

With Supplement from the World's Young Women's Christian Association.

JVS SVFFRAGII.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE NEWS



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

ROME.

IT is hard to believe that more than two years have passed since our Geneva Congress—yet so it is, and the next seven months will see every country and every member of the Alliance working for the Ninth Congress, which is to be held in Rome in the spring of 1923. The exact date is not actually fixed—but the poet sang the glories of "this morn of Rome and May"—and we doubt not that we shall be doing the same thing in 1923. Preliminary invitations have been sent to the Governments of far-away countries to send a delegate so that none may say they were not given due notice. Australia is already arranging its delegation from the new Federation of Auxiliaries. Three-quarters of the world was at Geneva. All the world must be at our Rome Congress. Never again can there be such a roll-call of newly enfranchised countries as we listened to in 1920. But who

would miss the Congress at which a woman of the Far East will answer the call?

Headquarters is working at high pressure, for the Board of Officers and the International Committee of Presidents meet in London on November 22. Our President, Mrs. Chapman Catt, leaves New York on October 5, and reaches Rome for a conference on October 23. She leaves Rome on November 4, and in the brief interval between that date and her arrival in London on November 9, she will hold a conference with our French Auxiliary and hopes to visit other Auxiliaries if time and strength permit.

In these very modern times we believe it is absolutely necessary to have a "slogan" if you are to succeed in anything. There is a very apt one ready for our Congress. Here it is, Auxiliaries and members: "All roads lead to Rome."

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONGRESSES.

CATHOLIC women's organizations are rapidly increasing both in numbers and strength. At their recent Congress in Rome, delegates from twenty countries attended. All these countries are affiliated to the Union Internationale des Ligues Catholiques Feminines, which, founded only in 1910, has to-day become one of the most powerful women's organizations in the world. After each Congress the bureau or committee is dissolved, and the place of the next meeting is decided by the Pope himself, the President of the Congress being appointed from the country selected. The next Congress is to be held in Holland in 1924, the President of which will be a prominent Dutch lady, Mme. Steinberghe-Veringhe, of Utrecht, who is also President of the Dutch Catholic Women's League. At these Congresses all the special questions of the day affecting women are discussed, such as divorce, the moral influence of the manners and customs of the day, religious liberty and education, and the rights, duties and liberties of Catholic women generally. Cinema reform is a strong point, and Catholic Women's Leagues in all countries are being asked to keep a watchful eye on doubtful productions, and prevent their appearance as far as possible. Politics is another important subject, and at this year's Catholic Congress at Rome the three German delegates who attended were all members of the Reichstag. The chief value of these Congresses is that they influence thought and action throughout the various Catholic organizations of the world, and determine the attitude to be adopted by Catholics in their relations with non-Catholic bodies.

The Vote, September 15, 1922.

THE SECOND MEETING OF THE MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION, GENEVA, September 4-7, 1922.

THE inaugural meeting of this Association took place in New York in the autumn of 1919. There were present medical women from fifteen nations, and the meeting, which was called to discuss international problems and subjects connected with health, ended by drawing up a provisional constitution, which was to be amended or reconstructed at some subsequent session to be held overseas.

This second meeting has just taken place at Geneva, organized by the joint efforts of the officers of the International Association, of which Dr. Christine Murrell was the British representative, and there were present medical women from nineteen different countries. Many of these representatives were sent by their various accredited organizations. Great Britain sent five representatives, the U.S.A. the same, and the other countries more or less in proportion to their numbers. About eighty members in all were present.

The chief business before the meeting was the reconstruction of the constitution, a very difficult task in view of the many different nations composing the committee appointed for its consideration. This committee was presided over by Dr. Jane Walker. The deed was, however, satisfactorily accomplished, and a revised constitution was accepted by a unanimous vote of the committee, and later by the general meeting, and is to be ratified at the next International Medical Women's Association's Conference, to be held in London next year.

Subjects of interest on which only action which is international in character can be effective were discussed. They were, the treatment and prevention of venereal disease in its relation to the State; the white slave traffic and cocaine and other drug traffic. In relation to this latter subject, a strong resolution was passed requesting the League of Nations to insist on Government control both as to the manufacture and the sale of cocaine.

But, important as the meeting was both on its administrative and scientific sides, the greatest value

of it was the better understanding among the representatives of the various countries. Each day they saw more clearly, realizing each other's good points and grasping each other's difficulties and problems in a way which could hardly have been believed possible when they started. All this was helped by various social functions interspersed with the more serious business of the meetings. The British contingent, for example, gave a tea party to which practically all the members came. Two French representatives, Dr. Thuillier-Landry and Dr. Long-Landry, who have a villa near Geneva, also entertained all the delegates. But the banquet, presided over by Dr. Esther Lovejoy (U.S.A.), at which the nineteen official representatives in turn made a short speech, the British speaker being Dr. Mary Scharlieb, was the crowning-point of the union. The President of the Federation of Medical Women in Great Britain, Lady Barrett, and the President of the National Association of Women Physicians of the United States of America, Dr. Grace Kimball, as well as their vigorous and veteran senior physician, Dr. Mosher, also spoke.

Thus ended a really notable Conference, which cannot but be fraught with real good and genuine help to the world at large.

Dr. Paulina Luisi attended the Congress as representative of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance—and we hope next month to have an article from her on the subject.

THE THIRD ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

By Mrs. PHILIP SNOWDEN.

September 15, 1922.

IT was my privilege during the two weeks preceding the opening of the Third Assembly to make the acquaintance of a large part of the English-speaking personnel of the League Secretariat, and to explore its work. It is not my purpose to write of these matters here, beyond saying this: That if the almost impossible were to happen and this newly created piece of international machinery were to go to pieces it would not be the fault of the men and women who form so admirable a part of its construction. An opponent of the League could scarcely fail to be converted by close contact with Sir Eric Drummond and his staff, whilst the timid believer would be changed into an enthusiast.

I can honestly say that, in a twenty years' acquaintance with political and semi-political organizations, I have never met with such a fine spirit, so much good work and goodwill, such patience in the midst of discouragement, such tact in the handling of delicate and difficult problems, and so much passionate, practical idealism as is to be found in the large staff of several hundreds which is housed in the International Labour Bureau on the hill and in the General Headquarters on the Quai du Mont Blanc.

It is invidious to name some and not others where all are excellent, and it is impossible to name all the heads of the technical organizations into which the League activities are divided, of which there are six permanent ones, not including anything connected with the Labour Bureau; but to the readers of this journal the position of an Englishwoman at the head of the Social Section is of very proper interest.

Dame Rachel Crowley has won the admiration of veterans in the Civil Service and of younger colleagues in the Secretariat for the skill and industry with which she directs the work of her department. If only her health were equal to the power of her mind and the attractiveness of her personality, her many friends would be relieved of much anxiety and would contemplate with unclouded joy the unquestionable distinction of her future, as of her past career. She would be grieved to read these lines if I omitted a reference to her able and devoted assistant, Miss Figgis, who helps her in what is becoming an increasingly arduous and responsible position. Traffic in women and children,

deported women and children in the Near East, the opium trade, and women's questions in general are the special concern of her department.

Feeling and opinion in Geneva at the time of my arrival in the city the day after the breakdown of the London Conference were greatly exercised in two directions. A haunting dread possessed everybody that the collapse of Central Europe, with its inevitable anarchy and civil strife, might occur at any hour, and men and women contemplated with dismay the powerlessness both of the Council and of the Assembly, with their imperfect constitutions and terribly limited means to intervene with effect should that be required of them, and to bring order out of a financial chaos which had defeated the statesmen of the world.

Without a single exception that I was able to discover, it was recognized that the reparations question is the pivot upon which all else in the political universe turns. And it was almost universally felt, as I have reason to believe, that the admission of Germany to the League is the *sine qua non* of the League's health and prosperity.

An eager desire was also everywhere expressed that the British Prime Minister would take part in the deliberations of the Assembly, or that he would at least come and make a great speech, a speech that would not only put the living spirit into the dry bones of the Assembly, but which would go ringing round the world, a challenge to mankind to make peace and disarm. I am myself of the opinion that nothing better could happen to the League; and if it be true, as it is widely rumoured, that Mr. Lloyd George only awaits an invitation from the British Delegation, they will take upon themselves a very great responsibility who decline to send such an invitation.

The Assembly met on September 4, in the Salle de Réformation, a building of historical associations and unspeakable acoustics! There are many such in Britain, big, square halls with two galleries, one above the other, running along three sides, hard narrow benches, and simple furnishings. Like the hotels and public buildings of Geneva, it was adorned with the flags of the nations. But it is to be remarked that the festal appearance was not very convincing. As a matter of fact, most of the ceremonial which characterized the First Assembly is now dispensed with. The energies of members are preserved for their work, and the tedious succession of official dinners and receptions has given place to small useful parties, where people continue over the dinner table the argument they were unable to complete in committee.

On the opening day the public benches were crowded with spectators, and every inch of standing room was utilized. There was a feeling in the air that the issue of this Assembly is to be full of consequence for the League and of portent for Europe. Judge, then, of the dismay when the chairman, M. da Gama, announced the adjournment of the Assembly within twenty minutes of its opening. The audience was aghast with disappointment, and doubtless the thinness of the attendance during the two succeeding days was due to disgust with this totally unexpected anti-climax to all our hopes for a strong, decisive lead for peace.

The adjournment for five hours, we learned later, was due to some disagreement amongst the delegates on the nominations for chairman. Mr. Edwards, of Chile, was duly elected, and so far has directed the proceedings with ability. He is a young man of pleasant appearance and polished manners, speaks French and English with equal fluency, and did wonders in forcing through the Assembly in two days what occupied the First Assembly for two weeks, the tedious technical business of organizing the Assembly machinery.

The body of the delegates presents a most impressive spectacle, which is increased in interest as each delegate, when the roll is called, mounts the tribune to record his (or her) vote. White, black, brown, and yellow mingle and talk with no thought of a colour bar. There is to be seen the turban of the Indian, the fez of the East. I have counted six women delegates, an increase

which suggests a growing perception of the need for women in the service of the Assembly. Great Britain's example will surely stimulate other nations to copy.

So far no woman has spoken, and two of them have declared to me their intention to abstain. Undoubtedly they will intervene with more profit when they feel they have something to say; but I feel strongly that a Continent in ruins might aptly move to fervent speech the most reluctant to hear the sound of her own voice; and I shall not cease to hope and to implore that the strong wise word may yet come from a woman. Of the personalities of the women delegates I hope to write later, when I have made their closer acquaintance.

Several of the Press representatives had declared to me their intention of going home, and the visitors sat listlessly on their benches when a courageous speech from Lord Robert Cecil re-awoke interest in the proceedings. He reviewed the excellent work which the League has done, but pressed for more attention on the part of the Council to the economic state of Europe, the condition of famine in Europe, and the war at present being waged between Turkey and Greece. Speeches in the same vein followed from MM. Motta (Switzerland) and Nansen (Norway). These speeches were more applauded than any, which suggests that possibly timidity rather than a lack of sympathy paralyses the nerve centre of the Assembly when it comes to touching upon the larger issues.

Lord Balfour's very able speech in reply to Lord Robert Cecil was somewhat of a cold douche to his listeners, and lost a little in effect from the quotation of the totally inadequate sums granted by the British Government in aid of the Russian famine and European epidemics even though it is readily admitted that no other European Government has done more in public and private relief.

Thus far have we got in the Assembly discussions. But the hard work is done in the commissions. These sit simultaneously in some cases, and when the Assembly is adjourned in others. . . .

September 22, 1922.

With the exception of a brief sitting of the Assembly on Friday morning, the whole of this week has been devoted to the work of the commissions. The real business of the League is done in this way. Men and women get down to the hard facts of the questions which they simply adorn with eloquence on the Assembly platform!

An observer accustomed to international conferences will note with agreeable surprise the close attendance of members and the comparative punctuality of their arrival. Punctuality is not one of the many virtues of international foregatherings! Each country is entitled to representation on each commission. There are forty-four countries attending the Assembly, and the committees would be unmanageably large, that is, too large for the swift dispatch of business if it were not that much of the work is relegated by consent to sub-commissions.

It is impossible to attend all the committees, as several of them sit simultaneously, but I have employed many hours every day in this way and have achieved a very fair idea of the way in which the business is conducted. Almost all the sessions are open to the public and are very well attended. It is noteworthy that not less than 50 per cent. of the onlookers are women, and frequently women form the great bulk of the listeners.

I note that all the six women who are taking part in the Assembly have been placed on the Humanitarian Questions Commission. This was to be anticipated, as women are expected to be interested in such matters as are there dealt with. They are supposed to be humanitarian before everything else! The worst of it is that, by some men, they are supposed to be humanitarian and nothing else! This, it is right to point out, is not the opinion of the British delegation, nor of Lord Robert Cecil, who would have welcomed a woman on the Disarmaments Commission.

Mrs. Wicksell, the woman delegate from Sweden, sits on the Legal Questions Committee in addition to the Humanitarian Questions Committee, and frankly told her colleagues that if these two commissions sat at the same time she would always attend the former, as her practical interest in legal questions is much greater than her interest in the opium traffic or Esperanto! Mrs. Wicksell is the wife of a Swedish professor of law, and also interests herself in this calling.

