

THE INTERNATIONAL

WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

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ALLIANCE MEETINGS IN LONDON.

From July 6th-9th, the Board and then the International Committee of the Alliance, held sessions in London to deal with questions of administration and policy. The opportunity had been taken of catching many members who had to pass through London on their way to the Edinburgh Jubilee Congress of the International Council of Women, and the following countries were represented either by a Board Member, the President of the Society or her proxy: Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Ceylon, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Great Britain, Holland, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.S.A. Australia and India were also to have sent proxies but at the last moment their attendance was found to be impossible.

Questions of internal policy were discussed at some length, and much that was valuable emerged in the way of recommendations to the Board of re-considering methods of work and certain aspects of the Alliance Programme and future. But naturally the principal business was to take decisions as to the next Congress of the Alliance.

The invitation from the Danish Auxiliary has long been accepted, but there remained the question of the actual date. The Society had proposed the first week in June next year, but as that would clash with events in Geneva which attract many women, they kindly offered an alternative date, the week beginning on May 20th. After considerable discussion, this was accepted. For many, if not most countries, a Congress falling in the summer holidays has great advantages, as it is so obviously easier for most women to get away then. But it was recognised that for the Danish women who will have so much of the organisation to shoulder and who naturally want the Congress to attract a large public in their own country, it is of the first importance that the Congress should take place before the great exodus from Copenhagen begins. Owing to the short summer in these Northern countries, summer holidays begin at the end of June. (See Stop Press, page 89.)

The question of the Programme took up much time, and a rough draft was accepted for further consideration by the Board at its next meeting, so that we shall only publish this in a later issue.

The Board also adopted the Call to the Congress, which will be sent out immediately after the summer holidays.

There was also an animated discussion on the programme for the Stockholm Conference of which we published the Draft in our July issue. Some proposals for the detail of the main discussions were made, and the Committee recommended that the scope of the programme should be somewhat limited. A new Draft is being prepared by the Peace Committee which, while following the main lines of that we published, will differ somewhat in detail.

Mlle Gourd presented a long and interesting report on all her work in Geneva as representative of the Alliance, not only in relation to the League and the I.L.O., but also to other international activities. The question of Status of Women was also dealt with at length and the representative of each country in turn gave a brief report on what is being done to carry out plans for ensuring that the Expert Committee shall get the information as to the actual practice and application of the laws which it has asked for from the women's organisations.

The British affiliated Societies, the National Council for Equal Citizenship, the St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance and the Women's Freedom League, invited the international members to what should have been a novel form of party, on the roof-garden of one of the big blocks of flats in London, on the invitation of Miss Picton-Turbervill, President of the first-named society. Alas, the English climate has no notion of international co-operation, and the party had to take place in the big foyer of Berkeley Court, though the rain stopped in time to let us all have a glimpse of this typical English garden of lawns, herbaceous borders and pergolas perched high above London and providing

marvellous and panoramic views. This very enjoyable evening closed with one or two short speeches of welcome on the one side and of thanks on the other in the more intimate frame of Miss Picton-Turbervill's flat.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby entertained the whole Committee to lunch on the last day of the meeting, giving a very welcome opportunity for the exchange of personal talk between people who were meeting after a good many years, as, for instance, Miss Laufey Valdimarsdottir—better known to us as Miss Asmundssen—from Iceland, and those who were present for the first time at an Alliance meeting, Mme Voipio from Finland, the latest member of the Board, Mme Bonnevie from Norway, and Miss Masri, the youngest member, who was acting as a proxy for Mme Charaoui of Egypt, and others. We must not omit to mention the name of Miss Rodrigues, Consul General for Brazil at the big port of Liverpool, who has built up such a successful career in this field, still rather a new one for women.

ALLIANCE TEMPORARY OFFICE IN GENEVA.

As usual, the Alliance will open a Temporary Office in Geneva during the Assembly of the League of Nations, to serve as a centre both for its own members and for all other feminists who may be visiting the League centre at that time.

It is not possible at the time we have to go to press to give the address of this year's office, but we shall, of course, communicate this to all our members as soon as it is finally fixed. But we beg that our readers will make a note of the fact that the Office will certainly be functioning during September, and to pass on to others who may be interested the information that they will be able to find there a useful meeting place where they will be warmly welcomed and where they will be able to obtain valuable information.

STUDY CONFERENCE IN STOCKHOLM.

The Draft Programme published in our July issue has been slightly modified as a result of discussion at the recent meetings of the Alliance Board and International Committee, but its main lines remain unchanged, as also the date—October 15th-16th.

As we hope that people are already beginning to make their plans to come to Stockholm then, we think it may be useful to give the following information about hotels, kindly supplied by our Swedish Committee:

Grand Hotel (where the meetings will be held):

Single room without private bath	from 6 — 14 kr
„ „ with private bath	„ 12 — 19 kr
Double room, without bath	„ 12 — 20 kr
„ „ with private bath	„ 18 — 35 kr
Meals:	
Breakfast, light	1.75 kr
„ „ meat	4.00 kr
Lunch	3.00 kr
Dinner	from 4.00 kr

Strand Hotel: Prices approximately the same.

Hotel Stockholm:

Single room: with bath	from 12 — 16 kr
„ „ with lavatory	„ 7.50 — 9 kr
Double room: with bath	from 15 — 20 kr
„ „ with lavatory	„ 12 — 14 kr

Hotel Belfrage:

Single room:	from 5 — 7 kr
Double room:	„ 10 — 12 kr
En pension:	„ 10 — 12 kr

Pension Esplanad:

En pension:	from 9.50 — 11 kr
Half pension:	„ 8.50 — 10 kr

DISTINGUISHED WOMEN OF MANY LANDS.

France.

It is to an old friend and correspondent, Mme Kraemer-Bach, that we owe our thanks for the following brief notes on some of the well-known women of France. She suggested to us quite a long list to cover in addition to leaders in the woman's movement, women in industry and the arts. We have not been able to get the necessary information in all cases, but we think that the following brief notes will at least suffice to show an interesting cross section of women's activities in France. We also wish to express to several of our kind correspondents our deep regret that considerations of space have made it impossible to reproduce the photographs they so kindly sent.

It is natural that in our paper we should give pride of place to leaders of the Woman's Movement. But a few weeks ago the name of Maria Verone would have appeared here and we are sad to be reminded of the gap she has left in the ranks of that movement.

Mme Cecile Brunschvicg, wife of the well-known philosopher, Léon Brunschvicg, and the mother of three children, is so well known to our readers that perhaps they will wonder why we should present her to them here. But the tale of her activities is so long that we feel sure that few have realised its scope.



Mme. Brunschvicg.

Mme Brunschvicg began her philanthropic work many years ago and in 1906 she began that special work for women workers which has ever since been one of her great interests. As Secretary of the Labour Committee of the National Council of Women she did much in that field, and she has always preached the importance of women entering the Trade Unions. It was she who organised a School of Social Service especially to train factory superintendents.

In 1909 she organised the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes, with Mme Schmall as President, and which immediately affiliated with our Alliance. On the death of Mme Schlumberger in 1924, Mme Brunschvicg became President of the Union which she has since directed with that practical ability which is one of her great gifts. She has also for many years edited "La Française," which is widely known as one of the most valuable organs of the woman's movement.

When the Radical Socialist Party opened its doors to women, Mme Brunschvicg immediately became a member and has exerted herself in forwarding an advanced and practical policy of social reform. Under the Government of M. Léon Blum in 1936, she became

Under Secretary of State for National Education, and there was universal regret that succeeding ministries have not continued the appointment of women to Government posts.

