

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE NEWS

THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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CONTENTS.

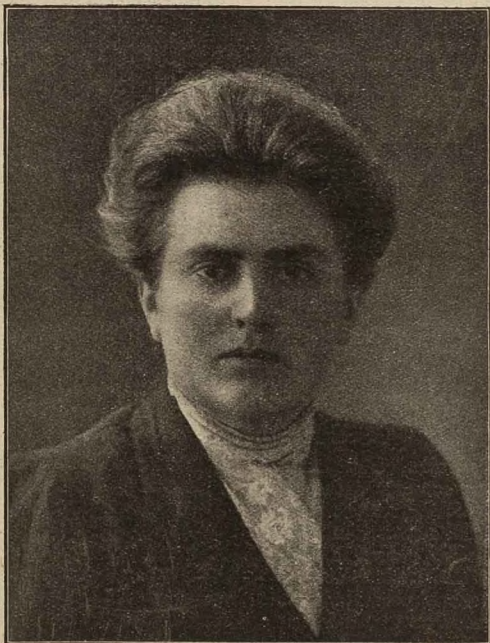
	PAGE		PAGE
The League of Nations	99	Reports from Auxiliaries—	
The Month's Miscellany	100	India	106
Newfoundland	100	Ireland	107
Meeting of the Board of the Alliance	100	Japan	107
Correspondence	101	Poland	107
Turkey	101	South Africa	108
News of Divers Women	102	United States	108
Reports from Auxiliaries—		The International Labour Office	109
Austria	103	Section Française:—	
Cuba	103	Grèce	111
Denmark	103	Roumanie	111
Germany	104	France	111
Great Britain	104	Uruguay	112
		Nouvelles Internationales	112
		Simplification de la Toilette	113

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

WE are sure that all our readers will be glad to learn that Miss Eleanor Rathbone, formerly a member of the Alliance Board, and now Chairman of its International Committee on Family Allowances, has been unanimously appointed an assessor on the above Committee in connection with its work for child protection. Miss Rathbone is the joint representative of the women's international organisations for this work, just as Mme. Avril de Ste. Croix is for questions relating to traffic in women. We print below the speech made by the rapporteur of the Committee to the Council of the League when this question was being considered:—

REPORT BY M. HYMANS.

When the agenda for the present Council meeting was under consideration at our opening session the representative of Belgium felt it right to suggest that communications received from various International Women's Organisations asking for representation on the group of assessors to attend the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Women and Protection of Children, when



Miss Eleanor Rathbone.

questions relating to the protection of children are discussed, should be placed on the agenda. In doing so he was actuated by the fact that the claim of these organisations, which represent many millions of women,

to such representation seemed deserving of the most careful consideration by the Council. It is pointed out that certain of these organisations have for many years past interested themselves in Child Welfare, and have acquired knowledge which would be of use to the Committee. In the letters received by the Secretary-General the name of Miss Rathbone has been put forward by the International Council of Women, the International Suffrage Alliance, the International Federation of University Women, the International League for Peace and Freedom, and the World's Y.W.C.A. This degree of unanimity must, I feel sure, impress us all.

I should be glad to learn what the views of my colleagues are in this matter. If they are in favour of meeting the request made, I am ready at once to submit a resolution to give effect to their wishes.

THE MONTH'S MISCELLANY.

WE take this opportunity of welcoming a new women's paper, *L'Egyptienne*, founded by Mme. Hoda Charaoui and edited by Mlle. Ceza Nabaraoui, both of whom were delegates to the Rome Congress. The first number of the paper appeared in February, and in the foreword its aims are given as:—(1) To co-ordinate the intellectual activities of Egyptian women and to put them in touch with those of other countries in the cause of justice and humanity; (2) to serve as the organ of the claims of the women of Egypt and elsewhere, and so to give force to the international women's movement. It is because it has these wide aims that the paper is published in French. The programme of the *L'Union Feministe Egyptienne* as published is in three parts: *Political*, concerned with the national independence of Egypt; *social*, dealing with questions of general social interest, such as education, prostitution, etc.; *feminist*, dealing with various aspects of equality between the sexes. During the recent elections the women also held an election, in order to show that if women voted they would exercise their rights with as much public spirit and as little partiality as men. A supplement gives the complete list of candidates of all parties who were finally elected by this unofficial body of voters. The whole paper shows what a profound interest and enthusiasm these women have in all matters affecting the affairs of their country.

As stated elsewhere, the Board of the Alliance has been considering two special pieces of propaganda, one through the study tour, about which we have already published articles, and the other by means of a film dealing in a universal way with the disabilities of unfranchised women. It behoves women to do all they can to get the attention of the public focussed on their claims, and what is more likely to do so than a really good, dramatic film? This is a means of propaganda which can reach a public very difficult to get hold of in other ways. Surely many of our readers must have ideas on this subject, will they not communicate them to us? In our English contemporary, the *Women's Leader*, there is another very illuminating reference to modern methods of publicity. It reads as follows:—“The Parliamentary Secretary of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship will be broadcasting on ‘Legislation Affecting Women and Children’ from 2LO (the London station), at 5 o'clock on Saturday, March 14.” Have other of our Auxiliaries tried this very up-to-date method of propaganda? It would be of great interest to learn whether this is so.

It so happens that among the mass of Press cuttings which the Editor receives there have been an appreciable number just lately dealing with women and trade unions. This question of the organisation of the woman worker, and the best method of so doing, is of importance to the economic life of the worker, and also to the campaign for equal pay for equal work. There are the two alternatives: to get women to form really strong unions of their own, or to get them to join existing unions—where these admit women—in large enough numbers to carry weight. At present in too many cases women are in a minority, and are quite unable to influence the policy of their union, though that policy may be directed towards securing benefits for the man worker, even at the expense of the woman. That is not a chance statement, the thing has actually occurred. If one realises how much every movement, and not least the woman's movement, is fundamentally in some way or other bound up with economic questions, it is evident how important it is that this matter be well considered. Whether one is in general sympathy with the trade union idea or not it must be granted that unorganised labour is unprotected labour; the cry that women will not organise is a favourite one with those who desire to secure protective legislation for women on

matters which the male worker insists on settling for himself. Men trade unionists have too often shown a tendency rather to discourage than to encourage the organisation of women, short-sightedly failing to see (or so it seems to us) that organised woman is an ally, unorganised she is a menace. What, then, is to be done? If their men fellow-workers will not help women to realise their need to “get together,” are the non-industrial women also to stand aside because this is not their business? If they regard the passing of factory legislation, minimum wage laws, and what not as their business, it does not seem logical to disavow an interest in this self-protection for women.

We cannot refrain from quoting the following remark made by Miss Agnes McPhail, the only woman member of the Dominion House of Commons in Canada. The question under discussion was a measure for giving women equality with men in regard to grounds for obtaining divorce. Miss McPhail said she distrusted the sincerity of men who spoke of women as “the angel of the home.” “I don't want to be the angel of any home. I want for myself what I want for every woman—an absolute equality. Then we shall take turns at being angels.” That seems a very neat way of summing up the situation. THE EDITOR.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Both Houses of the Legislature passed unanimously the Bill granting the suffrage to women of twenty-five years and over, including eligibility.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE ALLIANCE AT BALE, FEBRUARY 24-27.

THE Board met at Bale, on February 24 last, the members present being Mrs. Corbett Ashby, (President), Mlle. Gourd (Secretary), Frau Lindemann, and Frau Schreiber, members. Letters of regret for non-attendance were received from the members who could not attend, and it is hoped that for the next meeting a date may be found which will prove convenient to those members whose professional duties make it difficult for them to attend except during the time of vacations.

The Board paid a tribute of gratitude and admiration to our late Vice-President, Mme. de Witt Schlumberger, by a few minutes of silent remembrance, followed by a few words from each of the members expressing their grateful recognition of what she had been to, and what she had done for, the Alliance and the women's movement.

Frau Lindemann was nominated as First Vice-President, and Dr. Paulina Luisi as Second Vice-President, and the vacant place on the Board was by unanimous vote allotted to Mme. Malatterre Sellier, already known to our members from her presence at the Rome Congress, and who is now the Secretary of the French Auxiliary.

Official confirmation was given to the acceptance of the invitation of the French Auxiliary to hold the next Congress in Paris, in 1926. The question of date was discussed, but no final decision has been taken pending correspondence with the French Auxiliary and the other members of the Board. A first draft of the programme for the Congress was discussed, and several amendments were made, so that an amended draft may be discussed at the next meeting, after which it is hoped that the draft programme may be circulated to the Auxiliaries for their suggestions. The Board is very conscious of the growing volume and complexity of the work of the Alliance, and of the urgent need for clear understanding and mutual co-operation among all the delegations in order to make the sessions business-like and of positive value in connection with future work. Already a Committee of Arrangements has been appointed, consisting of the President, Treasurer, Secretary, and French member of the Alliance Board, together with Mme.

Brunschvicg, President of the French Auxiliary, and Miss Rosa Manus, who has kindly offered to make her experience and enthusiasm available for work in organising the Congress: she was therefore specially appointed Honorary Organising Secretary for the Congress.

Further discussion took place on two methods of propaganda discussed at previous meetings. The first of these is the production of a film suitable for suffrage propaganda in the unfranchised countries. Some information has already been secured as to the probable cost of such an undertaking, and the Board is concentrating its efforts on securing a suitable scenario, which would illustrate in a dramatic way the disabilities of the unfranchised woman, and also, possibly in contrast, the way in which women who have the vote are able to deal with such difficulties. The other matter is the study tours from unfranchised to enfranchised countries. Since the Board last met Switzerland has made an experiment in this direction, as our readers already know (see issues of December and January last). Mlle. Gourd reported that the tour had been a great success, securing for the Swiss movement much interest and valuable publicity. It was decided to bring this good example to the special notice of the other unfranchised countries, so that they may make use of the facilities already offered by many of the societies in enfranchised countries.

The Board had to make grateful acknowledgments for the two memorial donations of M. Schlumberger and Miss Merrifield, already announced to our readers. It is hoped to put these sums aside to form the nucleus of a fund to be used for some special piece of work to be done by the Alliance for the benefit of women all over the world. This question was, however, postponed for final decision at the next meeting.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mrs. Chapman Catt, and Dr. Aletta Jacobs were named as the Alliance delegates to the International Congress of the International Council of Women, to be held in Washington in May. This appointment carries out the special clause in the Constitution added at the Rome Congress.

A very interesting report of work in connection with the League of Nations was made by Mlle. Gourd. A great deal of work has been done in order to try and secure the appointment of a representative of the international women's organisations among the special body of assessors to be appointed to the Advisory Committee in connection with its new work concerning the protection of children. As we announce elsewhere this has resulted in the appointment of Miss Rathbone. In this connection it was decided to appoint a representative from the Alliance to attend the Congress of Child Welfare, to be held under the auspices of the Save the Children Fund, in the summer.

Another question dealt with is that of child marriage. Through the intervention of Mme. Wicksell this question has already been brought before the Permanent Mandates Committee, and it is now hoped to get it taken up by the Advisory Committee in connection with its child protection work. It is not only in Eastern countries that the marriage age is far too low, but also in very many of the European countries, and it is hoped that pressure may thus be brought to bear to secure the raising of the age wherever necessary.

