

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

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DISARMAMENT.

It is difficult to trace any progress in the work at Geneva. The Statesmen agreed unanimously that there should be qualitative disarmament by the selection of certain types of arms that were particularly aggressive, dangerous to civilians or calculated to break down national defence, such arms to be forbidden to all states for their own use though they might be internationalised and given to the League. It is clear that the speakers were anxious to diminish the chances of any state launching a sudden, overwhelming attack on its neighbour. Unfortunately the resolution was sent to the technical committees where the admirals, generals and airmen have proved to their own satisfaction, if to no one else's, that there are no aggressive arms, all are needed for self-defence. We must hope that this useless discussion will end this month and that the statesmen will again take the lead in a courageous effort to give the peoples the considerable reduction in armaments they desire.

At Versailles the list of weapons forbidden to Germany was decided on in a couple of days and there is no doubt that if the same procedure was followed at Geneva, each state being asked to suggest the list for its neighbours' disarmament, we should achieve a quick result. The International Union of League of Nations Associations adopted the Versailles list in its famous Budapest Resolutions as a practical and tested method.

The Weekend Study Conference organised by the Women's Disarmament Conference was a great success. M. de Brouckère referred to the maze of technicalities

in which the experts were losing themselves, and Baron von Rheinbaben spoke of the possibilities of an international control of armaments. Mrs. Corbett Ashby spoke on Moral Disarmament, and emphasised the necessity for keeping material disarmament in line with the efforts for education in peace. As she said it is doubtless easier to avoid facing the immediate problems by thinking of a more beautiful future. Other speakers included Mme. Plaminkova, Mrs. Puffer Morgan, Mme. Szlagowska.

The Women's Committee is now anxious to get into direct touch with National Disarmament Committees which have been formed in many countries, in order to help to focus public opinion on the difficulties shown above, the delay and loss of confidence caused by the experts.

The Women's Committee is also co-operating with other organisations in an International Course for Speakers on Disarmament to be held in Geneva from the 10th-23rd July. The programme is an interesting one carried out by highly qualified lecturers, and it will be held at "La Boissière" the headquarters of the International School, with delightful accommodation in the house for those who apply early. All particulars and application forms can be obtained from the Secretariat, 8 rue de la Cloche, Geneva.

Into the field of moral disarmament there must enter the more or less military training given, and enforced, in many schools. That is the subject of resolutions taken by the International Federation of Teachers'

Societies and by the Students. If we allow the young no hand in dealing with our present problems, at least let them have a say in the preparation of their own generation for the years when they will have their own problems. Different but not less vital to the youth of the world is the question of conscription, and as showing once again some of its immediate and not theoretical dangers, we are glad to publish the following communication we have received from Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovakian Women's Appeal

We have been informed that the "Alliance of German Women's Associations in Czechoslovakia (Verband deutscher Frauenvereinigungen in der Tscheco-slowakischen Republik, Sitz Reichenburg) addressed to the President a letter from which we give the following extracts:

"Mr. President,
"With growing apprehension and the deepest emotion have the more than 40,000 German mothers united in the Alliance of German Women's Associations learnt of the alarming increase of suicides of young men during their military service. It is evident that for the most part these suicides are due to abuses in the treatment of the soldiers by their direct superiors.

We mothers appeal to you for assistance. We beg you to ensure that your own excellent intentions are properly and fully carried out by the authorities. We have asked the parents of youths in military service to form "Elternräte" (Parents' Associations) similar to those for pupils in the public schools formed at the suggestion of the Board of Education. Parents ought to retain their influence in moral and education matters. We recommend these Parents' Associations to your special protection.

"We also take the liberty of calling your attention to the runaway soldiers, who have often abandoned their service in mere boyish thoughtlessness and are now compelled to lead a miserable life in foreign countries to the great sorrow of their parents. All those parents would feel a profound obligation to you, Mr. President, if such deserters might be permitted to return home and create a new life for themselves without the loss of liberty or honour."

An official reply was received in the following terms: "Your petition dated March 2nd, 1932, in which you call the attention of the President to the forming of parents' associations for soldiers in military service and in which you refer to the pitiable fate of deserters living in exile, has been forwarded to the Ministry of National Defence."

Financial Appeal.

The Treasurer's Report and full financial statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Women's Disarmament Committee have been received, accompanied by striking figures of the immense volume of work accomplished, for which gratitude is due both to the small regular staff and to the voluntary officers and other workers who have contributed time and energy of uncounted value. It is probable that the Disarmament Conference will continue to sit for many months more; it must not be said that the Women's Committee which has made a real place for itself in Geneva, has wearied in its work before the end. If it is to carry on, more funds must be obtained. We have already published in these columns an appeal for funds, to which many of our members have generously contributed, but we would again beg those to whom this cause is dear to make whatever further effort is possible. The difficulties are great, but by forming some plan for collecting small amounts at meetings, by collection on cards, or subscription lists opened by the women's papers, a united

effort would bring in sums small in themselves, but amounting by degrees to a respectable total. We wish that we had space to print in full the Report and Appeal made by the Treasurer of the Women's Committee, Mme. Guthrie d'Arcis. It would surely appeal to everyone, but we have to be content with this little paragraph. Contributions of any amount may be sent to the Alliance Office, 190 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, whence they will be forwarded to Geneva; or direct to the Committee's office at 25 Quai du Mont Blanc, Geneva.

"DISARMAMENT"

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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM.

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL CONGRESS.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, has this week been holding its triennial Congress at Grenoble. In the absence of its beloved president, Miss Jane Addams, who has lately been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the Congress was presided over by Miss Emily Balch, of the United States delegation.

The subject of the Congress was "World Disarmament or World Disaster," and discussions were arranged on "The economic crisis as a menace to peace," "War industries, their manufacture, trade, and supervision," "Organisation of peace," "Armed international force," and "The changing world."

Delegates were present from all parts of the world and discussions were opened by representatives of France, Sweden, Hungary, China, Germany, U.S.A., Holland, Austria, Great Britain and others.

The British delegation, numbering 14 representatives from all over the country and headed by the president Miss K. D. Courtney, took an active part in the proceedings. Miss Courtney, who has been "observing" at the Disarmament Conference was charged with the duty of reporting on it to the Congress.

It is now 17 years since the first Congress met at the Hague and it may seem that progress has been slow, but nevertheless many propositions made during the course of that Congress, presided over by Jane Addams, have been realised.

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NEWS OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Published by the World's Young Women's Christian Association
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WIDENING HORIZONS IN SOUTH AMERICA.

South America is one of those regions of the world where Y.W.C.A. work has developed very rapidly during recent years. There were indeed before the War some small Y.W.C.A. groups in Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires, but they were practically confined to English-speaking girls. Gradually a demand has grown up among the girls of the country for the kind of opportunities which the Y.W.C.A. provides; sometimes these requests have been called forth by the work already established by the Y.M.C.A. among boys, sometimes through contact with women from the United States who have started girls' schools in South American countries.

It is indeed to the United States that the recent developments of Association work are mainly due, and the reports of North American secretaries who are working as advisers and organisers in the Southern part of the continent are the source drawn on for this account of the work.

There are now Y.W.C.As. in five of the South American countries—Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile and Bolivia. There is also a "Continental Committee" which co-ordinates the work in these countries, and the Secretary of this Committee visits the various centres in turn to build up the work, and advise the staff, both local and foreign. Her task, as she sees it, is to try to study and understand what is happening in the life of the country and to help the secretaries to take a long look ahead. The programme in the centres follows the lines familiar to those who know the Association in the United States, and indeed in many other countries, and employment bureaux and cafeterias, hostels and camps, classes and games, clubs and conferences, have found a place and met a need here as elsewhere. The health department is generally one of the most successful. Women and girls of South America have not hitherto been accustomed to pay much attention to harmonious physical development and healthy open-air enjoyments, and not only have

they taken readily to swimming and games, but also in one centre the popularity of special weight-reducing classes in the gymnasium suggests that progress towards healthy living is being made. The effect of games on minds and characters no less than on physical development has been evident. In a country where organised games for girls are something of a novelty it was not easy at first to train the players to observe even the simplest rules, but girls in the Association are by these means gradually acquiring principles of discipline, fair play, and team work, which will fit them to meet the greater calls which are being made on South

American women in social and public life.

In many respects girls are learning to take their small responsibilities seriously, and it is remarkable that in one place where a junior group was being formed the girls themselves decided to make the requirements for membership more definite than had originally been proposed, as they felt they would rather have smaller working groups than many girls who were members in name only.

While there are now many girls at work in business and in a variety of professions, the numbers of those who may be described as leisured girls and women is very much larger than elsewhere. "In all these countries," says one of the North American Secretaries in a report, "where women have little to do and few places to go, watching the world go by becomes a favourite occupation. In Brazil, if there is no balcony, one sees a gay sofa pillow on the window sill of most of the houses; and usually there is a girl or woman leaning on it surveying the world." From this leisured class volunteer leaders for Association work are often drawn, and if this service is of value to the girls with whom they work it is of no less value to themselves in opening windows on a far wider view of the world than that on which they formerly gazed from their balconies.

But while leisured girls make up a considerable



A Club of Young Members, Y.W.C.A. Buenos Aires.

proportion of the membership they are by no means the only group touched by the Y.W.C.A. Hostels provide a great opportunity for influencing young students fresh from country homes with little background of culture or tradition; mothers and teachers welcome the lectures which are often arranged on the training of children or vocational guidance for girls; one particularly vivid account tells of a weekly meeting for the *Mercurieras*, little girls who sell newspapers in the streets of Valparaiso, when their inadequate home training is supplemented in various ways, and a shower bath after games is made the condition of staying for tea afterwards. It is the younger girls, whether those who are at work or the more privileged schoolgirls, who are the most hopeful field of work, and among whom the leaders of the future will be found.



An International Y.W.C.A. Student Conference, Piriapolis, Uruguay.

The numerous foreign girls living in South America value the Y.W.C.A. at least as much as the girls whose homes are in the country. Often they are met on their arrival at the port by the Association Secretary and feel less strange in consequence. Even after they are settled in their new surroundings many girls who have come from Europe find their lives very lonely. The custom of the country makes it impossible for them to go about alone without being the object of comment and censure, and in the evening there are few places where even two girls together can go. They have often no resource after work-hours but to sit in their own bedrooms at a boarding-house, and the Y.W.C.A. cafeteria or club room is an indescribable boon to them.

The building of international friendship has a large place in the aims of Y.W.C.A. workers, and South American girls are coming to understand something of that larger loyalty which claims their help and sympathy for those outside the borders of their own country. The call to social service, such as providing gifts and entertainments for poor children in their own neighbourhood, has always had a ready response. Last autumn an appeal was made for contributions towards the relief of victims of the great floods in China. The old argument, "Why should we send money outside when there are so many in need here?" is not unknown in South America; but to the girls who have realised their fellowship in the World's Y.W.C.A. China no longer seems so remote, and many groups set to work with energy and goodwill and raised money in various ways for the relief funds. In Bolivia the visit of an American secretary from China a year ago had already awakened much interest in the life and customs of the Chinese, and the girls had asked innumerable questions. "She was truly an ambassador of goodwill and a link with the Orient" was one comment on her visit. The Association in Bolivia is the most recently formed of all the South American groups, and incidentally the youngest member of the whole large family of the World's Y.W.C.A., but it is developing a sense of internationalism from the start.

