, but it accomplished one or two things not contemplated in its programme and actually did pass several important Bills. The record of Bills passed reads as follows: A Bill for an increase in the maximum allowed under the Mothers' Pension Law; three Bills making women eligible for jury service; a Bill regulating the street trades of children, undertaken with the federated clubs of the State; the Bill for the redistribution of State aid to schools; a Bill for an amendment to the States school attendance law; a Maternity and Infancy Bill to accept the provisions of the Sheppard-Towner Bill now before Congress. The Bill for an eight-hour day and a forty-eight-hour week for women in industry was finally amended in both Houses to a fifty-six-hour week, but was passed in the House so late on the last night of the session that there was not time to substitute it in the Senate, and it was lost by a fluke at the last moment of the session.

When the amendment to the existing State law regarding the service of jurors was contemplated, it was thought that one Bill would cover the matter of admitting the service of women jurors; but on the advice of the

judiciary committees of both Houses it was deemed necessary to introduce other Bills in regard to the appointment of a woman bailiff and a Bill for special exemptions for women jurors. These three Bills were passed.

**Pennsylvania.**

Every measure on the legislative programme of the Pennsylvania League was acted upon favourably by the General Assembly in its 1921 session.

The programme contained five specific measures: (1) an increased appropriation to the Mothers' Assistance Fund; (2) increased pay for school teachers and better organisation of the State's educational system, according to the plan of the State Superintendent of Education, Mr. Finegan; (3) a reorganisation of all the State Departments and bureaux in the interest of economy; (4) the election of at least two women on every school board; (5) the adoption of a State Budget System.

The League also claims credit for having killed the Bill excusing women from jury service.

**Michigan.**

Of the three measures which the Michigan League of Women Voters presented and worked for directly, only the Equal Guardianship Bill passed, making fathers and mothers joint guardians of the person and property of their minor children. The Bills raising the age of consent to eighteen years were both defeated, one in the Senate Committee and one in the House. No measure presented as late in the session as the Bill creating a fifty-hour week for working women had much chance of receiving consideration.

The Legislative Council of Women, which included fourteen other women's organisations who combined in a welfare programme, secured the introduction and passage of two other Bills, an amendment to the Mothers' Pension Act, and a Bill to prevent the common law marriage of girls under sixteen.

**Wisconsin.**

A law has been passed providing for equal guardianship of father and mother over their minor children. Citizenship has been added to the list of studies taught in all public elementary schools of the State.

The terms of pensions to mothers whose children are dependent upon them for support have been improved. Pensions are now on a basis of fifteen dollars a month for one child and ten dollars for each additional child, however large the number of children. The law had before allowed for only four children.

Another new law forbids the use of any vehicles or buildings for immoral purposes. Still another law forbids the exhibition of immoral moving pictures.

*Woman Citizen, June 4, 1921.*

### NOTES FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.

PROBABLY the legislative measures of deepest interest to women which have been before Congress during the past fortnight are the Packer Control Bill and the resolutions terminating the state of war between the United States and Germany and Austro-Hungary.

The Packer Control Bill, introduced some two years after exhaustive hearings following an investigation made by the Federal Trade Commission, immediately held the interest of women, who, more than men, realise what soaring prices mean to the home and family. A number of national organisations gave the Bill their endorsement and support. The astounding conditions bared at these and subsequent hearings, which Senator Norris declared "the most exhaustive investigation of the subject ever made by a committee of either branch of Congress," made plain the necessity for controlling the packers in some way. Several measures were introduced, among them the so-called Kenyon-Kendrick, Anderson and Gronna Bills. The latter, taken up during the last Congress, was passed by the Senate, but so late that the House failed to reach it on the calendar, and it was not acted upon.