I have found it well-nigh impossible to get into close personal touch with any of the delegates, men or women, and have had to be content for the most part with question and answer flung and caught in passing from one committee to another, or exchanged in a crowded *salon* to the lively accompaniment of a jazz band! But I have contrived to extract from some of the women delegates their views of the possibilities of their position and the usefulness of their work.

At the end of the first week I was tempted towards the conclusion that the limitations of the position of an official delegate are so considerable as to preclude any real and satisfactory usefulness for those anxious to obtain practical results. I am assured by delegates that this is not so; that a very great deal of influence of an individual and personal character can be brought to bear upon delegates; that the purely official view need not always be presented, or, at any rate, that the individual view need not always be repressed. And, indeed, I have seen and heard with my own eyes and ears that this is so.

At the same time I am continually coming up against this timidity, this fear on the part of delegates that they may go beyond their powers or misrepresent those who sent them. The note of warning has been struck by every woman delegate to whom I have spoken. Mademoiselle Vacaresco will not repeat her splendid performance of last year because of the delicate situation for Roumania involved in its royal connection with unfortunate Greece. But there is no need to particularize. It is believed by all that the utmost discretion must be displayed if women are to continue to be sent to the Assembly even in the subordinate capacity of substitute delegates. Again and again I have had pointed out to me what happened to Mr. Barnes because of his expression of non-official views, and what may happen to Colonel Ward if he continues to behave in unorthodox fashion, though upon totally different lines!

The women delegates are doing excellent work on the committees. Mrs. Coombe-Tennant's first speech on the opium question was justly praised as brief and to the point, and if her second effort on the same subject appeared to the Chinese delegate, struggling with his limited English, to be too generous an exculpation of the British Government for its part in a traffic which is so greatly damaging his country, I think that was due to misunderstanding. The British delegate also took part in the discussion on Esperanto, as did also Mesdames Forchhammer (of Denmark), Vacaresco (of Roumania), and Bonnevie (of Norway).

The Commission which is of outstanding interest is that on disarmaments. It is pleasing to note the genuine attempts towards a better feeling of the French and British delegates. M. de Juvenal, of the French delegation, is said to be the ablest French delegate in the Assembly. Be this as it may, it is impossible not to remark how, up to the moment of writing, he appears to have made genuine and cordial efforts to meet Lord Robert Cecil, who, in turn, has conceded much to the French point of view. There are dangers hidden in the proposed treaty of mutual guarantees. Some go so far as to say that the cordiality of the Frenchmen is skilful manoeuvring on their part towards the end they have determinedly in view and which France has not been able to achieve by frontal methods, namely, a military pact with England. I refuse to believe this on mere suspicion, and up to the present there is no shred of evidence.

At the moment of writing, the discussion turns on the point whether the treaty of regional guarantees or the

disarmament proposals shall come first. M. de Juvenal is insisting on a declaration of support of the guarantees by the British Government, which the British delegates, speaking through Mr. Fisher, do not feel able to give in more than a provisional sense.

Mr. Fisher speaks with extraordinary tact. It is the kind of tact which is based upon sincerity. Of the other kind there is a nauseating abundance. Listeners laugh when a delegate rises and, with bows and smiles across the table, declares how entirely he agrees *in principle*, and then proceeds to show how entirely he disagrees in practice.

The Mandates Commission is of extraordinary interest. It has fearlessly made public the questionable wisdom of the Governments concerned in the conduct of affairs in the island of Nauru. Whether the purchase of the island's supplies of phosphates by the Mandatories was a wise proceeding is a matter of debate, but it lessens the offence of exploitation and monopoly with which they were charged.

The bad business of the bombing of Hottentots has been raised, and the results of the promised inquiry by the South African Government are awaited with interest.

The Portuguese delegate, by steadily opposing the proposition for a general inquiry into slavery, is directing the suspicious gaze of the world towards his country, and bringing it into not very enviable notoriety.

The tender susceptibilities of delegates and their jealous watchfulness for any detraction from the sovereignty of their several States are most clearly exhibited on the Commission which deals with the treatment of minorities; but it is here also that one sees most clearly the possibilities of the League, and the effect which the fierce light of universal publicity and of international adjudication will ultimately have upon tyrant governments. The opponents of Hungary's entry into the League have complained of her treatment of her Jews and of her organized workers. Hungary complains of Roumanian intolerance. But whatever may be the truth of these charges, it is well they should be examined in public before the world's self-chosen tribunal. Hungary, by the way, has been accepted unanimously by the Commission, and will be received into the League when the Assembly has given its endorsement.

(By courtesy of *The Woman's Leader*.)

MARRIED WOMEN'S NATIONALITY.

THE right of a woman to retain or change her nationality in the same way as a man is slowly beginning to find acceptance internationally, as well as at home. In the Reichstag a Bill is being introduced seeking to establish that, since men and women are given equal rights in the new German Constitution, they should, logically, be equal as regards nationality. This Bill is being sponsored by two women Democrat M.P.'s. In France, where there is also a Bill, it is already admitted under the existing law that a woman married to a foreigner can, in certain circumstances, retain her nationality. The British Bill, promoted by the National Council of Women, and embodying the same principles of equality, is now before our Parliament, and a Select Committee is hearing evidence. French jurists now on their way to the international meetings in South America are also putting this matter forward. Concerted effort in all countries ought, before long, to bring the point of dual nationality into legal practice throughout the civilized world.

The Vote, September 15, 1922.

LATE NEWS.

The Women's National Party, U.S.A., reports that the Senate has passed the Cable Equal Citizenship Bill without amendment, and it now goes to the President for signature.

September 29, 1922.

AUSTRALIA.

VICTORIA.

A Message from Vida Goldstein.

I RETURN to Australia to find the demand for the admission of women to the State Parliaments becoming a live question, particularly in Victoria, where it is said the Act does not give them this right because the pronoun "he" is used. Only the pronoun "he" is used in the penal code, you will remember. And you remember also that the word "he" includes "she," unless, etc., etc. None of the women here have raised this important legal point. I have mentioned it in an interview, and I hope the women will fight the question from that standpoint instead of going cap in hand to the Government begging it to bring in an amendment to the Act, making women eligible as members of the State Parliament.

The waking up of women to the need for women in Parliament marks a great advance. Many who once were foremost in opposing any plea for women in Parliament are now, I am glad to say, foremost in advocating the reform.

A very retrograde step has been taken at the Melbourne Hospital. Women students are being excluded from the Casualty Ward, because "it isn't nice" for them to see and hear all that is to be seen and heard in a Casualty Ward. I haven't got full particulars about this matter yet.

VIDA GOLDSTEIN.

All-Australian Labour Union Congress Declares for Equal Pay.

The All-Australian Labour Congress, which met in Melbourne at the end of June, passed a resolution demanding "equal pay for the sexes" without qualification.

We have the Ban on Women in Public Life, says the Housewives' Association of Melbourne.

We have received the following interesting report from the Melbourne *Age* for June 23:—

There are many indications that women in Victoria, and in Australia generally, are determined to enter into a wider sphere of public activity than has been the case hitherto. The Victoria State Government is being pressed by women's organizations represented on the National Council of Women to remove the restriction upon the entry of women into the State Parliament, and in other States increased attention is being given to the representation of women on municipal councils. The whole question was referred to at a meeting of the Council and office-bearers of the Housewives' Association.

Mrs. Butler, a Western Australian visitor, in an address, referred to the activities of housewives in her own State, remarking that the Housewives' Association there had achieved great work already. In Western Australia the women had had the advantage of support from the men. From a political standpoint woman must take her place in the world, and they could never do this without organization. Their own homes were a reflex, she considered, of what was needed in Parliament, and women in Western Australia had had the opportunity and advantage of a political education from the men. But one of the first objectives for women, she thought, was to get into the municipal councils. In such bodies women would be of great assistance, for no man knew the needs of the home as a woman did.

Mrs. Roberts, J.P., of the Housewives' Association of New South Wales, said that in Sydney they hoped to have women on the Council next year, and a league was now being formed which would help considerably in that direction. The men in Sydney had helped them a good deal. They found, she thought, that they could not do without woman's help, and they had always received wonderful courtesy from them.

The men in Sydney had encouraged the women to become their equals, as far as was possible. She thought Victorian women had only to work a little harder to

achieve their aims. Women wanted to be placed in positions where they could deal with matters affecting women and children.

Mrs. Glencross referred to the desire of women in Victoria for representation in the State Parliament, and to a recent deputation that had waited on the Chief Secretary in regard to the eligibility of women for election to the House. She said that the Chief Secretary was not certain as yet whether women were eligible for election to the Legislative Assembly or not, and had referred the question to the Crown Solicitor. If they were not eligible, he was going to make arrangements for the Cabinet to discuss the question. They had been approached by all classes of women to take action on this question, and they were all unanimous in demanding women's representation on municipal councils, as well as in Parliament. She thought also that it would be well if they had women in both Houses of the Federal Parliament. The woman's viewpoint was wanted all the time to look after the interests of women and children. It had been suggested that the Housewives' Association should convene the first conference of Woman's Interests on getting direct representation in Parliament, when they could discuss ways and means of achieving their object.

AUSTRIA.

An Appeal to Women.

SCANTY and short was the relaxation this summer, and only a few Viennese could afford it at all. Formerly, in the good old times before the war, the majority of them could enjoy a happy holiday after the work of a whole year, in some blessed spot of their beautiful country, or in far-off foreign lands. Now the gnawing care for our existence, which has poisoned our lives for these last years, follows us to our summer rest. This tormenting suspense spoils even our enjoyment of nature, dims our sight, when we try to refresh ourselves with summer's sun and beauty.

Whoever this summer left Vienna for a few weeks' holiday was seized with panic on his return. Through the entire breakdown of our krone, the "Russification," expected with trembling and fear, has grasped the whole of our life, like stormy billows that swamp the last dykes and wash them away. Fantastic numbers jeer at us in a cruel play. We see eatables and other wares in the shops, but we cannot buy them. Shuddering and with sore hearts we see the last possibilities of sustaining our lives vanish.

Here follows a short list of the prices that are asked for the most common articles:—

- A loaf of bread costs 6,460 kronen; that is, at pre-war exchange, £254.
- 1 kilogram of potatoes costs 1,700 kronen; at pre-war exchange, £64.
- 1 kilogram of fat costs from 30,000-40,000 kronen; at pre-war exchange, £1,200-£1,500.
- 1 kilogram of sugar costs 14,000-20,000 kronen; at pre-war exchange, £560-£800.
- 1 kilogram of meat costs 25,000-40,000 kronen; at pre-war exchange, £1,000-£1,600.
- 1 kilogram of flour costs 9,000 kronen; at pre-war exchange, £360.
- 1 litre of milk costs about 4,000 kronen; at pre-war exchange, £160.
- 1 egg costs 1,500-1,800 kronen; at pre-war exchange, £60-£72.
- 1 kilogram of butter costs 65,000 kronen; at pre-war exchange, £2,600.
- 1 kilogram of coals, only *one* kilogram, that is, the hundredth part of a cwt., costs now about 1,000 kronen; at pre-war exchange, £40.

I beg the housekeepers of all countries to calculate how much must be spent to feed, even scantily, a family of a few persons. I beg them also to calculate how many kilograms of coals, respectively cubic metres of gas (the price of gas is always regulated by that of coal) are necessary to cook the simplest meal. In households where they can still cook a little, the daily fuel swallows about double the yearly income which formerly sufficed to make a middle-class family live quite comfortably. The prices have risen to the 15,000-fold, or even 20,000-fold; the earnings, however, only to the 1,000 or 1,500-fold of the incomes in times of peace—not to mention the small capitalists, pensioners, and widows, who can hardly buy dry bread.

All our endeavours to rescue ourselves out of the economic bog, which engenders our moral ruin, too, has been in vain. Again and again the work of self-help has been destroyed by the failing of help from outside, which has been so solemnly promised to us. Austria, this little speck on the map, seems to mean nothing for the rest of the world, after the adventurers of the whole world have sucked out the life-blood of the country by their juggling tricks with our krone. The monstrous catastrophe into which we have been plunged—partly also owing to our inner political conditions that serve as a pretext for the mistrust of the foreign countries—must now decide about the existence or non-existence of the State.

For a week we have not known what is going on in the world. A strike of printers prevents our papers from appearing. We do not know what the League of Nations has determined to do on behalf of our country. Our Bundeskanzler applied at last to the League, after having warned them for months of the dangers that a dissolution of Austria would involve for the whole of Europe, and after having sounded our three neighbours, Czecho-Slovakia, Germany and Italy, as to their inclination to unite themselves with us in one form or the other. The wildest rumours are reported in our sick town. Only one thing we know for certain: Our economic life has not in the least improved; every day brings a new rising of the prices.

Winter is at hand. Already a cold, wet September warns us of the increasing of all terrors in the cold season. Can our people, worn out and starving, tormented and humiliated, shaken in their minds, with their passions whipped up, for ever fearing what is to come next, be expected to wait on in patience?

I appeal to the women of all nations who are interested in political and economic affairs; to the women who, by gaining their full rights as citizens, wish to make the world more friendly, more homelike, more loving; to the women who fight against misery and heal wounds.

Have interest for Austria, do not remain indifferent when a nation perishes. A nation with fine qualities, a nation that promoted culture and arts through many centuries, a nation that bestowed beauty and mirth on the world. Oh, women! stir up public opinion in your countries, make your people occupy themselves with the Austrian problem, make them see what must be done that Austria may exist.