Mme Brunschvicg is an Officer of the Légion d'Honneur, and Vice-President of the Conseil Supérieur de l'Enfance.

Mme Malaterre-Sellier is equally well known to our readers, but perhaps few of them know the history of her heroic work during the war. As a nurse in the front line hospitals she showed magnificent courage and devotion, being constantly under shell fire, and being wounded when she was trying to save the stores of her post. For her many acts of valour she received the Croix de Guerre with three bars and was made a Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur.

It was doubtless this intimate experience of what war really means that has led her to devote her energies so largely to the cause of Peace. She is well known as a speaker in that cause both at very many international congresses and as a lecturer in nearly all countries.

Immediately after the war she devoted herself to valuable social work in the devastated areas.

Madame Malaterre Sellier has frequently represented her Government at the League of Nations, and recently she went on an official mission to French Indo-China, with the special object of studying the problems of the half-caste children. This is but one example of special work with which she has been entrusted.



Mme. Joliot-Curie.

Madame Irène Joliot-Curie was born in 1897 and is, as all the world knows, a daughter of Pierre and Marie Curie, being an example of a not very common phenomenon, the brilliant child of brilliant parents. During the war she served as a radiographer, and when the war was over she entered the Curie Laboratory of the Paris Radium Institute as assistant to her mother. In 1925 she obtained her doctorate in science; in 1932 she became Chief of Works; in 1935 Master in Research of the National Science Fund; in 1937 Professor in the Faculty of Science.

She married M. Frédéric Joliot in 1926 and has two children, a girl born in 1927 and a boy born in 1932.

The list of her principal works is highly technical, being concerned largely with the action of rays, etc. We will only quote the title of the study for which, together with her husband and collaborator, she was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1935: Artificial Production of radioactive Elements: Chemical proof of the transformation of elements.

Madame Kempf-Berthelot is at the head of a big industrial concern for the manufacture of men's shirts and underwear, employing a large number of hands, both men and women. Mme Berthelot was too modest to tell us much about her life, which we regret very much, and only sent us her business card, which shows the very high position she has attained in the business world. Here is a woman who is President of the Federation of Wholesale Manufacturers of Men's Underwear; President of the Trade Council of Importers and Exporters of France and its Colonies; President of the Trade Council for the Wholesale Manufacture of Underwear; Vice-President of the organisation for the Defence of the Interests of Industry and Commerce; and a Conseiller du Commerce Extérieur de la France. That is an imposing list indeed and suggests that Mme Berthelot is "it" in her own line.

We can only add that she is President of the National Union of Soroptimist Clubs in France.

Mlle Ripa de Roveredo is a brilliant painter and engraver, whose work has been recognised as full of original genius. She herself tells us little of this, however, but shows clearly that she is not one of those artists who live withdrawn from the world of reality, but, on the contrary, has a heart and a mind to give to the service of her fellow women. She has founded no less than 12 Soroptimist Clubs and also the National Union of these Clubs in France. She is a member of the Central Committee of the Union pour le Suffrage des Femmes, and is active in various forms of social work. She is a Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur and is on the committee of the newly-founded Association of Women who bear that decoration.

In addition to her pictures and engravings, she is a bookbinder and a writer, her "Vibrations et Réminiscences" have won the most favourable criticism.

Lucie Delarus-Mardrus is indeed difficult to describe, but must perhaps appear as a writer. After a childhood spent between Paris in the winter and the paternal home in Normandy in the summer, she married in 1900 the well-known Dr. J. C. Mardrus, translator of the Thousand and One Nights, and with him for seven years she roamed the East largely on horseback and learnt to speak Arabic fluently. After returning to Europe, she travelled in most of the countries of the West, North America and South America.

As at the age of 6 she already played the piano, wrote verse—in English!—and drew pictures, it is not so surprising to learn that her activities have included several exhibitions of pictures, that a statue by her may be seen in Notre-Dame at Havre; that she is a pianist, violinist and composer (her songs were the rage in the Music Halls of Paris); is a Master of Equitation, having in the cause of charity appeared as a circus rider; manufactures wonderful life-like dolls, etc.

But all this is beside her real life-work, which is literature. She has written more than 50 novels, of which we quote one or two of the best known: Le Roman de six Petites Filles; L'Ex-Voto, Graine au Vent; La Petite Fille comme ça, etc., etc. In addition she has to her credit a Life of William the Conqueror, and other biographies; essays and 10 or 12 volumes of poetry, for which she was awarded the Renée Vivien Prize. She has also translated much poetry from English into French.

Mme Delarus Mardrus does not like Decorations and has always refused them.

Other well-known women of whom we had hoped to give a brief description were Mme Colette, Mme Françoise Rosay, Mme Pichon Landry, Mme Dussane, Mlle Anna Quinquaud, Mme Suzanne Lacorre and Mme Barbizet. We very much regret that we were not able to make our survey more complete.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES.

The International Council of Women has just concluded its Jubilee Congress in Edinburgh, where it celebrated the 50th anniversary of its foundation. Scotland was chosen as being the country of its Hon. President, Ishbel Marchioness of Aberdeen. The delegates numbered some 1,000 and represented 30 countries and a total membership of over 40,000,000. The decision to found this international organisation was taken in Washington in 1888, and at the first international Congress in Chicago in 1893, Lady Aberdeen was asked to preside and was elected President, an office she filled with one short interval until she retired in 1936, to be succeeded by the Baroness Pol Boel.

The programme covered so many questions that it is impossible even to enumerate them all. In addition to the special problems of the woman's movement (women in public life, in professions, in the home, etc.), there were discussions on the cinema, the Press, women police and judges, the radio, Health and Nutrition, etc., etc., and, of course, on Peace, which has long been one of the major aims of the Council.

At the opening session, Lady Ruth Balfour, President of the National Council of Great Britain, welcomed the delegates, assisted by Lady Aberdeen and the Baroness Boel. Mme Avril de Ste Croix opened the proceedings with an address on the moral influence exercised by the Council.

An immense programme of hospitality and social events was organised by the hostess organisation, the two outstanding events being the luncheon in honour of Lady Aberdeen and the Garden Party at Holyrood house, Edinburgh's historic royal palace, once the home of Mary Queen of Scots, where the Duchess of Kent received the guests. The climate of Scotland had not, on the whole, played its part in welcoming this international gathering, but the Duchess provided royal weather for this brilliant gathering.

By a reciprocal clause in their respective constitutions, the Council and our Alliance have the right to send three official delegates to each other's Congresses. The Alliance delegates were Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President, Miss Rosa Manus, First Vice-President, and Mlle Gourd, Hon. Secretary. Mrs. Ashby spoke to the Congress on The Importance of Full Citizenship in our Work for Peace and Social Service, and it fell to Miss Manus to offer to Lady Aberdeen, at the luncheon in her honour, the greetings and congratulations of the Alliance and to present, as a token of friendship, a copy of the monumental work on the Present-Day Position of Women, compiled by the Institut du Droit Comparé in Paris.

The International Federation of Business and Professional Women is holding its international Congress in Budapest from August 1st-5th, with a programme specially directed towards securing a large number of women in public office and other executive positions, and towards training women for the greater part they should play in preparing and directing the future.

The Second World Youth Congress will take place at Vassar College, New York State, from August 15th-24th, and we called attention to this date and to the programme some months ago.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONGRESS AT MARSEILLES.