Re-introduced by the chairmen of the Agriculture Committees of Senate and House at the beginning of the sixty-seventh Congress, the Packer Bill, known as the Haugen Bill in the House, passed that body on June 2. On June 4 the Senate Agriculture



Committee voted to report the Norris Bill favourably, its substitute for the Haugen Bill, and on June 9 the Senate began consideration of the measure.

Under the Haugen Bill control of the packing industry would be placed in a commission of which the Secretary of Agriculture would be the head, and the jurisdiction of the Federal Trade Commission, "in so far as it relates to livestock and livestock products, in domestic commerce," would be terminated. The Norris Bill (S. 659), which was substituted for the Haugen Bill (H.R. 9320), vests control in a livestock commissioner.

Another provision in the House measure which evoked opposition was the power given the Secretary of Agriculture to override State laws and local regulations governing the packing industry. The Bill follows closely the lines of the Inter-State Commerce Act regulating the railroads, but its powers are much broader, since they are lodged in one man.

The Norris Bill provides for a commissioner with unusual powers. But, as Senator Norris explains, "The product of the packing industry of this country enters every home; it reaches every individual; it has something to do with the cost of living for every citizen; its ramifications extend everywhere, and if we are going to get any information, if we are going to have any supervision of this business which is effective, which can accomplish any good for the people generally, sufficient power must be given, whatever Government instrumentality is used for the purpose, in order that the Government officials who are appointed to execute the law may go into the details of any matter which may be connected with the packing industry."

As an interesting sidelight on why he preferred having the regulatory power vested in a commissioner rather than in the Secretary of Agriculture, Senator Norris made this statement: "The Secretary of Agriculture can do but very little personally, except to supervise in a general way the administrative features

of the law. The Secretary of Agriculture changes with every Administration, and often during one Administration. So that we should not long have, under the provisions of the House Bill, the supervision of any one Secretary of Agriculture who would really become personally familiar with the details of the work, as we should have if a man devotes his entire time to it and is not considered a political partisan appointee."

Senator Norris's Bill seeks to regulate the meat-packing industry and kill the evils which have grown up. It makes unfair practices illegal; it provides that packers must get rid of ownership of stockyards—and this is one of the glaring evils of the system, since the stockyards are really market-places where the packers buy their products from producers, placing their own valuation upon the animals.

The Bill makes illegal any combination fixing what the packers shall pay or shall divide with any other packer; also any agreement on any stockyard market that the packers will divide the proceeds of the stock offered among them without real competing in the bidding. It makes it illegal, also, to combine or agree in sales so as to increase the price to the consumer, and it gives power of supervision to the commissioner to see that the packers do not engage in unfair practice or combination in restraint of trade, and provides punishment for such practice.

The idea of co-operation is suggested in a section of the Norris Bill providing what are termed "voluntary slaughter-houses." This would allow a municipality to establish a slaughter-house. Persons having animals to kill for their own consumption might bring them for slaughter and store the meat in the refrigerators. The idea comes from Europe, where a number of these municipal slaughter-houses are being successfully conducted.

The Packer Control Bill will probably pass the Senate some time next week, when it will be referred to a Joint Committee.

Woman Citizen, June 18, 1921.

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Printed by WILLIAMS, LEA & Co., LTD., Clifton House, Worship Street, London, E.C. 2.

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#### HISTORIQUE DE "Y.W.C.A." EN ROUMANIE.

Par Mademoiselle GEORGESCU.

EN Roumanie l'Association n'a pas existé avant la guerre. Elle ne compte aujourd'hui qu'une année et demie d'existence, mais elle a atteint, malgré son jeune âge, un assez grand développement, parce qu'elle répond à des besoins actuels de la jeunesse locale, de même qu'à ces aspirations plus larges et plus hautes qui dépassent les limites du temps et des pays et qui font de la jeunesse de partout le plus bel espoir de la vie.