The women, free of all responsibility for the past, are bound to bring about and fortify the reconciliation of the nations. They will certainly not deny a perishing people the help which may be rendered, if the truth about its condition is known, and the sympathy of the world is secured.

Vienna, September 12, 1922. GISELA URBAN.

An Interesting Meeting.

From August 28 to 31 Vienna was the scene of the twentieth session of the Interparliamentary Union, the rich programme of which included discussion on the rights of the national minorities, on the problem of armaments, of compulsory conscription, on free trade and protectionism, and on the supervision of foreign politics. About 300 Parliamentarians, among them a few women, had come from different countries. The Viennese women, Frau Marianne Hainisch at their head, invited the women members of Parliaments and companions of the members of Parliaments to an informal gathering, which took place on August 30. Unfortunately many leaders of the Vienna women were absent from Vienna on their holiday. Frau Hainisch, who in spite of her 83 years is always on the spot when it is a question of serving women's interests, welcomed the guests, who could not find sufficient words of admiration for the liveliness and amiable ways that distinguish this doyenne of the Austrian leaders. Frau Hainisch delivered a speech in which she begged the assembly to continue fighting for the realization of the political ideal. Then Frau Adele Schreiber-Krieger, member of the German Reichstag, called upon the women to work for the humanitarian questions. Frau Luise Leithner, head of the Vienna Children's Relief Action, depicted the distress of Vienna, and thanked the ladies who had come over from foreign countries for the help that had been given to the Vienna children in such a generous way.

(Signed) GISELA URBAN.

Vienna, September 12, 1922.

WOMEN LAWYERS IN THE ARGENTINE.

By LUCY E. MENZIES.

SLOWLY but surely the right of women to take their place in the professions is being recognized by the authorities of the Argentine Republic, a country where, until recently, the movement in favour of improving women's legal position was still in its nascent stages, chiefly, it is to be feared, because of the lethargic attitude of the bulk of the women themselves and a certain deficiency of any but a superficial education.

The time for the Argentine woman to take her place beside the man in public life cannot now be far distant, and she is to a great extent naturally endowed with qualities which cannot do otherwise than aid her, showing generally a marked aptitude for study, a quickness of intellect, ready speech, and a natural charm of manner, and needing only to be roused sufficiently to make the effort necessary to strike out a new line.

Argentine women, on the whole, are now being encouraged to graduate in the schools, all of which are under State supervision, and the number of certificated school teachers increases annually. The professions now open to women in the Argentine are medicine and law in all their branches, science, art, civil engineering, and chartered accountancy; but so far only a very small number of women have taken advantage of these openings.

The opening up of the legal profession to Argentine women was only fully accomplished in July of this year, and was mainly due to the enterprise of Miss Angela Camperchioli, who, after obtaining her degree of Notary in the University of Buenos Aires, presented herself at the Civil Court to be sworn in, a necessary procedure before being allowed to practise as a Notary. This being the first occasion that a woman Notary had presented herself for recognition, both Civil Chambers thereupon called a full meeting to discuss the demand. After much consideration, during which the minority of learned doctors were in favour of granting the petition presented, provided only the petitioner's Argentine nationality was proved, the majority voted against, for the reason that, in their judgment, women were incapable of discharging the functions of a Public Notary!

A good deal of discussion then followed, between the National Procurator and the National Tribunal, as to whether the Civil Court had a right to invalidate a title conferred legally by the University, and finally Miss Camperchioli appealed to the higher Chamber against the decree. This Chamber thereupon gave its opinion as follows:—

"Without entering on an examination of the legal position of women in our legislation, as this would only complicate this debate, it must be admitted, however, that whatever restrictions are imposed on women, there are none which authorize the extending or amplifying of our laws to impose further restriction, thus unjustly impairing the primary guarantees of our Constitution, which are, 'equality before the Law,' the right to acquire knowledge, and to work, and not to be deprived of that which the law does not prohibit; therefore, the judicial decision which has, without due cause, invalidated a title conferred, of professional fitness legitimately acquired, is declared to be incompatible with the above guarantees of equality. In view of these precepts, and taking into account the votes given against the measure being accepted, the Court revokes the decision which has been appealed against, and orders a return of the documents involved to the Tribunal concerned."

The Vote.

Friday, September 15, 1922.

CANADA.

Woman M.P. and Her Salary.

THE *Times* correspondent of Toronto reports that Mrs. Irene Parby, Minister without portfolio in the Farmer Government of Alberta, and the only woman Member of the Legislature, has returned her \$250 (about £55) indemnity for the special Session of the House last summer, and so far is the only Member to respond thus to the various resolutions of the local bodies of the United Farmers of Alberta. There is little doubt that the indemnity will take a somewhat prominent place in the debates of the coming Session.

The *Times*, September 14.

DENMARK.

TRAVAIL ÉGAL—SALAIRE ÉGAL.

Quand la question de "travail égal-salaire égal" était devenue actuelle pour les femmes danoises — dans les années 1918-19 — elles ont compris qu'il fallait changer cette vieille formulation en ceci: "même salaire pour femme et homme dans la même charge," car, autrement, on voudrait contester le droit de travail égal en disant qu'un homme ferait toujours un travail égal en disant qu'une femme, tout en prétendant que la femme — dans les catégories où se trouvent hommes et femmes — prêterait toujours le travail le "moins précieux" (état de santé, constitution, etc.). Les femmes n'ont pas voulu perdre de temps pour combattre ces idées anciennes et traditionnelles, et alors elles ont adopté la nouvelle devise: "salaire égal pour femme et homme avec la même charge," ce qui a été bien plus difficile à contester.

Ce qui a eu lieu en Danemark quand le principe de salaire égal a été accepté en octobre 1919, c'était que l'État danois a reconnu le droit de salaire égal pour femme et homme de même poste; ou dans les grandes lois nouvelles concernant tous les employés de l'État (et les professeurs) qui fixent les traitements, il n'y a même pas question de "femme" et "homme." Les gages ont été fixés pour la catégorie, et il n'y avait point, comme autrefois, donné des prescriptions particulières pour les femmes.

Comme conséquence de cette loi, la plupart des administrations municipales ont adopté ce même principe, et entre autres celle de Copenhague où se trouvent des milliers d'employés.

Les métiers privés (commerce, industrie) n'ont pas été influencés directement par la réalisation du principe dans l'État et dans les communes; là, il en est comme auparavant: les gens d'éducation professionnelle, femmes et hommes, sont payés de même, d'après les conventions entre les patrons et les ouvriers. Cependant, on emploie un grand nombre d'ouvriers femmes non professionnelles qui sont assez mal payées.

Il est encore trop tôt de faire des conclusions sur l'effet de la réforme. Nous tenons seulement à dire qu'il semble que le pour-cent de cas de maladie des femmes a diminué.

Durant le combat de "salaire égal," il n'a pas manqué de prédictions mauvaises sur l'effet qu'aurait cette réforme: "les bons gages tenteraient la femme à quitter la maison," et — logique admirable — on n'engagerait plus du tout de femmes, puisqu'elles étaient bien plus chères; tant pis pour elles-mêmes! A cela on a répondu que, évidemment, les maisons auraient davantage de femmes pour travailler quand le travail *déhors* serait mieux payé, et, par conséquent, la demande probablement diminuerait. Aussi, que nous ne désirons point garder un prolétariat recherché de femmes et d'offrir des travailleurs particulièrement mal payés.

Quant à l'autre prédiction, nous n'avons qu'à courir le risque, et on peut déjà dire, après les années passées depuis la réforme, que le nombre d'engagements n'en a pas été changé. C'est tout au moins la même quantité de femmes qui sont engagées et instruites comme employées de l'État, peut-être plutôt davantage; seulement, dans quelques paroisses solitaires, on a été porté à remplacer quelque professeur (institutrice) par un professeur homme.

En tout, il ne se passera certainement pas beaucoup d'années avant qu'on trouve "le salaire égal" chose aussi naturelle que le droit de suffrage. Nous en aurions peut-être déjà été à ce point si, par hasard, il n'y avait pas ici deux hommes qui combattent le principe avec fureur, et qui ont eu l'énergie, à toute occasion, de faire renaître la discussion, en profitant surtout de l'empirement des temps, et en indiquant le salaire égal comme objet pour économiser.

Aucun homme politique responsable n'a traité la question. Au contraire, on vient d'accepter dernièrement dans la Chambre une loi des gages pour les professeurs sur les îles de Féroé, dans laquelle le salaire égal est entré tout naturellement. Les expériences ont pitoyablement échoué. Car, s'il est difficile de maintenir que les femmes de la même charge que les hommes ne doivent pas obtenir le même salaire, il est encore bien plus difficile de maintenir qu'on doit *réduire* la paye des femmes, une fois fixée pareille à celle des hommes. Aussi, ces efforts, aussitôt faits, ont été combattus furieusement; dans les journaux et dans des réunions les femmes guides se sont récriées (d'une seule voix) contre ce tort, elles ont énergiquement et de bonne intelligence déclaré qu'elles ne supporteraient pas qu'on leur prit un bien une fois obtenu.

Un bon exemple de la solidité de l'accord des femmes qui s'est formée pendant tout ce développement des choses, c'est que, quand le maire de l'instruction publique de Copenhague, un des adversaires les plus enragés — et qui était le président d'une réunion pédagogique de professeurs — a attaqué le salaire égal, 387 institutrices à Copenhague (toutes les femmes et plus que la moitié des membres) ont quitté cette réunion; en même temps, les membres femmes de la direction ont déposé leurs mandats, en déclarant qu'elles ne rentreraient pas autant que ledit maire était le président. Aussitôt qu'il a quitté ce poste, elles sont toutes rentrées.

Les femmes qui ont regardé comme une question d'honneur que d'obtenir l'appréciation juste de leur travail et qui ont vu la réalisation du nouveau principe, l'ont sentie comme une vraie délivrance. Étant autrefois considérées comme "force active d'ordre secondaire," sans compétence et sans chances pour obtenir des postes supérieurs, elles ont avec le salaire égal obtenu l'égalité dans le travail, les droits de citoyen dans leur État. Elles sont les pareilles de leurs camarades masculins au point de vue de l'avancement.

En tout, la réalisation du principe n'a point en de conséquences nuisibles.

Il est facile à voir que l'acceptation du salaire égal sur la base indiquée exige des femmes la même éducation et la fonction dans les mêmes situations. Il serait inutile de chercher à réaliser le principe de salaire égal pour des emplois de l'Etat et d'autres si on ne cherchait pas premièrement le droit d'éducation professionnelle comme pour les hommes, et il faut surtout se garder de l'établissement de "postes pour femmes," — lesquels on pourrait facilement, sous un prétexte quelconque, désigner comme "moins valables," et, par conséquent, dignes d'être moins bien payés (voir les infirmières!).

Finalement, il va falloir que les femmes aient la même éducation d'école (sociale) que les hommes dans les situations correspondantes, ce qui prouve de nouveau l'importance de l'éducation pareille de la jeunesse dès l'enfance. Autrement, on est sûr de préférer les hommes, à cause de leur bonne éducation, et les femmes — tout au plus — pour le service des ménages.

ANNA WESTERGAARD,

Employée aux chemins de fer de l'Etat danois.

Equal Pay.

Danish women have changed the title "Equal Pay for Equal Work" to "The Same Pay for Men and Women in the Same Position."

The result of the decision of the Danish State in October, 1919, to give the same pay to men and women in the same positions has been that the majority of the municipal departments in the country have adopted the same principle.

Recently in one of the weekly papers in Denmark a synopsis on the "equal-pay" principle has appeared, and it is encouraging to note that the leaders of the largest and best business concerns take such a sane and unprejudiced view of the question that one can really hope that it will be possible on the strength of this sound common sense and reason to carry through that reform which must be pushed forward in respect of the civil servants.

Opinions of some directors:—

The director of a large steam laundry says that he does not understand the objection to women having the same pay as men when they compete equally with men. From his experience women are "more often to the fore as regards order, accuracy, carefulness and industry."

The manager of the *Magasin du Nord* says that pay should be in accordance with qualifications. "We have nothing against paying a woman who fills the position on the same basis as a man. True efficiency is rewarded accordingly—regardless of sex."

ANNA WESTERGAARD,

Norges Kvinder.

September 9, 1922.

"TIME AFTER TIME."

"The necessity of looking after their children and, as far as possible, not allowing them to be out in the public parks alone cannot be too often impressed upon parents."

This is the warning given in a Copenhagen daily paper recently, and it is given on account of the number of terrible cases which have occurred this summer in Copenhagen. The police have arrested a number of men who have committed outrages against children of six to eight years. One of these recently arrested men has been punished "time after time," and was only released the day before, after having been punished for a similar offence.

Over and over again surprise is aroused at the weakness with which this subject is treated, as, for example, the answer given by the municipality to the petition sent by the Danish National Council of Women and other societies, "time after time," respecting the need for women patrol police.

The patrol service, so badly needed in the parks, cannot be kept up on account of "economy."

Many parents who are forced to let their children go out unprotected, and on whom it is useless to impress the necessity of sending nurses with the children when they go out for fresh air, will not be able to understand the setting up of economic difficulties as insurmountable when it is a question of protecting their little girls and boys against a horrible crime which is becoming more and more threatening.

