

METHODS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION SERVICE.

ONE day a letter arrives in the small village of Eastern Europe. It contains money from Mrs. Poiski's husband, and brings news that he has found work in the new country and is eagerly awaiting his family. The time of waiting and anxious suspense are over and there follows a week of feverish activity. There is the house to sell, clothes to get ready, a visit to the nearest town to procure passports and visas—growing excitement mingled with anxiety at the anticipation of the long journey to the seaboard, emotional stress at the breaking up of the old home, the farewells. Then the long comfortless journey, the excited children, tired and peevish, the absence of hot food, the arrival in the strange city, the glaring lights, the bustle, instructions shouted in a strange tongue, and always the anxiety as to whether the money, which has sadly dwindled *en route*, will cover the cost of the steamship tickets.

It is little wonder that migrants reach the port of embarkation in an overwrought and disintegrated state of mind. The men and women grow irritable, seek someone whom they can blame for their misfortunes, or listen with helpless stoicism to instructions they cannot understand. The younger ones, freed from traditions and conventions and, if travelling alone, from all supervision, become intoxicated with the excitement and opportunities for enjoying life that the city affords.

To help migrants through this difficult period of transition is the work of the Migration Secretaries, and the International Migration Service insists that all its workers shall be *Trained Social Workers*, who bring to the work sympathy and kindness, but also experience in "effecting adjustments between men and their social environment." To do this it is necessary to understand thoroughly one's client, and to understand one must have the fullest knowledge. In most case-work the client's story is checked and amplified by information gained from home, relations, schools and workshops. In the case of the migrant these opportunities are lacking, and it is necessary to rely solely on the statement of the client. For this reason the Secretaries, wherever possible, talk to the client in her own language, and this not only helps to evoke the fullest confidence, but acts immediately as a sedative, and the woman grows calmer and more able to face the problem.

Is it a sick child? Then a hospital must be found. More money needed? Then lodging and if possible work must be found for the period of waiting until the money arrives. An excited girl who has spent her money foolishly and must now wait for a further sum to cover the steamship ticket? It will be best to find some job for her in the Bureau to keep her occupied and out of reach of the tempting shops. Gradually each migrant ceases to be an isolated traveller and becomes at least a temporary member of a community. But before the Migration Secretary can meet the needs of her clients she must be well informed on the resources of the community and know exactly where she can look for help and co-operation.

Her first work, therefore, is to make a *Survey* of the community and make herself familiar with the steamship lines, railway routes, dates of sailings, prices of tickets, rates of money exchange, Customs regulations. She must have a thorough knowledge of the Immigration Laws and Regulations of the receiving countries and of the method of inspection at the port of embarkation. She must be in touch with Consulates, be able to advise as regards banks, lodgings, employment bureaux. She will need the co-operation of hospitals, maternity homes, orphanages, relief agencies, doctors, clinics, clubs for girls and boys. Above all, she needs to be in touch with the Bureaux and Co-operating Agencies in other countries, for international help is necessary to solve most of the migration problems.

With this information to back her previous experience, the Migration Secretary sets up her office, and before very long her clients arrive.

A refugee from the Near East has a ticket that takes her only to the French port. How can she get a visa for the United States of America? Before this question can be answered there are many facts the Migration Secretary must know: the migrant's country of birth, to discover how she will be affected by the United States of America quota regulations; her age, whether she is married or single, whether she has any physical defects, the name of relations to whom she is going, the nearness of relationship, whether she possesses an affidavit or sufficient money, whether she has relatives with whom she can spend the time waiting in port, whether she is literate.

The answers to all these questions are entered on the confidential *Case Record Cards*, which are of a standard pattern and used by all secretaries of the I.M.S. With numbers of clients a day, it would be impossible to rely on memory to keep case distinct from case, and sometimes the Secretary is in touch with a particular migrant for a year or even two years. All that has taken place during their contact is recorded on the card. When the time comes to sail, the record card, with its history, long or short, is sent on to the Bureau in the country to which the migrant is going, and the new secretary is in possession of every detail and knows exactly how to help the migrant through the next stage of the journey. Even when the migrant has reached her destination and the final entry has been made, the usefulness of the record card is not at an end.

For ever since its initiation the I.M.S. has carried on, side by side with its practical programme, a study of the problems affecting migrants with a view to discovering the causes of difficulties and working towards the amelioration of conditions.

For example, in the early days of the Service it was discovered that numbers of migrants started on their journey in utter ignorance of the Health Regulations and Immigration Laws of the countries to which they were going. Ever since an effort has been made to spread the necessary information in the villages and small towns of the countries from which migrants come, with the hope of preventing at the source some of the tragedies that arise through deportation or refusal to land.