A report was received and adopted from Mme. Avril de Ste. Croix, the representative of the international women's organisations on the Advisory Committee for work on Traffic in Women.

The agenda of the forthcoming International Labour Conference was considered, and it was decided to ask the affiliated societies again to make every effort to secure from their Governments the appointment of women delegates or technical advisers.

The Chairmen of the International Committees of the Alliance were unable to present full reports, owing to the fact that comparatively few of the affiliated countries have as yet supplied the necessary information. It is hoped that all replies will be received shortly, as if these reports are to be circulated in good time for consideration

before the next Congress their preparation cannot be longer delayed.

In addition to their very full programme of work the Board had some very agreeable engagements to fulfil. The Bale suffragists had arranged a most amusing and original entertainment, denominated “Ein bunter Abend,” and a very merry evening it was. One of their members had written a little play, or rather revue, the principal characters in which were our President and Secretary, Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Mlle. Gourd. The parts were taken by a little company of school girls, many of whom showed real dramatic talent, and the amusing dialogue kept the audience laughing throughout the evening. The epilogue consisted of a representation of Holbein's “Dance of Death,” in which Death was shown as taking toll of young and old, but steadfastly refusing to relieve poor Mlle. Gourd of her weary life-work of securing the suffrage for the women of Switzerland. On the second evening Mlle. Gourd entertained the Board to dinner in order to meet the Bale suffrage workers, and finally a most successful public meeting was held, addressed by all the members of the Board. Altogether the Board left Bale feeling that they had accomplished some useful work, and full of appreciation of the kindness and hospitality shown to them.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Madam,—I just came across a copy of your paper with tributes to the memory of the late Vice-President, Mme. Schlumberger. In her contribution Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt makes the remark that there has, until now, never been a death on the Board, although many women have served upon it.

In memory of another member of the Board I wish to recall that Miss Rodger Cunliffe, the first Treasurer of the Alliance, died after short service. Everyone who had the privilege to attend the International Suffrage Conference in Berlin, 1904, where the Alliance took definite shape, will remember the charming English girl who became Treasurer of the new organisation. I have special reason to remember Miss Cunliffe vividly, because we two shared the distinction of being the youngest members, while Susan B. Anthony was the oldest member of the convention which founded the I.W.S.A. I vaguely remember that Miss Cunliffe came, shortly after the Berlin meeting, to America, and died, I think, in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's home.

Mrs. Rachel Foster Avery, first Secretary of the new organisation, was another member of the International Board who is no more to watch the progress women are making with the help of the I.W.S.A., of which she was one of the founders.—Sincerely yours,

ROSIKA SCHWIMMER.

Chicago, U.S.A., March 3, 1925.

TURKEY.

THERE is a flourishing Women's Club in Constantinople with about three hundred members, we are told by a recent visitor there, Mme. Andrée Rieder. They have lectures, one of which was given by Mme. Rieder herself, on “What Women Are Doing in Other Countries.” Many men, as well as women, were present, and the account of what women are doing, both nationally and internationally, came as a great surprise to them, and aroused much interest in the Press. L'Union des Femmes Turcs sent in the name of Mme. Nezhie Mouhiddine as a candidate for Parliament. Halide Edib was also proposed, but withdrew her nomination, as she is very busy with other work. She is described as an incredibly youthful figure, but giving an effect of poise and judgment. She denies the report that she was Minister of Education—her work lay among the soldiers' camps. Mme. Mouhiddine is the head of a Government high school for girls. Dr. Safieh Ali, who was present at the Medical Congress in London recently, is one of the busiest women in Constantinople, not only with her private practice, but also with the Welfare Centre, which she conducts under the auspices

of the Red Crescent. A certain amount of suffrage work is being done, but in this direction progress is at present bound to be slow, and much educational work has to be done.

NEWS OF DIVERS WOMEN.

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

BELGIUM.

Catholic Deputies, supported by a number of Socialists, introduced a Bill giving women the right to vote in the provincial elections. The Liberals strongly opposed this measure, and threatened to withdraw their four members from the Cabinet if it were proceeded with. This left M. Theunis no alternative but to dissolve Parliament and appeal to the country.

At the request of the Government, the King has signed a Royal Proclamation dissolving Parliament. The elections will take place on April 5, and the new Parliament will assemble on April 28. No reference is made to the question of women's suffrage, on which the election will be fought.

BRAZIL.

Of special interest to clerical women workers in this country is the Bill that has just been adopted by the Brazilian Congress to standardise conditions of labour in the commercial life of the Republic. Men and women are to receive identical treatment. The Bill lays down that employes are to be engaged on a contract that must stipulate the nature and duration of their employment and the salary they will be paid. For every year's service completed, employes are entitled to have five days' paid holiday up to a maximum vacation of thirty days.

Each employe is to receive a dividend of at least 10 per cent. of the profits of the undertaking, and this dividend will be awarded in proportion to the wages drawn. Summary dismissal without adequate cause, unless compensation is given, by the terms of the Bill, becomes illegal. Any worker dismissed without good reason will be entitled to a minimum indemnity of three months' salary, and to one month's salary, in addition, for each year or fraction of a year of employment. Hours of work are rigidly restricted, and the maximum has been fixed at eight during each day, or forty-eight during the week.

FRANCE.

Woman's Suffrage Bill.

The French Chamber has again demonstrated the interest it takes in woman's suffrage by deciding by 410 votes to 148 to discuss a Bill on the subject presented by M. Etienne Flandin on behalf of the Commission on Universal Suffrage. Under the measure now proposed women of 25 and over would be allowed to vote and be eligible for election in the forthcoming municipal elections, and also in elections for the councils of the arrondissements and for the General Councils. The Bill has very strong support in both the Chamber and the Senate. A Bill introducing universal suffrage was passed by an overwhelming majority in the Chamber in 1919, but was rejected by the Senate, though the latter at the same time declared itself in favour of a women's vote in municipal elections.

GREAT BRITAIN.

London County Council Elections.

We are glad to see that twenty-one women have been elected to the London County Council. The women's societies took the opportunity of this election for a campaign against the policy of dismissing married women employed under the Council.

Miss Susan Lawrence has been appointed Deputy Chairman of the L.C.C., and Lady St. Helier one of the ten aldermen who were elected at the first meeting of the newly elected Council.

A Woman President.

Mrs. George Cadbury was welcomed as the new President of the National Council of Evangelical Free Churches at its opening session in Leeds on March 11. Mrs. Cadbury is the first woman to hold this office. Her presidential address dealt with Friendship: Its Implications and Responsibilities.

IRAQ.

The influence during the past few years of Miss Gertrude Bell, political officer at Bagdad, is making itself felt in the surrounding country. Not only has a Club for Moslem and other women been opened at Bagdad since December, but Persian women, under Madame Dolatabadi, have established a "Persian Feminist Review," and will otherwise do their utmost to abolish sweating among women and children carpet weavers. These carpets are also made in Iraq, and it is possible for sailors visiting ports on the Persian Gulf to pick them up cheaply and sell them on their return to London.

JAPAN.

Three Bills relating to women have been introduced in the Diet—one for women's suffrage, one to repeal the law prohibiting women from joining political associations, and one granting women equal opportunities with men in higher education.

U.S.A.

The Reformation of an Anti-Suffragist.

Mrs. Chapman Catt, we learn, was recently given the opportunity of addressing the Legislature of the State of North Carolina in joint session on the unanimous resolution of the House and Senate. The most interesting feature is that the resolution was moved by one of the chief opponents of Women's Suffrage in that State. When the Women's Suffrage Amendment was still awaiting ratification this opponent got its rejection through the North Carolina Legislature and worked hard to prevent its ratification in Tennessee. Now, when Mrs. Catt goes to North Carolina he proposes she should address the Legislature, and she was led into the House by an escort consisting of himself, one of his colleagues in the rejection campaign, and the one woman legislator. Such a public recognition of the value of the work he had opposed is a generous and encouraging action, and we can guess how much Mrs. Catt must have appreciated it.

Woman Railroad Director.

A woman has received permission from the American Interstate Commerce Commission to act as a director on the board of twenty-four railroads. She is Helen Lucile Welsh, assistant secretary of the El Paso and Southwestern. The commission held it would not be against the public interest.

Women Officers on Liner.

Mrs. Bernice P. Schmitt and Miss Rebecca Adelman have been appointed warrant officer and new assistant purser, respectively, on the President Arthur, of the American-Palestine Line—the first women to be appointed officers on an ocean-going vessel.

Women Farmers.

There are 17,500 women farmers in Kentucky, of whom 11,640 operate farms. They have under cultivation 871,000 acres, and the value of their farms is estimated at \$47,000,000. The average value of land and buildings of women's farms is somewhat in excess of \$4,100.

An Indian Policewoman.

Feminism has made its appearance among the Blackfoot Indians. Mrs. Wades-in-the-Water, a full-blooded Indian, is a policewoman of the Glacier National Park Reservation, the first of her race to achieve such distinction. Her husband is chief of the Indian police. Although she has held the place for two years and has a reputation for attention to duty, she has not yet found it necessary to arrest a single person. In the task of maintaining order she finds moral suasion the most effective method, as do women police elsewhere.

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

AUSTRIA.

A Woman's Bill in Parliament.

IN the number of October of last year I referred to a Bill brought in by Frau Olga Rudel-Zeynek in the Austrian Parliament. This Bill aimed at securing the payment of legally fixed maintenance. All who work socially in the interest of unmarried mothers and their children, of old people in distress, know that the cause of this evil is chiefly the fact that those who ought to pay for these women, children and old parents, are unwilling to pay. They pretend to be unemployed or to earn too little, or they are dependent on their family. Therefore it was impossible hitherto to secure maintenance even when legally fixed.

The Bill of Olga Rudel-Zeynek proposed to attack this evil from three sides. First, to punish with imprisonment all who neglect their duty of paying. Secondly, to make other persons responsible for the payment of maintenance if they help those originally responsible to lead a life without work so as to avoid payment. Thirdly, to reckon as gainful occupation work which hitherto has been without payment in a family industry or a family farm. We know that such cases are frequent among peasants; the son who is the father of an illegitimate child refuses the payment for this child, under the plea that he receives no wages. In reality, however, he is maintained by his family.

We can report with great satisfaction that the Bill of Olga Rudel-Zeynek was carried unanimously, and was considered so important that it was resolved to make the new law effective immediately. So since the first of March we have in Austria this law, and all who neglect their duty to pay maintenance can be punished with imprisonment from one week to six months.

This new law is a contribution to the new character of politics that women intend to introduce into public life. In this sense the new law was received with great approbation by the public.

Lecture of a Chinese Woman in Vienna.

The Austrian Council of Women and the Association for Women's Political Interests invited Mrs. Daisy Leigh Wang, the wife of a Chinese Legation Secretary, to speak on the Chinese women's movement. This lecture met with such great interest that a long time before the opening of the meeting the hall was overcrowded. A great many people who are not otherwise interested in women's questions came to see and to hear a native Chinese. Mrs. Wang reported in a very interesting way on the quick progress of Chinese women in the last decade. We were glad to hear that Chinese women are especially interested in an international co-operation of women, and we hope, as they do, that in this way women may contribute to a higher standard of welfare among the nations.

CUBA.