Enchaînée par la guerre dans l'horizon étouffant des besoins matériels et des soucis du lendemain, si peu satisfaite par le développement unilatéral et presque maladif de ses facultés intellectuelles seulement, la jeunesse aspire maintenant de toutes ses forces à la libération, à l'harmonie, à l'élargissement de l'horizon de sa vie. Bien n'est plus fatigant, en effet, que l'étroitesse, et il n'y a pas de fatigue dans le travail le plus difficile, tant que l'horizon est grand ouvert devant nous.

Des dames roumaines se trouvant à Paris durant la période 1916-18, qui ont elles-mêmes souffert de la réduction des perspectives de la vie, ayant vu d'un autre côté l'Association à l'œuvre derrière le front français, ont compris qu'il y avait, là même, une ressource inespérée pour la jeunesse de notre pays. Elle se sont alors adressées au comité mondial de Londres en demandant la création d'un centre de l'Y.W.C.A. en Roumanie.

Ainsi l'Association a fait son chemin dans la conscience du pays. Fidèles à l'emblème de l'œuvre, les secrétaires ont commencé le travail, avec l'aide des dames et demoiselles roumaines, pour développer les trois côtés du triangle. Elles ont créé un restaurant pour fonctionnaires, étudiantes et professeurs, où l'on déjeune à un prix modique. Elles ont ouvert des enquêtes sur les conditions sociales de la femme en Roumanie, elles ont ouvert des cours d'anglais et de français, de littérature française et anglaise, et surtout des classes de Bible. Ces dernières étaient une vraie innovation dans un pays où la Bible est lue seulement à l'église, où elle est enseignée à l'école comme tout autre sujet et où l'indifférence qui résulte de cette triste méthode fait de la Sainte Ecriture une œuvre dont on refuse la connaissance parce qu'on l'a prise par le mauvais côté. Ajoutez à cela l'enthousiasme de la jeunesse qui s'est tournée vers la science avec toute la force dont on l'a détournée de la religion vers laquelle tend infailliblement toute âme après son éclosion, et vous vous représenterez toutes les difficultés de classes, toutes la clairvoyance et surtout tout l'amour que celles qui viennent regagner la brebis égarée doivent mettre dans leur entreprise.

Ce qu'il y a de beau dans notre Association et ce qui a assuré son succès, c'est que le travail commence là où il semble qu'il devrait cesser à cause des difficultés. Plus ces difficultés sont grandes, plus c'est un signe qu'il faut travailler.

Et c'est ce qu'on a fait chez nous. L'œuvre s'est alors agrandie.

Le comité central du foyer arrange le programme d'activité des membres. Il se compose de sous-comités: social, intellectuel, religieux et physique.

Le comité intellectuel arrange des conférences par les esprits les plus remarquables du pays et sur toutes sortes de sujets. Il a organisé la bibliothèque du foyer, composée de 1,000 volumes, contenant presque toutes les grandes revues étrangères et ouverte à tous les membres du foyer. Les soirées sont ouvertes aux jeunes filles et aux jeunes gens ensemble; généralement on y vient en costume national. Le comité religieux arrange les conférences du dimanche qui traitent des sujets sociologiques, philosophiques, par rapport à la religion. Il a la responsabilité des classes d'études religieuses qui ont lieu le même jour. C'est ainsi un vrai recueillement après le travail du semestre. Le comité veille aussi à ce que l'esprit fondamental de l'Association inspire le travail de chaque autre section, et à cet effet il y a des réunions trimestrielles avec chacun des autres comités. Le comité social a aussi réalisé un beau travail. Les membres ont ouvert, avec l'aide d'une ligue de culture nationale, des écoles du soir dans les quartiers ouvriers de la ville. Des classes d'adultes, des classes de spécialisations industrielles, techniques ou commerciales, faites par nos membres chaque soir entre 6 et 9 heures, réunissent des centaines d'ouvriers, d'employés de magasins et même des collégiens. Une fois par semaine il y a une soirée artistique et littéraire dans le programme de laquelle figurent toujours les artistes du quartier, enfants et adultes; nous y apportons parfois le cinéma de l'Association, et nos salles comptent de 200 à 300 spectateurs que le local peut à peine contenir. Le jeudi soir est réservé surtout aux femmes qui viennent causer avec nous en travaillant; nous tâchons aussi de cultiver leur goût pour la broderie nationale, mais surtout de les convaincre de notre sympathie, afin de pouvoir faire ensemble l'œuvre d'éducation du peuple qui nous tient tellement au cœur, car, en vérité, c'est la femme et la mère qui en décident. Dimanche prochain les enfants du quartier représenteront, sous notre direction, le mystère de la résurrection, et je ne saurais vous dire à quel point je regrette de ne pas assister à ce miracle de la vérité révélé par les enfants. Ce sont eux, qui ont oublié moins que nous, qui ouvriront les cœurs des parents aux vérités de la religion.