No one can believe that it is cheaper to deal with the number of notifications of outrages against children—that it is cheaper to arrest a person, punish him, set him free, observe him, arrest him again, punish again, set him free again, etc., "time after time," than to prevent him committing the offence.

What is asked for to counteract this increasing danger is women patrol police in all the streets, small roads and alleys of the large towns, and a more rigorous method to be used in future against the first offence.

Tidens Kvinder.

September 2, 1922.

NOUVELLES FÉMINISTES.

Le Congrès du I.W.S.A.—Le prochain Congrès du I.W.S.A. se tiendra à Rome durant le printemps de 1923, et très probablement en mai.

Le Conseil d'Administration et le Comité international des Présidents des sociétés auxiliaires se réunira à Londres le 22 novembre.

Danemark.—A Copenhague les tentatives de viol sur les enfants ont été si nombreuses, que les femmes du Danemark demandent avec instance qu'un service policier de femmes soit organisé dans les parcs, dans les petites rues et dans les impasses de toutes les grandes villes.

Etats-Unis.—Deux femmes du parti républicain sont candidats pour la place de juge dans les tribunaux pour enfants.

Le Collège de l'Union des Israélites de Cincinnati est la seule école pour l'éducation des rabbins réformés en Amérique. Cette école va admettre des femmes comme élèves qui pourront qualifier et devenir rabbins comme les hommes.

Les Indes.—La corporation de Calcutta, par 21 voix contre 4, a voté que les femmes ayant les mêmes qualifications électorales que les hommes pourraient devenir membres du Conseil Municipal de Calcutta.

Erode est la première municipalité de l'Inde sud qui donne aux filles les mêmes avantages qu'aux garçons dans l'éducation primaire obligatoire.

Australie.—Dans la Victoria la demande des femmes pour être admises au parlement de l'Etat devient une question vitale.

Le Congrès de "toute l'Australie" a voté le payement égal pour les deux sexes.

Grèce.—La prison des femmes à Athènes est gouvernée par une femme.

Grande-Bretagne.—Monsieur Lloyd George a consenti à recevoir, en octobre, une députation influente, qui lui présentera une pétition signée par plus de 200 membres du parlement et par beaucoup d'organisations d'hommes et de femmes demandant au gouvernement de donner des droits électoraux égaux pour les deux sexes avant les prochaines élections générales.

Congrès international de Femmes Médecins.—Le Dr. Paulina Luiji représentait le I.W.S.A. au Congrès international de Femmes Médecins, qui s'est réuni à Genève en septembre.

(La suite à la page 9.)

(Suite de la page 8.)

Irlande.—Le parlement irlandais a rédigé une résolution qui mettrait sur les registres de leur nouveau parlement, comme électeurs, les femmes ayant les mêmes qualifications que les hommes.

LE PRÉCIEUX DÉGUISEMENT.

UN tribunal américain vient de condamner à dix jours de prison Thelma Crisler, jeune audacieuse de 19 ans, qui, "considérant que les facilités de trouver du travail sont plus grandes pour un homme que pour une femme," avait adopté le costume masculin et réussi à obtenir un emploi.

L'histoire, sauf le dénoûment, n'est point sans précédent. J'ai connu en sa vieillesse notre confrère la Comtesse de Montifaud, autorisée, comme Rosa Bonheur et Mme Dieulafoy, à s'habiller en homme. Elle contait que l'origine de son déguisement était dans ses démêlés avec les tribunaux de l'Empire, pour des livres trop sincères. Condamnée à l'exil et sans ressources, à une époque où, moins encore qu'aujourd'hui, les femmes pouvaient vivre de leur travail, elle restait cachée à Paris sous ses habits masculins, travaillant, avec la complicité d'un chef, dans une fabrique de céramiques où aucune femme n'avait accès, et où, pendant plusieurs mois, nul ne soupçonna que le jeune décorateur Marc, fut une dame très distinguée.

Ainsi elle eut la chance, dans son malheur, de n'être point inquiétée pour un second crime non moins affreux que le premier. Les juges de Napoléon lui eussent été sévères, n'en doutons pas, plus que ceux, trop sévères pourtant, du Michigan envers Thelma Crisler qui méritait une statue plutôt que la prison.

Voilà bien comment sont méconnus les pauvres inventeurs; Thelma Crisler, après Marc de Montifaud, a tout simplement découvert une solution de génie au brûlant problème du droit des femmes au travail.

Il est certain que, aujourd'hui, personne ou presque, ne conteste plus, en principe, que la femme ait, comme l'homme, le droit de gagner sa vie, de choisir librement son état et de recevoir, à travail égal, salaire égal. Il est non moins certain que l'application de ce principe rencontre encore maintes difficultés, difficultés d'ordres divers, dont résultent de grands troubles dans l'organisation et la production économiques. Ces difficultés tiennent, en général, d'une part, à ce qu'on pourrait appeler le préjugé des aptitudes, d'autre part à des considérations politiques sur les privilèges acquis. Tels patrons hésitent à engager des femmes ou les tiennent à un rang inférieur parce qu'ils ont sur les capacités féminines des idées préconçues, tels, dont surtout les gouvernements, par crainte de mécontenter le camp masculin.

Quelle simplification si, grâce à l'unification du costume des travailleurs, s'établissait soudain l'unification des sexes dans le travail. Ainsi, comme il est recommandé par la justice suprême, l'ouvrier ne serait jugé qu'à son œuvre.

Hélas! Thelma Crisler est en prison. Consolons-nous en pensant qu'elle n'est point la seule condamnée en cette affaire. Le fait, aussi hautement publié, qu'une femme puisse mieux gagner son pain en faisant semblant d'être un homme accable la convention sociale qui a créé et défend encore le monopole masculin du travail.

JANE MISMÉ.

La Française, le 18 septembre.

FINLAND.

AT the recent elections in Finland 19 women were elected as members of the Riksdag.

Among these, we are glad to note Miss Annie Furuhejm, who has been re-elected by the Swedish Party.

Of the other women one has been elected by the Finnish Party, one by the Finnish Progressive Party, eleven by the Social Democrats, and five by the Communists.

Naisten Aani publishes the following interesting article on the subject:—

Women's Achievements in the Last General Election.

No party has had as much reason for complaint concerning defeats and achievements in the last general election as the enlightened women, for there are hardly any signs this time of part-taking by the Feminist set in the elections. The majority of our women have joined the parties which do not approve the sanguinary revolutions (the same phenomenon being apparent in every country where women have gained the vote), and yet how have they looked after their interests? We regret to say, very badly.

During the fifteen years of the general vote the Finnish women have never experienced such a totally discouraging result before. Of the 200 seats in the Parliament, the women won nineteen, the Social Democrats and Communist women greatly outnumbering the others with sixteen seats. Unfortunately, the women in these parties are under such strict control that they cannot act in an independent way in co-operation with the women from other parties, and so questions of vital importance for all women cannot be much concerned.

Meanwhile the Liberals, Conservatives and the Swedish Party, occupying altogether 120 seats in the Parliament, have now only three women representatives. Where is the fault? In the women themselves, of course. They know very well already that if they want their sisters in Parliament they must give their vote to women representatives, then do not do it! This ought to make women realize that men will not trouble about women's rights and interests, which will be disregarded or at best attended to at random or shelved.

Indirectly, all laws concern women as well as men, but there are some laws which have an immediate influence upon women's fate, such as admission to certain professions, the salary question, the legal relations of married couples, morality penalties, child protection, etc. When settling these matters there must be a strong Feminist opinion in Parliament, or else they are carried in a wrong direction. Hence we can only once more lament that women have taken such a distressing part in these elections and made themselves objects of pity and scorn that they do not better know what becomes them.

The result of the elections from the woman's standpoint is instructive, but not cheering in any way. It proves that social life, its laws and institutions, its whole system and state of consistency are continually in the hands of man. The woman's stake is not more noticeable than a couple of marginal notes in a large work. Why is this so? Because there is no connecting link worth mentioning between all women. They remain strangers to each other. They do not bring forth what is stirring in their minds. In spite of all this, many a woman is pondering and guessing at the order of things, and suffering from it and wishing it might be otherwise.

It is a gigantic labour to make women understand that they have both a right and a duty to influence the course of affairs, and that they have means to do so. "It is a splendid thing that women do not know their own power," said a man as these matters were discussed. "The sleeping bear must not be roused from his sleep."

But that rousing is just what has got to be done!

Naisten Aani, August 5, 1922.

GERMANY.

Resolutions of the Hausfrauen.

AT the annual meeting of the National Association of the German Housewives (Verband deutscher Hausfrauenvereine) which recently took place in Magdeburg, a resolution was carried unanimously claiming sufficient provision with potatoes and sugar for the population, and limitation of liquor-distillery, by Government Acts. Moreover, the association claimed its representation, and the co-operation of the housewives at all the official deliberations concerning food questions. It is to be hoped that at least some practical results will come out of these resolutions, as they express the ardent wishes and claims of such a huge organization and of a most important group of woman electors all over the country.

Protest of the Women in Public Service.

The much-discussed question of *unmarried mothers* in public service I already referred to in former issues has recently come to a formal decision in the Reichstag. On July 1 an initiative Bill was carried, as amendment to the law for public functionaries (Reichsbeamten-gesetz), which explicitly acknowledges the right of unmarried motherhood for the women in Reichs service, i.e., practically for the post, telegraph, and railroad functionaries. The large non-political National, Bavarian and Württemberg organizations of the women concerned have, at a special delegates' meeting called together for this very purpose, joined in a very strong protest against this law, demanding its immediate abolition. Expressing their "indignation," they pointed out that it is contrary to the wishes of the great majority of the women functionaries themselves; that, as an exceptional rule, it is not in accordance with the State laws (e.g., for the women teachers); that it would lower the general moral and social standard of the women in public service; that it would give the unmarried mother an economic advantage over the married, and so help to discredit marriage for these women, etc. In accordance with a petition of the above-mentioned organizations to the same effect, the Reichsrat declared its veto against the Bill; so probably, notwithstanding the decision of the Reichstag, it may not become law.

The protests show the great difficulties of the problem; but the more one understands the wish of the women functionaries to keep out from their ranks improper and immoral members, the more one will regret the *different moral standard* which, by these very protests, is confirmed anew emphatically by the women themselves—as, of course, nobody will declare irregular fatherhood, as such, to be a reason for the dismissal of men in public service. A just solution *in principle* in this respect would have been the carrying of the democratic motion—that the matter should not be decided *generally* but that the individual instances of irregular motherhood and *fatherhood* should be examined, and eventually give reason for disciplinary measures, though one may doubt if this would be effective *in practice*.

An Office for Women's Professions.

An excellent institution of the German National Council of Women is its Office for Women's Professions (Frauenberufsamt), into which the original information bureau has developed, by and by, under the able and energetic guidance of the late Frau Levy Rathenau. Women experts of all departments and branches of work united to make it an infallible leader in all professional questions, for scientific as

well as for practical purposes. By gathering and compiling the prodigious statistics material, by drawing up memoranda on different special topics, the office will continuously furnish the National Council and its many affiliated organizations with the information they want, and with the necessary basis of facts for their propaganda and petitions. How many-sided this work is the last six monthly reports of the office show. During this time it has, amongst other activities, drawn up proposals for the instruction and position of the women *factory inspectors*, which were submitted to the Prussian Ministry of Commerce; a memorial on the institute for *church-music*, with the purpose of opening the establishment, and the career as organist (from which they are still excluded), for women; an inquiry and memorial on the percentage of women in the large *professional and economic bodies* of whose representatives, in a just proportion, the preliminary Economic Council (Reichswirtschaftsrat) shall be composed—to demonstrate, by exact numbers, the total inadequacy of the representation of the women in this most important body (6 women amongst 326 members, 2 of them belonging to the group of commerce, etc., and only 4 to the group of consumers); the gathering of material concerning *insufficient or injurious professional instruction*; supplying of the *library*, and the distribution of *literature*; *petitions* concerning Government drafts for labour legislation, the Domestic Assistants' Bill, etc. Working in this thorough and systematic way, the Office for Women's Professions has become an indispensable help and support for the German women's efforts along these lines.

MARIE STRITT.

Dresden, September 15.

GREAT BRITAIN.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

The Summer School at Oxford.

THE Summer School organized by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship at St. Hilda's College, Oxford, for the fortnight August 19 to September 2, was a success, we think, from every point of view. About 150 women from all parts of Great Britain enrolled as students; the number of students from abroad was smaller than we could have wished, as the presence of women from other countries always adds special interest to such occasions; but it included women from Australia, Belgium, New Zealand, Czecho-Slovakia and the United States of America; and on the closing evening we were honoured by the presence of the Maharajah of Jahlawar, who is much interested in the Women's Movement in India.

The lectures and discussions of the first week dealt with the programme of the National Union, Modern Problems in Local Government, and the League of Nations. The presence at the School for part of the fortnight of Mrs. Dale, Australian substitute delegate for questions concerning women and children to the League of Nations Assembly, and a letter from Mrs. Coombe Tennant, the British woman delegate, in reply to a message of congratulation from the School, provided a personal element in the interest aroused by the remarkable series of lectures on the present and future of the League of Nations.