This gain in understanding is not all on one side, and

it has its influence on relationships with countries less distant than China. As a thoughtful Latin American said to the Y.W.C.A. Secretary from the United States, "We are glad for these exchanges of professors and students that you may know our culture as well as our commercial possibilities and that we may know yours," and the Secretary herself speaks of the value of the experience of seeing her own country through other people's eyes.

A description of the last evening round the fire at a camp in Montevideo where girls of several different nationalities had spent a happy fortnight of friendly comradeship shows how this was made the occasion of trying to realise the world-wide fellowship of the Association. It was February—summer in the southern hemisphere—and the campers reminded each other of the many girls speaking many different tongues who would gather together in similar groups in other parts of the world throughout the year. A Latin American said a few words in Spanish as she threw her bundle of faggots on the fire; a German girl followed, sending a greeting in her own language to the girls of Germany; the daughter of a Swiss missionary spoke in French, wishing success to the Y.W.C.A. camps in the Latin countries of Europe, and an Italian spoke of Italy; then an Armenian girl, formerly a "Girl Reserve" in the Association in Beirut, sent her message to the girls she had known in Turkey, Syria and the Near East, and, finally, one camper recalled the little group of women who years ago in England had created the organisation through which this sense of fellowship had become possible.

Besides the encouragement of international understanding in general, special efforts have been made recently to educate Y.W.C.A. members and others on the question of peace and disarmament. In Buenos Aires a Peace Circle has been formed, under the auspices of the Association, in conjunction with other women's societies. One result of the work of this Circle was that the Secretary was invited to speak on the radio on the question of World Peace, and this led to a regular series of short talks twice a week on various aspects of the same subject.



An Association Club Member from Syria, now a member of the Y.W.C.A. in Montevideo.

As in this instance, the effort is made wherever opportunity offers to co-operate with all other agencies for the building up of national life in these countries, especially where women are concerned. Sometimes it is the Government which appeals for help in running the *Albergues*, shelters for the homeless unemployed from the saltpetre mines in Chile; or again a Women's University Club, interested in everything that will help South American girls to play their part in the future, joins hands with the Y.W.C.A. in some project, and welcomes its support. In the midst of it all, the Association is trying to find its place, careful not to set up rival activities where the field is already covered, but aiming at giving to as many women and girls as possible opportunities of growth and service.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Equal Morals. The "Shield," the organ of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene is always interesting, and the number for April contains especially two things which must rouse the hot pity and indignation of women. The following description of the poor slaves in licensed houses makes one wonder whether we really are living in the "humanitarian" age:

"It will grieve some who read this to hear that, so far as I was able to judge, the women in the licensed houses have no particular desire to leave them, neither do they appear to resent the bi-weekly instrumental examination, nor do they, in general, exhibit any emotion at all regarding their position. Most of those with whom I talked had already spent from two to five years as inmates of licensed houses. They appeared to have the mentality of children, but sadly devoid of the eager interests of children, or of any interests at all. It is not, in fact, surprising. These women have become machines, almost automatic machines, for the repetitive performance of an act which means nothing to them except boredom and weariness. Even from a physiological aspect such continued misuse of the intricate nervous system centred in the female organs of reproduction and nutrition, must have the effect of atrophy, if not of destroying, those mental and emotional responses and conflicts which produce character and personality, and which are so closely connected with our physical vitality and our nervous balance. These women are rather like certain people who, in old age, fall into a state of extreme inertia, interested only in creature comforts. But such old people have behind them a normal life and a full experience; the personality is there although partly obliterated by age, loss of memory and faculties. The tragic thing about these girls is that in the very prime of their young womanhood they are passive, inert, joyless—in fact all but dead. Scarcely anything is left but the animal instinct to live and find shelter. As Kuprin says so truly in his book on regulated prostitution, "Yama: The Pit," "All the horror is in just this—that there is no horror."

"Perhaps the most repulsive feature of this institution of licensed and regulated prostitution is that it takes young women and dehumanises them. It turns their living youth into something akin to senility; it takes their young women's bodies and makes of them, in effect, a recognised part of the city's sewerage; it examines their most intimate functional organs with instruments twice a week as though they were nothing more than rats reserved for medical experiment, and it does all this in a detached official way, by a methodical routine, the cold formality of which makes people forget what is really happening."

After that it is good to learn that in the Belgian Parliament a Bill has been introduced to suppress state regulation and the police des moeurs, and introduce some form of women police.

The other question dealt with at length in the "Shield" is that of sexual offences against young children. In 1924 a Departmental Committee was appointed to consider this question and its Report was certainly disturbing, since it came to the conclusion that in spite of the difficulty of obtaining reliable figures, there was an increase in this class of crime. During the days of the suffrage struggle it was this very horror which perhaps more than anything else made women feel that they must have a hand in legislation—and yet it seems that the vote has done nothing to lessen it. It bristles with difficulties, the reluctance of many

parents to expose their already outraged and frightened children to the further strain of a case in the courts, the fact that there can seldom from the nature of the offence be corroborative evidence, and that where the child is too young to understand the nature of an oath, its evidence must be corroborated either by material evidence or by another witness. And many of the cases are not such as to do the child evident material injury, the injury lies in the terror and emotional and mental upset caused to a sensitive child. Is it beyond the wit of women to find some way of lessening the incidence of this horror? Obviously where the offence is committed against a really young child, and some of them are tinies, there is presumptive evidence of abnormality. Where a man has been convicted, and especially more than once, should he not be treated as a pathological case, and prevented from further outrages if he is medically incurable? Is it only in England that this horrible thing exists, creating a danger for our children, little boys as well as little girls? In Australia the women societies have been protesting against the light sentences given on conviction of such offenders, so the problem exists there. Is it so in other countries? If anywhere this problem has arisen and has been met with measures giving increased protection, will not those of our readers who have knowledge of it write and tell us. Of all the crimes which stain society, surely there is nothing so beastly, nothing so repugnant to innate ideas of decency, as these foul attempts to stain the minds and bodies of little, little children. One would not wish to be sentimental, but here is a thing which exists as a widespread evil and women especially ought not to put it out of their minds, but turn thought and energy to its control.

What is Slavery?

This is the title of a pamphlet by Nina Boyle, and its sub-title is "An Appeal to Women," and surely no woman with any particle of human feeling could read it unmoved, and every woman who feels a sense of responsibility not only to her own sex but to human decency and progress ought to read it. Miss Boyle quotes the definition of slavery from the League of Nations Slavery Convention: "Slavery is the status of a person over whom all or any of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised." The Convention, ratified by some 32 Governments, pledges its signatories to put down and to help each other to put down slavery "in all its forms."

After that definition and that undertaking it is doubly shocking to find, as Miss Boyle has found, that nothing has been or is being done to put down forms of slavery which affect women only when they come in the shape of marriage or concubinage customs, or the handing over of children for payment to commercial prostitution. It is widely claimed that the custom of the bride-price is a great protection since it secures them good treatment, at any rate as children. To have to admit that there may be some truth in this is indeed to measure the completeness of the view that women are mere goods. There is a recognised, legally recognised, sale of girls both for marriage and concubinage, and fathers may hand over a girl on the hire-purchase system, and if the transaction is not completed, take her away and repeat the bargain any number of times. And yet the excuse for upholding this and other customs is that without them the women would take to "a life of immorality." It is inconceivable and yet it is true. Nor is this slavery merely sexual, it is not only economic in the sense that these women have no right to own anything. Beyond that, they are expected to support themselves, their children and the husband to boot, and they can be directly bought, under the fiction of the bride-price, for the hardest labour of portage, and are

worked immediately up to and after their confinements. Miss Boyle ends by stating that the League of Nations, the Anti-Slavery Society state that these forms of slavery are not their business. Whose business is it? Women's surely. How are we to deal with it? What can we do? Heaven knows it is difficult, but no one can read this pamphlet without feeling that the answer must be found.

ANTI-FEMINISM OR NEW FEMINISM?

Dr. Lis Jacobsen, of Denmark, has recently published some articles in a Norwegian paper, "Tidens Tegn," which have aroused a storm of controversy all over Scandinavia. The articles dealt with women's problems—women's rights, duties, responsibilities and sphere of work—on all of which Dr. Jacobsen has expressed very frank opinions. Her enthusiastic cry that women should go "back to the home and children" has provoked a shower of protests. Among the statements made in these articles are that women should bear children before they are 20 and continue doing so at suitable intervals, that all women should have children, and if there are too few men the fathers can take turns—it is better that a woman should have half a husband than no husband at all! Further, she states that the old woman's movement must be given such a knock that it can never rise again, and feminist interest must be concentrated on a movement for *motherhood*, which is clearly Dr. Jacobsen's idea of woman's real happiness. Every woman should produce as many children as she wishes (she is also to be given encouragement by the State so that it will pay to become a mother) and when she wishes to take up a profession she can pass on her husband to another young girl.

Kvinden og Samfundet has published a very stimulating attack on these articles by a young Danish law student, who accuses Dr. Jacobsen of directly approving of irresponsibility to ourselves, to the State and to our children, and she also points out that such a system would involve the risk of a considerable increase in venereal disease. She concludes very pointedly: "We want to have our children—and responsibility. But we also want to make our mark in the world, just as you have made yours. You who have realised your ambitions now wish to break down the woman's movement and deprive us young women of its support." *Norges Kvinder* has also opened up its columns to this controversy, where Dr. Jacobsen's principles of matriarchy have been severely criticised by one of her countrywomen, Dr. Johanne Christiansen. These criticisms have been met by Dr. Jacobsen, who says that in the heat of the argument there has been much exaggeration and misinterpretation of her ideas, which she sums up as follows:—The ideal for women and the State is the greatest possible number of homes with children, but it is dangerous to combine motherhood with a position outside the home. The present deplorable social and economic conditions have been caused firstly by monogamy—Dr. Jacobsen finally admits, however, that it would be difficult to carry out in practice her scheme for a matriarchy, built on her conviction of the necessity of women fulfilling their functions as mothers—and secondly by the woman's movement. Her accusation is not aimed at its pioneers, but against the present leaders, who are using all their time and strength to gain equal conditions of work, while questions of more vital and immediate interest are ignored. To Dr. Christiansen's question as to what rights she would have taken away from women, Dr. Jacobsen answers: "I do not wish to deprive woman of any of her present rights, but I wish besides these to give her a right which circumstances to-day in thousands of cases deny her—that of being a mother." Neither does she want the vote taken away from women, but

hopes that their theoretic vote, which is now no more than an echo of the men's, will become a real vote founded on their independent experience and judgment. By a general education and experience in the running of a home women will to a much greater extent than at present gain knowledge of social and economic conditions, and so be qualified to take part in the administration of their country and community.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Women in the Church. The Presbyterian Church of England at its recent Assembly adopted a motion to admit women equally with men to the roll of those who not being ministers or probationers of the Church are authorised to undertake preaching or pastoral services.