We have received the report of this Congress held last May, under the title of "Les Femmes du Monde entier au Service de la Paix," which contains the text of the resolutions adopted and a summary of the proceedings and speeches, as well as information as to the organisation and attendance at the Congress. The

whole report presents a striking testimony to the universality of women's desire for peace and for intellectual and spiritual freedom, and their heartfelt protest against the brutality which—re-emerging as it were from humanity's primitive past—is the most disquieting and terrifying symptom of our present-day world.

JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS.

For a number of years the Alliance has been a member of the above Committee, which will perhaps seem more familiar under its French title of Comité d'Entente des grandes Associations Internationales. Its work is perhaps too little known and yet it is a heartening example of the international co-operation still possible between no less than thirty international organisations, of widely differing aims, but all ready to work together in a spirit of mutual good-will in order to promote good understanding in world affairs.

The Committee works in close co-operation with the International Institute of International Co-operation in Paris, where its Secretary has her office (2, rue de Montpensier, Paris 1er). Its aim is education in the spirit of peace, and it exists to further all efforts to promote a better understanding among all peoples and individuals of all ages, through education and all other moral and social influences.

The Committee makes studies on various questions and the following brief note of its publications gives an idea of its work: Ten Years' Activity (a general account of the Committee's progress); Memorandum on Unemployment among Young People; What will become of Students? The Aspirations of the Workers towards Culture, and the Workers' Leisure; The Evolution of the Idea of International Co-operation. In addition the Committee has issued a list of some of the publications of the International Institute for Intellectual Co-operation dealing with educational and social questions which is too long for us to quote. The Institute's catalogue will be sent free on request.

PEACE.

The Peace and Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organisations has issued a preliminary announcement of an Intercontinental Conference of Women Leaders to take place in Washington, D.C., U.S.A., on January 26th-28th, 1939, immediately following the National Conference on the Cause and Cure of War, from January 21st-25th. The object of this Conference is to permit consultations among women leaders from all countries on how to promote close co-operation in future peace policies and plans of work. It is intended as a working conference and the subjects for discussion will probably include: Economic Policies and World Peace; the Moral and Spiritual Basis of Peace; Scope and Limitations of an International Peace Organisation. The date chosen will permit the visitors to attend the annual Cause and Cure of War Conference which each year brings together some eight to nine hundred delegates representing eleven important women's organisations in the U.S.A.

For further information apply to Miss Dingman, Peace and Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organisations, Palais Wilson, Geneva.

I.P.C.—R.U.P. Owing to the fact that the printers' annual holiday takes place during the first week in August, we have to go to press early and cannot therefore report on the Conference on the Bombardment of Open Towns and the Restoration of Peace being held in Paris on July 23rd and 24th, under the auspices of the I.P.C. Recent bulletins of the I.P.C. contain evidence of the widespread horror caused by the bombardment

of open towns and the wholesale murder of civilian populations.

In this connection, we have received a statement from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, pointing out that "Modern War rules out moral and humane considerations. To wish to humanise it is to misunderstand its essential nature. We demand as a first step the immediate total abolition of all military aircraft and the internationalisation of civil aircraft. Without these preliminary concrete steps all protests against the bombardment of open towns are meaningless and empty words and action for the so-called 'humanising' of war amounts to a legalising of war and violence instead of their complete eradication."

While we must recognise that at this moment there is no hope for an international agreement to abolish military aircraft, is that demand less utopian than the demand that armies at war shall limit the scope of aerial action? Experience should have taught us that no international conventions count for anything when war is once let loose; if one side has scruples, the other side has not and "reprisals" become the order of the day. Is it not perhaps more logical to make the whole demand, to use experience of horrors to try to lead peoples to understand that all war is horrible?

ARGENTINE.

We have received from our Society in the Argentine a copy of the proceedings in the Senate when the Bill to prohibit the dismissal on marriage of women employed in all public services and in all private and commercial employment was adopted. The Bill is very brief, consisting of only two clauses, one laying down the principle and the other establishing the penalties for infringement. It was presented by Senator Palacios, who is a constant friend of the women's movement.

In June, Senator Palacios again took up the cudgels in their behalf in connection with a petition from many women's societies in favour of a woman suffrage Bill. He recalled that in 1932 a very large petition was presented, with the result that in September of that year the Chamber of Deputies voted for woman suffrage, sending the Bill for revision by the Senate. He referred to the very considerable number of organisations of women who were fighting for this right and also to the fact that in many of the South American Republics women have already obtained the vote.

Unfortunately we cannot find in the record that the Senator was able to ensure discussion of the Bill.

FRANCE.

As readers of the article on the recent law on civil rights for married women, by Mme Kraemer Bach, in a recent issue may remember it was indicated that the author of that Act, M. Renoult, was proposing to bring forward a second Bill to deal with the question of matrimonial régimes. This Bill is commented on at length in a recent issue of "La Française," in an article also by Mme Kraemer Bach. The first proposal is that a régime of participation in the common property of the spouses should become the legal régime, which means that in the absence of any special marriage contract the couple would be held to have tacitly accepted this régime. At present community of property is the legal régime. Each spouse would administer his or her personal property (property owned previous to marriage, obtained from legacies or gifts, or from earnings), but they would not be able to give such property away without the consent of the other spouse. If a spouse wished to dispose of this property by sale, mortgage, realisation of stocks, etc., in order to make new purchases, the other spouse would have the right to object if it was considered that such action would be to

their detriment from the point of view of their share in the common property. On dissolution of the marriage by death, divorce or separation, the common property would be divided. Either spouse would have the right to demand a régime of separate property if it was considered that his or her share in the common property was endangered. We cannot go into all the details, but we must mention one unfortunate paragraph which still recognises the husband's right to demand from the courts the withdrawal of the wife's right to administer her own private property in case of abuse, which is inconsistent with the already adopted recognition of the civil capacity of the wife.

Unfortunately the Civil Law Committee does not wish to accept the proposal for the recognition of this sharing of common property as the legal régime, and Mme Kraemer Bach calls upon women to carry on a campaign in its favour. We trust that we have made the new bill's provisions fairly clear, in spite of the great difficulty of writing in English on legal matters which have no counterpart in Anglo-Saxon law.

Another Bill of interest to women has been brought before the Senate, namely, to facilitate the recovery of French nationality by a Frenchwoman who had previously lost her nationality on marriage to a foreigner in case of divorce, widowhood, separation or other causes of actual discontinuance of the marriage in practice.

Frenchwomen are now busy considering how they can best co-operate in forming themselves into an organisation ready to contribute effectively to the nation's service in emergency. Several meetings of representatives of many women's organisations have been held, and the recently formed Union of Women decorated with the Légion d'Honneur has now taken the initiative in forming a nation-wide centre for such a service. The City Council of Paris unanimously adopted a proposal based on a suggestion of Mme Suzanne Grimberg, the leader of the Union, to permit its members to serve as inspectors in Passive Defence measures.

We are interested to learn that there exists a Women's Joint Committee for the study of North African Questions. At a recent meeting of this Committee there was a discussion as to how French women resident in North Africa could establish some closer contacts with native women. Mme Brunshvick made two proposals which were adopted, namely, that the Committee should approach M. Chautemps to ask that someone specially charged with this question should be appointed to keep in touch with the Committee; and that money should be made available for the appointment of an unofficial woman officer in each of the three Colonies of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, to keep in touch with the Government and also to establish liaison between the natives and the Committee.