The completed Case Record Cards afford valuable material for such studies, and the first year's cards have been collected at the Headquarters Office for that purpose.

Besides keeping careful record of each individual case, the Migration Secretaries send to Headquarters a *Monthly Report* of their work on standardized forms. This covers new developments, examples of service rendered and accounts of particular cases, comments on working of laws and regulations, co-operation with other Bureaux or outside organizations, information published, interviews made or speeches given. Then follow statistics on number of migrants served, number of families, women, men, children; nationalities served, how each case reached the Bureau, number of active cases, number of closed cases to date; types of service rendered, number of letters, cables, telephone calls. This detailed report seems a good deal to ask from a busy Secretary, but it is of the utmost value to an International Secretary who can only pay a limited number of visits during the year. By means of these monthly reports she is kept in touch with the latest developments in the various countries, is able to make suggestions and give advice for the improvement of the Service. They also supply material for articles, speeches and special studies, and extracts of particular interest are circulated among the other secretaries that each may have the benefit of the other's experience.

By means of Trained Workers, Surveys, Case Record Cards and Monthly Reports it is possible to maintain a certain standard of work in the International Chain of Service, and to collect accurate data of the needs of migrants which will ensure a Service that is constructive and not merely palliative.

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NOTES.

International Council of Women.

The I.C.W. at the meeting of its Executive held at the Scottish home of the President, the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, in July, decided to hold a Congress in March of 1924 to discuss the Prevention of the Causes of War.

An Australian Woman Delegate to the League of Nations.

Miss Jessie Webb, of Melbourne University, Victoria, has been appointed alternate to the Assembly. Miss Webb is much respected in her State for her practical ability and activity as well as for academic attainments. She has done much to further education and has worked for the women's club in Melbourne. Recently she took part in an expedition of exploration in Africa and is now studying classical art in Athens.

League of Nations and the Traffic in Women.

The League of Nations Convention on the traffic in women and children does not apply to mandated territories, and it is clear that this omission is deliberate. It is, of course, peculiarly important that the women and children in mandated territories should be protected from this traffic, and Auxiliaries of the I.W.S.A. should urge their governments to instruct their representatives to the Assembly of the League of Nations to

take up the question of the inclusion of this Convention in the terms of the mandates.

The International Federation of Working Women.

The third Biennial Congress will meet at Schönbrunn, Vienna, August 14 to 21. Schönbrunn Castle, finished by Maria Theresa, and since then the summer residence of the Austrian Imperial family, is the scene of many historic events. Napoleon's son, the Duke of Reichstadt, died there in 1832. In these democratic days it is used for public purposes. The working women of all countries will meet there in beautiful and memorable surroundings.

International Labour Bureau.

On another page Madame Brunschvicg's letter to National Councils of Women appeals for common action in securing the enforcement of International Labour Conventions.

These conventions, in so far as they advocate special protective legislation for women, do not always coincide with the policy of the I.W.S.A. But our Auxiliaries are urged to secure the application of whatever benefits accrue to women under the conventions, and also to put forward names of suitable women delegates and advisers to International Labour Conferences, in conjunction with other women's bodies.

Married Women and Income Tax.

In England a married woman's income, whether earned or unearned, is added to that of her husband for purposes of assessing income tax, so that in cases where her income taken alone would be exempt, it becomes liable to taxation, and the total taxation on a married couple is in many cases at a higher rate than it would be on their incomes taxed separately.

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship is holding a conference in the autumn on this question, and is wishful to receive information from other countries where direct taxation is in force as to whether husband and wife are assessed separately, whether the man pays a tax on the joint income, if he receives any rebate, or whether husband and wife pay tax separately like single persons.

Lastly, whether there is any movement for reform in this respect.

Perhaps the United States of America can give us information as to their income tax?

Co-education in France.

Following on a decree of October, 1922, which permitted girls to attend courses in mathematics and philosophy at boys' schools in preparation for the baccalauréat, M. Bérard, Minister of Public Instruction, has now decided that girls may attend boys' secondary schools to follow courses of study in preparation for women's high schools.

Exchange of French and Hungarian Students.

Ten Hungarian women are taking a short course in French language and literature in Paris, and a party of French women students is proceeding to Hungarian universities.

Australian Women's Unequal Pay.

The Public Service Association of Queensland recently brought a case for equal pay before the Industrial Court, but without success. Women in Queensland enter the Service by the same examination, but proceed by a smaller increment after a certain point to a maximum less than the men's maximum. The difference at the top is £40.

It was contended that women's lower salary was justified by their unsuitability for certain work, on which, according to the evidence, they had never been tried.

WOMEN AND POLITICAL PARTIES.