A special committee has been appointed to report to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland on the question of admitting women to the Ministry. The Committee state that this question is of such importance that it is desirable to take the mind of the Church by consultation of the Presbyteries. They recommend the revival of the Order of Deaconesses. On the principle of the eligibility of women to the eldership, the Committee found that there are no sufficient grounds for the exclusion of women. It is not known what decision the Assembly will take.

In England there is a "Society for the Ministry of Women" which works to secure the eligibility of women for the priesthood of the Church of England.

Germany. The first woman to pass the extremely difficult Gardening Examination set by the Agricultural Department of the Province of Brandenburg is Miss A. Kalbow. She was one of three successful candidates out of twelve.

In the elections held in April for the Prussian Diet, there was a set-back in the number of women elected, 28 as against 45 in the last Diet.

Great Britain. Miss Dorothy Dallyn is the first and only woman member of the Institute of Builders.

Miss Agnes Gilroy, of the Distributive Workers' Union, is the first woman to secure a seat on the General Council of the Scottish Trade Unions Congress.

India. A number of girls in Amritsar have applied for admission to the Hindu Sabha College, which is at present an institution for boys only.

It is announced that Miss May Oung, the only woman delegate to the Burmese Round Table Conference and well known as a feminist, has just married Mr. U. Shwe Baw, of the Indian Civil Service. We offer our congratulations.

Italy. At the request of the Crown Prince, the well-known doctor, Elizabeth Bruni, has been appointed physician to the Crown Princess.

Poland. A second woman judge, Mme. Wanda Kaminska, has been appointed to the Children's Court in Warsaw, the first woman so appointed being Mme. Wanda Grabinska.

U.S.A. A Bill has been passed by the House of Representatives to exempt from the operation of the immigration quota husbands of American citizens. This puts American women citizens on a par with American male citizens, whose foreign wives were already exempt.

It is not always remembered that wide divergences of legislation exist among the different States of the Union. West Virginia has just adopted a new Civil Code which gives all ordinary civil rights to married women, right to deal with her property, right to make contracts, right to sue in the courts, rights to parental authority, inheritance, etc. It is strange to realise that only now have women won such rights in that part of the progressive U.S.A. They may still not be jurors.

Isle of Man. Perhaps few of our readers know that this tiny little Island lying between England and Ireland has its own ancient Parliament known as the House of Keys. Though it is believed that women have the vote and are eligible, it does not appear that there are any women members. But the House has just adopted a "Married Women's Protection Bill" for the better enforcement of maintenance orders against deserting husbands.

Yugo-Slavia. Madame Lepossava Budjeva is the first woman to occupy an important post in the State Railways, having recently been promoted to the position of Inspector.

Mlle. Zorka Simitch has been appointed Keeper of the National Museum in Belgrade.

REVIEW.

Margaret McMillan, Prophet and Pioneer. Albert Mansbridge, published by J. M. Dent & Sons, Bedford Street, London, W.C.2. Price 6s.

Margaret McMillan was actually born in the State of New York, but her work belongs to England, where she effected a revolution in methods of dealing with the health of school-children which has had a repercussion in many countries. From her highland ancestry, she inherited a strain of mysticism which gave her that real inspiration which alone, perhaps, can keep alive the fierce energy needed by those who have to fight an unceasing battle for reform. Starting in life as a governess, then going on to train as an actress, it was her growing absorption in the socialist party which finally decided the course of her life. In 1892 she made her first speech in Hyde Park, and in 1893 she went to Bradford to devote herself to work for the Labour movement there. It was always the children who had her deepest interest, and few though the opportunities were for women to enter public life, she was elected a member of the Bradford School Board, and Bradford was a city which had begun to take a remarkable interest in education. It had been the pioneer in appointing the first medical officer of health for school children, Dr. James Kerr, and it was indeed a fortunate thing that these two real reformers should have been able to work together. The steps of the fight for proper medical care for the school-children cannot be followed in detail here, we can only state that the provision of baths, meals for necessitous children and medical inspection and care are directly due to her work, backed as it was by many devoted colleagues.

Miss McMillan left Bradford for London, where she became well-known as a lecturer and writer in many causes: politics, suffrage and above all, the provision of medical inspection and treatment of school children. In 1908 she started the Bow Clinic, which was followed by her now world famous work at Deptford. It was always her aim to work with the education authorities, national and municipal, because she saw clearly that therein lay the hope of permanence. And she found ready support among many of the doctors and officials. The story of Deptford as told in this book is both an inspiring and a touching one, and from it resulted the

institution of the Nursery School, the first real effort to give health and education to the child of pre-school age, and which to many seems a development of primary importance for the health and well-being of the future citizen.

There is no space to mention the long list of Margaret McMillan's books on Children and Education. This little book is a full and closely compressed account of all her many activities and is the story of a very remarkable woman who has left a deep mark on social history.

K.B.

SYRIA.

Extracts from the Report presented to the Mediterranean Women's Conference in Constantine by Miss Massara Kélani.

The awakening of Syrian women can be traced back to the declaration of the Turkish Constitution in 1908. People then began to speak against old customs which retarded the progress of the country, and though such movements were repressed, nevertheless important reforms were made in the laws affecting women and many schools for girls were opened.

In 1916 women teachers came to Syria from Constantinople and began to teach Syrian girls something of their rights. We cannot forget Miss Nicar Hanum, sister of the famous woman writer, Kalide Edib, who came to Syria during the war and played a big rôle in the advancement of Syrian women. Several welfare institutions in Damascus are evidence of her work.

After the war Syria became independent and began to feel the necessity of improving women's condition. It is worth mention that some of the members of the Syrian Parliament asked for the suffrage for both sexes but they had not a majority. Many schools were opened, women's associations were founded and magazines and papers dealing with women's questions began to circulate. Many women were working as doctors, lawyers, teachers, typists, nurses, etc. Many of the poorer girls were able to earn their living in the new textile industry. Then came the Mandate, and shortly afterwards revolution broke out which led to the closing of schools, the dissolution of the women's societies and other checks. But in 1927 the movement made a fresh start: schools, organisations of many kinds and charitable institutions were again started and Syria is going ahead. Let us hope that in a few years I shall be able to bring the good news of its independence and of equal rights between men and women.

The following are some of the best-known women who are working for the Syrian women's movement.

Selwa Salama, who was the first woman to edit a monthly paper, "The Girls of El-Asi." Her courage in opening this door to woman cannot be too gratefully recognised. Mary Ajami, Editor of "El Arusa" in Damascus; Mary Benni of the "Minerva" in Beirut, and Habube Hadad of "The New Life," also in Beirut. Julia Taame Demeshikie of "The New Woman"; Nazek El-Abed of the "Nour el Feiha"; Rosa Hadad of "Ladies and Gentlemen," who is now editing one of the most famous women's magazines in Egypt; Najla Abi Lamaa of the "El Fajr." I am sorry to say that most of the above-mentioned papers do not now exist. Some of them were suppressed by the Government and they could not for the most part compete with cheap illustrated magazines. So now we have only one monthly paper "The Woman," founded by Miss Nadime El-Minkari in Hama. This is a small paper and manages to keep going though it cannot afford to deal frankly with the women's demands.

There are more than 20 associations working for the women's movement, but I will only mention the following: The Oriental Union, president, Mrs. Labibe

Hashem; The Women's Union of Lebanon and Syria, president, Mrs. Nour Hamada; the Temperance Society in Damascus, president, Miss Asma Kouri.

I will close by giving a few facts about present-day conditions. Some 40% of the women can read and write. There are many girls' schools in the cities and towns but not in the villages. A few years ago when a man wanted to marry a girl he would ask if she could cook, wash, etc., but now he also asks whether she can read and write and where she was educated and what she can do. Women are employed as doctors, teachers, typists, nurses, dressmakers, midwives, and also in handicrafts, and especially the weaving of rugs.

Girls marry at the age of from 15-25, men from 20 to 30. Polygamy is rare in the cities but is yet to be found in the villages. The Courts can grant divorce to a woman at her request if she can prove good grounds.

Some of the educated women and those of rich families are noted for their extravagance in dress!

THE FAR EAST.

Although we all hope that the problem in China is reaching a happy solution it still seems of interest to publish the following extract from a letter from a Japanese member of the Women's International League to a member of the British Section to whom she was personally known, dated from Tokio, March 25th, 1932.

As soon as Manchurian event occurred, we women in Tokyo formed a forum and met twice a month or more, discussing and trying to stop fighting and withdraw the troops from the zone. But under the pretext of self-defence and protection of the treaty-right, they went on in Manchuria as well as in Shanghai. I was in Shanghai, on my conciliation trip, just when the people of both sides were in emotional uproar and finally brought Martial law and fighting. The League Commission is making studies now, so the detailed reports will come out. But I can say this much that the women of Japan have been awakened to the injustice of killing of sons of both countries, though, of course, some mothers have no means yet to speak out their heart-felt protests. Parents' silent prayers that their sons may come home alive were shown in every station where those mothers came to ask the passing women to make one stitch each on the cotton belt to be sent to the soldiers at the front upon which at least one thousand different women must make one needle stitch. Such superstition to protect their sons from being shot prevails, because the innocent mass does not know how to protest against the policy of the government, no matter whether their sons are mobilised for the militarists' intrigue. The press is entirely controlled as to what to write and what not to write. The Foreign Office and their diplomatic officials are dictated what to say. Thus, even the people in controlling positions cannot express their views, when they are threatened with death. We pacifists, though small in number, have determined to face any sacrifice and visited ministers and recently the League Commission. But such pacifists' activities are reported on the newspapers quite differently. Our interview with Lord Lytton and others has been reported that women went to explain to them that Japan was not fighting, etc. On the contrary we appealed to them to see how we are protesting against the present government policy and how the general mass is not at all supporting the fighting, however the War Department makes propaganda. We women of Japan have the same feelings with you, or perhaps more so. We are getting terrible news from Shanghai, from the mouth of the Japanese people living in Shanghai who tried to stop fighting, and who did not believe until the last moment that there would be real fighting. We all regret very much for all the wrongs of war and killing. We must prevent future troubles from every part of the world.

NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

As one of the documents circulated to Governments by instruction of the last Assembly of the League was a communication from the International Catholic Women's League, which had widely given an impression that the League was opposed to the demand for equal nationality rights for women, we are glad to publish, at the request of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance the following communication which appeared in the "Catholic Citizen," April number:

Union Internationale Des Ligues Féminines Catholiques.

It is only very recently that a reader of "The Catholic Citizen" let me know that our Union was quoted in the number of November 15th, 1931. We regret this very much, as we now were unable to clear the misunderstanding at once. We hope that whenever we are quoted again the editorial staff will be kind enough to send us a copy.

Since our presentation of the Memorandum regarding nationality of married women at Geneva, it appeared to us that a great number of people inferred that our wish to safeguard family-unity implied a demand for equal* nationality of husband and wife. If we could have imagined that so many Catholics do not seem to know that no Catholic principle is involved here, we would of course have made this clear in our Memorandum.

The first women that made this mistake were the officers of the Catholic Women's League of England, one of our affiliated bodies; they made another mistake in wiring to Geneva without asking further information at international headquarters. This is especially regrettable as one of their vice-presidents is an officer of the international board and she might have told her fellow-workers that the minutes of the board-meeting where the Memorandum was discussed say with as many words that a difference of nationality between husband and wife does not endanger necessarily family-unity.