An indirect result of the School was the remarkable Press notices secured all over the country from the London dailies downwards to the most insignificant of local weekly organs. This is, surely, a sign of the times, for even in the "silly season" a School of Women Citizens would *not* have been considered worthy of notice a few years ago.

A School for Women Magistrates.

The interest during the second week mainly centred around the special section of the School devoted to the administration of justice, intended primarily for women magistrates. Over sixty magistrates attended this week's course, several remaining for the whole fortnight. Lectures by experts were delivered on Prison Reform, Institutional Treatment for Adults and Juveniles, Probation Work, Women Jurors, Reform of Solicitation Laws, Reformatories and Industrial Schools, among other cogent subjects. Much discussion was stimulated by a very remarkable address by Mr. Mott Osborne, late Governor of Sing-Sing Prison, New York. Mr. Osborne described a scheme in connection with which a league of prisoners was made responsible for certain aspects of the management and control of the inmates. This experiment, which has borne the test of years and been successful under different Governors, had, he claimed, a striking effect of reawakening a sense of responsibility and loyalty among the men and restoring the feeling of self-respect which is so powerful an element in behaviour.

Perhaps even more interesting than the public lectures were the private conferences held, when women magistrates could freely discuss their experiences and gain encouragement and suggestions from each other.

Almost all women present at the School bore testimony to the friendly and courteous way in which their appointment to the Bench had been received by their men colleagues, and there was a unanimous feeling that now that they had become better established, future Schools and Conferences should be held by men and women jointly. The papers read at the School are appearing weekly in the *Woman's Leader* for the next two months, and may be had on application to this office.

Women in Conference.

It was sometimes overlooked by the Press that the gathering at Oxford was a *School*, not a Conference. Women came together for a continuous period of a week or fortnight to study, not to arrive at conclusions and pass resolutions. The season for conferences in this country is now approaching, and of these the most largely attended and representative will be that organized at Cambridge next week by the National Council of Women, with which the N.U.S.E.C. is affiliated. Important resolutions on such subjects as the Promotion of Peace, Women and Equal Franchise, Housing, Guardianship of Infants, Illegitimate Children, Exclusion of Women from the Membership of Cambridge University, Married Women's Employment, etc., will be moved. The principal speakers will be the President, Lady Frances Balfour, a former member of the Executive of the National Union and a leader in work for the enfranchisement of women; Mrs. Keynes; the Marchioness of Aberdeen, and others.

We hope that Cambridge, which has become notorious throughout the world for the reactionary attitude of the University towards women, will profit by this great gathering of women in its midst.

Another useful and interesting conference has been organized by the Women's Local Government Society at Exeter, in October, for women magistrates, councillors and Poor Law guardians, and a Week-end School will be held by the Edinburgh National Society for Equal Citizenship next month. There are portents everywhere, of which the success of our own School is one, that the women's movement in this country, after the temporary reaction caused by the war, is bursting into renewed activity of a far more truly creative kind than in pre-war days.

The Coming Session in Parliament.

Parliament will reassemble on November 14, and we are now preparing for the short Autumn Session. The Government's Bill, based on the Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill of the N.U.S.E.C., will be coming up for its Second Reading as soon as Parliament meets. The Government's Legitimation Bill (most

inadequate to deal with the problem of the illegitimate child) will also be dealt with.

The Parliamentary Committees on the Guardianship of Infants Bill and the British Nationality (Married Women) Bill will be continuing their activities, and will, it is hoped, report favourably.

Mr. Lloyd George has agreed to receive in October a deputation organized by the N.U.S.E.C. to present to him memorials signed by over 200 Members of Parliament and by many men's and women's organizations, asking Government to introduce and carry through an Equal Franchise measure before the General Election. An account of this will be published next month.

September 24, 1922.

AN APPEAL TO BRITISH WOMEN.

AFTER three years the I.W.S.A. is holding its full Convention in Rome in the spring of 1923. At our last Convention in Geneva we celebrated 22 woman suffrage victories; since then woman suffrage has been gained in Madras, Bombay, Burma, and several Indian States; many reforms improving the status of women have been established in the countries where women vote; and women have been appointed to important positions in the League of Nations.

Our Alliance exists to establish equality of liberty, status and opportunity between men and women, and especially to help those women who are still unenfranchised. As yet there is no Latin country in which women vote, so that this meeting in Rome gives us special opportunities to forward their movement.

Towards the success of this Congress the women of this country have a special responsibility, though all the countries represented in the Alliance are expected to help. The United States of America has contributed generously to the work of the Alliance, but the poverty of so many European countries makes it impossible for them to do much.

We want money—we want every kind of help to make the Congress known throughout Britain. *Will every woman who cares for the success of the Congress write to the Headquarters Secretary, 11, Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C. 2, and state what help she can give?*

GREECE.

A Women's Prison in Athens.

THOMAS MOTT OSBORNE, American prison reformer, has just returned from Greece, where he undertook a tour of inspection of the various prisons round Athens, at the invitation of Queen Sophie.

"The Greek Royal Family appear to inherit an interest in penal reform," Mr. Osborne told a representative of the *Christian Science Monitor*: "the former Queen Olga did much good in this direction when she was on the throne, and Queen Sophie is continuing the interest. I also had an interview with the Crown Princess, and was gratified to find that she was making herself acquainted with my books on prison reform. She, too, is beginning to take a definite interest in this subject."

"I visited various prisons in Athens and the neighbourhood, and, strange to relate, found better conditions and a more progressive mental atmosphere in the older prisons than those which were alleged to be more up to date. Of all the Greek prisons I visited, the Woman's Prison—there is only one—impressed me most. The atmosphere, mentally and morally, was so much better in every way as compared with the men's prisons. A woman governor presides over it."

Christian Science Monitor.

August 8.

INDIA.

Municipal Franchise for Calcutta Women.

THE first long step forward has been taken in the political equality of women and men in Bengal Province. The Calcutta Corporation has, by a 21 to 4 vote, granted the Municipal Franchise of Calcutta City to those women who possess the qualifications which are also necessary for men voters. Its recommendation that the sex disqualification be removed in the Reformed Municipal Bill has to be voted upon later by the Provincial Legislative Council, and that event will be looked forward to with intense interest, as it will afford an opportunity for seeing if a very desirable change of attitude towards Woman Suffrage has come to the Bengal Councillors with the passage of time. We believe they will accept the Corporation's recommendation on this point and thus remove one of the stumbling-blocks to the further grant of the Legislative Council franchise.

Erode Leads the Way.

In the matter of compulsory free elementary education the Municipality of Erode has led the way in the Madras Presidency by being the first Municipality in the South to include girls equally with boys in its scheme for Compulsory Primary Education. It is particularly gratifying to find a Municipality which was *unanimous* on the necessity of applying the scheme to girls, and which raised an additional education tax of 1 per cent. on the property tax and 25 per cent. on the professional tax for this purpose. Unfortunately, the large towns, Vellore, Kumbakonam, Coimbatore and Conjeeveram have begun their compulsory schemes for boys only.

Record Women's Meeting in Madras.

The Madras women are determined that the little girls of their city and Presidency shall get all the facilities of the compulsory education schemes. To demonstrate the strength of their demand for this act of justice the members of seven Women's Associations combined in holding a meeting in the Madras Senate House. It was the best-attended meeting of a public kind held for years in Madras. The Hall was full of most representative women, teachers and girl undergraduates; the speaking was in the vernaculars and was noticeably fluent and spirited; Lady T. Sadasiva Iyer made an ideal and popular President, and there was no doubting the whole-heartedness with which the women expressed their desire that the compulsory system shall be applied to girls. The meeting was arranged by a Joint Committee of the selected representatives of the several societies for whom Mrs. Cousins acted as general secretary. Mrs. Devadoss, the first woman Municipal Councillor of Madras, telegraphed from the Hills her regret for inability to attend the meeting and expressed her strong support of its object and good wishes for its success.

The Liberal Party's Meeting.

Another significant meeting took place on the same subject as the above in Madras. It was entirely a men's meeting called by the South Indian Liberal Federation, at which a number of the most prominent Councillors and educationists of the city supported the inclusion of girls in the Compulsory Education scheme. They passed the following resolution: "That it is highly desirable to introduce free and

compulsory education for boys and girls in the city of Madras as early as possible." It is now unlikely that the wishes of such influential meetings as the above will be flouted in the formulation of the new compulsory scheme for Madras City.

Bengal Education.

The Hon. P. C. Mitter, Education Minister in Bengal, proposes this year to provide for primary schools in half the Municipalities and in about 100 Union Boards, and it is hoped to provide for schools in all other Municipalities next year. He is providing one lakh for the expansion of girls' education, also giving scholarships to the backward classes and supporting the improvement of physical education and the training of Scout Masters. All this is excellent. The scheme is well conceived in the difficult financial state in which Bengal finds itself, and it is to be hoped that by co-operation between the Government, the Local Bodies and the public the Minister will achieve success.

Success of a Mysore Lady Official.

Miss Zeinha Lazarus, B.A., was the first lady official to be sent to England on deputation by the Government of His Highness the Maharajah of Mysore. Her work was to study the organization and administration of women's education, both general and technical, under the greatest educational authorities, such as Sir Michael Sadler, Dr. Montessori, Professor Gilbert Murray and others. She made a special study of methods of inspection from Kindergarten stages up to the University. Miss Lazarus visited many European countries, and was impressed with the emphasis laid on the artistic and linguistic side of education in Italy and France, domestic sciences and technical subjects in Denmark, Sweden and Holland, and the fine arts and physical training in Switzerland.

We congratulate Miss Lazarus on her many unique experiences. She comes of an Indian Christian family who are all known for their love of India and their public spirit.

Prohibition.

Women will be interested in the following quotation from Mr. Pussyfoot Johnson's writing: "The decrease in liquor revenues has become so enormous (in India) as to throw into a panic alcohol officials. . . . They all tell the same story, the story of astonishing decrease in the consumption of drink and the frightful inroads that this decrease is making on the excise revenues. In the district of Nellore, Madras Presidency, the excise revenues last year amounted to 168,000 rupees. This year it is officially estimated at 226 rupees. Scarcely a district in all India fails to show a heavy decrease. . . . At Cuttack I visited the district gaol, and was surprised to find it, in convenience and sanitation, the equal of the best American gaols. It can accommodate 400 prisoners, and was usually well up to its capacity. But the gaoler told me that during late months the numbers of prisoners had been dwindling, until only 138 remained. . . . owing to the decrease in drink."

An Indian Woman's International Work.

The ex-secretary of the Bombay Branch of the Women's Indian Association, Mrs. Herabai Tata, has been the organizer of a highly successful social gathering in London connected with "The Oriental Circle," to which came illustrious representatives of India, Japan, China, Persia, etc., and in friendly

intercourse the links of friendship between East and West were formed. Mrs. Tata and her daughter unofficially represented India at the International Federation of University Women, which recently held its annual Conference in Paris.

Numbers of opportunities arise in foreign countries through which Indian women can keep their country to the front if only the readiness for service is present in them. This spirit of universal kinship and international peace is a characteristic of these two ladies, and their work along these lines is sure to do great good. Congratulations to Miss Tata on passing her M.Sc. in Economics.

Stri-Dharma.

August, 1922.

Age of Consent Bill in Indian Legislature.

The Bill recently introduced in the Indian Legislative Assembly with a view to raising the age of consent of a married girl from 12 to 14 has met with strong opposition from the orthodox Hindus. Advocates of the Bill point out the evil results of child marriages, and say the proposed change is a moderate one. Those who claim that Hinduism would perish if the Bill became a law are asked by the monthly, *Prabuddha Bharata*, if religious and social welfare can be ensured by making a girl a mother at the age of twelve. In addition to the passage of the Bill this publication urges parents and educators to emphasize Bramocharya (self-control and discipline) and abolition of child-marriage. These measures "will stop premature child-bearing, which is greatly responsible for the physical degeneration of the Indian people, and will check the high mortality of young mothers and their weak and undeveloped children. They will also check child-widowhood, which is one of the greatest curses prevalent in the Hindu society, and will conduce to increased social purity and greater well-being of society in general."

Social Hygiene Bulletin.

September, 1922.

BOMBAY FIGHTS VENEREAL DISEASE.

THE fourth annual report of the League for Combating Venereal Diseases, in Bombay, discloses facts which further the indictment against houses of prostitution. Of all the men patients treated in the League's clinic, 75 per cent. were infected in brothels, and 15 per cent. were infected by amateur prostitutes. Of the women patients, 50 per cent. were infected by their husbands. Although the Government has appointed a "Prostitution Committee" in Bombay to combat the problem of brothels, the League feels that efforts which aim only at suppression, regulation or penalization are not sufficient, since through those means only infected prostitutes are apprehended, and the infected males are still free to infect others.

The League's efforts throughout the year 1921-22 have been along the lines of publicity and inquiry into the prevalence of the venereal diseases in Bombay. The publicity campaign consisted of lectures to the general public by eminent physicians and laymen, and of more technical discussions among selected groups. Great interest and large attendances are reported. There was some difficulty in instituting the "prevalence campaign" because of the general diffidence of the people. The E. ward of Bombay was selected for the experiment. This is the most thickly populated and heterogeneous district, and contains the most important medical institutions and practitioners. Although only four months' work has been done, the committee is soon to issue a report which they feel is very satisfactory. The general ignorance of the people has impeded the eradication of the venereal diseases. In the first place there is an over-confidence in quacks. The number of salvarsan injection-givers has increased enormously, and with it "the disastrous consequences of crude methods employed by these unscrupulous individuals." Then, too, ignorance to a great extent accounts for the

falling down of attendance after the immediate disability is overcome. The Medical Officer says:

" . . . I know from experience that they will never learn to believe in the existence or efficacy of special treatment, and consequently they will feel perfectly satisfied if the acute symptoms they are suffering from are abated, making them free to continue their daily vocations. There are also a certain number of patients to whom distance is a great impediment in the way of coming to Lamington Road."