PROBABLY in all the newly enfranchised countries some movement has been got up, or at least some plans have been cherished, to form a special women's party. It is rather natural that this should be the case. In all our countries the fight for the vote has been a long and bitter one, but one of the bright sides of this long struggle was that it made the women of each country gather into large, non-partisan organizations; there they learned to work side by side, regardless of party differences; they were trained to look forward to one common aim; they learned to respect each other, like each other, even love each other. They realized, too, that it was not only the common cause, political suffrage, abolition of sex discriminations and fight for getting an equal status with men, that bound them together, but that their woman's mind and woman's heart also made them look at several social questions and social evils in a way that was common to them all, and that broke through party lines. What then could be more natural than the idea growing up that even when the vote was granted, women should continue to

stand together, not only in their own special, continued struggle for equal citizenship, but also in their more general political aims.

Women came, very often, to the same conclusion also by another road. It is easy for outsiders to see and observe and resent the ugly sides of party politics, the inclination to place party interests before national interests, to regard party confession and party loyalty as more important than following one's own conviction, than moral character and political capacity; they would see the pressure put upon party members in certain circumstances to sacrifice their own opinion of what is the right thing to do in order to save party cohesion or evade party losses or only to gain or maintain party prestige—all these things led many women to believe that they could escape them all by keeping together in a women's party, united by common goals and common feminine outlook. In my country no less a person than Ellen Key advocates the forming of, so to say, a non-partisan party, consisting mainly but not exclusively of women.

But in no country have I seen such plans carried into effect, at least not wholly. I have seen in my own country two instances of people breaking through party lines and going together for a particular purpose. One was at a municipal election in the little university city in which I lived. The Conservative party had there made repeated promises of placing women candidates on their election lists but had broken those promises. At last when they wanted once more to cheat the women, though they had a vacant seat and no specially qualified man candidate, the Conservative women got angry and said they would separate and go by themselves. They solicited and got help from the Liberal women—the Social-democrats never go beyond party lines—and we succeeded in getting one Conservative and one Liberal woman elected. There was never a necessity for their doing it over again—at the next election the Conservative party placed the woman candidate on the top of their list, and they have done so ever since. It was a thorough success, but the whole thing was done only for one special occasion and for one special purpose.

The other case also was for a special purpose. The Liberal party in Stockholm had placed upon their list a candidate known for great municipal interest and great capacity. But he was not a Prohibitionist, as was wanted by a great deal of the party. Their candidate did not get nominated, just because he had no other qualification than being a faithful Prohibitionist. Then the Prohibitionists, men and women, left the Liberal party altogether for that election, did not even call themselves Liberals—we have a system of P. R. where the votes in order to be counted together must be given under a common heading—they chose their own heading in the hope that Conservative and Labour Prohibitionists should go with them. They did not succeed; the result of their action was that the able Liberal candidate was shut out, but their own candidate did not come in, the seat was taken by a Conservative man and a special advocate of full freedom of buying and taking spirits.

In both these cases the whole thing was arranged by people who ordinarily belonged to definite political parties, and who only wanted to make a demonstration of their strength. I can easily conceive that women may want to make such a thing over again, if some special cause lying near to their hearts is neglected by the regular parties; but, generally speaking, people who want to form a women's party do not wish only to demonstrate, they want a permanent political organization of women, and they generally build their hopes on the great mass of women, who are politically indifferent, and some of whom are disgusted by party methods and party machinery. But it seems obvious that the very idea of forming a party, or, indeed, any association whatever, on indifference, is an idea built on sand. People unite because they want something, and they will never do so on the ground that they do not know what they want. At least, they never can keep together on that basis.

Personally, I believe that the forming of a special women's party is neither desirable nor possible. They

have not a sufficient number of common political demands to stand for or go in for, and if they try I suppose they will soon find that the questions which they really have in common are all such as to be better served by the women working for them within the political parties than outside. The belief that by keeping together women can get a much stronger representation in Parliament and a deciding influence on all questions is only an illusion. A party consisting of a little group of ardent feminists and of the great bulk of women who are either indifferent or ignorant in politics or both, would become very soon the prey of ambitious persons abusing their confidence.

Every party, even a women's party, must have a footing, a programme, something to stand upon and to stand for. If a women's party should have for its sole platform pure feminist questions, that would only tempt the men to say: "Well, then we need not care; they have got the vote, and they have united, then they must help themselves." And then—now I speak only for our northern countries—what is left to be solved by *political and legislative means* of pure feminist demands is very little. The main thing left for feminism in our countries is a very important thing indeed, it is to convert into a living reality what has now been formally given to us. The opening up, for instance, of all state, municipal and private appointments to women is only a formal solution of the problem of women's right to work, it is the removal of an obstacle, it is not the thing itself. But the real solution, the real equal status in truth and in spirit, the acknowledgment in public opinion as something self-evident and indisputable of women's right to do whatsoever they have the will and the capacity to do, can never be won by political means, only by each and every woman doing for generations good and reliable work in the appointments they have succeeded in winning. For this I believe they will need a good deal of help, that must be given them by their own sex in women's organizations, but what they will need is moral help, economic help, not political help.