As soon as the real meaning of our Memorandum had been made clear after this incident, the C.W.L. board understood that the Memorandum did not in any way disagree with their supporting in England the demand that a woman shall not lose her nationality on marriage to a foreigner. On October 7th, 1931, the C.W.L. board wrote to Sir Eric Drummond accordingly.

Another point we regret is that nobody seems to have thought it necessary to put things right in one of the later numbers of "The Catholic Citizen."

Now the question of the consulting of the Leagues. The four-annual Congress is the legislative body of our Union. However the statutes which were made up by the Congress of 1925 state that the Bureau can take in the meantime decisions that cannot wait for the next Congress. If a congress elects the permanent Bureau, it seems to us that they elect officers in whom they confide. If they do not any more, the Congress is perfectly free not to re-elect them. If any League does not agree with the above-mentioned clause of the statutes, it is perfectly free to bring forward at the next Congress a proposition to have it changed.

Moreover it seems to us that in the actual case, not a single Catholic League can be against our stating that family-unity must be safeguarded, when the Memorandum leaves the obtaining of the necessary reform for married women to the League of Nations.

M. ROMME,
Hon. Sec., U.I.L.F.C.

The Hague, March 1st, 1932.

* We take it that "equal" here should be "same" ?—Editor.

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

BERMUDA.

"Women Suffragettes Still Battling" heads a front-page column of the Bermudan "Royal Gazette and Colonist Daily" for April 7th. For two days previously the Legislative Council had discussed a motion to refer both the Woman Suffrage Petition and the Anti-Woman Suffrage Petition to the consideration of a Select Committee. This motion, however, was at length defeated by 19 votes to 10. The Hon. S. S. Spurling made out an excellent case for extending the franchise to women. Contrasting the position of women in 1834, when the franchise question was last dealt with, he stated that in 1834 women were not educated in the sense in which they are to-day. "Thank God for that!" cried Mr. Watlington fervently. It is interesting to record that this particular opponent is Chairman of the Board of Education in Bermuda, and it is not surprising to note that the "Royal Gazette" is asking what exactly it was he meant by this ejaculation.

Despite this set-back in the Legislative Council, the members of the Bermuda Woman Suffrage Society are not at all discouraged. They immediately held a meeting and made it clear that the movement to secure woman suffrage would continue with unabated vigour. They resolved that the Empire Parliamentary Association, which is now on a visit to Bermuda (prior to the Ottawa Conference), shall be fully informed of the local suffrage situation; and a Committee was formed to welcome the Parliamentarians on their arrival, and to seek an interview with them. The chairman of the meeting, Mrs. W. E. Tucker, moved a resolution of thanks to their supporters in the House of Assembly. This was seconded by Miss May Hutchings, and adopted unanimously. Mrs. Morrell spoke of her enthusiasm for the speech of Mr. Spurling, and referred to the brilliant support given by other members of the Legislative Council.

A "Campaign Fund" was suggested, and before the meeting was concluded it was announced that a bank debt had been wiped out, and that the Bermuda Woman Suffrage Society had a balance in hand.

—The Vote.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

Czechoslovakia is a small country of only 140,000 m. and about 15 million inhabitants, of whom some 10 million are educated. Roughly there are 6 millions Czechs, 3½ million Germans, with Hungarians, Poles and Russians forming small groups. Almost 5 million are Slovaks, poor cottagers living in very primitive conditions. The following information therefore only applies to the Czech, German, Hungarian and Polish inhabitants.

There are about 5,000 women studying at the universities, about 300 studying technical science. There are already more than 800 women doctors and as many with degrees as professors; nearly 100 women work as assistants in scientific institutes, more than 100 are barristers or lawyers; 40 women took a degree as engineer, 15 are already pharmaceutical chemists and about 300 are now studying that profession.

R. T. K.

GERMANY.

In April two of our pioneers, well-known in the international movement celebrated their 60th birthday: Frau Adele Schreiber-Krieger and Dr. Alice Salomon. Although their lives have been spent in rather different fields of action, the beginning of their work shows the similarity of the difficulties met with by the daughters of the "cultivated classes": no real work, no serious

study was permitted by the family or by society. Adele Schreiber's wish for a university training could as little be fulfilled as Alice Salomon's desire for active responsible work. Nevertheless they made their way, and made it with the more zeal as every step had to be conquered.

Adele Schreiber, who as a girl spent several years abroad, chiefly in France, developed her brilliant talent for languages; as a journalist she acquired widespread knowledge of foreign life, and as a social worker she chiefly defended the rights of the illegitimate child and the position of its mother, claims that seem natural now but were not so by any means thirty years ago. Married to Dr. Krieger, a medical man, Adele Schreiber, Austrian by birth, acquired German nationality. She joined the socialist movement and since 1919 has several times been elected to the German Reichstag. Her strenuous political work in the Prussian elections prevented a proper setting for her birthday, but we hope for a gathering later on.

Dr. Alice Salomon is the founder of women's modern social work in Germany. In a vivid sketch of her life (Elga Kern, "Führende Frauen Europas, 1929) her first timid steps are depicted, which soon led to a passion for helping, organising, teaching, training. Her research work which led to the then extraordinary step of university study, was a natural outcome of her private social experience; it led forcibly towards the creation of something new, of which the Berlin School for Social Training and the Social Academy are the best-known and most important examples. Owing to the present crisis, Alice Salomon refused anything resembling a festivity for her birthday but she met her friends and pupils at a friendly gathering, where the different circles touched by her activities, beginning with the children of the Kindergarten, brought their tribute, and which was visited by many distinguished men and women, including Professor Einstein. The Prussian State, represented by Helene Weber, honoured her with the Silver Medal, and the name of "Alice Salomon Schule" was officially conferred on her institute of social training. The University of Berlin conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine.

The international work of both women is so well known that we do no more than mention the International Alliance for Adele Schreiber and the International Council for Alice Salomon, and ask our readers to remember the women's congresses of the last 30 years, where they will have seen and experienced their activities.

D. v. V.

HOLLAND.

On May 7th the Dutch National Auxiliary held its Annual Meeting in Amsterdam with the President, Miss Piepers in the Chair. There was an animated discussion as to what part members should play in the elections which will take place next year. The two questions were:

- (1) Should women join the political parties?
- (2) Should votes be given for women on the candidates' lists, or for the first name on the list?

The voting was in favour of women joining the parties and endeavouring to influence them from within, and members were advised to vote for women candidates wherever possible.

Miss Manus gave reports on the international work, and again in the evening she spoke about women's work at the Disarmament Conference and showed pictures of the Presentation of the Petitions, etc.

There was a very well-attended lecture given by

Professor Mrs. Hazewinkel-Suringa, who has just been elected to the Chair of Penal Law at the University of Amsterdam.

From June 17th to July 10th there is to be an Exhibition "Mother and Child" in Amsterdam, at the time of the Centenary of the Dutch Universities and the Dutch Auxiliary is to have a place in the exhibition. It is intended to illustrate pictorially the disabilities of women in matters of guardianship, of entry into the professions, in nationality, etc. Propaganda literature will be shown and the Society will hold an evening meeting in the Exhibition Hall.

It is evident that the Dutch Society is actively carrying on its work.

INDIA.

D Ward in Bombay City is to be congratulated on having returned two women Members to the Municipality with large majorities; Dr. Malinibai Sukhthankar having topped the list and Miss Maniben Kara ranking third. Both women have a record of social work and experience. Dr. Sukhthankar is the Secretary of the Social section of the All-India Women's Conference and is also on the Central Executive of the National Council of Women in India; she has frequently represented Bombay at women's conferences of an all-India nature. She has also had direct contact with problems of poverty and social welfare in her work as a medical woman.

Miss Kara has been a pioneer in the new type of social work among women mill-workers necessitated by the growing industrial population of the country. Miss Kara has supplemented, by study abroad, her training at the Social Training Centre for Women in Bombay. The Seva Mandir which she has started is a settlement located in the Foras Road Mill Area; the work includes Chawl-visiting, health-propaganda, a nursery school, women's classes and a clinic.

The election of these women by substantial majorities is an answer to those who hold that public opinion does not support the entry of women in the field, and that expedients like reservation and nomination or co-option are necessary to secure women's representation on public bodies.

—Sri Dharma.

NOTES FROM IRELAND.

Women in the Church.

The proposal to admit women as members of the Synod of the Church of Ireland has again been rejected by that body by an increased majority. It is worth noting that on each occasion the proposal has been brought forward by a distinguished lawyer, the mover of the resolution last year being the late Lord Glenavy, who was the First Chairman of the Irish Free State Senate, and this year the Recorder of Belfast. The arguments were exactly the same as those used in the Suffrage controversy.

The Recorder said all reforms were at first rejected. Reforms were accepted when men's minds by degrees have come to see their innate reasonableness and had got over their prejudices, and had found that it was a shame and a scandal that injustice should be allowed to continue.

He reminded the Synod that the bill for the abolition of slavery passed through Parliament after twenty years, having been rejected more than twelve times. He hoped that this reform to admit women to the Synod would make its way. Women, he insisted, made more use of the Church Services than men, and they were invited to subscribe to all the purposes of the Church, and they did so generously.

The opposer, also a K.C., made horrifying suggestions. He said: If the arguments in favour of the bill

were correct, there was no reason why they should not have a Synod composed of women and clergy. He did not know if the clergy would like that. The clergy had much influence, and they may get their wives, or even daughters, into the Synod, and, if they voted on opposite sides, what was going to happen? (Laughter). Women had a lofty and noble duty in life, and they should be left to fulfil it. If the Synod took this step they could never redress it, and it might lead to every position in the Church being opened to women.

A vote was then taken, and resulted:—

In favour—68 clerical and 56 lay votes.

Against—93 clerical and 122 lay votes.

NEW ZEALAND.

Women in the Depression.

There is little of cheer to report, but we are not down-hearted. At this moment I am reading in the cables the wise words of the *Manchester Guardian* touching the recent riots in Auckland. This sporadic and uncharacteristic outburst of violence has probably been exaggerated in England, and we do not at present look for any more trouble from mob fury. The true sufferers in the depression know that civic and humanitarian activities throughout the country will not let them remain without the necessities of life.

The riots happened in the midst of an Opposition (Labour) campaign against the Government's drastic schemes of retrenchment. We are proud to have balanced our Budget, but there is a widespread lack of confidence in the Coalition's policy up to date, reversing as it does so many of the splendid principles of our past constitution. We fear industrial strife where conciliation once reigned, a long, if not permanent, lowering of working conditions, and that inevitable depreciation of human values following any serious breakdown of education. Nothing has more inspired the Opposition defence than the repeated injustices to women in the course of Coalition finance. Being weaker, less organised, than men, and lower paid, they had more to lose in the common calamity of compulsory arbitration being destroyed. A special clause to give women workers a right to appeal has been passed in the Upper House, but feminists, besides doubting the efficacy of the concession, rightly question policies of special legislation for women workers, instead of the common safeguards of workers in progressive countries. Women will certainly come off worst if our pension scheme, now threatened, is seriously attacked. Covering widow's pensions, miners' widows' pensions, orphans' pensions and family allowances, such a policy will indeed strike harder on women both in youth and age.