INDIA.

The women in Madras put up a splendid and successful fight against a clause in a Government Bill to deal with Traffic in Women which exempted the families of the Devadasis—the caste of temple girls—from the penalties otherwise applying to third parties living on the earnings of prostitution. Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi prepared a special pamphlet which was distributed in thousands; the women had several urgent public meetings and Dr. Reddi herself had many personal interviews with the Premier, so that finally the Clause was completely withdrawn. We quote in its entirety one paragraph of the pamphlet which is of interest on the particular point:—

"Myself (Dr. Reddi) has been responsible for an Act to dispense with the Devadasi service in the temples and also I have introduced a measure to prohibit dedication which is ready for its final passage. I have appealed to this Government to complete my work and

that of the other reformers. Following the example of Madras legislation, Travancore, Cochin and Bombay have abolished Devadasi prostitution in toto and have also penalised dedication of girls to temples so as to put a stop to the immoral traffic which was going on in the name of religion and custom. Again, when an Act was under discussion in the Bombay Council years before, the Council rose to the occasion and threw out an amending clause which was brought in by a private member to exempt these communities and castes from the operation of the Bill. So the Bombay Act is free from any such defects. The problem of Devadasis was as huge in Bombay as in Madras, but now the Bombay Government have tackled it very successfully."

The All-India Women's Conference has sent us information that the Government of India has removed the ban on the employment of women in the Foreign and Colonial Offices, and we take it that this means that the Indian Government has endorsed action taken by the British Government, as the wording is a little puzzling. It is stated that the ban will cease to operate from 1939 and that this is a triumph for the efforts made to raise the status of Indian women to parity with men, and women are urged to take the opportunity of securing employment in these offices so as to show of what good service they are capable.

We have also received from Mrs. Subbarayan, the only woman member of the Central Legislative Assembly, the text of a Resolution and of a Bill she has presented to the Assembly. The Resolution asks for the appointment of a Committee to consist of a Chairman and six other (non-official) members, of whom not less than three shall be women, to examine and report on the present position of women under Hindu law, with special reference to ownership and disposal of property, guardianship of children, maintenance, joint family property, inheritance and succession, and legislative measures necessary to carry out whatever reforms are found to be necessary.

The Bill carries the title "The Hindu Polygamous Marriage Restraint Act, 1938," and is intended to prohibit any married person during the life of his wife or her husband solemnising a marriage with another woman or man, except under certain specified conditions. There is a list of grounds on which a married person may petition the Civil Court for permission to marry again, which include the usual grounds for divorce, such as adultery, desertion, cruelty, etc. There are also provisions in regard to family property in the event of re-marriage and a rather curious clause which states that "Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to restrict the right of a hindu wife to marry another husband if by law or valid custom she is entitled to do so." We do not quite understand the reason for this clause which, on the face of it, seems to confer a privilege on the grounds of sex, but no doubt there is some explanation.

Mrs. Subbarayan accompanies her Draft Bill with a very interesting Explanatory Note, showing that under modern conditions polygamy has become a much more serious social evil than under former social conditions. In the old days, under the joint family system, all the wives lived together, often as sisters. But what is now tending to happen is that men who married a very young girl who had had no opportunities for education and development and became a mother before she was even adolescent, desire to have the companionship of a woman with a modern education as they get older, and these women too often refuse to marry unless the first wife is completely deserted, and even in some cases separated from her children. Divorce is still so repugnant to Hindu sentiment that Mrs. Subbarayan thinks it would be impossible to carry through any legislation for divorce, nor does she think that it would be of great help to the most helpless and pathetic cases, who are so

much at the mercy of their husbands. That is why her Bill appears in the form we have indicated, being designed to prevent unjustifiable re-marriage, and to safeguard the position of the first wife where it may be permitted.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Lord Alness has introduced into the House of Lords "The British Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill," to amend the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Acts 1914-1933, which is now awaiting its second reading.

The explanatory memorandum states that the Bill would restore to a British woman the right she lost in 1870 of retaining her British nationality on marriage with an alien, and provides that a woman who has already lost her British nationality by reason of her marriage shall regain it, unless she makes a declaration of alienage.

The Bill further provides that an alien woman shall not, as heretofore, acquire British nationality by marriage with a British subject. It requires her, in case she desires British nationality, to satisfy the same conditions as to residence, oath of allegiance, etc., as are required before an alien man is naturalised. At the same time it safeguards the position of alien women who have already been recognised as British by or in consequence of their marriage.

The Bill removes a married woman from the category of persons under a disability, gives her the same right as a man to apply for naturalisation in her own right, and provides that, as in the case of a natural British-born man, a natural British-born woman, notwithstanding her marriage, shall not lose her nationality unless she acquires a new nationality by a voluntary act of her own.

On July 4th the General Purposes Committee of the London County Council received a deputation organised by the Women's Freedom League to ask for the complete removal of the marriage bar for all women employed by the Council. In 1935 the Council removed the marriage bar on women doctors and women teachers, and subsequently modified the position of midwives who marry. The present deputation was supported by 15 women's organisations, including the other two societies affiliated to the Alliance, the National Council for Equal Citizenship and St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, and the spokeswoman for the whole deputation was Mrs. Corbett Ashby. The Chairman of the Committee, in thanking the deputation, promised that the points raised should receive full consideration.

The Government Committee on Spinners' Pensions held its first meeting in June, when Miss Florence White gave evidence for the National Spinners' Pensions Association. Evidence opposing the proposals was given by the National Council for Equal Citizenship and by the Open Door Council, with whose evidence St. Joan's Alliance associated itself. Both societies emphasised that the urgent thing is to review the whole of the insurance scheme so as to remove anomalies and inequalities between the sexes, and to raise the present deplorably low standard of wages of women workers. The N.C.E.C. advocated provision of disablement pensions at 55 for both men and women insured workers forced out of employment by ill-health. The Open Door Council stated that their main objection was that the proposed scheme would involve recognition by the State of the lower value as workers of a special category of women and also the recognition that a woman entered or was excluded from this category on the sole ground of whether or not she had a husband. The great dangers to the status, pay and employment of women inherent in these proposals seem so obvious that we cannot but regret that a large body of women should be devoting so much energy and organising ability to

advocating it. The fact that it has succeeded in getting a special Committee appointed when much greater evils receive no attention, cannot but suggest that there is a certain alacrity in considering the giving of privileges to women which tend to rivet on the whole sex the chains of unequal status, when demands for justice and impartial rights go largely unheard.

For the first time a woman has been appointed Keeper of a Department in one of the National Museums. This is Miss Margaret Longhurst, who has been appointed Keeper of the Department of Architecture and Sculpture at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington. She is an authority on ivories, Italian sculpture and Byzantine art.

Oxford University has conferred the Honorary Degree of D.C.L. on Miss Eleanor Rathbone, who is a graduate of Somerville College and Independent Member of Parliament for the combined Universities.

In Parliament the Home Secretary stated recently that there are 102 women in the Metropolitan Police Force, and that 45 county and borough police forces have appointed policewomen, usually in small numbers.

NETHERLAND INDIES.