Si nous quittons maintenant Bucarest nous trouverons dans les Carpathes un centre délicieux, parmi les sapins



sur les flancs des montagnes, où les membres du foyer, fonctionnaires, étudiantes et professeurs, viennent goûter le repos pendant l'été. Un mois entier est réservé aux écolières. L'année dernière, la première semaine du mois d'avril a été réservée à un congrès d'étudiants et d'étudiantes, dont le résultat a été la constitution d'une fédération des étudiants chrétiens de la Roumanie.

Les fonctionnaires qui fréquentaient aussi le foyer ont récemment constitué un cercle à part. Elles se réunissent une fois par semaine à l'Association, dînent ensemble, jouent comme des enfants, font la gymnastique, discutent ensuite sérieusement le problème du jour posé par le comité. Elles travaillent aussi à des objets dont la vente leur procure l'argent nécessaire pour la création d'un foyer des fonctionnaires chrétiennes, guidées par le principe qu'il ne suffit pas de lutter contre le mal de l'indifférence morale et religieuse, mais qu'il faut le prévenir. Tout un travail a été commencé avec les collégiennes. Une œuvre d'éducation de la jeunesse doit d'ailleurs toujours commencer par là.

Des écolières viennent chez nous pour la récréation. Elles font la gymnastique, elles jouent, elles apprennent les danses nationales de tous les pays, prennent ensuite ensemble le thé, et les leaders profitent alors pour s'occuper aussi de leur évolution spirituelle. De petits clubs se forment qui mènent insensiblement à l'initiation religieuse.

Des secrétaires vont aussi dans les lycées de Bucarest pour renouveler l'enseignement de la gymnastique, car le Ministère de l'Instruction de Bucarest a très bien compris que l'Association lui était un admirable auxiliaire soit pour réaliser le rapprochement entre le professeur et l'élève, soit pour vivifier l'enseignement de la gymnastique et le faire profiter de l'expérience des autres pays.

A l'école normale de Bucarest, le travail a donné des résultats admirables et l'Association, par ses secrétaires, s'est acquis toutes les sympathies du personnel enseignant.

Le même travail se poursuit à Jassy par Miss Brown, qui prépare une riche pépinière pour le foyer et l'Association que nous espérons y fonder. Cet été elle aura aussi un camp de vacances à Piatra Neamtz.

Cette œuvre entière a été accomplie comme par miracle. Et tout le monde s'est demandé en quoi consistait ce miracle. Un cercle s'est formé alors pour étudier les principes de l'Association, car tout y était compris. De septembre à novembre, les études des "bases" ont continué jusqu'à ce que l'Association se soit constituée. On a formulé et accepté les statuts. Les comités se sont formés, et ils sont actuellement à l'œuvre.

Le comité des finances a recueilli, en un mois, 120,000 lei. Un bazar a été organisé avec l'aide de toutes les membres, et au bout de deux mois de travail nous avons eu un bénéfice matériel de 30,000 lei et surtout le bénéfice moral de prouver que l'Association était devenue roumaine et travaillait avec beaucoup de ressources.