The Howard League.

As I write, the Howard League, a branch of the family body in Britain, is holding its Annual Session in Wellington. Our branch was founded some years ago to promote better care of prisoners, mainly by the efforts of one of our most active reformers, Miss Blanche Edith Banghan, whose extensive work among social delinquents, both official and private, has qualified her for the title "The Prisoners' Friend." Miss Banghan, a graduate of London University, has made New Zealand her home for many years. An author (with two books of poems to her credit before landing in this country, and many both of prose and verse after), a traveller, and a mountaineer, she touched life at many points before taking up prison reform. She was later appointed an official jail-visitor, but this post she resigned some time ago for freer work in controversy and publications, conducting a wide correspondence with prisoners all over the country and keeping up with progress in Europe and

America. Her work in conjunction with other earnest prison reformers here has been towards incorporating in our system a wide use of psychology and psychiatry in dealing with the degenerates and sub-normal subjects who form the bulk of most prison populations. A good New Zealander feels a twinge of shame in recording that Miss Banghan's main plea at the Howard League Conference this year was for women police, surely a *sine qua non* in all work among the headstrong or weak-minded girls likely to land in detention. Certainly at the moment, and for some sessions previous, sheer slump work has put all else out of Parliamentary consideration. But why we have to be thus branded because of the successful vote of two reactionary Ministers of Justice during some ten years we do not know.

This week in Wellington a large Meeting of women addressed by leaders from all the centres will be held to awaken the public to the dangerous trend of educational and industrial retrenchment threatened this year. The women teachers in primary schools were apparently to suffer specially vindictive salary reductions (amounting to a prospective saving of £75,000). Not only is it proposed to subject them to the ordinary "cut" already endured and about to be increased, but it is threatened that they shall be deprived of part of the special allowance now made to women teachers high in the service, and forbidden to compete for headships open to men of an even less standing. This means that certain women will lose 37% of their present salary, without one hope of preferment, now denied on score of sex. The Department thus proposes to have it both ways with their unfortunate female employees. The women secondary teachers suffer less as they have the entry to headships of girls' secondary schools.

This meeting will be the prelude to a deputation of leading women. It is to be hoped that the next account of our country will show that the Turkish Complex in high places is scotched if not killed.

JESSIE MACKAY, Christchurch.
April 18th, 1932.

ROUMANIA.

The fight for civil rights for married women was a veritable triumph for the women's organisations, and especially perhaps for the Princess Cantacuzene, who has sent us an interesting account of the intensive work put into the six weeks from the time that a Bill for electoral reform was presented to the Chamber to the moment when the part referring to civil rights was adopted. It is a pity that the question of political rights was withdrawn, but doubtless that can only now be a matter of time.

Intense propaganda by means of public meetings, articles in the press, interviews and pressure on members of all the political parties brought the victory. All the articles in the Civil Code with regard to the necessity for marital authorisation before wives can engage in business, plead in the courts, control their property, receive an inheritance, etc., have either been abrogated or modified in accordance with the complete equality of the spouses.

We offer our hearty congratulations to the women of Roumania on this further step towards complete equality of rights, and we wish them a speedy realisation of the rest of their programme—full equality of suffrage.

UNITED STATES.

That women can face economic problems, think them through and agree on certain essentials of remedial and preventative measures was evidenced by the tenth convention of the National League of Women Voters. Meeting the last week of April, in a year of economic depression greater perhaps than any ever before ex-

perienced in the United States, the attention of the assembled women voters was focussed for five days on the place of the woman voter in "times like these."

The primary task of the convention was to make the final decisions regarding the items of the programme of work for the next two years. Suggestions for changes or additions to the programme of the previous biennial period had been proposed by committee members several months before the convention and as a consequence the delegates were familiar with their content and their meaning. The decision to support legislation for state unemployment compensation and to support a system of federal, state, and local unemployment relief were important new items added. The establishment of a system of co-ordinated federal, and state employment agencies was again urged. In addition the League reaffirmed its position urging the entrance of the United States to the World Court and its support of the settlement of international difficulties by arbitration and economic agreements in the interests of peace.

The suggestion that the League of Women Voters go on record as favouring membership of the United States in the League of Nations was approved by a large vote. The League of Nations has been one of the items studied by the voters' organization ever since it was formed twelve years ago. The convention also adopted a resolution which, recognizing that the present world situation is largely the result of losses and economic dislocations of war, reiterated the desire of the League of Women Voters for international reduction of all preparations for war, and its support of the United States Delegation at the Disarmament Conference in their efforts for effective reduction of armaments.

The delegates were told by representatives of business, labour, agriculture, and the press that both of the major political parties are attempting to evade the real issues of the coming presidential campaign. The speakers were agreed that the great issues with which the political parties should be concerned are, a radical readjustment of the existing social, economic, and industrial order; a practical settlement of inter-governmental debts and a rational approach to the subject of world disarmament.

The question of the adherence of the United States to the World Court is still being debated in the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. The situation has been complicated and the delay prolonged by the introduction of a resolution proposing another reservation on the adherence of the United States. This proposed reservation provides that the code of law to be administered by the World Court shall not contain inequalities based on sex and is sponsored by the National Woman's Party.

The National League of Women Voters regrets that such a reservation has been introduced, and at a hearing on the reservation held on May 7th, set forth in the following terms its opposition to the reservation.

"The reservation seeks to pivot the adherence of the United States to the Court on a code of international law which does not exist.

"It seeks to delay adherence until a vague future date at which a new codification of international law may be formulated and pending which, the United States and the world would forfeit the benefits we believe implicit in membership in the Court.

"Further, the reservation is a form of blanket legislation which seeks indirectly to eliminate legal discrimination between men and women without setting up a standard of rights, privileges and duties which they might expect to enjoy. This type of legislation if passed, would create confusion and initiate litigation in domestic jurisdiction and would precipitate greater chaos where the conflicting legal theories of many nations are involved."

SPAIN.

The Asociacion Nacional de Mujeres Espanolas has opened a subscription list for the purpose of having a plaque placed in the Palace of the Cortes (Houses of Parliament) to commemorate the granting of equal political and citizenship rights to women. The minimum subscription is one peseta, and all women of whatever political party are asked to contribute towards this celebration of a unique historical event.

The Women's Committee for Social Betterment which has already established a home for deserted mothers, is studying the question of establishing district centres for women's interests. It is also on the point of establishing the Casa Montserrat for women living alone, which will be the first establishment of its kind in Spain. There are many women earning their living who have not the means to have a flat of their own and who live in lodgings. The disadvantages of such lodgings are well known and the Committee hopes to offer to these women a remedy. We desire that the woman who works should be able to have her independent home, perhaps with her sister, mother or child, which she can arrange as she likes in comfort for a modest rent.

The Casa Montserrat will contain about 500 apartments, at rents ranging from 20 to 60 pesetas a month; they will be spacious, with facilities for cooking, electricity, gas etc., with water and baths on each floor, lifts, service lifts, space for drying linen, canteen, medicine chest, oratory, etc.

Applicants will have to give references and obey certain rules for securing cleanliness and good order.

"Mundo Femenino."

WOMEN IN SOVIET INDUSTRIAL LIFE.

One of the main aims of the communal education system of the U.S.S.R. and the state care for the welfare of children was to release the woman from her former social bondage, from domestic burdens and the servitude to the kitchen and children—for the purpose of drawing her into socially productive labour, and to enable her to attain actual economic and social equality, not only apparent equality between the sexes.

The results of this state policy are now seen in the increasing number of women workers in the factories and their increasing social activities in every walk of life. During the period of the first five-year plan another 3 million women were drawn into industry. The total number of women in industry in the U.S.S.R. is now 6 million as compared to 2,394,000 in 1923. The additional number of women drawn into industry in 1931 alone was 1,600,000.

There are 300,000 women members of Rural Soviets and Executives of Rural Soviets, Revisionary Commissions of Rural Soviets, Regional Executive Committees, Urban Soviets, and there are also tens of thousands of women doctors, teachers, engineers and agricultural workers in the Union.

A good result of the release of women from the old drudgery has been the great decline of illiteracy among working women and peasant women. In the last three years 15,000,000 illiterate women have been taught to read and to write and have received a fair amount of general and political instruction, enabling them to participate in the industrial, social, and political work of the Union. As a consequence women have taken part to a great extent in the cultural development of the Soviet workers and continue to do so in increasing numbers. At present the trade unions are taking an increasing part in the speeding up of production by means of competition among workers and of labour

shock-brigades, and women are at the head of this movement. A recent census, covering 1,948 industrial units in the metal, textile and chemical trades showed that of the men workers 54 per cent. took part in the competition among workers and of the women 55 per cent. In the cotton-textile and other industries 75 per cent. of the women are taking part in this movement of competition.

A typical case, showing the initiative and efficiency of the women workers in Soviet industrial life is that of a 23 year-old peasant girl, Vera Panchina, worker in the department for machine tools of the Neviansk engineering works in the Urals. The report presented by her to the recent Trade Union Congress in Moscow about the activities of the speeding-up brigade of which she was the head, showed that the programme of production for the 4th quarter of 1931 in the Neviansk works had been carried out up to the extent of 111 per cent. and in March 1932 to the extent of 109.8 per cent. Great economy had also been achieved in the use of tools and lubrication materials, all due to the efficient technical training of the members of the shock-brigades, the keeping of accounts of costs of production, the able management of all the details of the labour shock-brigades scheme—all of which was the special merit of Vera Panchina and her two assistants, peasant women like herself.

In recognition of her organising efficiency, the shock-brigade of which Vera Panchina is the head, has been put up for first prize in the All-Union competition of labour shock-brigades of the machine-tool industry.

Press Service: Soviet Union Year Book.

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INTERNATIONAL COUNTRYWOMEN.

Delegates from thirty countries will attend an International Economic Conference of Countrywomen in London on May 27th, to discuss "How Countrywomen can help in the present world crisis." The morning session will be opened by Lady Ryrie, wife of the High Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Australia, and Mrs. Alfred Watt, M.B.E., M.A., Founder of the Women's Institutes Movement in this country, will preside at all sessions.

The extent of the problem will be outlined at the morning session by Dr. Ivy Pinchbeck, Lecturer at the London School of Economics and Bedford College. Other speakers will include Frau Kuessner Gerhard (Germany) and Miss Eunice H. Avery (U.S.A.), who will discuss the economic position of Countrywomen from the Old World and the New World points of view respectively.

Mme. Kallas, wife of the Estonian Minister in London, will open the afternoon session, when Mrs. Ward, M.P. for Cannock, who has had experience in farm life, will discuss the special contribution of the countrywoman in helping her countryside. The value of co-operation and a new conception of standards of living will be emphasised by speakers from abroad, and Mrs. Howard, of the International Labour Office, will explain the international significance of the work of the countrywoman.

—The Vote.

SECTION FRANCAISE.

CHRONIQUE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

La XVII^e Conférence Internationale du Travail.— Session du Comité consultatif contre la traite des femmes.