The League of Nations has circulated, in connection with the Status of Women, the following note from the Netherlands Government in amplification of its original report to the League:

In the Netherlands Indies an Ordinance of February 28th, 1938, lays down that women may be nominated and elected to the municipal councils. As to franchise, the Volksraad has expressed the hope that the Government of the Netherlands Indies will, as soon as possible, introduce women's franchise for elections to the various representative bodies in the Netherlands Indies, in the case both of Netherlands women and of native women and women belonging to other categories. In response to this recommendation, the Government of the Indies has under consideration the question whether it would be expedient to introduce the proposed reform. The rules relating to the eligibility of women for membership of the Koloniale Staten of Surinam and the Koloniale Raad of Curaçao have now come into force. The Governors may include women among the persons nominated by them to sit on these bodies.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN EUROPE.

There is one question, that of woman suffrage, which belongs very specially to the domain of our Alliance. We sometimes find that even feminists have not a very clear picture of the world situation in this respect, and we think that by giving a brief review of that situation in the different continents some readers may find useful information, and may also in some cases give us valuable help where the situation is not perfectly clear.

The only countries in Europe which obtained woman suffrage before the War were Finland, where women were given the vote for the Diet in 1907 while the country was still under the dominion of Russia; Bohemia, then part of Austria Hungary; Norway, with equal suffrage in 1913, and apparently Iceland in 1914. The one good thing which emerged from the War was the recognition of women's political equality in a very large proportion of European countries: Austria, Germany, Denmark (as early as 1915), Great Britain, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the new States of Czechoslovakia, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The Revolution in Russia gave women full equal rights with men, and the emergence of the Irish Free State confirmed the rights of women obtained while it was part of the United Kingdom. Three smaller entities also recognised women's political rights, namely, Dantzig, Memel and Lichtenstein. Hungary also gave women equal rights, which under a

subsequent régime were whittled down. Belgium was only ready to give political rights to women who were in some way actual victims of the War.

In recent years, Spain and Portugal have joined the list, the latter under special conditions, as also Bulgaria and Roumania, where the final form will only be certainly known when the new Electoral Law is passed.

Greece and Italy gave women only the municipal vote, subsequently withdrawn under dictatorial régimes.

The only countries where women have no suffrage rights in Europe are France, Switzerland and Yugoslavia, together with, we believe, the little States of Andorra and San Marino, and the British possessions of Malta and Cyprus.

We should very much like to have reliable and up-to-date information as to present conditions in Lithuania, Latvia and Esthonia, where the constitution was suspended for some years; Memel and Dantzig, Portugal; the Channel Islands, which have separate small Parliaments, known as States, with, we believe, varying conditions of suffrage and eligibility for women; and Monaco, where we believe that women have municipal suffrage only; and Andorra and San Marino.

We beg readers with personal knowledge of these countries to write to the Editor.

REVIEWS.

CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE WELFARE OF WOMEN IN TROPICAL AFRICA, 1935-1937. Command Paper 5784 presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Published by H.M. Stationery Office, price 9d. (Postage extra.)

This is a compilation of replies from the Governors of the different British Colonies in Africa to a dispatch addressed to them by the Colonial Secretary as a result of a question asked by Miss Eleanor Rathbone in Parliament in regard to forced marriages. It is interesting to find that the introduction is an extract from a paper, "East Africa," giving an account of the proceedings of the British Commonwealth League Conference of 1935, dealing with the Status of African Women.

The questions put by the Colonial Secretary were whether coercion was frequently employed to make native girls marry against their own wish; whether in such cases the girls have a right to appeal to the appropriate authority and, if so, whether this right is freely exercised; what action was taken on such complaints; whether the present practice is sufficient to prevent serious abuse, or whether other measures, such as compulsory registration of native marriages, would be desirable and practical.

The replies vary, some Governors denying that coercion of a serious kind is found, some admitting that cases do occur. Some say that the women know their rights and make use of them; others admit that it is difficult if not impossible for the women to appeal to the authorities. But, on the whole, they all agree in saying that the women and girls of the various tribes show a growing spirit of independence, and that public opinion is also changing, but that the change is a matter for alarm among the older members of native society. From Tanganyika comes an interesting indication of how the girls themselves deal with the matter. If they do not like their families' choice of a husband, they obey and then elope with the man of their own choice. When that happens the parents have to repay the bride price, and for this reason they are generally reluctant to make the girls marry against their will. The officer who revealed this procedure adds: That is, in fact, the real remedy and the women are well aware of it. It does not seem quite the ideal method!

All the officials are against the institution of a system of compulsory registration of native marriages unless

native opinion welcomes the idea. And they all refer to the unwisdom and danger of interfering with deep-rooted tribal customs, however deplorable. A basic change should be brought about by a natural growth and variation of ideas emanating from within the tribes, assisted by external influences and propaganda. We should all, presumably, agree that only from the inside can there come a real evolution in the status of women, but what we should like to feel assured of is that the British authorities are alive to the importance of providing the means for women and girls to "grow into" the changed social environment which comes, willy nilly, as different native communities become detribalised, and are not left as an anachronism bereft of meaning and value, while the males are being steadily subjected to European influences in a haphazard way which is unlikely to lead to their producing unaided a whole new social order for their peoples.

THE KEY TO THE HEART OF THE CHILDREN. We have been asked by the Institution of the Children's Friends to add a note to the review we published last month, to the effect that the above booklet may be obtained free of charge on application to their Secretary, Sarphatistraat 66 A, Amsterdam.

AN EQUAL MORAL STANDARD.

For the recent meeting of the Social Questions Committee of the League of Nations, the three international Organisations of our own Alliance, the International Council of Women and St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, agreed to send in a joint report on the question of Traffic in Women. We think that our readers may be interested to hear some extracts from that Report—taken from a full publication of it in "The Shield," the organ of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, because it dealt with certain principles which it was valuable should be recalled to the members of the League Committee:

"On this subject (the protection of minor girls from prostitution) we desire to make some contribution now, but that contribution is not 'information.' What we want to put before the Social Questions Committee is the general opinion of our women colleagues all over the world in regard to the whole question of prostitution and the traffic in women and children. We want to direct attention to an aspect of these social evils which has not yet received sufficient attention, nor been sufficiently emphasised, namely, the attitude of public opinion on the subject of prostitution and the need for educating the youth of both sexes to understand and accept the fact that an equal moral responsibility rests upon both men and women in regard to sex. The Traffic in Women and Children Committee of the League has issued statements which certainly show that the League does recognise that public opinion is one of the most important factors in reducing the problem of prostitution to its narrowest limits, and has also mentioned the need for educating youth to view this matter of prostitution from the highest moral standpoint. . . . Hitherto this has been taken to refer chiefly to the need for a changed public opinion on the subject of regulated prostitution, including the licensing of brothels and the registration of 'prostitutes' and their compulsory medical examination. That change of opinion was undoubtedly necessary and we are grateful to the League. . . . We feel now, however, that the education of adult public opinion and the education of youth needs to be emphasised in regard to certain other aspects if a real and serious effort is to be made to encourage the youth of the world to 'view this matter from the highest moral standpoint.' First, in regard to prostitution, the women's societies all over the world are convinced that public opinion should be directed to the fact that all public and private action taken to reduce prostitution and venereal infection,

and to suppress the third party exploitation of sexual immorality, should be based on the fundamental principle that an equal responsibility rests on both sexes for their conduct in matters of sex. Prostitution is an inevitable corollary of one standard of sex morality being upheld by public opinion in regard to women and a quite different one in regard to men. Any nation which accepts the double standard of morals in sex is encouraging prostitution. . . . We deeply regret that a comparatively small group of women throughout the world should offer themselves for hire for promiscuous sexual intercourse, but we think it necessary to point out that those who pay these women in order to use them for promiscuous sexual intercourse are involved in the same moral degradation as the women who are their temporary partners. Moreover, as the customers of women who offer themselves for prostitution are far more numerous than the women concerned, it must be recognised that the problem of prostitution can never be greatly lessened, nor can attempts for the rehabilitation of women affect much good, until there is a definite change in the attitude of the majority of men and of public opinion in general."