On the other side, I believe that women might unite about certain moral questions and moral problems of a fundamental nature. But these are difficult and controversial matters, and even they mostly fall outside of politics and of legal measures, at least the legal measures will have no effect till the general moral disposition is won. And then these problems will have ceased to be merely feminine questions.

As for the social problems, where we unite is only on comparatively small and superficial measures; as soon as we try to go to the bottom of the social question and the class question, women will divide just as men do and just as passionately as men do. And the same division will come in all important questions as soon as we are obliged to decide on them and take the responsibility of doing so.

Therefore, I am very strongly convinced that every man or woman who wants to do useful political work must begin with making it clear on which side he or she will stand, that is to say, according to which political principles they will vote. And then they are immediately confronted by the parties. Such parties have not been formed by chance or by accident. They have come to life because they were necessary, and women will find them as necessary and as inevitable as men have done.

They are necessary because every social or political question can be solved in several different ways. Therefore it is impossible to come to a solution without choosing; people have to decide whether they want some question solved according to one or the other of possible lines laid down by the different parties. And people rapidly discover that for some demands it is easier to gain a hearing within the Conservative party, to others the Liberals or Social-democrats are more liable to listen. And in the long run they will go to the parties that will best satisfy their wishes; that applies to women as well as to men.

As a fact the parties are there, good or bad, narrow or wide. And whether we want it or not, they are the pivot of political life. A women's party, with no definite party colour in an enfranchised country, would have to solicit the existing political parties for help, just as we had to do before we got the vote. And a party, seeking and obtaining support, one time from the Conservatives, another time from Liberals or the Labour party would gain no respect and lose all dignity—and dignity is as necessary to a party as to a person wanting to be respected and to gain influence, and that is what we all want when we take our part in political life. We don't do it for the fun of it.

It is true that a women's party would probably, if it could keep together, be able to place more women in Parliament than we get there now. For my part I have no wish to see women flooding into Parliament in masses; I want good, capable, intelligent women there, but a great number is not necessary. One really well-trained and experienced woman is worth a dozen nonentities. It is very natural that the political faculties are not as yet very much developed in women, but I believe that when properly trained they can be good political personalities. By that I don't mean the capability of turning black into white—I mean the capacity of gaining for themselves a solid and reasoned political conviction, of loyally sticking to that conviction and of making it clear to others why they do so. The power of honestly convincing other people is the special political faculty, and when women have gained that faculty, the parties will gladly and willingly elect them.

For me politics is the most noble work a man or a woman can take up. But I come from a country where political corruption is practically unknown. Our parties have many faults, but they are not corrupt in any way. Therefore the women of my country cannot flock together under the catchword of clean politics. Nor can they refuse to enter the political parties because of any sort of graft. I believe that with us the women, when they enter into the parties, will not only give but also receive valuable impulses, valuable modes of thinking, valuable habits of subordinating minor interests to greater and wider views. During the first generation of women voters I believe the parties have more to teach us and to give us than we have to give to the parties. In the long run I hope that we shall be able to pay it back again and give to our political life something that is womanly and that will be useful to our countries. To be good men citizens and good women citizens is the highest aim we can set for ourselves, and we shall certainly arrive at that goal sooner if we work together than if we separate.

ANNA WICKSELL.

WOMEN'S RÔLE IN THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE FUTURE.

THE question of women's rôle in political and economic life should, it seems to me, be considered from a general point of view. The evidence of the last few years, which have created such terrible conditions for humanity, make a line of demarcation between the past centuries of bitter and terrible conflicts in official and international life and a future still obscure and uncertain, but a future which must not be like to-day. Generations have built up a material civilization which does not conform to the laws of human life. This material civilization is now shaken to its basis and covers the whole earth with the flames of destruction, throws humanity into ruin, and plunges the world into a condition of complete chaos. In this chaos everything that constituted the pride and glory of humanity has no longer any moral value. The