Le comité social a entrepris, avec la collaboration du Ministère de l'Assistance publique, l'aménagement d'un local ouvert par ce ministère pour tous les voyageurs pauvres qui viennent à Bucarest pour chercher du travail, n'en trouvent pas et ne trouvent même pas où se loger. Pénétrés du désir de réaliser dans la société l'enseignement de Jésus, les membres de ce comité ont adopté comme principe d'action les conclusions du Congrès de Champéry. Elles ont reçu avec beaucoup de plaisir une visite de Miss Dingman, secrétaire voyageuse industrielle du comité mondial.

Le comité religieux s'occupe aussi de la question d'une organisation d'école du dimanche, auprès des écoles d'adultes du foyer. C'est de lui que rayonnera l'esprit qui a mené déjà si loin, dans un milieu assez peu propice, l'œuvre du développement chrétien de la jeunesse.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

The Executive Committee of the World's Young Women's Christian Association is leaving 131, Baker Street this month for larger Offices at 34, Baker Street.

### CONFERENCE FOR Y.W.C.A. WORKERS IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE.

THE end of May and the first days of June saw new pilgrims climbing the steep road that leads up to Sonntagsberg from the plains below, and awaking in the early morning they heard the chanting of peasants marching down the winding path on their way back to distant villages. For Sonntagsberg in Southern Austria is still a shrine, though nowadays the pilgrims are not so numerous or so wealthy as those for whom the old castle-like hospice, now the Conference house of the Austrian Student Movement, was originally built. Here, during a week that began with bitter cold and storms that threatened to blow in the windows but ended with cloudless sunshine, the Austrian Student Movement and the Y.W.C.A. held separate but simultaneous conferences. The dark old refectory echoed to a babel of tongues, for the delegates came from Constantinople, from Poland, Bulgaria, Roumania, Austria, Czecho-Slovakia and Hungary, while the speakers' list brought in France, England and the United States. During the conference hours German and English were chiefly used, with interludes in French, but the subjects discussed reflected the national life and the women's problems of widely different countries with a vividness that the limitations of interpretation could not dim.

One series of meetings dealt with religion as a philosophy of life, an enthralling subject to people who are facing the need for vital religion in national life, but who feel that the Gospel must be re-stated if it is to be accepted by the new generation. Another series of addresses and discussions centred round the social programme of a Christian organisation. In some countries the social interpretation of the teaching of Christ is discussed so widely that it comes as a shock to find others where Christianity is still a personal matter and duty to one's neighbour begins and ends with "charity." "Christian socialism" is a familiar term with many Anglo-Saxons, but there yet remain countries and groups of people where industrialism, socialism, and citizenship are divorced from religion, and where, indeed, organised religion stands a little aloof. To such as these the recommendations of the International Industrial Commission of the World's Y.W.C.A. Conference at Champéry last year must seem revolutionary. The last series covered the history, aim and scope of the Y.W.C.A., and time was also found for lively discussions on such subjects as commercialised recreation, the encouragement of sound literature in every country, the problem of the migrant and so forth. A particularly stimulating element in the discussions was the fact that in some of the countries represented the Association is young and keen for experiment; in others well-established and with a background of experience; and that in all there is a current of new life leading the movement into a bigger sphere of influence than ever before. Who, half a dozen years ago, could have prophesied the opening of a training school in Hungary, with an attendance in its first year of eighteen students? Who, knowing the Bohemian groups in 1913, could have foreseen the entirely new "renaissance" movement for women in the Czecho-Slovakia of to-day? And who can say what will grow out of the war-work of the Polish-American units?

The Conference's playtime was as international as its working hours, and one afternoon the Y.W.C.A. delegations were joined by the students, the Hungarians in their pretty national dress singing their haunting songs, followed by Polish music; the Roumanians, also in national costume, dancing, while Serbia played the violin, and both called in Bulgaria to help.