Second National Congress of Women.

This Congress is to take place early in April, and we take from the paper *El Sufragista* the following head of the programme to be discussed at the Congress:—Woman suffrage; Labour questions, equal pay, etc.; Social questions, including traffic in women, treatment of venereal disease, protection of youth, the drink question, etc.; Legal questions, such as nationality of the married woman, the case of illegitimate children, women and the civil code, etc.; Health questions; Education questions. Such a programme as this makes one realise how very much *one* the woman's movement really is. Would not nearly all of these matters appear on the programme of a woman's congress in any country? Let us hope that the Cuban women will soon be given the vote, one of the first essentials for dealing with these complicated problems.

DENMARK.

New Marriage Law carried unanimously in Parliament.

DANISH women can at last see the end of their long campaign to obtain more equitable rights in marriage.

In 1922 the law about parental rights over children was passed, giving equal rights to father and mother over their children.

Now the law regarding the economic rights in marriage has been carried, and although it does not give everything women have asked for, we have the satisfaction that what was a few years ago attacked passionately by certain men as tending to make an end of men's desire to marry, was finally passed unanimously and without much ado in Parliament.

Behind this result lies, however, many years' work. Already in 1908 Dansk Kvindesamfund petitioned our Government and handed in a Draft-Bill concerning this question, and how many meetings and petitions to stir up public opinion, Government and Parliament, have not followed since? The ideas set forth by Dansk Kvindesamfund in 1908 have survived through the many years during which a Royal Commission has worked. Later on Bills were proposed by succeeding Ministers of Justice of three different political parties, but what was ultimately carried follows in its main lines the original proposals of Dansk Kvindesamfund.

When the Bill was put up the last time I gave a *résumé* in *Jus* for December, 1924, of the most important paragraphs. However, it will perhaps be of interest to have them repeated now that they have become law.

The property of each party at the moment of contracting marriage, as well as what may later on be acquired through work, inheritance, or gift, shall during marriage continue to be under control of the party in question without a marriage contract being necessary to that effect.

Real property, which is the home of the family, or in which the trade of one or both parties is carried on, cannot be mortgaged, let, leased out, or sold without the consent of both parties.

Husband and wife shall contribute to the maintenance of the family, each according to their means, the domestic work of the wife being recognised as an adequate contribution on her part, if she has no other means, and they are bound to give each other details about their respective economic status.

Each party can request an inventory to be made up, stating the belongings of either party, a fact which may be of importance for a wife in order to protect the furniture, etc., which she has brought in marriage, against the creditors of her husband.

On March 24 Dansk Kvindesamfund is offering a festival to those men and women who have contributed to carrying the new Marriage Laws. Amongst those invited are the three Ministers of Justice, who have in turn presented the Bills: Zahle, Rylter, and Steincke, the members of the Royal Commission which prepared the Bill, of which the President, Professor Juris Viggo Bentzon and the woman member, Dr. Estrid Hein, will certainly receive their due part of thanks, and finally the women who have within Dansk Kvindesamfund worked hard for the result, amongst whom Mrs. Stampe-Fedderson and Mrs. Julie Arenholt will be known abroad.

Dr. Uvilda Harbou-Hoff Elected as the First Woman Alderman in Copenhagen.

Dr. Harbou-Hoff, who is a practising physician, had—before she recently was elected Alderman—for a number of years been elected second Vice-President of the Municipal Council of Copenhagen by her party (the Radicals).

As Alderman (Vice-Burgomaster) she takes her part, together with the burgomaster, in questions of the

administration of the sanitary system of Copenhagen, supervision of construction of buildings, public roads, etc. In the absence of the burgomaster in her department she acts in his place. Dr. Harbou-Hoff is an able woman, much interested in sanitary questions, and trained through many years' work in the Municipal Council in the affairs of the Municipality.

A Royal Committee for preventive measures against degenerate persons, from an eugenic standpoint, has recently been appointed on the suggestion of our Minister of Justice, Steineke. The Committee is a mixed one of jurists and medical men. The renowned professor of the Copenhagen University, W. Johannsen (known through his works on heredity) is also one of the members, and the only woman of the Committee is Dr. Estrid Hein, who sat on the Committee preparing the marriage laws, and who is the Danish Government's representative on the Geneva Advisory Committee Against Traffic in Women and for Protection of Children.

The new Committee will prepare legislative measures against degenerate persons.

LOUISE NEERGAARD,
Secretary of Dansk Kvindesamfund,
Copenhagen, March, 1925.

GERMANY.

New Books on Prominent German Women.

I BEG to draw the attention of our international friends and co-workers, this time, to two remarkable biographical works which have recently been published. Besides their literary value these books make important and interesting contributions to the earlier and the latest history of the woman's movement in Germany, as well as to cultural evolution in general.

This is particularly the case with the "Recollections of a Woman of Eighty," by Dr. Franziska Tiburtius.* The author is the senior and was the first woman doctor in Germany; she is, indeed, looked upon as the pioneer who opened and smoothed the way not only for herself, but for all her many successors in the profession (over two thousand at present), by the irresistible propaganda of her own exemplary work and life. Of this remarkable life her book unrolls most lively, most characteristic pictures: of the child, born 1843, and brought up in a happy, old-fashioned rural family life, in the fresh breezy air of the romantic island of Rügen, the "sleeping little country," as she calls it; of the young girl assiduously preparing, in the ancient fortress of Stralsund, for the only profession then open for middle-class women—that of a teacher; of her first "independent" years as a very young governess in a German country house, afterwards in an English family and an English boarding-school; of the first times of women's university life and studies in Zürich, when the weighty determination had been taken. This chapter, including one of the most significant periods of the woman's movement, from 1871 to 1876; the streaming of the Russian Nihilist women students to the Swiss universities, will, to be sure, meet with a vivid interest also among our friends in other countries; and, finally, of all the—to-day incredible—checks and difficulties, the efforts and struggles, and small successes, step by step, until at last she could settle down in Berlin. Though not allowed to put her university degree before her name, and compelled to practise only as a quack, she became, as time went on, a medical doctor of growing reputation and popularity among the wealthy people as well as with the working classes, for whose benefit she had established, together with her comrade from Zürich, Dr. Emily Lehman, a policlinic for women. In 1908 Dr. Tiburtius retired from practice, but the warm interest and love for the profession to which she has done so much honour remains with her to this day. It is a blessed life of untiring toil and devotion which these recollections

* "Erinnerungen einer Achtzigjährigen," von Dr. Med. Franziska Tiburtius. Berlin, 1923; C. A. Schwetschke und Sohn (144 S.). Qr. 8°.

reveal, not with the author's intent, whose modesty and typical North German reserve would not allow this, but by the simple facts they have to tell.

Not an autobiography like the foregoing, but written and published after her death by her friends, "Frieda Duensing, a Book of Remembrance,"† can be described as a standard work of modern literature on women's activities and possibilities. In Frieda Duensing (who died 1921 in her fifty-seventh year) a woman of rarest qualities, a great ingenious personality, passed away. Her friends point out that it would be impossible to do justice to all her manifold sides and gifts, and to the riches of her nature, in this book; this is, of course, so much more the case with a short review, so I will confine myself to stating a few facts.

As a born pedagogue and educator she also began her life's work as a primary school teacher, but becoming acquainted in this position with the material and moral misery of children and mothers, she resolved to devote all her powers to the betterment of their social and legal conditions. "Whoever has seen the terrible afflictions to which women and children are innocently exposed never again can laugh heartily," she once complained to her friend, Ricarda Huch. She went as a law student to Zürich, where afterwards she wrote her fundamental work on "The Violation of the Duties to Minors." Returning to Germany, 1904, as "Dr. Jur.," she began her great work of practical care for youth with the "Centre for Children's Welfare" in Berlin, from which her ideas spread out to the whole country, and whose incomparable leader she was for seven years. Overworked, she gave up her office to her helpers, 1911, and confined herself to the more theoretical side of her task as teacher in the social school for women, and by lecturing in Germany and abroad. After a long interruption by serious illness, 1918, she took up another great work as leader of the newly founded social school for women in Munich, but soon broke down again, this time not to recover. Her death meant an irreparable loss, not only for her many friends and co-workers, but for her country, which owes deep gratitude to this great woman. It was her work and brave initiative that gave the foundation of the comprehensive reform of the system of care for the young as it is laid down in our new law for children's welfare.

No less strongly than the social cord a deep and ardent love for nature and art vibrated in Frieda Duensing's soul, finding its expression in her wonderful letters and diaries, which fill the larger part of this fine book. They bring back to the reader those old classical times when people revelled in this exquisite art which we have lost in the hard struggle for existence, but which Frieda Duensing also possessed and practised in perfection.

MARIE STRITT.

Dresden, March 15.

GREAT BRITAIN.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

The Annual Council Meeting.

THE annual Council meeting of the N.U.S.E.C. was held on March 11-14. The resolutions which were considered at the meetings covered a wide range, and dealt with every aspect of the women's movement. A resolution on Equal Franchise, moved by Dame Millicent Fawcett, and others on legislation before Parliament were passed almost unanimously.

From the point of view of the development for the Union's future policy one of the most important resolutions was perhaps that dealing with Family Allowances, proposed by the Executive Committee. The Council was not unanimous, but by a majority of 111 to 42 it was decided that work for the general principle of Family Allowance should be included in the programme of the Union, for the following reasons:—That the present system leaves most married women in complete

† "Frieda Duensing: Ein Buch der Erinnerung." Berlin, 1923; F. A. Herbig (381 S.). Qr. 8°.

dependence on the husband, that the father's wages bears no relationship to the needs of the family, and finally, that the dependence of the family on the father's wage is a grave obstacle to the achievement of equal pay for equal work. The N.U.S.E.C. has thus opened a vast new field of work for itself. It was this very fact that accounted for much, both of the opposition to and the support for the motion. Some were of the opinion that to take up such a wide and controversial a question would weaken the work of the Union in respect to its main objects, the majority, however, felt the programme needed widening if the Union was to remain the force it has hitherto been, and that without Family Allowances equality between the sexes in industrial life, and in family relationship, is an impossibility.

The interests of the Council were not limited to internal questions of politics or economics; the international situation gave rise to one of the most interesting debates. The N.U.S.E.C. has made support of the League of Nations and all that it stands for a cardinal point in its creed, since the denial that "might is right" is the basis both of the women's movement and the League. Mr. Chamberlain's speech at Geneva was made whilst the Council was meeting, and gave rise in many quarters to very bitter disappointment. The following resolutions were passed:—

DISARMAMENT AND THE PROTOCOL.

"That this Council welcomes the attempt to make European disarmament possible by developing the covenant of the League of Nations into an effective guarantee of peace and security on the lines of the Geneva Protocol, and strictly deprecates the formation of exclusive agreements outside the League, which must certainly fail to bring about general disarmament, and will revive the danger of competing groups of nations.

"The N.U.S.E.C., in annual Council assembled, urges Mr. Chamberlain to sign the Compulsory Jurisdiction Clause of the Permanent Court on International Justice."

WOMEN AND THE COMMISSION ON SLAVERY.

"That this Council of the N.U.S.E.C. urges the Council of the League of Nations to place a woman member on the Commission on Slavery; to add another woman member to the Commission on Mandates; and to add to the number of assessors on the new Commission for the Protection of Childhood a representative of the great international organisations of women."