Il est tragique de constater que cette XVI^e Conférence Internationale du Travail, au cours de laquelle les qualités merveilleuses d'enthousiasme fervent et de documentation précise et sûre du Directeur du B.I.T. s'affirmèrent une fois de plus, devait se terminer exactement huit jours avant sa mort. Car, une fois de plus, son rapport d'abord, brossant une grande fresque de la situation actuelle, son discours ensuite, par lequel il répondit avec sa clarté et son éloquence habituelles aux observations formulées sur la politique de l'Organisation internationale du Travail, constituèrent le point culminant des débats de la Conférence, —plus spécialement encore en ces temps de dépression économique et de chômage intense. En effet, et on l'a répété de divers côtés, pour intéressants et utiles que fussent les problèmes inscrits à l'ordre du jour de cette session, ne pâlisseraient-ils pas devant l'actualité brûlante de la lutte contre le chômage, et des constatations et des suggestions formulées à cet égard par le B.I.T.?

De ces questions à l'ordre du jour trois sur quatre nous touchaient directement en tant que femmes, la quatrième étant en effet celle de la protection contre les accidents des travailleurs des docks, parmi lesquels il ne se trouve point de femmes. Quant à la question de l'âge d'admission des enfants aux professions non industrielles, si on ne peut dire qu'elle vise le travail des petites filles plus ou moins que celui des petits garçons, elle ne peut laisser aucune femme indifférente, que ce soit comme éducatrice, travailleuse sociale, chef de commerce, ou mère de famille. Les femmes déléguées ont donc été nombreuses dans la Commission, qui a discuté puis adopté une Convention sur ce point, et nous mentionnerons tout spécialement la part qu'ont prise à ces débats Mmes. Palencia (Espagne), Wasniewska (Pologne), Atanatskovitch (Yougoslavie), toutes trois membres de l'Alliance, Mlle. Hesselgren (Suède) et Mlle. Möhrke (Allemagne). La Convention votée après des débats très-animés, qui se sont étendus sur près de trois semaines, fixe à 14 ans l'âge d'admission des enfants aux professions commerciales et non industrielles, en laissant les gouvernements libres d'élever cette limite pour les travaux dangereux physiquement et moralement. En revanche, et nous le regrettons, car nous craignons que ce ne soit ouvrir la porte à bien des abus, des dérogations pourront être autorisées pour employer des enfants de moins de 14 ans à des travaux légers entre leurs heures de classe, ainsi qu'à des représentations "servant à l'art, à la science et à l'éducation." La détestable pratique de l'emploi d'enfants dans les cinémas est certainement sous-entendue ici, comme l'avait bien vu le Comité de Protection de l'Enfance de la S.d.N., qui était intervenu contre cette disposition de la Convention.

Les deux autres questions discutées par la Conférence l'ont été pour la première fois, c'est à dire qu'elle s'est surtout occupée d'élaborer le questionnaire qui va être envoyé aux gouvernements, et sur la base des réponses duquel seront préparés les projets de Conventions que discutera la Conférence en 1933. Il s'agit d'une part de la suppression des bureaux de placement payants, une enquête préliminaire du B.I.T. ayant révélé des abus très-graves et des risques réels pour ceux et celles qui recourent à leurs services (songeons à tout le personnel domestique, aux employés d'hôtels et de restaurants, au personnel enseignant, aux gardes-malades, aux artistes, aux musiciens, etc., etc.); et

d'autre part de l'assurance-vieillesse-invalidité et survivants. Deux des femmes membres de délégations se sont tout spécialement signalées dans les travaux des Commissions qui ont étudié ces deux questions: Mme. Letellier (France) pour les bureaux de placement, et Mlle. Stemberg (Pays-Bas) pour les assurances.

Peu auparavant, le Comité consultatif de la S.d.N. contre la traite des femmes avait également siégé à Genève, avec un ordre du jour si riche que nous regrettons de ne pouvoir, faute de place, en entretenir plus en détail les lectrices de JUS. Mentionnons les différents rapports qui constituent pour toutes celles qui se préoccupent de ces problèmes une mine précieuse de renseignements de première main: rapports des gouvernements sur les cas de traite poursuivis par eux; rapports des six représentants d'organisations privées luttant contre la traite, et notamment celui de Mme. Avril de Ste-Croix, qui siège à ce Comité au nom de six Associations féminines, et entre autres l'Alliance; rapport du gouvernement britannique sur l'emploi des jeunes femmes artistes à l'étranger; rapport du Secrétariat, en complément à celui de l'an dernier, sur la police féminine; déclarations des représentants de l'Espagne et de la Belgique sur les perspectives d'abolition prochaine de la réglementation de la prostitution dans ces pays, etc., etc.

D'autre part, et comme chaque année, des débats très-chauds et très-intéressants se sont engagés entre abolitionnistes et partisans attachés au système de la réglementation de la prostitution. Ceci surtout à l'occasion des modifications à introduire dans les Conventions internationales de 1910 et de 1921 contre la traite des femmes, en ce qui concerne, d'abord l'élimination de la limite d'âge, et ensuite les sanctions à infliger aux souteneurs. Sur le premier point, la victoire est restée aux partisans de l'élimination de la limite d'âge (les organisations féminines étaient du nombre, estimant que cette disposition ouvrait un échappatoire trop commode aux trafiquants de chair humaine) et une résolution catégorique a été votée. Sur le second point, en revanche, il n'a pas été encore possible d'aboutir: en effet, la première base à l'élaboration de dispositions concernant les souteneurs est forcément la définition de ce terme. Or, comme dans bien des cas, ces républicains personnages ressemblent comme des frères à des tenanciers de maisons de tolérance, un certain émoi a saisi les représentants de pays réglementaristes, et on a profité du fait qu'un bon nombre de gouvernements (les deux-tiers environ) n'avaient pas encore fait savoir leur opinion sur le projet qui leur avait été soumis pour remettre à plus tard la suite des travaux à cet égard.

L'année dernière, l'Alliance avait été l'une des nombreuses organisations qui protestèrent vigoureusement auprès de la S.d.N. contre le rapatriement obligatoire des prostituées tel que le demandait le Bureau International contre la traite; et devant cette levée de boucliers, le Comité consultatif avait chargé notre collègue, Dr. Luisi, de lui présenter cette année un rapport sur ce sujet. Dr. Luisi a mis tout son cœur et toute sa connaissance de ces questions à la préparation de ce rapport, qui est un des meilleurs documents soumis cette année au Comité; malheureusement, tous les renseignements dont elle avait besoin ne lui ayant pas été fournis en temps utile d'une part, et d'autre part le Comité talonné par la courte durée de cette session ne pouvant étudier ses conclusions comme elles le méritaient, il a été décidé de renvoyer cette discussion à l'an prochain. D'avance, nous pouvons prédire sur ce point aussi une belle passe d'armes entre réglementaristes et antiréglementaristes! car il est aussi évident, du point de vue du principe, que ce rapatriement

obligatoire est une nouvelle mesure d'exception contre toute une catégorie de femmes ainsi mises hors la loi que, du point pratique, il constitue une aggravation des difficultés de réadaptations de ces malheureuses à une vie normale. On voit donc la nécessité pour nos organisations féminines et féministes de ne pas perdre de vue cette importante question.

E.G.D.

Liste des femmes déléguées à la Conférence du Travail.

Allemagne, Mlle. Möhrke; Espagne, Mme. Isabel Palencia; France, Mme. Letellier; Grande Bretagne, Mlle. Hilda Martindale, et Mlle. Julia Varley; Etat Libre d'Irlande, Mlle. E. M. Somers; Norvège, Mlle. Kjelsberg; Pays-Bas, Mlle. Stemberg; Pologne, Mme. Wasniewska; Suède, Mlle. Hesselgren; Suisse, Mlle. Dr. D. Schmidt; Yougoslavie, Mlle. Milena Atanatskovitch.

ALBERT THOMAS.

C'est avec une poignante stupéfaction que tous ceux qui, de près ou de loin, connaissent et admirent le Directeur du B. I. T. ont appris sa mort subite, survenue le 7 mai au soir à Paris. Il était en effet une personnalité si vivante et si active, il avait à un tel degré le don rare des grands chefs de savoir inspirer cette vie et cette activité à ceux qui l'entouraient que, moins que tout autre, il est possible de se le représenter terrassé, immobile, glacé du froid de la mort.

Si les féministes françaises avaient eu souvent l'occasion de collaborer avec lui avant la création du Bureau International du Travail; s'il leur avait apporté fréquemment son concours, soit en matière de travail féminin quand il était ministre des munitions, soit en matière de suffrage, ce n'est guère que depuis l'installation du B. I. T. à Genève que l'Alliance comme telle était entrée en relations directes avec lui; et ces relations étaient devenues de plus en plus fréquentes à mesure que s'élargissait le champ d'activité de l'Organisation Internationale du Travail, et que se posaient devant elle les problèmes touchant directement à nos intérêts féminins. Or, dans toutes ces rencontres, dans ces conversations si captivantes que ce fut le privilège de nos représentantes d'avoir avec lui, dans ces discussions franches quand, sur certains points, nos vues différaient des siennes, j'ai toujours trouvé en lui le féministe. Non pas le féministe étroit qui oppose la femme à l'homme, mais le féministe large et intelligent, inspiré d'une idée de collaboration et de compréhension par confiance réciproque. Je vois encore son sursaut, lorsque l'une de nous lui fit remarquer que tel article introduit dans un projet de Convention risquait de porter atteinte à notre droit au travail, sursaut suivi immédiatement d'une loyale déclaration; je me souviens de la façon dont il prit carrément ses responsabilités pour abroger de la Convention sur le bien-être des marins dans les ports tout ce qui pouvait contribuer à un retour au système inique de la réglementation de la prostitution; je me rappelle sa conception d'une spécialisation du travail, non pas suivant les sexes, mais suivant les aptitudes, selon la pure doctrine féministe; je sais par le menu ce que toutes nous lui devons dans l'adoption de tel texte de Convention, dans l'application des dispositions qui nous touchent de la Charte fondamentale de l'Organisation Internationale du Travail; et je sais aussi tout ce qu'il fut pour ses collaboratrices féminines, le souci qu'il eut de leurs opinions, et son respect de leurs droits. Et c'est parce que je sais tout cela que je voudrais que l'on réalise que ce fut injuste de faire de lui, comme de ce B. I. T. qui fut son oeuvre, le bouc émissaire des inégalités économiques qui pèsent sur les femmes; sans

doute n'a-t-on pas suffisamment compris que, ici comme à la S. d. N., ce n'est pas l'Organisation internationale qui n'en peut, qu'il faut rendre responsable, mais bien les gouvernements qui la composent et dont la volonté prime, et que c'est auprès de ces gouvernements bien plus qu'à Genève qu'il aurait fallu agir. D'ailleurs sa largeur d'idées, son impartialité à l'égard d'autres mentalités que la sienne—largeur d'idées et impartialité qui avaient fait de lui l'élément de rapprochement entre patrons et ouvriers—ne les trouvons-nous pas encore dans sa décision de faire figurer parmi les membres de cette Commission consultative d'experts du travail féminin, si récemment créée que je ne puis en parler davantage ici, les têtes de ligne de celles qui se disaient ses adversaires?