The days were all too short, and only after the Conference was it possible to disentangle the kaleidoscopic impressions of people, problems, and plans for the future. At the end of the six days the delegates, no longer strangers but friends in that curiously intimate tie that comes of a common and absorbing work, walked slowly down from the heights, leaving behind them the wide view over wooded hills to snow peaks, but taking with them a lasting memory of another and wider view of the new world which it is the privilege of women to help to create.

### LEAVES FROM THE NOTE BOOK OF A MIGRATION CASE WORKER.

By E. THORNTON COOK.

ASSOCIATION workers of all kinds must needs be resourceful and optimistic, but few have greater demands made upon them than does the Migration Secretary, for those who seek her help are of varied nationality, age and circumstance.

Wives come, seeking missing husbands. Bachelors write requiring wives. One from a lonely district where many wives are required volunteered to advance the fare for a girl selected as "suitable" by us, saying that if his venture proved a success, many of his friends would follow in his steps! Stranded children forlornly demand that we shall replace them in the arms of their parents. Once a widower, followed by four young hopefuls, appeared, to ask my advice as to how he should select a spouse from among the numerous applicants to his matrimonial advertisement!

One morning a small child appeared at my desk and, with considerable aplomb, announced her intention of making immediate departure for the United States. As she looked scarcely 12 years old and was certainly impecunious, it was explained to her that the journey was long and passages expensive; also that passports were required. This last she instantly produced, the money she promised on the morrow; as for the length of the journey, that was of no account. Would she wait a fortnight, when there would be someone particularly nice to look after her? No, thank you; she preferred to sail immediately. A visa was required? She would seek it at once. No, she did not know the location of the Consulate, "because you see I have only just been let out of a convent, but I can find it. My luggage? Oh, that's quite ready and waiting in the cloak-room at Baker Street."

An ex-soldier stood next in line, and in his arms was a whining baby. Could we find some motherly woman to help him care for it on the Atlantic voyage? Gradually out came the story of a "marriage" on this side of the water, of the death of the girl when the baby was born, and of its ultimate adoption by the legitimate wife overseas.

And there came a girl with a frightened mother. There was urgent need for her daughter to travel at once. Only when actually saying good-bye to her fiancé had she told him of the immediate need for marriage. The ship sailed and he with it, leaving his father and her mother to make what arrangements they could. We gave our help, and gradually the difficulties were surmounted. Within two weeks the money was found, passports, permits and visa obtained, a passage secured, while secretaries were written to at every stage of the difficult journey, that all along the route, when changing ships and trains, the girl might be in safe and friendly hands, and at the end there might be a woman to help, as well as a kindly clergyman to perform the ceremony, which made it possible for the two, who were so very young and ignorant, to start their life together in the new land.

Another day there came to us a boy discharged from the Mercantile Marine. He had run away from his home and joined up when only 14, and now found himself

stranded here in England, workless and ineligible for a free passage, while his fisher-folk parents strove in vain to get together sufficient money to pay his passage home.

It is only on rare occasions that immediate monetary relief is given by an Emigration Secretary, but it was late, the boy was hungry, cold, wet, homeless, down and out. He gave half the little gift to a "pal" whose plight was worse than his own! When he sailed a week later he did not forget to send back a joyful letter of thanks.

But among the most grateful of all was a family of a round dozen who emigrated to Australia. Two of the daughters, thin, wiry little Cockneys, married a couple of upstanding young Australian soldiers, and forthwith set to work to increase the family, the entire bunch being of such mixed ages that it was impossible for the uninitiated to separate children from grandchildren! They were all devoted to one another, and terrified of being separated. The Australian relations sent welcoming letters, housing accommodation and work were definitely promised, but the united efforts of the entire group could not make up the seemingly vast amount required for the aggregate fares. With difficulty the miracle was accomplished, the approval of authorities was sought, their interest awakened, nominations secured, all possible Government privileges obtained, and, with a sigh of relief, we shipped off the whole jubilant party, secure in the knowledge that such as they would be an asset to the country of their adoption. We missed them when they had gone, for almost as eagerly as they had we poured over the budget of ways and means, to which everyone had added his or her quota, the soldier sons-in-law, the daughters, even to the children, sacrificing that which had money's worth. "But not Ada's typewriter," said the fat mother earnestly, "she must keep that, I say, in case she is left a widow."