Another aspect of internationalism was discussed in connection with the Washington conventions of the International Labour Office, which were criticised in connection with a resolution moved by the Executive Committee, to the effect that legislation for the protection of workers should be based upon occupation and not upon sex. This proved one of the most controversial of all the resolutions. Some members, though a small minority, felt that special legislation for the protection of employed women might in certain circumstances be desirable, but the majority were strongly of opinion that women must demand the same conditions in industry as men, and that special protection is in the long run a subtle form of penalisation.

Imperial questions were touched upon in a resolution, moved by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, urging the appointment of women advisers to the representatives at the Imperial Conference, and that women's organisations in the Dominions be asked to approach their Government with a similar demand. The British Government was also urged, in another resolution, to introduce legislation, in consultation with the Dominions, respecting the nationality of married women.

Though the Council involved three days' strenuous work, it had its social side as well. On the first evening a reception was held, with two of the new Dames as the chief guests. That Dame Millicent Fawcett was given a magnificent reception goes without saying. This was the first opportunity most of the delegates had had of meeting her since this new honour had been conferred on her, and the enthusiasm was in proportion to their gratitude for her work and their pride in their connection with her. The reception given to

Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake was also of the warmest, and in returning thanks she gave a most inspiring account of women's progress in the medical profession.

On March 13 the arduous of the day were relieved by a luncheon, at which some four hundred persons were present. The large number was doubtless partly due to the fact that three of the women M.P.'s. were speaking. They all three kindly gave the audience exactly what it hoped to have—namely, speeches absolutely characteristic of the speakers. The Duchess of Atholl, clear, incisive and restrained, suggesting all those qualities which make her so valuable a member of the Ministry; Lady Astor, as ever, sparkling and irrepressible, but touching, every now and then, on a deeper emotional note which impresses one with her sincerity; and Miss Wilkinson, with her passionate absorption in the interests of the working woman. The climax of the luncheon was unpremeditated, for a telegram was received from Geneva stating that Miss Rathbone had been appointed as one of the assessors to the Advisory Committee of the League of Nations on the Traffic in Women and Protection of Children, the functions of which have recently been extended to deal with all international questions affecting the protection of children. Few people could be better qualified for the position than Miss Rathbone. She has a long record of public work as member of the Liverpool City Council, as Justice of the Peace, as president of the N.U.S.E.C., and vice-chairman of the Family Endowment Council, she has been in touch with many questions affecting women and children, and has dealt specifically with children and young persons as chairman of the Liverpool Juvenile Advisory Committee.

Meanwhile, affairs have been moving in the House of Commons. The Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill has reached its report stage, and the Guardianship of Infants Bill has passed its second reading. The Bill to enable children to be legitimised by the subsequent marriage of their parents has passed its second reading in the House of Lords.

W. A. E.

Summer School for Magistrates and Citizens.

A summer school will be held by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, at St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford, from Tuesday, August 25, to Tuesday, September 8, 1925. The subjects to be dealt with will fall into three groups:—

1. *The Status of Women*, including:—
 - (a) Rights of citizenship.
 - (b) Status of mothers with regard to: (1) Legitimate children, (2) illegitimate children.
 - (c) Maintenance of wives and children.
 - (d) Equal pay and equal opportunities in industry and the professions.
 - (e) Family allowances.
 - (f) Birth control.
2. *The Administration of Justice as it Specially Affects Magistrates*, including:—
 - (a) Laws affecting the social evil.
 - (b) Psychiatry.
 - (c) Probation.
 - (d) Penal reform.
3. *Problems of Urgent Importance of Special Interest to Social Workers*, including:—
 - (a) Housing.
 - (b) Social insurance.
 - (c) Smoke abatement.
 - (d) Money lending.
4. *Political Party Ideals*, including:—

The ideals and programmes of the three political parties.

St. Hilda's Hall is beautifully situated on the river. Afternoons will be free for boating, tennis and other recreations. Accommodation will be available at St. Hilda's Hall from £3 3s., and a list of lodgings and hotels at various prices will be sent on application.

Students from overseas are warmly welcomed, and a curriculum suitable for their special needs will be arranged in each case.

School fees will be £1 5s. for members and £1 10s. for non-members for the fortnight, and 15s. for members and £1 for non-members for one week.

Names of intending students should be sent as early as possible to:—The Secretary, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, 15, Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

THE thirteenth annual meeting of St. Joan's Alliance was held at Women's Service House, Marsham Street, on Saturday, March 14, Councillor Mrs. V. N. Crawford presiding.

Miss F. de G. Merrifield, in moving the adoption of the report, spoke of the diversity of the activities of the Alliance. The work was not confined, she was glad to see, either to purely feminist or purely Catholic subjects, but also such subjects as the humane treatment of worn-out horses, and the great subject of peace. She was pleased to see by the report how the international side of the Alliance was growing. Miss Barclay Carter, in seconding, spoke of the pleasure given to foreign visitors by the Alliance, and said that perhaps it was more useful to meet important individuals from abroad than to hold conferences; such meetings would be remembered when resolutions had been filed and forgotten.

Miss Mackintosh, in moving the adoption of the financial statement, said St. Joan's Alliance was a splendid school of citizenship, and drew the attention of the members to the amount of work that had been accomplished on so little money. Miss Monica O'Connor, in seconding, made a spirited appeal to members to make the *Catholic Citizen* self-supporting instead of having to depend on garden parties and jumble sales.

Mrs. Crawford said that it was a pleasure to look back upon the first completed year under the new name and find that the change had not affected the Society adversely, but that we had continued to make good progress. The Alliance was primarily a Suffrage Society, and even from that point of view there remained much to be done. Over and above the women under 30, the number of women over 30 who were still disfranchised was given as two millions.

Miss Mary Wall, in a witty speech, appealed for funds, and met with a generous response.

Resolutions.

1. *Equal Franchise.*—St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance deeply deplores the action of the Government in postponing the granting of equal franchise to men and women, and calls upon the Government to introduce and pass through all its stages a Bill giving votes to women on the same terms as men.

2. *Solicitation Laws.*—St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls upon the Government to carry out both in letter and in spirit the ideal of an equal moral standard in the laws of this country, and therefore demands the immediate repeal of the present solicitation laws which are directed solely against women.

3. *State Regulation of Vices.*—St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls upon the Government to abolish the system of regulated prostitution or tolerated brothels throughout the Crown Colonies of Hong Kong and the Straits Settlements, and warns the Government that British women will not tolerate, on any pretext whatever, any attempt to re-introduce the periodic compulsory medical examination of women.

4. *Equal Pay.*—St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls upon the Government to establish throughout the Civil Service a system of equal pay and opportunities for men and women.

5. *Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919.*—St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls upon the Government to amend this act so that in practice a person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering or assuming any civil profession or vocation, or from admission to any incorporated society (whether incorporated by Royal Charter or otherwise), and a person shall not be exempted by sex from the liability to serve as a juror.

6. *Equal Guardianship.*—St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance regrets that the Guardianship of Infants Bill, 1925, does not specifically give mothers equal guardianship with fathers over their children, and calls upon the Government so to amend the Bill as to confer this equality.

7. *Widows' Pensions.*—St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls upon the Government to introduce an adequate system of pensions for widows with dependent children.

8. *Separation and Maintenance.*—St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance welcomes the introduction of the Summary Jurisdiction

(Separation and Maintenance) Bill, and urges the Government to include a clause making the adultery of either husband or wife a ground for a separation order.

9. *Legitimacy.*—St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance welcomes the introduction of the Legitimacy Bill, and urges the Government to give facilities for its early passage into law.

10. *Women Police.*—St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls upon the Home Secretary to urge all police authorities to carry out as early as possible the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on the employment of women police.

11. *Birth Control.*—St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance welcomes the statement of the Minister of Health that he will not authorise welfare centres receiving Government grants to give information on artificial birth control to women attending these centres, and expresses its determination to oppose the expenditure of any public money for such purposes.

INDIA.

Behar's Advance in Feminism.

WE heartily congratulate Miss S. B. Das, a member of the Central Committee of the Women's Indian Association, on her appointment as the first woman honorary magistrate in Behar Province. She also happens to be the first Bengali woman to receive this recognition of capability for sound judgment. Her younger sister, Miss S. B. Hazra, has the unique honour of being the only lady in India who has so far been elected as a member of the Senate of a University. She is a Senator of the Patna University, and she practises in the High Court as a Vakil. She has also been elected a member of the Syndicate of the University (Patna), but this honour has first been obtained by Mrs. Radhabai, B.A., Zemindarni of Coomaramangalam, in her election six months ago for the Syndicate of the University of Madras. The success of these ladies in open election in competition with men is quite remarkable, and promises a happy future for Indian women when more and more of them go forward, bravely risking defeat as well as hoping for success, in willingness to share in the public life of their city or locality. The good news also comes that a resolution to give women the vote in Behar has been sent forward to the Behar Legislative Council and stands a good chance of being passed. We wish its supporters and the Behar women every success!

Our Woman Chancellor.

The Muslim University of Aligarh enjoys the unique privilege of having a woman as its Chancellor. Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal holds that position, and she presided at the Third Convocation of the University which was held on January 27. Her Highness keeps strict purdah, yet she is one of the most enlightened and progressive women in India, and takes a specially keen interest in fostering education in all its stages.

It is noteworthy that a Muslim lady, Furuq Sultan Muryidzada has stood first in the list in the subject of Persian in the M.A. degree examination of the Calcutta University. She is the daughter of His Eminence Aga Muayedul Islam, Editor of the well-known weekly journal *Hablu Matten*. Though brought up in purdah, she has had a brilliant university career. She is accomplished both in Oriental and Western languages, knowing Arabic, Persian, Urdu, French, and English. Her eldest sister, Begum Sultan, stood first in the preliminary law examination, and her younger sister, Khawer Sultan, secured first-class honours in history in the B.A. examination. The controversy in Madras about the inclusion of Muhammadan girls in the city's scheme for compulsory primary education has ended in a resolution that the scheme be started without their inclusion, and that it be debated again in two years' time. We hope that long before then public opinion will have insisted on the same rights of education for the little Mussalman girls as are given to other girls.

Reforms Enquiry Committee.

The report presented to the British Parliament contains the following proposal:—That the bar against the election or nomination of women as members of

JAPAN.

A JOINT COMMITTEE of representatives from women's organisations for suffrage work has been formed, which among its one hundred and thirty members includes women of every class, creed and business. It has taken the title of the "Association for the Promotion of Woman Suffrage." Its offices are at 2, Hotohiracho, Shibaku, Tokyo, and the officers are: Mrs. O. Kubushiro, Chairman; Mrs. M. Nakazawa, Treasurer; and Miss Ichikawa, Secretary. Mrs. Kubushiro has written a pamphlet entitled "From the Social Purity Movement to Suffrage," and has done a great deal of organising work, and the new body seems to have got a good start. Three committees have been formed: (1) Work for Congress and Law, (2) Educational and Public Work, (3) Financial Department. The secretaries of these three sub-committees, together with the three officers, form the executive. Their immediate programme consists of the following demands to be laid before Congress: (1) Equal Parliamentary Suffrage, (2) Equal Municipal Suffrage, (3) Freedom to Form Political Clubs and Associations.