whole of material civilization, the most wonderful inventions, the most perfect technique, everything has been turned against humanity to ruin it, but the divine energy of human nature will again create a new world and new conditions of life. We are here between the past, which created the chaos, and the future which will emerge from it. These are painful and terrible days, like the expiation of a vicious past, but days which are important and decisive, full of a great responsibility for the future. The unheard-of madness which we have witnessed in the war, and which still causes us such anguish is not an accidental phenomenon, and to the thoughtful observer it came as no surprise. It was the logical result of centuries of error in the understanding of human life, the end of a civilization altogether material, constituted and developed throughout the centuries without paying attention to the existence and the happiness of generations. It is the end of a series of misfortunes, of innumerable miseries and of injustices. It is the end of a social order which did not honour women, that is to say, the mother. The creator responsible for this material civilization, which rested on physical force, was man, who laid the foundation of the State and of social production, and was the sole master in this sphere. Man rooted up and transplanted the germs of this organization from women's sphere of activity at the domestic hearth, where the instinct of conservation reigns. He appropriated these germs as his own creation, without ascertaining whether his creation corresponded to the spirit of the profound and sacred laws which support life. Material civilization became the object of his worship. His enthusiasm for it prevented his seeing clearly that physical force, primitive and brutal, was creating a power outside himself, which deprived him of the power to be his own master and of regulating his own lot and of caring for his own life and that of his nearest and dearest. This material civilization carried with it everything which had creative force, and gradually dried up the source of life. Life became torment, without rest, without joy, without spiritual pleasure, without faith in life or in itself. In the stormy development of this civilization, whose object was not human happiness, but an object outside man, it is difficult to say who suffered the most, man or woman. Man on the one side was deceived, oppressed by brute force, woman on the other side was deprived of all possibility of taking part in the organization of economic and political life. Both stand together now before an abyss of suffering and anguish. The development carried on exclusively by man during the whole historic period has arrived at its close. A new intellectual and spiritual culture must arise, in which the value of human life must take the first place. All of human endeavour must have one meaning, the preservation of life and its deliverance from material oppression, so that dominions may be open to the human mind more vast and more spiritual, and in our day, which is to separate one epoch from the other, we need new creators, new workers, and, above all, new ideals and new motive force. This great work calls for collaboration between men and women to bring about this synthesis of spiritual force, which can alone give harmony to life. Man must put aside his egoism and pride. Having seen the end of his own creation, he must recognize his inability to create a worthy life unaided. Women must be freed from the exterior obstacles to their development, and they will play an important rôle in the evolution of a new spiritual civilization.

I am convinced that among creators of the new social order women will occupy the first place. Their instinct demands that they should stand up for justice, and their conscience calls on them to bring hope to the desolation which is now devastating the world, to bring joy into the universal sadness of peoples and of races, love of humanity, prosperity and peace to the nations who are worn out with struggle and violence. Woman owes her new freedom to present-day society, and she will give it of her best, for, as a mother, she brings a new truth and a moral law to which the new humanity will obey.

JENNIE PATTEFF (Bulgaria).

AUSTRIA.

Visit of American Women Leaders.

IN the beginning of June the *Verein für politische Fraueninteressen* had the great pleasure to welcome in Vienna Mrs. Maud Wood Park, President of the National League of Women Voters, and Mrs. Ann Webster, chairman of the Commission for Social Hygiene of this League. Having come from Rome these two women took the round about way via Austria to get an insight into our political and economic conditions and to inform Viennese women about the aims and methods of the League. Mrs. Wood Park, in her speech, gave a brilliant report of the League; Mrs. Webster completed this speech by giving information about the activity of her commission. Already we hear Viennese women asking if it is not possible to follow the example of the Americans in our country. The visit of the American leaders may be expected to have its influence on the political enlightenment of Austrian women.

Instruction in Citizenship.

The *Verein für politische Fraueninteressen* opened on May 2nd a course "Einführung in die Bürgerkunde" (instruction in citizenship), which was continued every week for two hours, and ended in the beginning of July. When the Association published a notice of the opening of this course, it announced that the course could only be held if at least fifty subscribers would take part. It was a great satisfaction when on the day of opening it became known that many more women—among them many teachers who wanted to be instructed for their school work, and even some nun teachers—had come to attend the course. The leader of the course is the well-known Professor of the Vienna University, Dr. Adolf Merkl. During the whole time great interest was shown, and it is pleasant to notice that this interest kept up to the end of the course.

Women's Work in Parliament.