### VISIT TO HUNGARY, MAY, 1921.

By MARY A. DINGMAN,

Industrial Secretary, World's Y.W.C.A.

BEFORE I had the great pleasure of spending a few days in Hungary about the middle of May, it had always seemed to me a very far-away country about which I knew very little, but now, after passing almost a week there, attending the Annual Conference of the Young Women's Christian Association and also seeing some of the work in Budapest, I have a most vivid sense of the reality of Hungary and the Hungarians.

I gathered from conversation that the Conference held last fall in Budapest was so successful that one of the smaller cities in Hungary had asked for the privilege of having the meeting this spring. The Conference was held at Kecskemet, about three hours from Budapest, and it was very evident that the most careful preparations had been made by the members of the Kecskemet Association and that the meeting had great significance for them. One hundred and sixty delegates from all parts of Hungary were given a royal welcome and were beautifully entertained for three days. The meetings were held in the large Collegium, and those which were open to the public often had an audience of from 300 to 500 people. Some stirring addresses were given by Miss Cuyper, who is directing splendid relief work in Vienna, contributed to by the Dutch people; also by John Victor, junior, the general secretary of the Student Federation of Hungary.

The day the reports were given one was greatly impressed by the many evidences of the vigorous activity in the various cities. All reports attested to the interest in religious work, and its natural expression, service for others. One city, which had formed its Association within the past year, sent up a large delegation full of enthusiasm. Other cities had asked if they might send visitors to this meeting in order that they might



learn how to start a group in their cities. The possibilities seemed limitless and one could not but feel that if the National Committee had a staff of three or four paid secretaries, giving all their time to the work of organisation, tremendous strides might be made in the coming year.

The meeting closed with an afternoon out of doors in a near-by park, where games and good things to eat made the time pass very pleasantly. Perhaps some of the most impressive meetings were held in this park at the end of the afternoon, when a strong personal appeal was made by one of the pastors, and the attractiveness of Christian work as a life service was presented by Miss Victor.

We returned to Budapest on Saturday, May 21, and I had the pleasure of speaking to the eighteen students of the training school—an opportunity which to me was full of interest. On Sunday morning Mrs. de Misley, Miss Szalay and I went to Ujpest to see the birth of a new Association. There was no doubt as to the real interest on the part of the women, and as the church in which this group met was in the very heart of a large industrial district one saw great possibilities of work with industrial girls. In the afternoon there was a large meeting for young women in a beautiful hall in Budapest. Seldom have I listened to better music than that contributed by two of the leading singers of Budapest and a splendid violinist. For almost the first time I did not feel limited by having my talk translated sentence by sentence, and so great was the response on the part of the audience that my heart warmed to the Hungarian girls, and I look forward with eagerness to another visit.

One sees many evidences of a real revival of spiritual life in Hungary, and all of us unite in the hope that in the great trials through which this country is passing the people may understand all that God would have them know in order that a more splendid national and individual life may result.