POLAND.

Polish Women and the Drink Question.

The anti-alcoholic movement in Poland is very strongly supported by women. In fact, the Anti-Alcoholic Bill passed by the Parliament was introduced by a woman, Madame Moczydlowska. This Bill, in the first place, forbids the sale of alcoholic drinks to any person under twenty-one years of age. No alcoholic drinks may be sold at railway stations, factories, schools, during village fairs and festivals, during the time of elections to the Parliament or municipal boards; also, it is forbidden to sell alcoholic drinks from 3 p.m. on Saturday till 10 a.m. on Monday. This same rule applies to any other public holiday. There must be a special licence to sell any drink containing more than 2½ per cent. of alcohol, and no drink may be sold containing more than 45 per cent. of alcohol.

No public-house may be nearer than a distance of 100 metres from a church or school in villages, and 300 metres in towns.

Further, local option has been introduced, and several villages have voted for total prohibition. Here, too, it is the women who have taken the lead, and as all women over 21 years of age have the right to vote both for Parliament and Municipal institutions, the women in every case have been able to carry through reform legislation both in temperance questions and in matters of the protection of work. A splendid example was given by the women members of Parliament on the occasion of the anti-alcoholic legislation. All of them combined quite irrespective of political divergences, and, thanks to their solidarity, the Bill was passed. Mme. Moraczewska, a very able speaker, made such a splendid speech that she quite carried the House away. Moreover, she frankly informed her club that if the members did not support her she would throw up her mandate and appeal to the working classes, more especially to the working women, and this decided action of hers proved efficacious. Outside Parliament Mme. Budzinska-Tylicka is most active, and during the Easter holidays an anti-alcoholic campaign has been arranged all over the country, during which she will lecture on the evil effects of the drink habit. One of the most satisfactory signs is the energetic action of the peasant women, who certainly are the greatest sufferers from the evils of drunkenness. Fortunately, the Polish peasant is accustomed to take the advice of his "baba," as he calls his wife. Therefore, we may truly say that the fight against alcoholism rests principally in the hands of the women in Poland. M. KALECKA.

either Chamber of the Indian Legislature or of the provincial councils should be removable by the passing of resolutions after due notice in the Chambers and the Councils. Similarly, the bar against the registration of women as electors in certain constituencies under the direct administration of the Central Government should be removable by the passing of a resolution after due notice in the Assembly.

The Commonwealth of India Bill and Women.

The stage at which the political destinies of India are now is very important and far-reaching as regards women, both directly and indirectly. The National Convention has spent much time, research, investigation, and discussion in drawing up a draft for a Constitution.

The disadvantages which sex used formerly to place on women are sought to be removed entirely in the new Constitution for India by the clause which comes as the final section of the "Fundamental Rights," namely: "There shall be no sex-disqualification with regard to the franchises, membership of the Governments, of the Legislatures, and of the local bodies, and all offices, functions, and powers shall be open equally to both sexes."

From these quotations it will be seen that the interests of women in the future in India have been well safeguarded, as indeed might be expected from a convention, which includes amongst its members such ardent feminists as Dr. Besant, Mrs. Jinarajadasa, Mrs. Cousins, Mr. Kanji Dwarkadas, Mr. Polak, Mr. Kamat, and Mr. Ranganatha Mudalier, M.L.C. Every effort will be made to retain these opportunities for women and this statesmanlike recognition of their value and dignity as equal citizens of their country with men.

IRELAND.

IRISH people are said never to be happy without a grievance. Feminists in Northern Ireland, to use the correct designation for the six counties separated from Southern Ireland by the Government of Ireland Act, ought to be in good spirits. They are conscious that a real grievance exists. Northern Ireland has thirteen members in the Imperial Parliament; thus the recent general election in Great Britain involved elections in Northern Ireland, hence a certain amount of election work had to be done. This was followed by municipal elections, with the inevitable questionnaire stressing the need for reorganisation of the Cleansing Department, for provision of school meals, and extension of child welfare work. Now follows a rushed election, the first announcement of which was made on March 10, the election being held on April 3. The election programme was rapidly brought up to date, the points under Education Reform and Illegitimacy Law Reform being omitted, having been obtained. Equal Citizenship was placed in the forefront as a matter of urgency, and the need for a Health Department and a special department dealing with matters relating to children emphasised.

The need for Equal Franchise was again made clear by the recent attempt to exclude women from a Civil Service examination in the Irish Free State. The attempt was clearly a contravention of the Equal Citizenship Clause in the Constitution, and was defeated. Equal Franchise will therefore be pressed as a matter of urgency. Equal Citizenship will follow as a matter of expediency, for any Government, in these uncertain days, when even the most firmly seated politician cannot count on absence of opposition.

I hope soon to report on the prospects of women candidates, but the outlook in this direction is not hopeful.

There is a general feeling, especially among the rural voters, that "these uppity weemen" are demanding too much, and need to be taught their place, which, according to this view, is not in public life. DORA MELLONE.

SOUTH AFRICA.

A JOINT meeting of the House Committee for Women's Enfranchisement and representative of combined suffrage societies of the Union took place recently. Members present were Mr. D. N. Brown (Chairman), General Byron, the Hon. Patrick Duncan, Messrs. Sephton, Alexander, Snow, and Mullineux.

It was unanimously resolved that on the second reading of the Electoral Bill a resolution be moved that it be an instruction to Committee, either of the whole House or a Select Committee, as the case may be, that they have leave to consider the question of amending the Bill to provide for the Enfranchisement of Women, and to amend the title of the Bill accordingly.

This refers to a Bill which is being brought forward by Dr. Malan, the Minister for Education, to make changes in registration, to introduce voting by post, and, what is arousing much opposition, to make the signature of political articles during an election compulsory. Naturally the chief newspapers resent this.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

WITH elaborate preparations which provide for the presentation of notable national and international speakers, and with promises of a large gathering of representative women as delegates, alternates and visitors, the National League of Women Voters meets for its sixth annual convention in Richmond, Va., this month. Early indications point to marked interest and anticipation in the six-day gathering which opens on April 16 and concludes on April 22.

Richmond is bending every effort to make the first convention of the League in the South a gala affair. There is a certain lure about the South in the early spring, and added to that is that spirit of Southern hospitality which has no equal. Added to these inviting conditions is the promise of a programme complete in every detail, from serious discussions of the principles embodied in the programme of work to gala luncheons, picturesque dinners, mass meetings, and evening sessions with specially arranged features.

Of the many programme features there is extraordinary interest in the announcement that two notable figures in the international movement for the advancement for women, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, of London, and Miss Bertha Lutz, of Brazil, will be speakers at a banquet devoted to "Women in Public Affairs in Other Nations." The banquet will follow an afternoon session with "Women in Public Affairs in the United States" as the attraction.

The coming of Mrs. Ashby and Miss Lutz is being received with marked enthusiasm by League women throughout the country. As president of the Woman's International Suffrage Alliance, to which office she was elected in May, 1923, Mrs. Ashby is known the world over as an indefatigable leader for world-wide suffrage for women. It will be her first appearance at a League convention, and her message is being anticipated with more than passing interest.

Miss Lutz, who endeared herself to League women by her part in the Pan-American Conference held in conjunction with the League's third annual convention in Baltimore in 1922, will present a review of the work in her own country for the advancement of women. Miss Lutz founded the League for the Emancipation of Women, of which she is president, and for several years has been a recognised leader in the Brazilian woman's movement.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, honorary president of the National League of Women Voters, and also the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance, will preside at the banquet. She will also take part in other convention sessions, especially one pertaining to international relations. League members are also looking forward with more than passing interest to addresses by Judge Florence E. Allen, of Ohio, the first woman Supreme Court Justice in the United States, and Mrs. Florence E. Knapp, the first woman Secretary of State in New York.

Women who had the pleasure of meeting Judge Allen during her visit in England, almost a year ago, know what convincing and inspiring messages she will bring to the League women.

Miss Belle Sherwin, president of the National League, will preside at a majority of business sessions, and will direct sessions of the board of directors, which convene in Richmond on April 13, and precede for three days the opening of the convention. Post-convention board meetings will take place at the National League headquarters in Washington.

The National League is proudly displaying at its headquarters an oak desk, for many years used by Susan B. Anthony, the suffrage pioneer, and now the personal property of Mrs. Harriet Taylor Upton, of Ohio, former vice-chairman of the Executive Committee of the Republican National Committee. Mrs. Upton has entrusted the desk to the League "until a national group gathers Miss Anthony's mementoes or erects a building to her memory." The desk is the old-fashioned roll-top type, and it has been kept in the exact state in which Miss Anthony used it.

It was about 1888 when Rachel Foster Avery, who had been corresponding secretary of the National American Suffrage Association for years, and was longer and possibly more closely associated with Miss Anthony than any other woman, gave this desk to Miss Anthony. Miss Anthony left it in her will to Mrs. Upton. As treasurer of the National American Woman Suffrage Association Mrs. Upton was intimately associated with Miss Anthony and Mrs. Avery.

The League has established a 1925-1926 fellowship for the "study of the American-Indian problem, the successive policies of the Government, and the contemporary administration of Indian affairs." The amount of the fellowship is \$1,000, which covers for one year the cost of fees, room, board, and all the facilities of the Robert Brookings Graduate School of Economics and Government in Washington, D.C. The fellowship is open to women graduates of approved colleges and universities who have had the equivalent of a full year of graduate work in economics and government.

The establishment of the fellowship grew out of the intense interest developed in the administration of Indian affairs, the study of which was authorised by a special committee at the League's 1924 convention. A preliminary survey made by the League's Department of Efficiency in Government revealed at once the dearth of authentic material on the general Indian problem, and the fellowship plan was arranged as a means of promoting the intensive research necessary for an adequate background for study of the administration of Indian affairs.

For the first time in the history of the nation a woman governor rode in the parade incident to the inauguration of a President of the United States. As Mrs. Nellie Taylor Ross, Governor of Wyoming, rode through the streets of the Capitol on March 4 she was signalled out for special ovations.

Two women will sit in the Sixty-ninth Congress, the newly-elected national law-making body. Mrs. Mary T. Norton, of New Jersey, was elected at the general election in November, and at that time it was thought she would be the only woman representative in the House. At a special election recently Mrs. Florence Prag Kahn, of San Francisco, California, was elected to succeed her late husband, Julius Kahn, who had served in Congress a quarter of a century. With Mrs. Norton, a Democrat, and Mrs. Kahn, a Republican, both major political parties will have a woman representative. Mrs. Kahn is the second California woman to be elected to her husband's place in Congress. Mrs. Mae Nolan was elected to serve her husband's unexpired term in the Sixty-eighth Congress. When the Sixty-ninth Congress was being organised Mrs. Norton had the honour of being the first woman to participate in a Democratic caucus. She was elected assistant secretary.

Plans are pushing ahead with great rapidity for the sixth quinquennial meeting of the International Council of Women, in Washington, May 4-14. The use of the

new Washington Auditorium has been secured; likewise the Pan-American building has been placed at the disposal of the Council. Plans include several important evening sessions, the first to be a ceremonial evening, at which the President will be chief speaker.

ANNE WILLIAMS.