In the great Parliamentary debate on the Budget women took a remarkable part in the discussion of the chapter "Social Administration." The Social Democrat Amalia Seidel spoke in favour of a Juvenile Protection Bill dealing especially with mothers' and infants' care. She also referred to the increase of tuberculosis, and objected to the limitation of expenditure on the fight against this disease of the people. The Social Democrat Gabrielle Proft spoke in a similar sense, as well as the National-German member Emmy Stradal, who especially emphasized the importance of the maintenance of the centres for the relief of tuberculosis (Fürsorgestellen). The Christlichsocial Olga Rudel-Zeynek stressed the importance of professional training, especially for women, who are to-day more than ever forced to earn; and also the Social Democrat Anna Boschek set forth how much more difficult it is for women to secure professional training and to find employment. She devoted her speech especially to household work, and took the standpoint that only by a reformed system of housekeeping, which would make it possible for servants to do their work in the same way as industrial workers, the development of household work as a skilled occupation could be expected. The new member of Parliament, Lotte Furegg, spoke in favour of an energetic fight against alcohol. In the discussion on the Budget of "Agricultural Administration," Olga Rudel-Zeynek occupied herself with the price of bread in the interests of the housewives in town and proved how much the population in cities has to suffer from the injustice of the manipulation of prices. On the whole, the debate showed that women know how to hold their point, especially in social and economic questions.

An Actress—Citizen of Vienna.

Auguste Wilbrandt-Baudius, member of the Burg-theater, had conferred on her the honour of citizenship of Vienna on the occasion of her 80th birthday, on account of her great merits in the art of acting. This artist is not only the best actress of the renowned theatre, not only the perfect interpreter of noble, kind and

humorous women, whose popularity extends beyond Vienna, but represents in her private life the type of the kindly and charming Viennese. In spite of her 80 years she takes the liveliest interest in intellectual life and—in youth. During the winter she often appears in public as a lecturer in order to read for the benefit of some charity. She has also put her art repeatedly at the service of the Woman's movement and the Association of Women Authors and Artists. In her youth she was the first woman who skated in public in Vienna. This was in her time an event and at the same time a demonstration of women's rights, which deserves to be chronicled in the history of the women's movement.

An Opera Singer—Doctor of Philosophy.

At the Vienna University, Sophie Koreniec, who had attended the academy of music and arts and who has an engagement at the opera in Posen, took her doctor's degree in June. This artist is 25 years of age, and has, beside her art, found time to study. She is the first opera singer in the whole world who is at the same time a doctor of philosophy.

World's Conference of Jewish Women.

In Vienna a conference of Jewish women took place in May. Arranged by the Council of Jewish Women, the conference was visited by delegates of twenty-four countries. All questions concerning Jewish women within their own people and in connection with international problems were discussed, above all the question of emigration, which is especially important for Jewish people. It was said that relief only could be given if it were possible for Jewish women to improve international co-operation. Other problems were discussed in the conference—religious education, protection of women and girls, children's welfare, people's welfare. Of greatest interest were the reports given by the delegates from Russia and Palestine. There was much said about Jewish martyrdom in the world. It is to be hoped that a World's Association of Jewish Women will be founded shortly, as, in accordance with a motion of Miss van Geldern (Holland), a committee was nominated to arrange preliminaries.

GISELA URBAN.

EGYPT.

First Deputation from Women to a Minister.

THE return home of the Egyptian delegation to the Rome Congress gave a great impetus to the women's movement in Egypt.

The Press devoted considerable attention to women's questions, and public opinion is friendly. A public meeting of women was held by "El Itihad El Nessa'i El Masri," the Egyptian women's union, and a great number of Egyptian ladies were present, including Mme. Moheb Pasha, wife of the Minister of Finance, and her daughters, Mme. Mahmoud Riaz Pasha, the daughter of Aflaton Pasha, the widow of Kassem Bey Amine, the daughter of Mohamed Bey Rassem, and many other distinguished ladies. Owing to the indisposition of the President, Mme. Hadra Charaoui Pasha, her speech was read by Fikria Housni. The speech explained the objects and demands of the Women's Union.

Mme. Nabaouia Moussa then read and explained the resolutions adopted by the Rome Congress. Mme. Gamila Atlia spoke on women's rights in marriage and divorce.

Mme. Ihsan Ahmed invited those present to join the Union, and a number of new members were enrolled. The following resolutions were then passed and sent to the Council of Ministers:—

(1) That women should be given equal educational facilities with men in all branches, primary, secondary and higher.

(2) That girls should not be permitted to marry under sixteen years of age.

These resolutions were presented to the President of the Council by a deputation of ladies. The President

received the deputation with friendly courtesy and promised to support their demands. This is the first occasion on which a group of ladies has officially approached a Minister with claims for women, and it is to be hoped that this occasion will mark the beginning of an era of progress for Egyptian women, and that we shall gradually attain all the points in our programme and realize the objects of the International Alliance.

The *Bourse Egyptienne*, in commenting on the meeting, recalls the matriarchal position of women in Egypt in pre-Ptolemaic days; how the women went out to work and the men minded the home and children, how the woman courted the man and the man brought a dowry, and all that in Egypt's greatest epoch.