We think that all women will be glad to know that this point of view, the point of view of all women who care for this cause, has been so well put before the League of Nations. And also perhaps even for us it is not amiss that we should from time to time recall even such familiar principles and reinforce our will to work for them not only in our organisations but in our more immediate personal sphere.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

France By a recent decree it is stated the women police of Paris will no longer appear in uniform.

Kenya Gwladys Lady Delamere has been elected Mayor of Nairobi, being the first woman to hold that office.

Mexico The Chamber of Deputies has unanimously adopted a Bill to reform the Constitution so as to give women equal citizenship and suffrage with men. The Bill will have to be submitted to the State Legislatures before the Constitution can be amended.

Japan Mrs. Waka Yamada is the only woman member of the Central Committee for controlling prices of staple commodities.

Miss Ichikawa has been appointed by the Governor of the Tokyo Prefecture as a member of the Central Committee for the purification of elections in the City of Tokyo.

Even in the textile industry, where women form the majority—and the skilled majority—of the workers, their wages are only 60% of those of men. In other industries their wages are less than 50% of those of men.

Great Britain. The Trades Union Congress has launched a new Union of Domestic Workers to get better pay, conditions and status for household workers. The organiser, Miss Beatrice Bezzant, has herself been a domestic servant and therefore has first-hand knowledge to help her. She has already formed a number of branches in London and one in Sheffield.

U.S.A. During the absence of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Mrs. Belle Reeves became acting Governor of Washington, the first woman to perform this duty as she was the first woman to become Secretary of State in Washington. She has served in the Washington Legislature since 1923.

Canada. For the first time a woman, Miss Mazo de la Roche, has been awarded the medal of the Royal Society of Canada for outstanding work in imaginative literature.

TOO OLD TO WORK.

It certainly comes as a shock to learn from an article in "The Woman Worker," the publication of the Woman's Bureau of the United States Department of Labour, that a woman of 25 may find herself too old for a restaurant job, too old at 30 for a typist's job, and too old at 40 for almost anything except the less desirable and lowest-paid jobs, especially those known as "domestic and personal service." The United States Employment Service states that one-third of the women seeking work at public employment offices are 40 or more, and recent State censuses show that usually at least a sixth, and sometimes much larger proportions, of out of work women are 40 or older. The article points out that as a matter of fact greater maturity is a positive asset in certain types of work, and that older persons tend to show more stability and less rapid fluctuation in doing their job than younger people. The chief occupations where older women are employed are either the irregular and low-paid jobs, largely domestic, referred to above, or at the other end of the scale, occupations involving considerable responsibility, such as Hotel keepers and managers, Physicians and Surgeons, real estate agents, retail dealers, etc. In many industrial occupations less than one-fourth of the women are as much as 40 years old, and the same is true of the two great professional or semi-professional groups of teachers and trained nurses.

It is probable that this tendency is specially marked in the United States, but it is doubtless an acute problem in other countries, and it is one to which attention ought to be paid both by women's organisations and by students of social problems and Labour organisations both of the State and otherwise. In London there is a body called "The Over-Thirty Association," which has been formed to help the woman worker, and it would be interesting to know what other countries may be doing in this direction.

EGYPT.

In the station square of the city of Cairo there has stood for several years now a great statue made by the late renowned Egyptian sculptor, M. Mokhtar. It is a very significant statue, called the "Awakening of Egypt." The depth of its meaning lies in the fact that it represents an Egyptian woman, erect and forward-looking, unveiling herself with one hand and leaning on the Sphinx with the other. As though her's was a magic touch this enigma of the ages is rising on its front paws after centuries and centuries of long lethargy.

Mokhtar hit a great truth in this statue of his, and that truth is that Egypt—conceived by him as the Sphinx—cannot rise and march forward in the procession of the modern progressive nations without the aid of its women. And this truth has been verified in the last twenty years of the life of the Egyptian nation. Egypt has made more progress during those years than it has made in centuries before. And that is because the Egyptian women, freed at last from the out-worn traditions binding them, have begun to assume their proper rôle in the life of the country.

It is extremely interesting to view the condition of the Egyptian woman in the last two decades and see the miraculous transformation that has taken place in it. From having been a veiled hidden creature, regarded almost as man's possession, and having very little right to education, liberty, the direction of her life or the choice of her work, she has now gained full social emancipation and educational rights equal to those of man. The Egyptian women have among their ranks now doctors, lawyers, journalists, social workers, women of science and arts, very well qualified primary

and secondary school teachers, headmistresses, inspectors, etc. And these ranks are swelling considerably year by year.

It is true that there are still some rights that the Egyptian women have not yet attained. They have not yet earned, for example, their political rights. Nor can they boast of women in the high Government offices such as magistrates, judges, department directors, etc. But the remarkable achievements they have made in such a short time make the future seem very promising to them and constitutes an incentive to them to increase their efforts to gain their full rights in all the spheres of life. And there is one feminist organisation, at least, that will never cease fighting vigorously for women's rights as long as they are unearned. That is the Egyptian Feminist Union, with that remarkable militant feminist leader at its head, Mme. Charaoui Pacha.

Space does not allow me here to go into detail about how the structure of Egyptian feminism has grown and is constantly growing, but I would like to review rapidly two of the events of the last year that I consider of special interest and significance. First among these is the royal visit whereby Her Majesty the Queen, the Queen Mother, and the Princesses Faiza and Fowzia honoured the Feminist Union on the occasion of its annual fund-raising festivities. It was a historic day in the life of the Egyptian Union. Though founded fifteen years ago, it had never received royal patronage or been honoured by a royal visit. This year, however, by permission of our beloved monarch, His Majesty King Farouk, the invitation extended by the Feminist Union was most graciously accepted. And the two Queens and the two Princesses not only came, but they were so pleased by all that they saw and heard that they paid high tribute to the great work of Mme. Charaoui. It was a recognition and an appreciation on their part to the great service rendered by her to the country through all these years. Naturally it focussed the attention of the public for a while on the Egyptian Feminist Union, and that, I believe, is what made the royal visit of such immense significance to the cause of the feminist movement.

The other thing I want to mention is the project for a bill that has recently been presented to the Houses of Parliament by the Hon. Deputy Abd-el-Hamid Abd-el-Hakk, asking them to grant women their suffrage rights. This question had already been the subject of much controversy and many people of both sexes had expressed their view on it both for and against. It was gratifying, however, to see that the division of opinion was not unfavourable to us, and that several of the outstanding intelligent men were on our side. The outcome of the controversy was the presentation of the bill I have mentioned. The deputy who presented it belongs to the Waafd—the opposition party now—and they had unanimously approved of it in a party meeting of theirs. This makes us have high hopes that, even if the bill is rejected now, it will be presented again in the near future and will eventually be accepted.

EVA H. EL MASRI.

U.S.A.

The Federal wage-hour bill has become law. On June 14th the United States Congress outlawed the long hours in sweatshops and factories and the wages of 10, 15, and 20 cents an hour that have been the lot of thousands of women workers. The Women's Bureau hails the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 for the benefits it provides for women in interstate industries and for the principles it establishes of Federal responsibility for the welfare of the Nation's wage earners and of equal wage rates for women and men.

The Federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 establishes the principle of equal pay for women and men in section 8 (c) (3), which states: "No classification (referring to wage differentials) shall be made * * * on the basis of age or sex."

AN OVER-DUE REFORM.

In the British House of Commons on July 20th Mr. Turton asked leave to introduce the Public Places (Order and Decency) Bill. He said that the present law put the most unfortunate class of women in the country in a category apart from all other persons in a court of law. Prostitution was not a crime unless it offended against good order and decency in the public streets. When a woman was charged the prosecution first proved that she was a previously convicted prostitute; then that she was in the streets for the purposes of prostitution; and lastly that she caused annoyance to someone, who was usually not called as a witness. That conflicted with three cardinal principles of English law—that no evidence of the bad character of an accused person should be given so as to prejudice the fair trial of that person; that persons should not be tried merely for their intentions, but only for their acts; and that the best evidence should be brought before the Court.

The four Acts he wished to repeal were the Vagrancy Act, 1824, University Act, 1825, Metropolitan Police Act, 1829, and Town Police Clauses Act, 1847. Mr. Turton said that the Bill would not carry out all the recommendations of the Departmental Committee which reported in 1928. He did not think those recommendations would carry universal support to-day. In this matter he hoped there would be no party division and that an agreed measure would be passed at an early date next Session.

Leave was granted and the Bill was brought in. It will be remembered that a somewhat similar Bill was introduced in the House of Commons in 1925 by Lady Astor. As a result of that Bill and of a Bill introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Balfour of Burleigh, a Departmental Committee was set up, which reported in 1928. As Mr. Turton pointed out—since then nothing had been done, but he asked honourable Members to consider the matter during the Recess in order to arrive at an agreed Measure.

WEST INDIES COMMISSION.

The names of the members of the Royal Commission appointed by Great Britain to investigate social and economic conditions in Jamaica, Trinidad, British Guiana, British Honduras, Barbados and the Leeward and Windward Islands were recently announced, and feminists will rejoice to see the names of two women amongst the number, Dame Rachel Crowdy and Dr. Mary Blacklock.

UKRAINIAN SOCIETY.

We have been informed that the Alliance of Ukrainian Women in Poland has not been dissolved but only suspended. We hope that eventually it may be able to resume the important feminist, social and cultural work it has been doing among a large population and especially among the peasant women, who form so large an element in the Ukrainian provinces.

STOP PRESS.

At the last moment we have learnt that our Danish Society in a generous desire to meet the convenience of other countries at the expense of its own, has offered to arrange the Alliance Congress in July, from the 8th to the 13th, an offer which we have gratefully accepted.

British Nationality Bill. We regret to learn that the Nationality Bill introduced by Lord Alness in the House of Lords, as reported on page 86, met with Government opposition. Lord Alness expressed his extreme disappointment with the terms of the reply made on behalf of the Government. He concluded by saying that at this stage of the Session and in the circumstances in which he found himself, he would venture to put their Lordships to the trouble of a Division, and with the leave of the House he withdrew his motion for Second Reading of this Bill.

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

BUREAU TEMPORAIRE DE GENEVE DE L'ALLIANCE.

Comme d'habitude, l'Alliance ouvrira à Genève, pendant l'Assemblée de la Société des Nations, un Bureau Temporaire qui constituera le centre de ralliement, non seulement de tous nos membres, mais encore de nombreuses féministes de passage dans la ville de la Société des Nations.

Il n'est pas encore possible, au moment où ce numéro est sous presse, de faire connaître déjà l'adresse exacte de ce Bureau, mais nous la communiquerons naturellement à tous les membres de l'Alliance dès qu'elle sera fixée, c'est-à-dire un peu plus tard dans le courant de l'été. Nous vous prions toutefois dès maintenant de bien vouloir prendre note — et d'en informer toutes celles que cela peut intéresser — qu'il aura à Genève au mois de septembre un centre de rencontre et de renseignements où vous serez accueillies avec cordialité.

REUNIONS DU BUREAU DE L'ALLIANCE A LONDRES.

Du 6 au 9 juillet le Bureau et ensuite la Commission internationale de l'Alliance ont tenu des réunions à Londres pour s'entretenir de questions d'administration et pour arrêter les directives de leur activité. Comme plusieurs de nos membres passaient par Londres pour aller au Congrès Jubilé du Conseil International des Femmes, nous avons pu avoir une représentation assez large venant des pays suivants: Belgique, Brésil, Bulgarie, Ceylan, Tchécoslovaquie, Danemark, Egypte, Finlande, France, Grande Bretagne, Hollande, Islande, Irlande, Norvège, Pologne, Suède, Suisse et les Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

Les discussions couvrirent certains problèmes de réorganisation intérieure et des recommandations au Bureau pour les méthodes d'action et le Programme futur de l'Alliance. L'ouvrage le plus important toutefois fut de prendre les décisions quant au prochain Congrès.

Depuis longtemps l'invitation de notre auxiliaire danoise avait été acceptée mais restait à décider la date. Le début de Juin fut proposé mais comme cela coïncidait avec les événements de Genève qui attirent nombre de féministes ou s'accorda pour avancer la date au 8 juillet. On discuta les éléments d'un Programme qui sera publié dans un prochain Bulletin ainsi que l'appel aux Congressistes qui sera lancé après les vacances.

Il y eut aussi une discussion sur le programme de la Conférence de Stockholm sur "Paix et Prosperité" pour définir et limiter les objets de la Conférence. Melle Gourd présenta un long et intéressant rapport sur son travail à Genève en tant que représentante de l'Alliance, pour tout ce qui concerne la Société des Nations, le Bureau International du Travail et toutes les activités internationales. La question de l'Egalité du Statut fut aussi discutée à fond ainsi que les efforts réalisés dans chaque pays pour fournir au Comité des Experts tous renseignements possibles sur l'application des lois qui intéressent les femmes dans chaque pays.

Les Sociétés britanniques affiliées, le Conseil National pour les Droits égaux, l'Alliance Ste Jeanne et la Ligue pour la liberté des Femmes avaient invité les membres des délégations internationales à ce qui aurait pu être une soirée originale et charmante sur le toit-jardin du vaste immeuble de Berkeley Court par invitation de Miss Picton-Turbervill. Par malheur le capricieux climat Londonien nous interdit la fête, au moins sur le toit, et c'est dans le Hall de Berkeley Court que les invitées se rencontrèrent. Pour terminer la session Mrs. Corbett Ashby invita tous les membres du comité à un lunch et nous eûmes le plaisir de revoir, après bien des années Miss Laufey Valdimarsdottir (Miss Asmundssen) d'Islande, Mme Voipio de Finlande, Madame Bonnevie de Norvège, et Miss Masri d'Egypte. Nous pûmes aussi y féliciter Miss Rodrigues, qui est le Consul Général du Brésil à Liverpool.

NOUVELLES BREVES DE TOUS PAYS.

Argentine Notre Société de l'Argentine nous a envoyé le texte de la loi, ardemment soutenue par le Sénateur Palacios qui défend de révoquer, pour cause de mariage, les employées de l'administration des services publics, privés ou commerciaux. Au mois de juin le même sénateur a démontré au Sénat la nécessité d'accepter la loi sur le Suffrage déjà votée par la chambre des députés.

France On nous dit que par un récent décret, les policières de Paris doivent reprendre le costume civil.