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE, THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES, AND THE PROTECTION OF THE WORKER.

By A. HELEN WARD.

IT is well known to most of our readers that the view held in regard to the protection of the worker by large sections of women of all parties is, that protection for both sexes is best secured by improving their general status, by better wages and conditions, and by such legislation as is necessary being based, not on the sex of the worker, but on the nature of the work, and, in particular, if a measure restricting women because of their sex seems desirable in a backward country, it is only as the lesser of two evils. This view is not, however, shared by all industrial workers, some of whose official representatives appear to be of the opinion that legislation based on sex differentiation is in itself desirable, and that the elaboration of an international system on such lines is the ideal towards which all who desire women's welfare should seek to advance.

Nevertheless, the view which, for short, we may call the feminist view, has seldom been better expressed than by that most distinguished member of the Labour Party, Mrs. Sidney Webb, in her brilliant Minority Report, "War Cabinet Committee on Women in Industry (1919)."

Her words (p. 254, par. 3) are, "That for the production of commodities and services women no more constitute a class than do persons of a particular creed or race; and that the time has come for the removal of all sex exclusions; for the opening of all posts and vocations to any individuals who are qualified for the work, irrespective of sex, creed or race; and for insistence, as minima, of the same qualifications, the same conditions of employment, and the same occupational rates for all those accepted by the private or public employers as fit to be engaged in any particular pursuit." This view also finds considerable corroboration in the words of another distinguished Labour woman, who has held important posts in connection with international labour conditions, and who is a recognised authority on international legislation affecting women. I quote from a letter written in reference to the I.L.O. about a year ago: "The time for exclusive legislation for women is past. We are now in an age which demands the highest possible standard of working conditions for all workers alike, whether men or women." (This letter is addressed to an important women's organisation, but, as the writer adds, "it expresses only my personal view, and is not in any sense official," it would not be right to publish her name.)

Both these women speak as individuals, and I have already referred to the fact that representatives of organised industrial women in this country, and elsewhere, are found seeming to suggest that the differential principle, *in itself*, has the support of those for whom they speak, yet it is difficult to agree with this, in view of the terms of the resolution on the subject passed at the First International Congress of Women, which met at Washington, just before and during the first I.L.O. Conference (October 28 to November 6, 1919). "This Conference adheres to the Berne Convention of 1906, prohibiting night work for all women in industrial employment; it further urges that night work shall be prohibited by law for men except in so far as it may be absolutely necessary, etc." A similar view was expressed in this country at the last Labour Women's Conference, at which that great leader Mary McArthur was in the chair, at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street. But the opinion of organised industrial women cannot be taken

as the only determining factor. According to figures supplied to me by the librarian of the London School of Economics, there were in this country in 1911 (the last year for which figures were available in September of this year), 4,650,000 women wage earners, and according to *Whitaker's* a total of over 20,000,000 women of all kinds. The total number of women in trade unions in Great Britain and Ireland was, in 1922, 868,000, and nearly 200,000 fewer in 1923. And at the Geneva Conference of the International Federation of Working Women in 1921, which agreed to the extension of the prohibition of women's night work to agriculture, only eleven countries sent any representative. It cannot be sufficiently emphasised that no woman (except the "idle rich," possibly, and for them there may be a writing on the wall that will make them think) can afford to ignore the doings of the I.L.O., or the principles upon which it is based, for it is avowedly, and rightly, out to set the standards of the world. Women of all schools of thought have hitherto given a hearty welcome to the I.L.O., according to its support, and fostering the legitimate hope that it would, as time passes, incline more and more to their own particular attitude in regard to what should be its ultimate ideals.

But a black cloud has appeared on the horizon. In this, one of the foremost industrial countries of the world, a group of persons, in close touch with official circles, have put forward a new and startling theory. It is solemnly maintained that the holders of any view, excluding differential sex legislation as the ultimate international ideal, are out of court; that their view is wholly contrary to the "principles" on which the I.L.O. is based, and that to press their view is to be disloyal to that body. Let us examine the facts. The sheet anchor of this group is a certain phrase in the Preamble (Versailles Treaty, part 13, section 1), "protection of women and children." The phrase is often detached from its context, but the context is important:—

"And whereas conditions of labour exist involving such injustice, hardship, and privation to large numbers of people as to produce unrest so great that the peace and harmony of the world are imperilled; and an improvement of those conditions is urgently required: as, for example, by the regulation of the hours of work, including the establishment of a maximum working day and week, the regulation of the labour supply, the prevention of unemployment, the provision of an adequate living wage, the protection of the worker against sickness, disease, and injury arising out of his employment, the protection of women, young persons and children, provision for old age and injury, protection of the interests of workers when employed in countries other than their own, etc."

Here, it will be observed, the word *protection* is used three times, and only once in specific reference to women. And there is no indication that the only way to protect women or men is to set them in a class apart by means of an international system of restrictive legislation, though I am in no way concerned to deny that the text does not exclude this as a possible, and even a desirable method, one among various possibilities. But there is no explicit or implicit suggestion here that the I.L.O. is prepared to stand or fall on the differential method elevated into a principle to the exclusion of all others. (Those who worked in the suffrage movement will remember the constant use of the phrase, as applied to women, "the protection of the vote.")

It has, however, been maintained that the matter is clinched by the fact that in the annex to chapter 4 the agenda of the Washington Conference is found, and that on that agenda appears the item "Women's Employment. (b.) *During the night.* (c.) *In unhealthy processes* (omit (a.)) as that refers to maternity, a matter which raises quite other considerations than those I am now dealing with." Yet examine the Treaty carefully and, behold this very chapter 4 is headed "Transitory Provisions" (Mesures Transitoires). We do not want to labour this, it is common knowledge that the members of the Washington Conference were in fact mainly enthusiasts for the differential method.

Mrs. Fawcett, writing in the *International Woman Suffrage News* in 1921, remarks: "We who differ from Mrs. Swartz on this (Mrs. Swartz had written in defence of differential restrictive legislation) may readily admit that the position in the U.S.A. is peculiar, owing to the fact of the annual arrival of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of women from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, who have experienced in their own lands what we regard as almost incredibly bad labour conditions, etc., etc." And, it may be added, the position in U.S.A., as has been pointed out by Miss Henry, is peculiar, owing to a certain "Free Contract" clause, which makes differential legislation the line of least resistance for men who wish to improve their own conditions.

Our whole contention is that enthusiasts for the occupational method have as much right to seek to educate the I.L.O. in their ideals as have the enthusiasts for the differential method: that the question of method has not been prejudged.

The use of the word *principle* in this connection is extraordinarily misleading. In the Preamble, the whole list of possible reforms is prefaced by the words "for example," and the word "principle" does not occur at all. Whereas, certain very relevant facts are totally ignored by the differential enthusiasts.

Part 13 of the Treaty of Versailles is entitled *Labour*, and is divided into two *Sections*. Section 2 is the one that talks about Principles; indeed, it is actually headed in large print "General Principles," and here are some striking extracts from this much neglected Section 2 (p. 205, Official Text). "They (the High Contracting Parties) recognise that differences of climate, habits and customs, of economic opportunity and industrial tradition, make strict uniformity in the conditions of labour difficult of attainment. But, holding as they do, that labour should not be regarded merely as an article of commerce, they think there are *methods and principles* for regulating labour conditions which all industrial communities should endeavour to apply, so far as their special circumstances will permit.

Among these methods and principles the following seem to the High Contracting Parties to be of "special and urgent importance" (the italics are mine). Then are set out Nine Principles in tabular form, as follows:—

1st. The guiding principle . . . that labour should not be regarded merely as a commodity or article of commerce.

2nd. The right of association for all lawful purposes by the employed as well as by the employers.

3rd. The payment to the employed of a wage adequate to maintain a reasonable standard of life as this is understood in their time and country.

4th. The adoption of an eight hours day or a forty-eight hours week as the standard to be aimed at where it has not already been attained.

5th. The adoption of a weekly rest of at least twenty-four hours, which should include Sunday wherever practicable.

6th. The abolition of child labour and the imposition of such limitations on the labour of young persons as shall permit the continuation of their education and assure their proper physical development (observe the deliberate omission of sex differentiation above.)

7th. The principle that men and women should receive equal remuneration for work of equal value.

8th. The standard set by law in each country with respect to the conditions of labour should have due regard to the equitable economic treatment of all workers lawfully resident therein.

9th. Each State should make provision for a system of inspection in which women should take part, in order to ensure the enforcement of these laws and regulations for the protection of the employed.

In regard to these, Fabian Tract 197, entitled "The International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations," makes this comment:—

"This declaration of the principles which should 'inspire the policy of the League of Nations' may be said to constitute a kind of Labour Charter such as

was demanded by the International Trade Union Conference at Berne."

and the drafters of Part 13 of the Treaty seem to be of a like opinion, for Part 13 ends thus:—

Without claiming that these methods and principles are either complete or final, the High Contracting Parties are of opinion that they are well fitted to guide the policy of the League of Nations; and that, if adopted by the industrial communities who are members of the League, and safeguarded in practice by an adequate system of such [sic] inspection, they will confer lasting benefits upon the wage earners of the world.

A view I have heard put forward is that this Section 2 is not as important as other parts of the Treaty, with even the implication that the I.L.O. is in no way concerned to adopt these principles. This would, if correct, create a Gilbertian situation. There the principles are, embodied in the Treaty, given a whole section to themselves, set out in tabular form, declared of "special and urgent importance." The question arises, if the I.L.O. is not concerned to put them into practice, who is concerned to do this? Is some other body to be called into being for the purpose, or had those who drafted Section 2 their tongue in their cheek? Seriously, this is a grave matter. The power of the I.L.O. has rapidly increased, its expenditure is now a very appreciable part of the whole expenditure upon the League of Nations, the representation of industrial women in it is of the slightest, the representation of other groups and classes of women, whose activities must, in the nature of things, be affected, sometimes directly, and always indirectly, by the principles and practice of the I.L.O., is (except for a possible occasional Government or employer's delegate) nil.

To sum up, there is, among women, a large variety of opinion in regard to the best methods for the protection of workers, whether men, women, or children, in particular, there are two views which may be called View A and View B, as follows:—

View A.—That women and children being, not only when the former are bearing children, but at all times, subject to such natural disabilities, that they cannot be adequately protected by means of the raising of standards of welfare and wages for all workers, regardless of sex, it is for their good to build up a permanent international system of protective or restrictive legislation for them, as a class apart.

View B.—(1.) That in some backward countries, some temporary legislative restrictions upon women's work may be the lesser of two evils. (2.) That an international system of restrictive legislation for non-adults is desirable, and that a very large measure of protection for young women will thus be secured without the evils of the differential system for adults.

3. But that, to segregate women permanently by an international system of restrictive legislation based on sex is, in spite of any apparent temporary advantage, to afford them no stable protection, but rather to add to the difficulties they already have to contend with; that the ideal, therefore, is to base protective legislation not on the sex of the worker, but on the nature of the work.