"Nous avons perdu notre âme. . . ." nous a dit douloureusement, sitôt la tragique nouvelle connue, une de nos amies féministes, membre de l'Alliance et fonctionnaire du B. I. T. Je ne pense pas que l'on puisse jamais faire un plus bel éloge d'un chef. Aussi à toutes celles-là, membres et amies de l'Alliance, qui constituaient sa famille agrandie, comme à sa famille proche si cruellement frappée, disons-nous ici, au nom de notre organisation internationale, notre tristesse et notre sympathie.

E.G.D.

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POLOGNE.

La Commission de Collaboration Internationale des organisations sociales polonaises qui a pour but l'entente permanente et l'aide réciproque des organisations sociales polonaises dans leur travail et dans leur activité sur le terrain international, embrasse 52 organisations sociales.

Pour atteindre ses buts la Commission de Collaboration Internationale étudie les plus importants problèmes qui intéressent le monde international. Pour le moment c'est surtout la question du désarmement moral, qui l'intéresse.

Le 17 avril la Commission de Collaboration Internationale a organisé une conférence publique sur le désarmement moral, considéré sous différents aspects. La grande salle du Conseil Municipal de Varsovie était comble. Les orateurs et les oratrices représentaient tous les partis politiques, qui en Pologne sont unanimes quand il s'agit du désarmement moral. Les quatre orateurs ont parlé (1) sur le but du désarmement moral, (2) sur le désarmement moral par rapport au pacte de la société des Nations, (3) sur le rôle de la presse quand il s'agit du problème du désarmement moral, (4) sur la législation et le désarmement moral.

La comtesse Zamoyska a présenté le rapport de l'Eglise sur la question du désarmement moral, et Madame Dr. St. Adamowicz dans un très intéressant discours a soulevé la question de l'influence que les organisations féminines doivent avoir sur le problème du désarmement moral. M-me. Dr. Adamowicz a souligné que le monde, gouverné jusqu'ici par les hommes, n'a pas su trouver les moyens d'éliminer la guerre, donc si les femmes sont au pouvoir, peut-être pourront elles réaliser la paix universelle.

On a voté la résolution qui suit: "La Conférence Publique organisée par 52 associations, représentées dans la Commission de Collaboration Internationale constate, que le désarmement moral c'est la conséquence de l'esprit du nouvel ordre public international, établi par le pacte de la société des Nations et le pacte Briand-Kellog et basé sur le respect des obligations internationales, sur l'élimination de la guerre, comme instrument de politique nationale, sur la sécurité, consistant en la garantie mutuelle d'assurer une assistance immédiate et sûre des membres de la Société des Nations contre l'agresseur, que le désarmement moral c'est une condition indispensable de la paix stable et du désarmement matériel efficace.

(2) La Conférence exprime son vif plaisir de ce que la Conférence pour la Limitation et Réduction des Armements à Genève, a commencé les travaux concernant le désarmement moral et espère que la Conférence va trouver une solution pratique de cette question si importante dans tous les domaines de la vie dans les relations économiques et politiques entre les nations, dans la législation, dans l'éducation nationale, dans la littérature, la presse, l'art et dans toutes les autres formes de la vie intellectuelle.

ANNA PARADOWSKA-SZELAGOWSKA.

INDE.

Le District D. de Bombay vient d'élire comme membres de son conseil municipal deux femmes: la Doctresse Malinibai Sukhthankar élue en tête de liste et Miss Maniben Kara au troisième rang—Ce succès prouve que les femmes peuvent hardiment se présenter aux élections au même titre que les hommes sans conditions réservées de nomination et de co-optation—Dr. Sukhthankar est Secrétaire de la Section sociale de la Conférence Nationale des Femmes Indoues, et Miss Kara est des travailleuses sociales, celle qui s'est occupée le plus activement des œuvres d'Assistance et d'Hygiène parmi les ouvrières du textile à Bombay.

ILES BERMUDEES.

La discussion de la Pétition pour le Suffrage des Femmes a été repoussée par le Conseil Législatif en dépit d'un excellent discours de l'Hon. S. S. Spurling. La Société Bermudienne pour le Suffrage des Femmes ne se tient pas pour battue et a résolu que l'Association Parlementaire d'Empire en visite aux Bermudes sera mise au courant de tous les faits de la situation avant la Conférence d'Ottawa.

ESPAGNE.

L'Association Nationale des Femmes Espagnoles a ouvert une souscription dans le but d'apposer une plaque commémorant l'obtention du Suffrage des Femmes dans le Palais des Cortès. La souscription minimum est une peseta.

Le Comité d'entraide pour l'Amélioration Sociale qui a déjà fondé un foyer pour les mères abandonnées a mis à l'étude la question d'établir des centres d'intérêt pour tout ce qui préoccupe les femmes. Une autre fondation qui va s'ouvrir bientôt est la Casa Montserrat où les femmes solitaires trouveront à un loyer modeste, les chambres ou l'appartement convenables, plus hospitaliers que le garni. Elles pourront y habiter avec leurs mères, leurs sœurs ou suivant le cas, leurs enfants. La Casa Montserrat contiendra 500 appartements à des loyers s'échelonnant entre 20 à 60 pesetas par mois avec toutes les commodités et l'hygiène d'une installation moderne.

d'après "MUNDO FEMININO."

Nota.—Madame André Rieder, membre de l'Alliance a offert la semaine dernière au Club des Femmes

américaines de Londres, un thé, au nouvel ambassadeur et à l'ambassadrice d'Espagne. Des membres du Lyceum Club représentant plusieurs nationalités y assistaient, ainsi que des personnalités marquantes du féminisme et de la politique britanniques. Mr. Horsfall Carter parla des aspirations de l'Espagne nouvelle. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence en un charmant discours de bienvenue donna ses impressions d'un récent voyage en Espagne, ou elle a été surtout frappée par le réel sentiment démocratique et l'absence d'esprit de classe parmi les habitants. Cette réception presque intime a prouvé la véritable sympathie qui accueille les nouveaux représentants de la République Espagnole, dans les milieux féministes et intellectuels de Londres.

HOLLANDE.

A la réunion annuelle de l'Auxiliaire hollandaise une discussion s'est ouverte sur la question de la participation féminine à la vie politique. Le vote montra que l'Auxiliaire approuve l'entrée des femmes dans les partis politiques mais recommande aux électrices de voter le plus possible pour les femmes candidats.

Miss Manus fit un compte rendu de la Conférence du Désarmement à Genève. Du 17 juin au 10 juillet il y aura à Amsterdam l'Exposition "Mère et Enfant," celle-ci coïncidera avec le centenaire des Universités hollandaises et notre Auxiliaire aura sa place dans l'Exposition. On y distribuera des brochures illustrant l'histoire des Conquêtes féminines et il y aura une réunion dans le Hall de l'Exposition.

SYRIE.

Le rapport de Mademoiselle Massara Kélani présenté au Congrès des Femmes Méditerranéennes de Constantine, nous montre le progrès des femmes de Syrie, depuis la Constitution Turque de 1908 jusqu'à nos jours. Le mouvement contre les anciennes coutumes traditionnelles favorisa l'émancipation des femmes et c'est alors que s'ouvrirent les premières écoles de filles. En 1916 des femmes vinrent de Constantinople comme institutrices et Miss Nicar Hanum, sœur de l'écrivain Halidé Edib commença sa propagande de féministe et de travailleuse sociale. Plusieurs œuvres d'assistance à Damas demeurent les témoins de son effort et de son succès.

L'indépendance de la Syrie après la guerre aurait dû être favorable au progrès des femmes. Et en effet l'instruction des filles prit un nouvel essor. Nombre de femmes devinrent docteurs, avocates, secrétaires dactylographes, institutrices, infirmières. Mais le Mandat et la Révolution qui suivit, arrêterent le mouvement: les sociétés féministes furent dissoutes. Ce n'est qu'en 1927 qu'un progrès se fait de nouveau sentir et la Syrie va de l'avant-nous l'espérons, vers l'indépendance et l'obtention des mêmes droits pour hommes et femmes.

Des nombreuses publications éditées par des Femmes, il ne reste plus aujourd'hui que "La Femme" fondée par Nadime El-Minkari in Hama. Madame Zainab Fouaz, Miss Mary Ziade, Melle. Nazira Zen Eddin sont de remarquables femmes écrivains. Mademoiselle Sakakini publie un livre sur les Poètes arabes.

Il y a une vingtaine d'associations au moins dans notre mouvement féministe. Mentionnons particulièrement: l'Union Orientale présidée par Madame Labibe Hashem; l'union des Femmes du Liban et de Syrie, présidée par Mme. Nour Hamada; la Société de Tempérance de Damas, présidée par Melle. Asma Kouri.

Aujourd'hui 40% des femmes peuvent lire et écrire, mais il n'y a pas encore d'écoles dans les villages. Un jeune homme qui veut s'enquérir des qualités d'une future épouse demande non seulement si elle sait coudre et cuisiner mais aussi si elle a reçu une instruction suffisante.

Les jeunes filles se marient de 15 à 25 ans—les hommes de 20 à 30. La Polygamie, rare dans les

villes, se rencontre encore dans les campagnes. Les tribunaux peuvent accorder le divorce à une femme si elle donne des raisons valables.

L'EXTRÊME ORIENT.

Une Japonaise, membre de la Ligue Internationale des Femmes a écrit une lettre personnelle à un membre de la Section britannique, qui nous autorise à publier ceci: De Tokio, le 25 mars 1932.

"Sitôt que nous eûmes les nouvelles de l'affaire de Mandchourie, nous, les femmes de Tokio avons décidé de nous réunir en une sorte de Forum bi-mensuel pour discuter les événements. Nous avons adjuré les autorités responsables d'arrêter la guerre et de retirer les troupes de la zone. Mais sous prétexte de défendre le traité les troupes poursuivirent l'offensive en Mandchourie comme à Shanghai. Je me trouvais alors à Shanghai, dans un but de conciliation juste au moment où les habitants, des deux côtés, étaient dans une telle effervescence que la loi martiale fut proclamée. Les Femmes du Japon savent l'injustice de la Guerre et pleurent sur le sort des enfants des deux pays. Dans les gares où passent les troupes on voit des mères en pleurs ou en prières, demander aux passantes de coudre l'un des milliers de points à la ceinture-talisman qui préservera leurs fils de la mort."

"Les plus ignorantes se soumettent à la nécessité de la guerre et ne comprennent rien aux intrigues militaristes. La Presse est muselée; le ministère des Affaires Etrangères, les diplomates ont reçu leur mot d'ordre. Nous, pacifistes, avons tout mis en œuvre pour faire savoir qu'à tout prix, nous userions de notre influence. Mais notre intervention est à dessein mal traduite, et la Presse a raconté que notre interview avec Lord Lytton avait pour objet de lui expliquer que le Japon, en réalité ne faisait pas la guerre etc. Au contraire nous protestons contre la politique du Gouvernement actuel dictée par le Département de la Guerre. Les Japonais de Shanghai veulent la paix; nous avons de tristes nouvelles de ceux qui ont essayé d'arrêter la lutte."

ROUMANIE.

Le succès des femmes de Roumanie pour l'obtention des droits civils est particulièrement dû à l'effort des associations féminines et de la Princesse Cantacuzène qui nous a envoyé un compte, rendu intéressant de leur travail de propagande. Le Code établit désormais l'égalité complète entre les époux.