Accompanying these conditions is an unusually high infant mortality rate. Bombay has the appalling rate of 552 under one year per 1,000 live births. The still-birth rate is also exceedingly high, and Dr. Norouba believes that 20 per cent. of these are due to syphilis.

All the efforts which have been instituted do, to some extent, serve to alleviate conditions, however. The dispensary in Bombay is, as far as is known, the only dispensary in India, and its aim is to become a model dispensary for the entire East to copy. The League also maintains a visiting nurse, who, during 1921-22, visited 285 brothels, the great majority of which are Indian. Since the European brothels for the most part maintain a medical attendant, most of the attention was concentrated upon Indian houses.

The League looks toward an enlightened public as the ultimate means of eradicating the diseases. The report says:—

" . . . By the dissemination of knowledge for the prevention and cure of venereal disease and the provision of accurate and enlightened information as to their prevalence they are educating the public to a better and more desirable mode of living, raising thereby the standard of health and conduct."

Social Hygiene Bulletin.

September, 1922.

IRELAND.

Women to Vote on the Same Terms as Men.

AT a recent meeting of the Irish Dail a series of resolutions were submitted authorizing the immediate compilation of the registers, in which women would be admitted to the franchise on the same terms as men, the qualifying period to be the six months ending October 15th. It was necessary to proceed at once with the work, as a new register could not be compiled in less than six months. It would entail the admission of 400,000 new electors, apart from the people who would go on the register in the normal way through coming of age. When the Dail came to pass an electoral law it might, and certainly would, if the Constitution were passed, abolish the business premises qualification on the principle of one man one vote.

After a short debate the motion was adopted.

September 20, 1922.

JAMAICA.

Children's Hospital Appeal.

KINGSTON, the capital of Jamaica, and St. Andrew, its adjoining parish, with a population of over 90,000 people, is at present served by a public hospital maintained by the Government, in which there are only nineteen beds for the use of children—and the infant mortality is as high as 40 per cent.!

At a special meeting of the Women's Social Service Association, held in April, 1922, it was decided that the Association should make a strenuous effort to build, equip and endow a Children's Hospital, such hospital to be run by a Board of Governors with the Senior Medical Officer and one other Government official as members, the remaining members of the Board to consist of capable men and women citizens. This will demand a capital of £30,000, a large and impossible amount to realize in a country the size of Jamaica, in the face of its poverty and its drawbacks, such as the present drop in sugar, drought and hurricanes, which so frequently lay low our banana plantations. We feel that unless we get help from larger and more prosperous

countries we can hope for no measure of success in this our undertaking, and so we ask you to appeal through your INTERNATIONAL WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE NEWS to help us to raise the necessary funds.

After we have raised, say, £10,000 of the needed amount, we shall make application to the Government and Legislative Council of this island for their benevolent support and for some tangible and material assistance to the scheme by a special grant towards the establishment of the hospital, and afterwards by an annual grant towards its support when established. We have taken into our calculations this annual grant in fixing the sum of £30,000 necessary to build, equip and maintain the hospital.

Our scheme has received the hearty support of all the doctors in Kingston, and many have promised free medical service for the hospital when opened.

Donations may be sent to Mrs. M. de Cordova, Halfway Tree P.O., Kingston, Jamaica.

NELLIE LATREILLE,

Hon. Secretary, Women's Social Service Association.

SWITZERLAND.

Un Cadeau pour les Chômeuses.

PAR une délicate attention, le Département fédéral d'Économie publique nous a préparé pour la rentrée de nos vacances une aimable petite surprise. Mais celle-ci est peu de chose comparée au plaisir qu'elle fera — qui oserait en douter? — au nombre inquiétant de femmes qui, chez nous, depuis plus de deux ans, sont les victimes directes de la terrible crise de chômage.

Voici ce qui se passe :

On sait que, par son arrêté du 29 octobre 1919, le Conseil Fédéral avait établi tout un système d'allocations à payer, pour un tiers par la Confédération, pour un tiers par les cantons, et pour le dernier tiers par les employeurs, aux ouvriers atteints par le chômage. Système qui a été souvent acerbement critiqué, qui n'était point parfait sans doute — quoi donc est parfait sur notre terre? — qui a pu prêter à des abus, dont l'application a soulevé bien des protestations, mais, cependant, qui venait en aide à ceux qui, leurs économies mangées, le tour des emplois désespérément fait et dix fois plutôt qu'une, se seraient trouvés dans une noire misère ou obligés de recourir à l'humiliation de l'aumône. Et de plus, car ceci est le point qui nous intéresse particulièrement ici, aucune différence n'était faite entre les chômeurs suivant leur sexe, et les femmes avaient exactement le même droit à la même allocation et dans les mêmes conditions que les hommes.

Il va de soi que, depuis trois ans bientôt, et malgré les restrictions, les modifications apportées à l'application de l'arrêté, malgré les efforts louables tentés par certains cantons et certaines communes pour créer du travail productif, ces allocations ont fini par peser très lourdement sur les finances de notre pays. Et en haut lieu, on s'est creusé la cervelle pour savoir comment les diminuer sans susciter de la part des intéressés de trop vives protestations. C'est ainsi qu'a jailli subitement cette idée géniale, sur le succès de laquelle l'Office fédéral du Travail vient de consulter les gouvernements cantonaux : la suppression des allocations de chômage aux femmes. Tout simplement.

Il est juste de dire que, dans l'esprit fertile de ces messieurs, cette mesure si parfaitement radicale aurait son contrepois immédiat et bienfaisant. Vous ne devinez pas lequel? Mais la reprise du service domestique! On ne trouve plus de cuisinières, gémit-on de toute part, ou bien on est forcé de recourir à des étrangères — les statistiques des autorisations d'entrée en Suisse le prouvent. Et, d'autre part, on dépense des millions à subventionner maigrement des femmes sans travail. Alors, c'est simple comme bonjour : nous économiserons ces millions, et ces femmes sans travail, ouvrières d'usine pour la plupart, dont beaucoup n'ont jamais appris aucun métier, deviendront comme par un coup de baguette magique d'accortes soubrettes, des femmes

de chambre stylées, des bonnes d'enfants douées de toutes les qualités requises par la pédagogie moderne, ou encore des cordons-bleus dont Brillat-Savarin aurait envié les sauces... Si vous n'êtes pas satisfait, c'est que vous êtes bien difficile.

Il faut croire que nous sommes bien difficiles, nous autres féministes, car nous ne sommes pas satisfaites du tout — oh! mais pas du tout.

Laissons de côté les raisons d'ordre essentiellement pratique, professionnel, ménager, que toute maîtresse de maison comprend du premier coup, et qui la font sourire doucement devant l'utopie masculine du Palais fédéral; et disons plutôt ici notre double indignation. D'abord de voir prendre contre les femmes une mesure d'exception, créer à leur usage une législation restrictive, les mettre de la sorte hors de la loi commune. Et ensuite de constater une fois de plus que ce sont des hommes seuls qui tranchent et décident d'une question d'importance vitale pour des femmes, sans avoir même l'idée de demander l'avis des femmes. Pourtant il serait difficile de prétexter ici de leur incompétence en la matière! Depuis combien de temps la préparation de la femme aux travaux du ménage est-elle au programme d'Associations féminines, et combien d'écoles ménagères ont-elles été créées par des femmes? Depuis combien de temps les femmes ne demandent-elles pas la généralisation de l'enseignement ménager obligatoire, ainsi qu'il existe dans de trop rares cantons? Et, depuis 1919, qui s'est préoccupé tout spécialement des chômeuses, dans un élan soutenu de solidarité féminine, si ce ne sont encore des femmes, en organisant des ateliers de crise, en ouvrant des cours, en procurant du travail au prix d'efforts que l'on ne connaît pas toujours assez? L'avis donné par ces femmes-là aurait eu, selon notre humble opinion, une certaine valeur d'expérience. C'est sans doute pour cela qu'on l'a délibérément ignoré au Palais fédéral.

Au moins sommes-nous heureuses de pouvoir signaler la levée de boucliers qui se produit immédiatement dans les milieux féminins. L'Alliance nationale de Sociétés féminines suisses a donné le signal en adressant au chef du Département de l'Économie publique une lettre à la fois nette et documentée, que nous regrettons, faute de place, de ne pouvoir publier ici *in extenso*. L'Association suisse pour le Suffrage féminin a, sans tarder une minute, pris position. La *Frauenzentrale* de Zurich, dont les compétences en matière de professions féminines et de chômage sont toutes spéciales, a vigoureusement agi de son côté. D'autres sans doute, et en nombre, suivront. Avec quel succès?... Que ceux que lasse notre antienne nous pardonnent : si nous étions des électrices, il est permis de penser qu'en la période électorale surtout qui va s'ouvrir, nos voix auraient bien quelques chances de plus d'être entendues... Mais voilà, tant de gens encore se demandent à quoi pourrait servir aux femmes le droit de vote...

N'avais-je donc pas raison de dire que le Département fédéral d'Économie publique nous a préparé un charmant cadeau pour la rentrée des vacances?...

E. GOURD.

P.S. — Au moment de mettre sous presse, nous apprenons que l'Alliance de Sociétés féminines a été officiellement invitée à envoyer une délégation à l'Office fédéral du Travail pour discuter de cette question. Enfin!! et bon succès à celles qui représenteront là les intérêts des femmes.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The Past Month in America.

THE fall elections, with their attendant problems of suitable candidates, conflicting issues, and the best methods of getting out a heavy woman vote, are monopolizing the attention of public-spirited American women, numbers of whom are returning to their homes strengthened for work after their summer vacations.

Questionnaires for Candidates.

The various State and City Leagues of Women Voters, that make a practice of sending to candidates for office questionnaires concerning the public questions of most interest to women voters, have mailed their selected lists of questions and are awaiting replies. The answers will be kept on file at the offices of the Leagues, and will be distributed to leaders of the organizations for use at public meetings. The New York State and City Leagues have been especially successful in the questionnaire work. Wide publicity has been given to their queries through the Press, the answers received from candidates have been serious and often voluminous, a majority of the candidates have responded, and the answers and records of the candidates have been neatly printed by the City League and distributed free of charge to thousands of women voters in Greater New York. Last year the candidates themselves saw the publicity value of the questionnaires, and it became the custom for prominent candidates, wishing to make certain points, to preface their remarks with the explanation, "Replying to a question sent him by the League of Women Voters, Mr. — issued this statement." This year the questionnaire work will go on as usual, the answers will be filed so that the public may consult them as freely as possible, and every effort will be made by these Leagues to get voters to cast their ballots for the candidates after an intelligent study of their qualifications and a comparison of the competing aspirants for office.

Health and Morals—Nurses' Convention.

Health questions are receiving a great deal of public attention, and many of them are being treated in a new way. At the convention of the National Organization of Public Health Nursing, held in Seattle, Washington, health was considered from the positive side entirely, and not from the negative side of sickness, and it was decided that health-work in every community should be considered not as a special separate programme to be carried out by a selected number of people, but that it should be developed through community participation. The organization went on record as especially desirous of the point of view and the direct assistance of the lay person, and revised its by-laws to admit non-professional persons to its membership and to positions on its board of directors and executive committee. At this convention the women nurses evinced a great interest in the proper administration of the Sheppard-Towner Act for maternity and infancy care, and pledged themselves to co-operate in the various States to make the provisions of the Act effective in educating prospective mothers and in caring for poor and ailing mothers and babies.

According to a report of the Federal Interdepartmental Social Hygiene Board, the New England section of the United States is most free from commercialized vice. There is not an open red-light district in the six States, and in nine cities there are police women that are doing excellent work, while the idea of women officers and of women's bureaux for detention and probation is spreading. The board reports that in the Southern States there is need of better legislation to protect women and girls. In South Carolina prostitution is not legally an offence; in Louisiana there are no rules regulating public dances and no juvenile court to deal with the cases of young girls who are victimized, and in Alabama there is a lack of proper laws on the statute books. The Social Hygiene Board has asked for a continuation appropriation of \$112,000 to carry on its work,

which is mainly law enforcement, throughout the country.

Once in a while some public official strikes a blow for the single standard of morality. Dr. Herman N. Bundesen, of Chicago, a new Health Commissioner, did this recently. When a youth of twenty-two and a girl of twenty, caught in a raid, were found to be infected, he sent them both to the county hospital to be treated—this despite strong protests from the rich father of the boy, who promised to have him cured by the best physicians. The Health Commissioner announced that hereafter men and women with venereal diseases will be treated exactly alike, saying, "The law states that it is the duty of the Health Commissioner to isolate contagious disease victims. Sex is not mentioned. Venereal diseases are contagious."

Prohibition.