H. CHAROUI.

GERMANY.

Regulation of Vice abolished in the Reichstag.

WHEN, some time ago, the small troop of organized German abolitionists—most of them being women—were looking forward to the final victory of their cause, they were convinced that a hard struggle against medical traditions and social prejudice still would be necessary before the last decision—though the prominent Society for Fighting Venereal Disease (*Gesellschaft zur Bekämpfung der Geschlechtskrankheiten*) had, after long resistance, put abolition on their programme, and this programme was taken as the basis for the Government's Bill "to fight venereal disease." But when, after a rather long delay in committee, the Bill came up recently for its second and third reading in the Reichstag (June 13, 14 and 15) there was no struggle or controversy at all about this point. While the first Socialist speaker, a well-known specialist doctor, declared the abolition of regulation to be the indispensable condition for the acceptance of the whole Bill, the Home Minister pointed out that, in accordance with the unanimous opinion of the committee, there was no difference of opinion in the House about the regulation question. So this bulwark, once seeming so strong and invincible, at last fell from its own weakness. Another point of the Bill aroused sharp opposition and long and stormy debates.

Article 6 of the Bill ordered that the treatment of venereal disease should strictly be confined to medical doctors officially acknowledged by a German State examination, considerable fines and even imprisonment being proposed for all other persons who, by reason of the "liberty of professions" (*Gewerbe- und Kurierfreiheit*) are practising on so-called natural methods (*Naturheilkundige, Kurfischer*). The fight between the radical elements, who, on behalf of this paragraph, threatened to reject the Bill, and the doctors of all parties, at last culminated in a dispute for or against *Salvarsan*—which logically has, of course, nothing to do with the question as such. However, the result was that, first, an amendment of the Socialist party was carried limiting the prohibition of lay-treatment to contagious disease, and, later on, in the third reading, it was decided that even the treatment of these cases, i.e., the venereal disease in a narrower sense, shall be permitted to all such persons who are practising it under the responsibility of a medical doctor.

I dwelt on this point because it may, most probably, mean a last danger for the whole Bill, in so far as the Reichsrat, the representatives of the German States Governments, did not agree with the Reichstag, and by a majority of 48 to 13 votes resolved to declare their veto against the "deterioration" of the paragraph. If it comes to this, new difficulties and delay, at least lengthy Parliamentary procedure, will prevent the coming into force of this important law at the last moment.

On the other main points of the Bill, lying much more on the lines of the international woman's movement, and meeting with nearly unanimous approval of the Reichstag, I have already reported (see the October, 1921, issue of the INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE

NEWS), for instance, replacing of the old system by prophylactic and protective measures; establishment of so-called health and advisory boards; obligation for all diseased persons to put themselves under charge of these boards for medical treatment; severe punishment for procurers and keepers of brothels or similar houses, as well as punishment for all persons who, knowing their disease to be contagious, endanger others by cohabitation, in and out of wedlock, or as nurses of other than their own children; prohibition for prostitutes to live in the neighbourhood of churches or schools, or other places frequented by children and young people, and in houses where juveniles up to 18 years live; further prohibition of advertising or exhibiting all kinds of remedies against venereal disease, etc., etc.

It may interest readers of this paper that on this occasion and during the whole proceedings on the different stages of the Bill, no attention was given to the important question of *compulsory notification*, which had been subject to the liveliest discussions and controversies before and also at our Rome Congress. The Bill had not provided for this measure, which, for practical reasons, had been rejected by the majority of the medical authorities, while the German abolitionists always claimed it. But, in view of the present situation, one would think they also would be content with the new law, such as it is, with all its drawbacks, if only it becomes law at last! As we have learned in the long struggle for women's freedom never to lose courage and patience and hope, we shall look forward hopefully, even after this disappointment, to a reconsideration by the Reichsrat of their fatal veto!

MARIE STRITT.

Dresden, July 20, 1923.

Protection of Unmarried Mothers.

The new law concerning the protection of youth will be of greatest importance for the welfare of illegitimate children and their mothers, determining that from conception every illegitimate child shall be under the protection of a special institution, the "Jugendamt" (Juvenile Department of the City). During the last ten years German women succeeded in persuading the public that the protection of the illegitimate child must be preceded by the protection of its pregnant mother. For this purpose the organization "Mutterschutz" has established special homes, where these mothers are well taken care of, and where they are taught how to do useful work and to fulfil the duties of motherhood.