No well-wisher of the League of Nations wishes to see it develop into a super State in the political sphere. Neither should they desire this in the economic sphere. The Treaty provides for certain severe economic sanctions in the case of any country having ratified a convention afterwards defaulting. This is a serious thing. But there is a merciful provision that, before a country shall be compelled to ratify a convention, it shall be "brought before the authority or authorities within whose competence the matter lies, for the enactment of legislation or other action." Parliament is our "competent authority." The implication regarding parliamentary action should be that it reflects national public opinion. The conventions passed year by year at the International Labour Conference do not automatically become law in this country, nor should they become law

(Continued at foot of next page.)

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

GRÈCE.

Quelques Pas en Avant.

SUR la demande des femmes docteurs en droit, elles ont été admises comme membres au Barreau. Elles pourront dorénavant faire un stage de deux ans auprès d'un avocat reconnu, ce qui leur donnera droit de se présenter devant la Cour de Cassation. C'est le premier pas vers l'acquisition du droit de plaider devant les tribunaux.

Un projet de loi vient d'être présenté à l'Assemblée Nationale, et voté en première lecture, selon lequel il sera formé dans la police des villes (police des moeurs) une section de femmes agents de police, qui seront chargées surtout des questions concernant les femmes et les enfants.

Le Président du Gouvernement sur le Vote des Femmes.

La délégation de la L. H. D. F. au congrès de Belgrade s'est présentée au Président du Gouvernement, Mr. Michalacopoulo et lui a soumis la motion votée par le Congrès. Il accueillit la délégation avec empressement et s'est déclaré très favorable envers l'affranchissement politique des femmes grecques par étapes en commençant par le vote municipal, pourvu que l'opinion publique soit favorablement disposée envers cette réforme. Quant à la recherche de la paternité et la protection des enfants illégitimes il pense qu'il n'y aurait aucune difficulté à faire passer une loi à ce propos pendant la session actuelle du Parlement.—*La Lutte des Femmes.*

ROUMANIE.

Grande Reunion Suffragiste.

La Ligue pour les Droits et Devoirs de la Femme—première société à programme suffragiste en Roumanie—a tenu le 25 janvier les dix heures du matin, une des plus brillantes réunions féministes dans la salle Dacia. Cette salle, de plus historiquement politique, a été archibondée et les paysannes veuves de guerre se faisaient remarquer par des centaines. Sur la scène, sauf le comité de la Ligue, se trouvaient les grands hommes politiques, chefs de partis et ex-ministres, qui devaient prendre la parole.

Entre autres, Monsieur Jule Maniu, chef du parti national de la Transylvanie, celui qui avant l'annexion de la Transylvanie—dans la chambre Hongroise—a mis en discussion le problème des Droits de la femme; Monsieur Caius Brediceanu, ex-ministre, grand orateur; Monsieur Etienne Tatarascu, leader du parti nationaliste et d'autres représentant des autres partis.

Ont pris la parole: Messieurs Jule Maniu, Alexandre Waida Voevod, Caius Brediceanu, ex-ministre Virgil Madgearu, leader du parti des paysans; Madame la générale Helene Cotescu, Madame Dr. Stoika, Madame Eugenie de Reuss Janculescu, Madame Steliana Ciortescu, Madame avocate Henriette Gavrilescu, Mademoiselle Marie Pepenaru, Madame Lucia Nichifor. A la place de Monsieur ex-ministre Constantin Argetoianu, a pris la parole, Monsieur Etienne Tatarascu, qui a fait la suivante déclaration au nom de Monsieur Constantin Argetoianu, ex-ministre d'intérieur:—

"En qualité de représentant de M. Argetoianu, je me permets de rappeler que Monsieur Argetoianu a été le premier ministre d'intérieur de la Roumanie qui de la tribune parlementaire a apprécié la juste cause des femmes roumaines.

(Continued from page 110.)

at the bidding of one political party or one school of thought only. Our claim is, that without the injurious suggestion that the matter has been prejudged, it is the concern of all women, of all classes and of all political parties, what legislation is enacted by suggestion of the International Labour Office and Conference.—*The Women's Leader.*

Conséquent à son point de vue, M. Argetoianu voit aussi à présent, dans la participation active des femmes à l'œuvre de développement intérieur, une nouvelle perspective pleine d'espérance pour la consolidation du pays. La femme roumaine a développé dans toutes les phases de la guerre une activité pleine de dévouement, ce qui lui a assuré un grand titre de gloire.

M. Argetoianu espère surtout de la participation de la femme des résultats plus pratiques en ce qui concerne les affaires de la commune et qu'elles réussiront à étonner les plus sceptiques mêmes. De sorte que M. Argetoianu en reconnaissant à ce mouvement la qualité d'une nouvelle manifestation du génie roumain, salut les initiatrices qui mènent courageusement la lutte pour cette noble cause, en leur présentant ses souhaits de parfaite et rapide réussite."

Madame Eugénie de Reuss Jancoulescu avec la grande autorité d'une lutteuse de la première heure, a accentué qu'étant descendante d'une famille qui a su prendre de force ses droits, elle n'hésitera pas à forcer la main pour qu'on accorde des droits intégraux à la femme.

Après avoir fini tous les discours, la présidente a lu une fort belle et énergique Motion.

La clôture a été une grande et paisible manifestation. On défilait le long des rues, jusqu'au Palais Royal, des centaines de femmes ayant les chefs à la tête.

C'est encore la Ligue pour les Droits et les Devoirs de la Femme qui a organisé la première manifestation suffragiste de rue.

Le 19 de ce mois on présent aux deux chambres le "Mémoire" par lequel la Ligue demande des droits intégraux pour la femme. Le Mémoire est appuyé de milliers de signatures qui forment un beau rouleau.

FRANCE.

La Campagne Suffragiste. (Communication de l'U.F.S.F.)

I. FONDS AMÉRICAINS.

Nous venons de recevoir le chèque d'Amérique. Les envois aux groupes seront faits dans quelques jours: mais à la condition que nous ayons reçu le rapport financier adopté par l'assemblée générale statutaire de leur groupe et que la somme annoncée par eux figure bien aux recettes du dernier exercice.

Nous rappelons que nous devons fournir à la Leslie Commission, tous les trois mois, l'emploi des fonds Franco-Américains: c'est pourquoi il nous faut une comptabilité régulière.

II. CAMPAGNE ELECTORALE.

Voici le texte de l'affiche et du tract que nous avons fait tirer pour les élections municipales.

Prière de nous adresser les commandes avant le 15 mars.

Tous les envois seront faits du 15 au 20 mars. Prix: affiche, 0 fr. 20. Tracts aux électeurs, 1 fr. 50 le cent. Tracts aux femmes (réédition du tract "Pourquoi?"): 3 fr. 50 le cent.

Après le 15, il ne sera plus tenu compte des demandes.

C. BRUNSCHVICG,
Présidente de l'U.F.S.F.

AFFICHE DE L'UNION FRANÇAISE POUR LE SUFFRAGE DES FEMMES.

PROTESTATION.

Depuis de longues années, les Femmes Françaises, bien sagement, bien correctement, réclament leurs droits politiques.

Les Pouvoirs Publics ont profité de leur calme pour ne rien leur accorder et, jusqu'à la veille des élections, ils les ont bercées avec de belles promesses.

Qu'attend le Parlement? Veut-il réduire les Femmes à n'obtenir la victoire que par les procédés violents qui ont réussi aux suffragettes anglaises?

Les Républicains de chez nous ne jugent-ils pas plus digne de reconnaître eux-mêmes—et de consacrer par leur vote—la Justice de nos revendications ? Qu'ils se prononcent donc.

Nous souhaitons que cette protestation les fasse enfin réfléchir. Qu'ils se disent bien que nous sommes, nous aussi, filles de la Révolution et que nous voulons obtenir nos droits de citoyennes.

APPEL.

CITOYENS, la République vous a donné une puissance électorale. Usez-en pour défendre notre juste Cause.

FRANÇAISES, joignez-vous à nous. Notre union fera notre force.

LE BUREAU DE L'U.F.S.F.

Présidente : C. Brunschvicg.
Vice-Présidentes : J. Misme et M. Pichon-Landry.
Secrétaire générale : G. Malaterre-Sellier.
Secrétaire générale adjoint : P. Rebour et Th. Casevitz.

Envoyez vos adhésions au Siège Social, 53, rue Scheffer (16^e).

Secrétaires : S. Grinberg, M.-L. Puech.
Trésorière : M. Desavis.

Appel Aux Electeurs.

PROGRAMME MUNICIPAL DES FEMMES.

CITOYENS,

Notre programme en apparence ne diffère pas du vôtre. Comme vous, nous souhaitons la prospérité de la Cité, le bien-être de tous. Mais il ne suffit pas d'avoir un programme, il faut avoir les qualités et les compétences nécessaires pour le réaliser.

Lorsqu'il s'agit de l'enfance et des institutions à créer pour sa sauvegarde ;

De l'hygiène de l'école et de l'application des lois scolaires ;

De l'amélioration des Hôpitaux et des Hospices ;

De l'intensification de la construction des Habitations à bon Marché et de leur aménagement pratique ;

De la propreté de la rue (au point de vue matériel et moral) ;

De l'organisation des Offices de Ravitaillement pour lutter contre la vie chère.

N'êtes-vous pas, comme nous, persuadés que les femmes seraient pour les hommes d'indispensables collaboratrices ?

CITOYENS, pour lutter :

Contre la mortalité infantile ;

Contre le taudis ;

Contre l'alcoolisme ;

Contre la misère et la maladie ;

Contre la guerre ;

Les femmes doivent travailler avec vous.

Vigilante et attentive, la Mère prendra sa part de travail et de responsabilité dans la Cité comme elle sait la prendre à son propre foyer.

CITOYENS,

Nous protestons contre les Pouvoirs Publics qui, malgré leurs promesses, ont lâchement reculé à la veille des élections et n'ont pas voulu reconnaître les droits municipaux des femmes.

CITOYENS,

Nous protestons contre les manœuvres de Parlementaires influents qui, par égoïsme politique (et pour conserver des privilèges de sexe) ont écarté une discussion dont ils craignaient, sans raison valable, des conséquences fâcheuses pour eux-mêmes ou pour leurs partis.

CITOYENS,

Les femmes votent en Angleterre, en Allemagne, en Autriche, aux Etats-Unis, en Suède, en Norvège, en Belgique, etc.

Les Françaises, elles aussi, veulent et doivent voter. Elles le veulent parce que cela est juste, mais aussi parce qu'elles ont la conviction que le Pays a besoin du concours de tous ses enfants.

CITOYENS,

Rappelez-vous que la République a fait de vous des électeurs. Usez de votre pouvoir pour exiger des candidats qu'ils se prononcent en notre faveur.

Rien n'influencera davantage les sénateurs que les déclarations féministes de vos élus municipaux.

CITOYENS,

Le moment est grave pour les Femmes de France. NOUS FAISONS APPEL A VOUS, AIDEZ-NOUS.

Manifestation Feministe.

La Ligue française pour le Droit des Femmes a organisé un meeting de protestation contre le projet de la Chambre rendant la femme responsable du paiement des impôts de son mari. Pour annoncer ce meeting et distribuer des tracts de propagande, les militantes féministes se promèneront dans un autocar tout hérissé de pancartes portant des inscriptions : "Pour protéger les mères ; Pour réviser le Code ; Pour rendre la vie moins chère ; Pour supprimer les taudis ; Pour défendre la Famille ; Pour protéger l'enfance ; Pour réaliser le suffrage universel—la femme doit voter." Au-dessus de l'autocar un vaste parapluie portant en lettres blanches : "La femme doit voter : elle paye ses impôts et ceux de son mari" amusa beaucoup le public.