The newspapers are making much of the fact that on various committees formed by the "wets" to work for a partial repeal of the Volstead Prohibition Law, and the return to the sale and use of light wines and beer, women serve beside the men. It would be strange indeed if all women thought alike on any public question, and there are women who are greatly opposed to prohibition. The consensus of opinion seems to be, however, that the majority of women would like to see the law strongly enforced. The opinion is more and more prevailing that the "wets" seem numerous because they make a loud noise. Investigations that have been made recently show the fallacies of many of their arguments. The American Association for Organizing Family Social Work and the Boston Family Welfare Society have collected figures from seventeen cities, covering 35,000 families, comparing the incidence of drink in families relieved by private family welfare agencies for the years 1917 and 1921. The decrease in the number of families under the care of these societies, in which drink was a factor, varies from 40 per cent. in Portland, Maine, to 100 per cent. in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. The average decrease is almost 90 per cent. This seems to refute the statement constantly being made that there is more hard drinking than ever before. Another investigation, conducted by the Rev. Franklin C. Southworth, president of the Meadville Theological School, has brought results encouraging to the women who favour prohibition for the sake of the rising generation. Mr. Southworth inquired of the deans of 486 American colleges as to the prevalence of drinking among the students. He received replies from 308 colleges, and as a result states emphatically: "The tenor of the replies received was overwhelmingly in favour of the proposition that instead of an increase in the number of students addicted to the use of liquors, there has been a marked decrease. Sporadic cases attract more attention than formerly, and, on account of poor liquor, are attended with worse results. But in the vast majority of American colleges the drink problem has ceased to exist."

Child Labour.

The Massachusetts Child Labour Committee, after a study of 324 Boston school children at work, has been conducting an intense campaign to raise the age for compulsory school attendance from 14 to 16 because it was found that one-half of the jobs held by the children terminated in less than three months. Boston court records for 1920 also show that there was proportionately six times as much delinquency among children of 14 and 15 years who had left school as among children who were still in school. The Committee, on which women are serving, believe that a drifting existence is

not the best kind of life for adolescent boys and girls and that they are in need of the stabilizing influence of the school for a longer period than is imposed at present.

Concerning Women.

American Feminists feel proud of the fact that a woman is the highest salaried motion-picture writer in the country. She is Mrs. Clara Beranger, who adapted for the screen such well-known pictures as "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" and "Miss Lulu Bett." Mrs. Beranger's work is artistic to the highest degree, and she is described as a woman of charming personality.

Two women are candidates on Republican Party tickets for Judges of Juvenile Courts—Mrs. Charles North, of Clinton County, New York, and Miss Ruth Taylor, of Westchester County, New York. Their candidature was made possible in their respective counties through a broad interpretation of the New York State children's court law, enacted at the last session of the Legislature, that favours the selection of a person for judge who has a thorough knowledge of child-caring and education rather than a legal training. Miss Taylor, who is a director of the Department of Child Welfare, and Mrs. North, who has served for a long time as chairman of the Committee on Institutional Relations of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, are well qualified, so far as a close knowledge of children

and their problems is concerned, to serve as juvenile judges. Both, however, are encountering opposition on account of their lack of legal training and because they are women. As it is planned in the Westchester Court to have specialists in the different fields of child welfare and social administration to assist the judge in interpreting and applying the provisions of the law, a legal training, in that case at least, does not seem really essential.

A victory for women was achieved this spring when action was taken by the Central Conference of American Rabbis at their annual session to permit women to become Rabbis. Now the Hebrew Union College of Cincinnati, the only school in America for the education of reformed Rabbis, has announced that arrangements have been made to admit young women students to become qualified as Rabbis. Women with ambitions to occupy pulpits in reformed Jewish Synagogues will thus be enabled to satisfy their ambitions and to work for religious ideals on an equality with men. Credit for the campaign which brought this recognition to Jewish women is accorded Miss Martha Neumark, the daughter of Professor David Neumark, of the Hebrew Union College, who is a student at the same institution and a staunch believer in the right of women to advance.

OREOLA WILLIAMS HASKELL.

New York City, August 30, 1922.

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THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION IN SMYRNA.

TWO of the buildings which are now heaps of rubble and ashes in Smyrna were used by the Young Women's Christian Association for work with girls, which had the friendly support of the different communities there and which served any girl, regardless of race or creed.

The traveller landing on the quay found, in a conspicuous place, just opposite the Custom House, a Y.W.C.A. sign which gave clear directions for the ten minutes' walk which took him to 129, Rue des Roses, right in the heart of the city. It was a building wonderfully well adapted to its purpose. Entering by the tall door, marked with the Blue Triangle (one name for the Association in the Near East is "The Open Door"), you passed through to a big courtyard garden, with flowers, trees, shady corners, and a tennis lawn overlooked by a gallery. A long, flagged, passage-like room with skylights, also opening on a vista of green, served as a tea-room, where it was possible for Turkish girls to enjoy each other's society and the society of girls of the other communities without infringing any convention. The presence of girls all day long was the abiding characteristic of the house. All day long they came in for classes, clubs or recreation. Even in the summer there seemed to be a great deal going on. The serious work of the language classes, commercial courses, and the educational side of the different clubs was supplemented by a good cinema twice a week, by picnics (thrilling occasions for girls of that part of the world), and by every team-game it was possible to borrow or invent. The nurse from the Girls' School used the centre for an excellent series of lectures on health and hygiene, while the Y.W.C.A. members of the student conference at Smyrna College gave a simple and impressive pageant representing the advance of women in industry. A report of this pageant, doubly picturesque in such a setting, points out its threefold value: First, in furnishing a natural means of bringing girls of different nationalities and social status closely in touch with each other; secondly, in giving these active-minded young girls an opportunity for self-expression; and, thirdly, in stimulating the interest of these future leaders in one of the questions of the day and bringing them into contact with the Y.W.C.A. approach to it. Altogether, during a period when Smyrna lived from day to day with no assurance for the morrow, the sunny old house stood for the hope of youth and for those everlasting verities which are the only stable foundations of life.

The other centre was in the industrial quarter, and was described in a former Supplement. The modest stone shed from the first was a community centre where not only girls, but their families, felt entirely at home, and where friendliness flourished. Here the experimental summer holiday school for children was held, with two hours' work a day for two months, conducted by four

Greek and one American worker. Its syllabus included reading and writing in Greek, elementary arithmetic, handwork, folk-dancing and games, and it would be hard to say which were more interested, the children or their mothers. Linked up with this experiment were the organized playgrounds, which varied their localities with the exigencies of the building trade, for these "playgrounds" were as a rule building plots camouflaged.

The staff of this centre was entirely drawn from Smyrna, and the Greek worker who was at the head was one of the students in the Industrial Summer School organized in London by the Industrial Advisory Committee of the World's Y.W.C.A. Extracts from her informal diary show how human and delightful the work was.

"July 8.—Factory girls have been sitting out in the garden, some with their embroidery, some studying and writing, others playing quiet games. As it grows dark the girls start singing and playing different games. Their laughter could be heard from inside, where we carry on classes. The girls in class were impatient to get through with their lessons and to join in the play.



The last photograph received of "The Open Door" in Rue des Roses, Smyrna. The property was burnt to the ground, but the workers saved many of the girls.

"July 12.—The girls had sewing to-day. One of them brought stuff for a dress for herself; another to make a shirt for her father. They are surprised that

we make our own dresses, and they wonder if they will ever be able to sew theirs. Some of them learn to use the machine.

"July 15.—We were very fortunate to have a nurse to-day who spoke to the mothers in their own language. Before the class started we gave the mothers a little entertainment. Two of the factory girls did the serving and felt very important. After the meeting was over we spoke to the mothers a little about the Association and about becoming members and bringing new ones in. Some mothers stayed in the garden talking, others went out telling their friends about the useful lesson. A group of factory girls were sitting round a table trying to sew dresses after the day's work. Mothers knowing a little more, and seeing that the teachers were busy with their lessons, went out and helped them to sew them right. One of the factory girls, aged 14, finished her dress, wore it and went home to show it to her mother.

"July 29.—The whole neighbourhood heard that Olympia sewed her own dress. She is sewing one now for a younger sister. Some more factory girls brought dresses to sew. During the past month our work has been more regular. The girls, after their day's work, try to come in time to wash and get ready for their classes. They are learning to study now and they show more interest in learning other things. They began arithmetic—started learning the numbers from 1, 2, 3 up to 100. They think it something great, and go out to their outside friends telling them all about how they are learning and how they enjoy coming. It is very encouraging to see their improvement. One who knew them from the beginning can see the difference in their manners. They try to use better language—using new words in talking, and sometimes they use words right and sometimes give altogether a different pronunciation and a different meaning; it is interesting to watch them."

Those who live in far-away towns, where most people can sew and read and write, can imagine the picturesque confusion in the narrow streets in the towns of the Near East, when a little Olympia goes running home holding out the skirts of her new dress for all the neighbours to see, followed by a tail of small children chanting, "Olympia made that dress herself"; or when perhaps some big Theodora amazes her family as they sit by a dim lamp by counting up to 25, just like a schoolmaster or the foreman in her factory.



The cool, airy tea-room at Rue des Roses, showing a glimpse of the garden.

But all these friendly gatherings, where it was possible to forget old enmities in a new spirit of Christian inter-

nationalism, have been rudely interrupted, and a cable reports "total loss" of the Y.W.C.A. buildings. The new paint and decorations at Rue des Roses have gone up in smoke with the plans for a busy winter with a growing membership that would involve a larger staff. The high hopes that the Industrial Secretary was carrying back with her of extending the influence of the industrial centre must be laid by, for the only plans which it is possible for the Y.W.C.A. Committee for the Near East to make for Smyrna are those sad things relief plans, for the refugee problem promises to be as big as that following Wrangel's defeat. In the meantime one of the foreign staff has safely escorted one party of girls to the Piræus, no one knows under what difficulties. (This same secretary has had a similar experience before, for she was one of those evacuated from Mersina.) Another secretary has reached Constantinople with more girls, and the latest cable reports the safety of the native members of the Smyrna staff.

This is so much to the good in the face of such a catastrophe. Another gain, less easy to reckon, is that a foundation of understanding such as was established in Smyrna will take more than the burning of material walls to destroy it, and as soon as it is possible the Y.W.C.A. will be back again helping to build up the girlhood of the city, while others build up its houses again.

BEHIND THE SCENES IN A GIRLS' CAMP.

VISITORS to a Girls' Camp, seeing the delightful ease with which detachments go off singing to the camp kitchen, to bathe, to play games or follow any one of the occupations which make up the joy of a holiday spent with other girls away in the country, are apt to feel that there is some magic in the word "camp," and that, given a few practical hints, any woman of common sense could do as well—possibly better. Or sitting round the fire, or lying under the trees during some discussion, it is easy for inexperienced visitors to feel that camp spirit is a spontaneous, almost automatic thing, the result of placing a certain number of girls together in chosen surroundings.

But beneath this pleasant surface lie the foundations of a real character-building camp, and these are foundations which cannot be dug without work and self-sacrifice on the part of someone. It is difficult to interview these foundation-layers, still harder to get them to put into words how they handle the girls in their charge, and with what end in view. But now and again one comes across a human document, such as that from which quotations are given below. The camp in question took place in one of the newer countries of the world, where girls are unused to responsibility and initiative, and where the girls' movement has a big part to play in developing the spirit of unselfish fair play and democratic self-government.

"Camp has been perfectly thrilling. I have done nothing directly with the girls, except as the Camp Executive has asked me to. I think I told you that we were running it as a training centre for volunteers for next winter. Every two weeks we have a new camp staff. The new ones come the week-end before the old ones go, so that the old staff is responsible for starting the new staff. It is such fun to see them grow. When they first come they are so timid and scared and tell me that they are afraid they will not be able to do it. Then at the end of their stay they are 'breaking in the new staff' with all kinds of advice. They may try anything they have real conviction about, but they have to prove that it is real conviction and not just feeling. These girls adore to do things by 'feeling.' At 8 o'clock in the morning we have a discussion hour together. The subject has been different with each group. It has been awfully difficult, because the girls on the staff have been at such different places. For instance, last time I had two secretaries who had been at camp all summer, one girl who was on my staff last winter, two who had attended one of the training courses, and one absolutely

new girl. One of the most interesting things we did was to have the girl who was to lead the discussion with the girls lead the same discussion with the staff before she had it with the girls. It was illuminating. One morning the staff said: 'But we have nothing to discuss on this subject.' I suggested that if they found it uninteresting, probably the girls would too. They thought it would be very good for the girls. At the end of our hour they said: 'Yes, I see you are right. We must judge things for them more by what we like. I talk everything over with them beforehand, but when they are with the girls they must see the thing through to the end. This has been a real problem, because they never plan ahead. The staff would get something started and then, because they had not thought it through carefully enough, would get in deep water and turn to me, which was bad. I have felt that one thing which camp must do was to make it perfectly apparent to the girls in camp and to the committee that leadership is possible here. No one in this country trusts its leadership—it is a natural result of its past history. But now they must learn to trust each other. One of the most interesting things has been to watch the relationship of the staff and the girls. When the new group comes they are so suspicious. They complain about everything and everyone. They question everything. At the end of a week the atmosphere has completely changed. And to get the staff to trust the girls, to believe in each other! Well, I have sat through many a staff meeting with my fists clenched, hanging on, trying to be patient while we struggled through misunderstandings and suspicion to a real basis of belief in each other which makes working together possible. And to make the staff see that leadership for them means the building up of leadership among the girls and not dictating to them—well, 'it's a long way to Tipperary,' but we are getting there. And to teach them to work hard when they work and then to forget it and play hard, so that they can come back to their job with some freshness and perspective. These girls have not the remotest idea of playing, by doing such simple things as cooking their supper up in the woods, when they have a few hours when they are not on duty. They say: 'It is silly to plan that some of us will work in the morning and evening and some of us in the afternoon and evening. We can all work three periods a day, because there is nothing else to do here.' And you can imagine the state they get in—girls who have never worked, or lived according to any kind of scheme, and who have never been a part of a group. So I insist on a plan of work, and then have to help them find things to do in their time off that are *recreative*.