La question des droits politiques n'est pas venue en discussion, mais cela n'est évidemment qu'une affaire de temps, et le succès déjà obtenu par les féministes roumaines est de bon augure pour l'avenir. Nos félicitations.

LES FEMMES DANS L'INDUSTRIE EN RUSSIE SOVIETIQUE.

Un des buts du système d'Education communale de l'U.S.S.R. est de libérer la femme des servitudes domestiques, de sorte qu'elle puisse avoir sa place dans un travail socialement productif et donner son plein rendement en tant qu'individu—sans distinction de sexe. Pendant la première période du plan quinquennal 3 millions de femmes entrèrent dans l'industrie et leur nombre total est aujourd'hui 6 millions.

300,000 femmes sont membres des Soviets ruraux; elles font partie des comités, ont des fonctions exécutives. Il y a aussi des milliers de femmes docteurs, institutrices, ingénieurs et employées aux travaux d'agriculture.

L'allègement de la routine domestique a permis aux femmes de s'instruire. Dans les trois dernières années, tant à la campagne qu'à la ville quinze millions d'ouvrières ont appris à lire et à écrire. La part que

prennent les femmes au mouvement culturel et éducatif s'accroît continuellement. Dans les syndicats et les brigades de choc ce sont les femmes qui sont les plus actives. Au dernier recensement, qui couvrit 1948 unités du textile et de la métallurgie la proportion des ouvriers qui ont pris part au mouvement d'accélération a été de 54% pour les hommes et 55% pour les femmes.

Au récent congrès des syndicats de Moscou le rapport de Vera Panchina une ouvrière de 23 ans, à l'usine d'outillage de Neviansk dans l'Oural, a été particulièrement remarqué. Vera Panchina était à la tête d'une brigade de choc et la production pour le 4ème trimestre de 1931 à Neviansk a été de 111% et en Mars 1932 de 109,8%. Grâce à l'organisation méthodique de Vera Panchina, à sa comptabilité scrupuleuse et à l'efficacité de sa surveillance des économies ont pu être réalisées dans l'usage des outils et lubrifiants. En conséquence la brigade de Vera Panchina a reçu le 1er prix décerné au Concours général du Travail entre les brigades de choc employées à la manufacture des machines-outils.

d'après le SERVICE DE PRESSE—ANNUAIRE DE L'UNION SOVIETIQUE.

ANTIFEMINISME? OU NEO-FEMINISME?

Dr. Lis Jacobsen du Danemark a récemment publié quelques articles dans un Journal norvégien: *Tidens Tegn*, qui ont soulevé une tempête de controverse par toute la Scandinavie. Les articles ont trait aux Problèmes féminins: droits, devoirs, responsabilités, labeurs de la femme. La femme, proclame-t-elle, doit retourner au foyer et aux enfants. Son opinion est que toutes les femmes de 20 ans au moins devraient avoir un enfant et continuer à procréer, à des intervalles convenables. La monogamie—de fait—n'est pas pour elle article de foi et doit se plier aux nécessités de la procréation. Pour Dr. Jacobsen, la maternité est le véritable bonheur de la femme. Elle envisage un système d'allocations maternelles qui obvierrait aux difficultés matérielles des nombreuses familles. Si une femme toutefois veut embrasser une profession, Dr. Jacobsen ne s'y refuse pas, mais alors elle n'a pas le droit de garder pour elle un mari qui peut servir de père à d'autres enfants.

Le journal *Kvinden og Samfundet* a publié une virulente attaque contre ces articles signée par une jeune étudiante en droit danoise. Elle accuse Dr. Jacobsen de favoriser l'irresponsabilité envers soi-même, ses enfants et l'Etat. Elle indique d'autre part que les suggestions de Dr. Jacobsen mises en pratique, augmenteraient sans nul doute l'incidence des maladies vénériennes. La conclusion est nette: "Nous voulons nos enfants et notre responsabilité."

Le journal *Norges Kvinder* a aussi ouvert ses colonnes à cette polémique et le "matriarcat" de Dr. Jacobsen est sévèrement critiqué par une de ses compatriotes, Dr. Johanne Christiansen.

Dr. Jacobsen, à son tour, a répondu à ces critiques affirmant que dans la chaleur de la discussion ses opinions ont été mal interprétées.

Son idée principale est la suivante: "L'idéal pour la femme et l'Etat est le plus grand nombre possible de foyers avec enfants, mais il est dangereux de combiner la maternité avec une fonction publique. Les conditions économiques et sociales, que nous déplorons à l'heure présente ont été causées d'abord par la monogamie, ensuite par le mouvement féministe. Elle n'accuse pas les pionnières du mouvement, mais les propagandistes actuelles qui se concentrent uniquement sur l'égalité du travail et négligent des questions vitales et d'intérêt plus immédiat. Le plan de Dr. Jacobsen n'est pas de retirer à la femme quoi que ce soit de ses droits actuels mais elle prétend lui donner un droit qui dans des milliers de cas aujourd'hui lui est refusé: celui d'être mère."

Elle ne veut pas lui retirer le droit de vote—bien au contraire, elle prétend que l'expérience de conduire un foyer, ajoutée à sa complète indépendance la qualifiera autant et plus qu'une fonction publique pour comprendre les besoins de l'Etat et de la communauté des citoyens.

Remarque de la Traductrice. Il est intéressant de noter que les conclusions de Dr. Jacobsen s'accordent singulièrement avec celles de l'immense étude publiée il y a deux ans par Signor Quartara dans "*Les lois du libre amour*." Nos lectrices se souviennent sans doute qu'une discussion du livre de Signor Quartara a provoqué une intéressante polémique entre la "reviewiste" de "Jus" et Dr. Beatrice Sacchi, de notre Auxiliaire italienne.

EGALITE DE LA MORALE.

"The Shield," bulletin mensuel de l'Association pour l'Hygiène Sociale et Morale, décrit dans son numéro d'avril, la situation des malheureuses femmes, enfermées dans les maisons de prostitution. Ce qu'il y a de plus pathétique est le fait que ces pauvres filles sont à tel point "déshumanisées," qu'elles ne sentent nullement l'indignité de leur situation, qu'elles se prêtent machinalement à ce que leurs maîtres réclament d'elles, et subissent la visite médicale, comme des animaux le vaccin. Leur personnalité est oblitérée, et se réduit au souci du confort quotidien. L'usage mal approprié de leurs organes de reproduction atrophie en elles, l'émotion physiologique, les réactions sensibles et mentales qui influent sur le caractère et la personnalité et les rend passives, inertes, sans joie. Le trait le plus répulsif de cette prostitution réglementée est son caractère anti-humain. Comme le dit excellemment "The Shield," "Leur active jeunesse tourne à la sénilité. Leurs corps de jeunes femmes ne sont qu'un instrument de plus dans le système de régurgation urbaine."

Après de telles constatations, il est réconfortant d'apprendre qu'un projet de loi a été présenté au Parlement belge pour supprimer la réglementation d'Etat et la police des mœurs et les remplacer par une police féminine.

Une autre question étudiée par "The Shield" est celle du viol et des offenses sexuelles contre les enfants. Il semble que cette classe particulière de crime suit une courbe ascendante. Les jugements rendus par les tribunaux sont en général bénins; et nombre de cas ne viennent jamais en cour de justice. On comprend sans peine que les parents redoutent toute publicité—et même quand aucune offense réelle n'a été commise sur la personne de l'enfant, l'effet sur le système nerveux est tel qu'on ne désire pas l'exagérer par la mise en scène d'un tribunal.

Cependant des criminels, dont beaucoup sont des récidivistes anormaux, sont laissés en liberté et continuent leurs crimes. Du moins c'est ainsi en Angleterre et la rédactrice de "Jus" serait reconnaissante à ses correspondantes de l'étranger de bien vouloir lui donner tous détails intéressants sur l'état de ce problème dans leurs pays respectifs. Nous apprenons qu'en Australie, les associations féminines ont protesté contre l'indulgence des jugements rendus pour viol.

NOUVELLES BRÈVES.

Les femmes et le Pastorat. L'opinion en Angleterre, en Ecosse et même en Irlande, loin d'être effrayée par la proposition d'admettre les femmes au Pastorat a pu à ce point influer sur la récente Assemblée de l'Eglise Presbytérienne en Ecosse qu'un comité spécial vient d'être nommé pour faire une enquête et présenter un rapport à ce sujet. En attendant des femmes concurrentes avec les hommes peuvent être inscrites sur le registre de ceux qui sont autorisés à prêcher et à conduire des

services religieux de l'Eglise Presbytérienne anglaise. En Irlande la proposition d'admettre des femmes comme membres du Synode a été repoussée en dépit de l'appui enthousiaste du feu Lord Glenavy, premier Président du Sénat, et cette année du "Recorder" de Belfast.

Allemagne. Miss A. Kalbow est la première femme qui ait réussi à gagner le très difficile diplôme d'Horticulture donné par la Province de Brandebourg.

Les élections d'Avril pour la Diète prussienne marquent un recul pour les femmes—28 seulement ont été élues, au lieu de 45 comme dans la dernière diète.

Grande Bretagne. Miss Dorothy Dallyn est la première et seule femme membre de l'Institut des entrepreneurs de construction. Miss Agnes Gilroy du Syndicat des Employés de commerce vient d'obtenir un siège au Conseil Général des Syndicats d'Ecosse.

Pologne. Une deuxième femme juge, Mme. Wanda Kaminska a été nommée au Tribunal d'enfants de Varsovie, la première femme juge déjà désignée étant Mme. Grabinska.

Yougo Slavie. Madame Lepossava Budjeva occupe un poste important dans les Chemins de fer de l'Etat ayant été récemment promue Inspecteur. Melle. Zorka Simitch a été nommée Conservateur du Musée National de Belgrade.

LE SEPTIEME CONGRES ANNUEL DE LA LIGUE INTERNATIONALE POUR LA PAIX ET LA LIBERTE

La Ligue a tenu cette semaine, à Grenoble, son congrès triennal. Des délégués étaient venus de toutes les parties du monde. Des discussions eurent lieu sur les sujets suivants: 1. La crise économique menace la paix. 2. Les Industries de guerre, leur manufacture et surveillance. 3. L'Organisation de la Paix. 4. Force armée internationale. 5. Le monde en évolution.

Il y a maintenant 17 ans que le 1er Congrès s'est réuni à La Haye, et bien que le progrès semble lent, plusieurs des propositions soumises par sa première présidente, Jane Addams, ont été réalisés.

L'ALLIANCE POLITIQUE ET SOCIALE SAINTE JEANNE.

Sainte Jeanne nous prie d'insérer que par suite d'une méprise la Ligue Internationale des Femmes Catholiques a été représentée comme ne désirant pas l'égalité de statut entre mari et femme en matière de nationalité. La méprise est expliquée tout au long par une lettre de la Ligue Internationale dans le *Catholic Citizen*. La Ligue Internationale affirme que l'unité et l'harmonie de la famille ne sont nullement mises en danger par l'égalité de statut.

L'ASSOCIATION SUISSE POUR LE SUFFRAGE FEMININ: COURS DE VACANCES.

Au Mont-Soleil sur Saint-Imier.

(Du 11 au 16 juillet 1932.)

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