DECOUVERTE D'UNE JEUNE FILLE.

Mlle. Irène Laurent, fille de M. Laurent, chimiste faisant les recherches sur un nouveau carburant, mit celui-ci sur la voie de la découverte en lui montrant les effets d'une réaction basé sur le sucre.

URUGUAY.

La deuxième Conférence Féminine Panaméricaine eut lieu à Lima pendant le mois de Décembre écoulé.

Voici la liste des travaux présentés par les délégations uruguayennes :—

Alliance des Femmes Uruguayennes.—Le Féminisme dans l'Amérique latine, et la Femme dans la diplomatie, par Rosa Mauthone Falco (avocate). La société conjugale et la situation juridique de la femme uruguayenne, par S. Alvares Vignoli.

Ligue contre l'alcoolisme.—Rapports sur l'organisation et l'œuvre de la Ligue, sur l'enseignement antialcoolique dans les écoles, sur le traitement scolaire des débilés mentaux, et sur l'intervention de la femme dans l'amélioration sociale.

Conseil National des Femmes.—Rapports sur la mission des Conseils Nationaux de Femmes et sur la charité à l'école.

Patronat des Sourds-Muets.—Ligue de Dames Catholiques.—Association, "La Bonne Garde."—Association Chrétienne Féminine.—Ligue contre la tuberculose.—Rapports sur l'œuvre sociale accomplie par les sociétés respectives.

SARA REY ALVAREZ.

Londres, mars, 1925.

NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

Etats-Unis.

Ligue Nationale des Electriciens.—La Convention Annuelle aura lieu à Richmond du 16 au 22 Avril. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Présidente de l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage des Femmes et Mademoiselle Bertha Lutz, Présidente de la Ligue pour l'émancipation des femmes, au Brésil, parleront à un banquet consacré à la question : "Les femmes dans les affaires politiques des nations étrangères." Ce banquet sera présidé par Madame Chapman Catt.

La Ligue a fondé pour 1925-26 une bourse de \$1000 pour l'étude du problème indien-américain.

Du 4 au 14 mai, aura lieu à Washington la 6^{me}. Assemblée quinquennale du Conseil international des femmes.

Grande Bretagne.

Union Nationale des Sociétés pour l'égalité civique.—La réunion annuelle du conseil de l'Union Nationale a eu lieu du 11 au 14 mars. Les questions traitées reflètent tous les aspects du mouvement féministe. Une résolution sur l'affranchissement égal des deux sexes a passé

à l'unanimité. Une autre résolution votée à une majorité de 111 contre 42 a porté sur le principe d'une Allocation Familiale. Dans le système actuel, la femme mariée est dans la dépendance complète du salaire du mari ; ce salaire ne correspond pas aux charges de famille, ou, si les patrons tiennent compte de ces charges, le système vient à l'encontre du principe ; salaire égal pour travail égal. La majorité a déclaré que, sans l'allocation familiale, l'égalité entre les sexes devient impossible dans la vie industrielle et dans la vie privée.

L'Union Nationale tient à assurer son appui et sa sympathie à la Société des Nations dont le principe s'oppose au principe : "La Force prime le Droit."

L'assemblée a voté les résolutions suivantes :—

Désarmement et Protocole.—Le Conseil approuve le Pacte de la Société des Nations, seule garantie pour la paix et la sécurité sur les lignes du Protocole de Genève, et réprovoque tout Pacte extérieur qui rétablirait le danger des Alliances et de la Paix armée.

Tribunal de la Haye.—Le Conseil demande instamment à Mr. Chamberlain de signer la clause de la juridiction obligatoire de la Cour permanente de justice internationale.

La traite des femmes et des enfants.—Le Conseil demande que la Société des Nations nomme une femme à la Commission sur la Traite des femmes, une autre à la Commission sur les Mandats et qu'elle reçoive une déléguée des sociétés féministes internationales parmi les assesseurs à la nouvelle commission pour la protection de l'Enfance.

Les Femmes dans l'Industrie.—La question posée au Congrès de Washington sur la protection des femmes dans l'industrie fut sérieusement discutée. Beaucoup de membres jugent que cette protection est plutôt dangereuse en ce qu'elle est contraire au principe de l'égalité des sexes et qu'elle est souvent une entrave à l'affranchissement industriel des femmes.

Conférence impériale.—Mrs. Corbett Ashby a fait voter une résolution réclamant la nomination des femmes conseillères à la délégation de la Conférence impériale et elle demande aux femmes des Dominions d'en faire autant. Une autre résolution fut votée en commun avec les Dominions, sur la Nationalité des femmes mariées.

Réceptions.—Une magnifique réception fut offerte à Dame Millicent Fawcett et à Dame Aldrich Blake, le premier soir ; et le 13 mars un lunch, où assistaient trois femmes, membres du Parlement : La Duchesse d'Atholl, Lady Astor, et Miss Wilkinson, réunissait 400 personnes. Pendant le repas, un télégramme annonça que Miss Rathbone était nommée assesseur au Comité Consultatif de la Société des Nations sur la Traite des femmes et la protection de l'Enfance.

Le Parlement.—Pendant ce temps, à la Chambre des Communes le bill sur la Séparation et la Pension alimentaire a fait l'objet d'un Rapport. De plus, le bill sur la tutelle des enfants ainsi que le bill sur la Légitimation par le mariage subséquent des parents ont passé en seconde lecture ; le premier à la Chambre des Communes, le deuxième à la Chambre des Lords.

Turquie.

Il y a un Club féminin florissant à Constantinople. Il comprend 300 membres et on y fait des conférences. L'une d'elles fut faite par Madame Rieder et traita de l'activité féminine dans les pays occidentaux. Ce fut une grande surprise pour les auditeurs et les comptes rendus de la Presse soulevèrent un grand intérêt. "L'Union des femmes turques" a présenté au Parlement Madame Nezhie Mouhiddine comme candidate.

Japon.

"L'Association pour le Suffrage des Femmes" vient de se former ; son siège central est 2, Hotohiracho, Shibaku, Tokyo. Madame Kubushiro est Présidente, Madame Nakazawa Trésorière, et Mademoiselle Ichikawa, Secrétaire. Elle comprend trois comités : Travaux pour

le Congrès et jurisprudence ; Œuvres sociale et enseignement ; Finances. Le programme immédiat comprend les demandes à présenter au Congrès : 1^e. Suffrage parlementaire pour les deux sexes ; 2^e. Suffrage municipal ; 3^e. Droit de former des associations et des clubs politiques.

Bermudes.

La Société suffragiste des Bermudes vient de s'affilier à l'Alliance internationale. Cette Société va présenter au Parlement un projet de loi sur le suffrage des femmes.

Cuba.

La "Partida Nacional Sufragista" s'organise en fédération des Associations féministes et tiendra son second congrès national en Avril.

Mexique.

C'est une femme, Senorita Cholita Gonzalez, très éminente qui est secrétaire du nouveau Président du Mexique. Les deux autres femmes, à la tête du mouvement féministe, sont Elena Torres et Esperanza Brugas.

Argentine.

Buenos Ayres a nommé 50 femmes pour la police des pares, c'est une innovation dans l'Amérique latine.

Iraq.

Les lectrices des "Mille et une Nuits" apprendront avec surprise qu'un Club féminin s'est fondé à Iraq et la majorité de ses membres est composée de Mahometanes. Une vigoureuse campagne est menée dans la Presse contre le port du voile.

SIMPLIFICATION DE LA TOILETTE FEMININE.

Il me revient qu'un grand journal d'Outre-Océan a récemment demandé à ses lecteurs si, d'après eux, nous allions ou non, vers une simplification de la toilette féminine, dans le sens de ce que le XIX^e. siècle a fait pour le costume masculin. Beaucoup de lecteurs—maris indignés par la cherté des bas de soie et des chaussures incrustées d'argent—ont répondu, non ! au contraire. Et ceci me remet en mémoire toute la fin du très remarquable livre de Marcel Prévost sur "Françoise II, la Jeune fille d'après-guerre," qui se termine par un véhément réquisitoire contre les femmes, irrémédiablement frappées d'infériorité, nous affirmant, tant qu'elles ne seront pas libérées de la tyrannie du costume, à l'exemple de leur compagnon viril. (Entre parenthèses, on pourrait répondre à notre éminent académicien qu'à ce compte-là, le sexe masculin n'aurait donc produit que des imbéciles jusqu'à l'âge du chapeau melon. Il semble, pourtant, que Molière, malgré ses jabots de dentelle et ses habits de cour chamarrés a écrit des comédies, pas plus mauvaises en somme, que ce qu'on écrit aujourd'hui...)

Ensuite, l'éminent académicien se trompe, de même que les lecteurs masculins du journal yankee, lorsqu'il déclare que la femme moderne n'est capable de s'affranchir d'aucune des tyrannies dictées par les potentats de la couture. S'il appartenait au sexe féminin de sa génération, il constaterait—avec quels soupirs de soulagement—deux énormes conquêtes réalisées par les femmes, malgré les couturiers : le maintien de la jupe courte et l'abolition définitive de la "taille de guêpe." Ah ! monsieur Marcel Prévost ! si vers 1900, vous aviez été obligé de trotter par les rues de Paris en ramassant à pleines mains des cascades d'étoffe rebelle qui, malgré toute votre application, aurait "saucé" la boue de tous les carrefours ; si vous aviez dû vous sangler féroce dans une armature d'acier, transformant en un petit supplice les moindres sorties mondaines ! vous rendriez justice à vos sœurs, lesquelles, il y a environ trois ans, sont restées absolument sourdes à la coalition des couturiers, décrétant que, désormais, les jupes devaient raser la chaussure ; et qui, malgré les tentatives insidieuses des corsetiers, ont conservé leur torse tel que la nature l'avait fait. C'est tout de

même une conquête que le droit à la respiration ! De même, au reste, elles avaient organisé la "résistance passive" devant l'encombrante robe-panier, qui, en effet, en fin de compte, n'a été portée que par quelques excentriques.

Autre simplification, qui ne peut guère être sensible à un œil masculin, mais n'en est pas moins d'une grande importance pour les femmes. Jadis, il était impossible à qui n'était pas couturière professionnelle, de faire soi-même une "robe habillée." Il n'y a qu'à exhumer d'une armoire familiale un de ces corsages baleinés faits de trente-cinq morceaux ; une de ces jupes doublées, à volants, godets, ruchés, etc., pour s'en rendre compte.

Or, depuis le commencement de la guerre, avec la forme immuable, en somme du costume féminin actuel, qui ressemble à la tunique sans couture de Jésus-Christ, conservée longtemps à Brescia, n'importe quelle femme de la bourgeoisie peut, en trois coups de ciseaux et quelques aiguillées, se faire jusqu'à une robe de grand gala ! Et j'en sais de fort élégantes, qui ne s'en privent pas : et c'est, je vous assure, un allègement appréciable dans un budget que le déséquilibre de la vie actuelle attaque de tous côtés avec une fureur inapaisable.

SUZANNE DE CALLIAS,
Le Droit des Femmes.

(A Suivre.)

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