"And we have been weathering about the worst storm of our existence at the clubs. We had a mud-slinging evening, a boycott on camp, and all the things you can imagine. It turns on special privilege and strong class-feeling within the industrial groups. The club girls want camp only for themselves, even though they could not begin to fill it. They think that they ought to pay less than other girls. One girl even asked to come for nothing because she had been a club member for two years. The girls who work in the cigarette factory do not want to play with the girls who work in the clothing shop, and the munition girls do not want to play with the girls who make cigarettes, and so it goes. And the funny part is that the girls on the staff, with their strong class-feeling, have so little tolerance for the same thing within the industrial group. I am perfectly certain that some of the girls we have had here have not only not had enough to eat, but have not even *seen* enough. One day I could not finish my soup, and the girl next to me grabbed it and ate it. They look as though they had suffered so terribly. Such bitterness and hardness I have never seen. But in the evening, when we stand out under the open sky where the sun is setting and the moon is coming up (for in this country we have both together) and the pine trees are so lovely against it, and we sing our good-night song—well, at the beginning of the summer I wondered how I was going to endure the *awful* throbbing

ache of it. The girls fold their hands and stand very quietly and look far off as they sing in a minor key of their church music their evening prayer. All the bitterness and hardness give place to such wistfulness and longing. In a world that God has made so beautiful, why have men made things so wrong? I long so to give every girl the thing her heart desires. It seems so natural to want a room with just your best friend, when all winter you have lived crowded in one small room with perhaps ten other people and have known sickness and cold and hunger. Two weeks seems so little out of the whole year to long for things *just as you want them*. But because I know that what each girl wants justly for herself she must want passionately for every other girl, I am glad that what we have here they must share with each other. We have had so many grey and rainy days lately, and already it is beginning to get dark early. But at sunset time it is a changed world. The very trees stand quietly before the glory and wonder of the changing colour that touches and warms everything.

"Things are so hectic during the day. Sometimes my mind is a perfect jumble, but at night, when everyone has put out her candle and quietness settles down over our camp and I look up at the stars, I see many things much more clearly. I hear the angels' chorus ringing over the hills of Judea. I see the shepherds following the star over the hills to where He was, and the wise men following across the desert, and all the people through the ages who have heard and seen and followed through all kinds of places and difficulties, and the victories they have had and the things they have changed make me know that it can be done! Of course, it is thrilling to be here, but I know that whatever greatness may be in it is not in the place, but in small things, such as in keeping on top when you feel like sitting on the bottom, in being terribly hurt and not showing it in petty ways, in knowing that you have failed but in having the courage to try again, in working with other people and continuing to believe in their sincerity even when you do not understand things at all, in being absolutely true to what you believe to be right even though you know you will not be understood. This last thing has been so hard, because the girls have such different standards here. For example, we had a girl in camp who one day had hæmorrhage of the lungs. She was awfully ill, and it was perfectly evident that she had tuberculosis. She was in with three other girls, and I said that I thought she ought to be moved to a room by herself. I was just *sick* that night by the time I had fought it through. The staff did not want to do it because it would hurt her feelings, and it was only a few days before she would be going. They thought I was perfectly heartless and did not see how I could do it, and, of course, felt that I was just talking and that it was easy enough for me because I would not have to do it as I could not speak. Finally I got her moved. A short time after that I was at headquarters and happened to be looking through the registrations for camp and saw that she was registered again. The doctor said she really ought not to come and told her so, but she wanted to so much. The child was at the club that night, and when I said to the secretary that we must talk to her and say she could not come back, that we would simply put it on the ground that we felt she was not well enough and we had no way of taking care of her if she got sick there, the secretary absolutely refused. They could not understand how I could be so hard to a girl who probably could not live very long. The fact that there is no reason why every girl in camp that week should not have a germ because I cannot make the cook scald the dishes (she never has—why should she here?), and that it would endanger all the girls because they all kiss her, etc., carried no weight at all. I certainly felt hard-hearted! One needs a great deal of wisdom and a strong sense of justice and awfully keen vision to distinguish between the things which are principles and those which are just national differences. There are many things which make a camp run smoothly that I have had to let slide. One cannot

found all the time. So I try to pick out the things of principle and peg away everlastingly at them and do not worry about the rest."

A CONFERENCE ON A FARM IN DENMARK.

FROM Copenhagen the train takes you without a change to Slagelse, the little town where Hans Christian Andersen's school stands in the shadow of the big red parish church. From Slagelse it is a bare mile's walk, first through the town and then along a tree-bordered road, past fields guarded by ditches, to Liselund. The paved entrance leads straight into the square cobbled yard round which stand the farm and house buildings, forming a courtyard or quadrangle which is both a sun-trap and a refuge from the tireless winds of this part of Denmark. On one side of the yard an open arch leads through to a whitewashed building, similar in style, yet larger and statelier than the white-walled, thatched buildings of the quadrangle. This is the church of an interesting little group of "Independents," opened only this summer. On another side a door, over which hangs a bell, opens into the flagged ante-room of a conference hall, which may once have been a barn, and which is connected with the church by a passage. The third side gives entrance to three sitting-rooms, opening the one out of the other, and the last on to the garden, and on the fourth side of the quadrangle there are the long low dining-rooms, with the portraits of beruffed Danish Lutheran pastors on the walls, and long windows looking into the garden. Bedrooms are tucked away everywhere, upstairs and down, which seldom seem empty, for when Liselund is not overflowing with Bible students, come to sit at the feet of Pastor Dael, conferences take their place, or meetings such as that for Sadhu Sundar Singh, which drew literally thousands of people from the countryside for miles around.

But the quaint old farm with its air of busy tranquility is not the only attraction of Liselund. Sloping down the hillside are the lawns and gardens, where winding paths bring you to unsuspected beauty spots, and there is cool shade on the hottest day, or sheltered corners in which to enjoy the winter sun. Two tall masts carry the Danish and Swedish flags (the latter for Fru. Dael), hoisted and lowered each day while the national anthems are sung; and a third mast gives hospitality to the national flag of any visitor from another country who may be staying at Liselund.

It would be hard to find a more ideal spot for a conference, and it was here that the Mariaforbund, a society for educated girls affiliated to the Danish K.F.U.K. (Young Women's Christian Association), held its summer meeting in July this year.

Two outstanding features of the conference were the high intellectual level of the lectures and addresses, and the number of times in the day that it burst forth into song. The presence, or absence, of song-books seemed to make no difference. Whether it was walking in the woods, or sitting in the garden, or before and after lectures in the conference hall, or in church, or at the hoisting or lowering of the flags, the conference sang, and sung well. Even grace at meals was usually sung, not said. Campers who need convincing that good music makes a difference in the atmosphere and the effect of a camp or conference should ask for an invitation to Denmark.

The greater part of each day was given up to the consideration of theological and devotional subjects, but there was no sense of overcrowding or of a narrow concentration. Questions of principle led, as a matter of course, to questions of practice, for the "girl of leisure" in Denmark, with few exceptions, is a creature of the past, and the members of the Mariaforbund are in all manner of professions and in touch with very varied aspects of life.

The scene on the last night, in its simplicity and its colour, could only be described by Hans Christian Andersen himself. The conference came out of the house to find the dark garden lit with splashes of colour, now high up in the trees, now on low bushes or on the ground itself. Quite spontaneously everyone from every

part of Liselund dropped into a long procession that marched, singing, in and out of the winding paths of the garden, round an enclosed grass plot, downhill into a half-wild shrubbery, up again to the Swedish summer-house, through kitchen and herb gardens, under fruit trees, past flag poles, here walking cautiously in the dark, there slowing down to catch a new effect of lights and shadows, until the dark, colour-splashed serpent made a circle round the great acacia on the big lawn where Pastor and Fru. Dael stood silhouetted against the white garden benches. And here we may leave them.

SEEING ALL THE SIGHTS IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

THE Young Women's Christian Association in the Near East evidently feels some responsibility for the tourist, for a neat little folded leaflet is now at his disposal, on the back of which is a numbered plan of Constantinople, showing such landmarks as the American Express Company, the Grand Bazaar, the Red Cross Headquarters, the Seraglio Palace, St. Sophia, the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A., and so forth. On the inner three sheets are the addresses and telephone numbers of various hotels, firms, clubs, embassies and societies, and some remarkable figures summing up the work of the Y.W.C.A. in the city. Thus the tourist discovers that the membership of over a thousand includes girls of twenty-six nationalities (beginning with Albanian and ending with Tartar) and eight religious faiths. Four hundred and forty-three girls attend educational classes (language lessons, business courses, gymnastics, domestic courses, etc.). Three hundred more are members of clubs. (Clubs in Constantinople!) More than two thousand orphans are provided with organized recreation. Two hundred and seventy-five girls are using the summer camp on the Sea of Marmora, which goes by the name of the Garden of Happiness, and where Turk, Greek, Jew and Armenian play happily together, not to mention a sprinkling of the other twenty-two nationalities. The Employment Bureau handles monthly almost as many. The leaflet invites the tourist with a modest cordiality to visit any of the five centres, and certainly the impression remains that any tourist visiting the other institutions and "sights" and leaving out the Y.W.C.A. will have missed seeing something very alive and full of hope.

EASTERN TOUR OF THE WORLD'S Y.W.C.A. INDUSTRIAL SECRETARY

MISS MARY A. DINGMAN, Industrial Secretary to the World's Y.W.C.A., left England in September for the United States, en route for Japan, China and Australasia. Miss Dingman will spend between two and three months in the United States, part of which time will be given to advisory and consultative work with the Industrial Department of the Y.W.C.A. She will only pass a few weeks in Japan, but hopes to return there after six months with the Chinese Y.W.C.A., leaving in time to reach Australia in October, 1923. The growth of industrial work and opportunities for further service of the industrial girl by the Y.W.C.A. will probably make it necessary for Miss Dingman to spend some months between Australia and New Zealand. Returning possibly by way of South America, Miss Dingman will complete her tour in time to report at the Biennial Meeting of the World's Y.W.C.A. Committee in 1924.

WEEK OF WORLD FRIENDSHIP AND PRAYER.

YOUNG Women's Christian Associations throughout the world will observe the seven days between Sunday, November 12, and Saturday, November 18, as their annual week of World Friendship and Prayer. Efforts will be made to put the membership in touch with the developments in other countries, and to build up a spirit of sympathetic knowledge and a desire for co-operation between different races and nations, on the various questions which affect the full development of women and the general welfare of the community.

With Supplement from the World's Young Women's Christian Association.

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

CENTRE PAGES.

HAVE WOMEN A GIFT FOR POLITICS?

By GISELA URBAN (Vienna).

THE question if women have a gift for politics is not new. It did not arise in recent years only, when many countries acknowledged the full rights of women as citizens. During the struggle for women's suffrage the question whether women are gifted for politics or not was much discussed. This question dates still further back than that. As early as the French Revolution it was dealt with. And still earlier periods not only discussed the question, but also acknowledged unanimously the political talents of certain women. Female monarchs of old ruling races, wives and friends of emperors, kings, and princes, of powerful statesmen, of influential politicians were often skilful enough to rule the life and fate of a whole people according to their will.

Let us first put this question: Were these women who, owing to birth, to a happy chance, to some peculiarity of outward appearance, or to mental qualities, walked on the heights of human life, actually gifted for politics? Gifted in the spirit of modern women's tendency? The manner in which some of these women enforced their will—in an indirect way over men whom they fascinated—is condemned by thinking modern women. And, in addition, that which women's politics aimed at in bygone times has nothing in common with the intellectual aims of women's politics in our times.

Formerly women entering public life were only led by the views of men: by questions of power and property. To win power and to secure it, to obtain possessions and extend them; these were the causes of the political activity of women. The prosperity enjoyed by some nations when ruled by a woman's will, of which historical works make honourable mention, was, with few exceptions, not due to sympathy, to a wish to promote and develop life, but to a selfish impetus to enjoy power and personal possessions undisturbed and unrestrained.

Even this short retrospect is sufficient to show that the question if women have political talents or not cannot be solved by applying the hitherto acknowledged standards. Hitherto, a person has been pronounced to have political talents when he was strong enough to influence life by his own ideas, by his ardent will that inflamed the masses of the people, thus giving aim and direction to events. Presence of mind, superiority, ready wit, stubbornness, energy, the passionate gesture of a flashing temperament, or the imposing reserve of intellectual concentration, all these belong to the outfit of a person favoured with political gifts. His work is based on a systematic, often underhand, struggle against the convictions of others. Victory over the political adversary and the enforcing of his own ideas are the trade marks of success. But all these