#### SCANDINAVIAN EDITION OF "CHRIST AND WOMAN'S POWER."

ENGLISH people rejoicing in good translations of Selma Lagerlof, Gunnar Gunnarsson, Knut Hamsun and other Scandinavian authors have been growing accustomed to the enterprise of Scandinavian publishers. At the same time, English authors have been made accessible to the Scandinavian public, and among recent ventures has been a translation of Miss Picton-Turbervill's "Christ and Woman's Power" by Clara Thue Ebbell. Its title now stands as "Kristus og Kyindene," and the book comes from Ibsen's publishers, the Gyldenalske Boghandel, of Christiania and Copenhagen. "Christ and Woman's Power" has been so widely read that there is no need to recapitulate its contents. It forms part of a literature which maps out that as yet uncharted territory: the powers of womanhood in relation to society and to religion. Some years ago Dr. Cairns, in a vivid little study, outlined the effects of war on a civilised State and the share of unemancipated women in the past in the period of slack morals and manners that followed each peace. He pointed out the different position women now occupy, and the fact that war did not drain them in precisely the same way that it drained men, leaving reserves that, if they wished, could be consciously directed to regeneration, not degeneration. Benjamin Kidd, in his well-known "Science of Power," elaborates woman's mental contribution, stating his conviction that in woman's mind will be found the "psychic centre of power" in this age. Miss Picton-Turbervill gives an inspiring picture of what has been accomplished by consecrated women in the past, and looks forward to great things for the future if women will consecrate their God-given powers to His service in every sphere of human activity. There is a great deal written and spoken about women to-day which does not

bear the mark of experience or thought. Books of this kind are not only a timely corrective, but also stimulate the reader to face the problem for herself, seriously and fearlessly.

#### DOMESTIC SCIENCE FOR THE FACTORY WORKER.

A DISASTROUS result of over-industrialism is that women know too little about the care of a home and too often make all their domestic experiments after marriage. This is not only uncomfortable for the husband and unfortunate for the children, but it makes life a burden for the woman herself, drudging for long hours at work which could be done in half the time and more efficiently, and suffering from the loss of strength and other ills that follow an injudicious or insufficient diet. Home-making is not a matter of instinct only, but involves technical training and practice, and it staggers the imagination to think of the saving of time, energy and money that could be effected if every girl knew how to manage an income and a house. It is a commonplace that women have too little leisure for education, wholesome amusement and religion. The fault lies not so much with them as with the system of which they are victims.

In the educational plans that working women are making for themselves it is encouraging to note that domestic science has a place. Women's institutes in England have done nobly in this direction and a recent report from the Y.W.C.A. in Sweden dismisses a very interesting experiment in a sentence or two. The Association in Stockholm has a demonstration kitchen which goes round from factory to factory and from which courses of lessons are given in the factories themselves. Last year it was possible to give complete courses in ten factories with very good results. This is not, of course, so thorough and satisfactory as the system it is possible to follow in such factories as Cadbury's and Rowntree's; still, it is a good beginning and similar pioneer work in other centres or other countries should pave the way for further experiment in the same field.

#### "CAMPS."

THIS is the season for camps, and Y.W.C.A. workers in Europe, America and India are either winding up or making preparations for camps. Canada has a long list of camps in every province, some for girls on holiday, some for schoolgirls, some where leaders in girls' work combine training courses with outdoor life. The two camps for girls in the beautiful lake district of Northern Sweden are over, as are the earlier French camps, but the English list is only just beginning. Denmark has real out-of-doors camping for its Girl Guides, and some of the holiday parties in India might well come into the camp category, held as they are in the most primitive of bungalows and grass-mat huts. The United States is fortunate in owning three most beautiful camp sites—Asilomar, Silver Bay and Geneva—and here thousands of girls gather all summer long for that blissful combination of the serious and the frivolous, all under the open sky, which makes the charm of camp life. The Australian summer camps and conferences were over, of course, months ago, but China carries on the world circle with conferences for students and schoolgirls that are the big event of the year to them. Probably every girl attending a camp in any country would choose some different aspect of camp life for emphasis. To some the escape from the city to the country means more than they can put into words; to others the fellowship of camp life is a revelation of social Christianity; to others the contact with different forms of Christianity to their own opens their eyes to the infinite power of Christ. One thing they have in common—no one comes away from camp empty-handed.