Kenya Lady Delamere a été élue Maire de Nairobi.

Mexique Le Chambre des Députés a adopté à l'unanimité un projet de réforme de la Constitution qui assurerait aux femmes l'égalité civile et politique.

Japon Madame Waka Yamada est la seule femme membre du Comité central pour le contrôle du prix des denrées. Miss Ichikawa a été nommée, par le Gouverneur de la Préfecture de Tokyo, membre du Comité central pour la "purification" des élections. Dans l'industrie du textile où les femmes forment la majorité des ouvriers, leurs salaires n'atteignent que 60% des salaires masculins. Dans les autres industries elles gagnent à peu près moitié moins que les hommes.

Indes néerlandaises Une ordonnance du 28 Février 1938 décrète que les femmes peuvent être désignées et élues aux conseils municipaux. Le Gouvernement des Indes considère la possibilité d'accorder la franchise féminine pour l'élection aux divers corps constitués, et étudie la question dans ses rapports avec toutes les catégories de femmes.

Conférence d'Etude a Stockholm Date: 15 et 16 octobre. Pour l'information quant aux hôtels, voir section en langue anglaise.

France La question du Projet de loi sur les Régimes matrimoniaux de M. Renault est commentée longuement dans "la Française" par Madame Kraemer Bach. La première proposition est qu'un régime de participation à la gérance de la propriété commune deviendrait le régime légal. C'est à dire que chaque époux administrerait les biens qu'il ou elle a apporté à la communauté, mais ne pourrait les céder ou s'en défaire, sans l'assentiment du conjoint. Toutefois un conjoint aurait le droit de demander un régime séparé, s'il était prouvé que sa part est en danger.

La possibilité d'un contrat de mariage, tel qu'il est actuellement pratiqué subsisterait.

La Commission du Code civil ne veut pas accepter ce

projet et Mme Kraemer Bach exhorte les femmes à faire campagne en sa faveur.

Un autre projet de loi a été porté devant le Sénat pour faciliter aux Françaises mariées à un étranger la possibilité de recouvrer leur nationalité, après divorce, séparation, ou veuvage.

Certains groupes de Françaises, en particulier l'Association des Femmes décorées de la Légion d'Honneur ont pris l'initiative de former un centre pour organiser un Service national féminin, au cas où celui-ci serait immédiatement nécessaire.

Une commission de femmes composée des représentantes de plusieurs sociétés a été formée pour l'étude des questions nord-africaines.

Mme Brunschwig proposa qu'on demande à M. Chaumets de nommer une personne compétente qui serait en contact permanent avec la Commission et qu'un crédit soit ouvert pour le paiement d'une mandataire non officielle dans chaque colonie du Nord Africain qui pourrait établir une liaison entre les femmes indigènes et le Comité, sous la direction du Gouvernement.

Pour la première fois, le grand prix de Rome en peinture vient d'être attribué à une femme: Mlle Madeleine Lavature, élève de MM. Sabatté et Prinét.

Nos félicitations à la lauréate, que ses camarades logistes ont portée en triomphe, ce qui démontre péremptoirement que le féminisme a fait quelques progrès à l'Ecole des Beaux-Arts, depuis le jour où les femmes pour y pénétrer en 1896 durent subir les rebuffades les plus cruelles et les injures les plus imméritées.

M. Alex Biscarre, conseiller municipal de la Chaussée-d'Antin, a demandé au Conseil municipal que le nom de Maria Véroine soit donné à une voie parisienne.

La proposition de M. Biscarre a été transmise à l'administration et aux commissions compétentes, qui lui donneront certainement une suite favorable.

Grande Bretagne. Lord Alness a proposé à la Chambre des Lords un amendement à la Nationalité et Statut des Etrangers de 1914-1933.

En gros ce projet rendrait à une femme britannique le droit de retenir sa nationalité même si elle épouse un étranger, et de la recouvrer si elle l'a perdue, à moins qu'elle fasse une déclaration qu'elle préfère garder la nationalité de son mari. Le Projet abolit l'incapacité en matière de nationalité.

Une députation de 15 sociétés féministes s'est présentée devant le Conseil général de la ville de Londres pour demander l'abolition complète des restrictions sur l'emploi des femmes mariées dans son ressort.

On sait que depuis 1933 le Conseil général de Londres autorise les institutrices et docteurs mariées à continuer leur emploi.

Un comité gouvernemental sur la question des pensions à accorder aux femmes célibataires à une certaine limite d'âge, s'est réuni au mois de juin et a entendu le rapport de Miss Florence White.

L'Alliance déplore que tant d'énergie soit consacrée à vouloir créer encore une autre catégorie de femmes à traitement spécial au lieu d'abolir totalement les anomalies entre les sexes. Nous préférons la solution qui consisterait à payer des pensions à 55 ans pour les travailleurs incapables des deux sexes.

Inde. Grâce aux efforts de Madame Dr. M. Reddi, les Devadasis (caste des prêtresses du Temple) seront désormais incluses dans l'application de la loi sur la Prostitution qui interdit à toute femme de vivre de gains immoraux, même sous le couvert de la coutume et de la religion.

A partir de 1939 les femmes de l'Inde pourront se présenter comme fonctionnaires du Gouvernement.

Mrs. Subbarayan, qui est la seule femme membre de l'Assemblée législative Centrale a demandé la nomina-

tion d'une commission mixte, pour faire un rapport sur la Position actuelle des femmes sous le régime hindou avec étude spéciale de la coutume en ce qui concerne la propriété et sa cession, la tutelle des enfants, les responsabilités des conjoints et demande qu'un programme de réformes soit formulé.

Le projet sur le mariage polygame n'autoriserait la célébration d'un nouveau mariage, pendant la vie de la première épouse que sous certaines conditions. Les abus deviennent flagrants.

CONGRES INTERNATIONAUX.

(1) Conseil International des Femmes vient de célébrer son Jubilé de 50 ans par un Congrès à Edinbourg. L'Alliance était représentée par Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Rosa Manus et Melle Gourd. Un immense programme de réceptions a été organisé dont la plus remarquable a été la Garden Party de la Duchesse de Kent au Château d'Holyrood.

(2) Le Rassemblement Universel Pour la Paix (I.P.C.—R.U.P.) a tenu sa conférence sur le Bombardement des villes ouvertes et la Restauration de la Paix à

Paris les 23 et 24 juillet. Lord Cecil prononça le discours d'ouverture et les séances furent présidées par Mr. Pierre Cot. De notables discours furent prononcés par Joubaux (C.G.T.) de Barral anciens combattants, l'abbé Mahiu de Liège, le Rev. Atkinson (Etats-Unis), Martinez Barrios (président des Cortés) un Dr. délégué Chinois, Marcel Cachin sénateur communiste, Richard Acland, M.P., la Duchesse d'Atholl, M.P., Paul Boncour (ancien Président du Conseil), Jawaharlal Nehru et autres. Deux Commissions furent constituées: l'une pour le Ravitaillement, l'autre pour le Bombardement. En plus des demandes souvent réitérées pour la fourniture de canons anti-aériens et de crédits aux nations agressées, il fut proposé, pour la Chine:

- (1) De faire pression sur les gouvernements pour la création d'un hôpital international, et l'évacuation des victimes en terrain neutres.
- (2) D'une protestation des maires de plusieurs pays.
- (3) D'une pétition adressée aux gouvernements sur le modèle du Réferendum sur la Paix tel qu'il se fit en Angleterre en 1935.

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