In Frankfurt these institutions for mother and child have been organized in an excellent way. Some years ago the work was taken under the administration of the community, but is carried on on the old lines, with the assistance of the approved committee. We attach a high value to the co-operation of the community and independent organizations, the former providing a safe financial basis, the latter giving new ideas and taking the initiative in carrying out the new plans. Ten days after her confinement, which takes place in the public hospital, the mother returns with her baby to the Home, and some weeks later both find a shelter in the large, well-furnished building, called Home for Mother and Child. There they stay for a long time, very often for several years, under the supervision of qualified physicians and nurses. The mother nurses her baby and learns how to take care of it. Having completely recovered, the mothers work in factories or in offices to earn their livelihood, and sometimes also that of the baby, provided that the father of the child does not meet his engagements.

Living in the Home is rather expensive, and the community, being in a dreadful financial crisis, must try to cover the expenses.

This practical work has various tendencies of great importance: (1) To diminish the mortality of illegitimate children; (2) to strengthen maternal love and responsibility; and (3) last but not least, to gain a moral influence over the unmarried mothers. As to the first point, there is no doubt about the success. Plenty

of poor children, who otherwise would become sick and miserable, or die in the first year of their life, are brought up in healthy surroundings. It seems to me a most remarkable fact that not only the little bodies develop excellently, but that also the expression of the small faces improves permanently, reaching a tenderness rarely seen in these classes. By permanently living together maternal love and feeling of duty are developed intensely, and the relation between mother and child grows stronger and stronger.

When some of these little babies are adopted by rich people the separation nearly always is a bitter grief for the mother, and with the child she very often loses also her best moral support. To influence the unmarried mother in a moral direction is one of the most difficult parts of the whole work; the patience and warmth of heart spent on them by the nurses and the committee really are admirable. Success cannot be proved by statistics, but plenty of experience shows the high value of this protective work.

The German public, having thus been persuaded of the necessity of sufficient care for the illegitimate child and its mother, will go on in the way I had the honour to describe here.

JENNY APOLANT,
Stadtverordnete in Frankfurt/M.

GREAT BRITAIN.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

Our Parliamentary Work.

WE are glad that below we can point to an actual achievement in the shape of the Matrimonial Causes Bill; but, if so far that is the solitary success of the Session, it is not for want of work. The Joint Committee of Members of the House of Lords and House of Commons appointed to consider the Bill drafted by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship on the equal guardianship of parents of legitimate children, has been holding almost daily meetings, and has kept our Parliamentary Secretary very fully occupied. Concurrently with this, the Universities Bill has been passing through its committee stage, and the N.U.S.E.C. has been much concerned with an amendment which, unfortunately, was lost, and which would have had the effect of admitting women, with certain exceptions, to full membership of Cambridge University. The Bill dealing with Separation and Maintenance Orders, for which the N.U.S.E.C. is also responsible, is also before the House, and goes into committee this week.

As the House rises at the end of this month, we shall be in a position to give a summary of the results of the Session, so far as our Parliamentary work is concerned, in the next issue of this paper.

Triumphs of Private Members' Bills.

Readers of this paper will remember that success for the Matrimonial Causes Bill was confidently predicted last month. This Bill, which was drafted and promoted by the N.U.S.E.C. and piloted through the House of Commons by Major Entwistle, M.P., passed without difficulty through its stages in the House of Lords, and has now received the Royal Assent and become law of the land. This new piece of legislation makes the grounds for divorce the same for men and women, and is therefore the legal recognition of the principle we stand for—an equally high moral standard for men as for women. We do not imagine that it will lead to a large increase in applications for divorce. Even apart from those who hold strong religious views on the subject, there exists in this country a great repugnance to divorce, and in Scotland, where this reform already exists, the proportion of divorced persons is very small. Members of the National Union have been much encouraged by the

The Women's Freedom League.

Rome Congress.

During the last month the Honorary Organizing Secretary and the Secretary of the Women's Freedom League have addressed several meetings in London and the provinces on their recent visit to Rome, and immense interest has been taken by members of the different audiences in the proceedings of the Rome Congress.

Political Work.

We have strongly supported the Matrimonial Causes Bill (which has received the Royal Assent), and Lady Astor's Intoxicating Liquor (Sale to Persons under 18) Bill, which has now gone to the House of Lords, and we cordially congratulate the promoters of these two Bills on the success they have obtained. We have followed with interest the Oxford and Cambridge Universities Bill, and from the first urged that there should be women members of the Oxford and Cambridge Statutory Commissions. We are glad that Mrs. Wintringham's amendment that the Board of Education should appoint a woman member to the Commissions of each University was passed in Committee. There are approximately 400 women students and 2,000 men students at Oxford and Cambridge, and as there are ten men on each Commission, two women is hardly too many.

Our branches, in preparation for the next Budget, are considering the possibility of organizing a restriction in their purchases of tea and sugar as a protest against the continued taxes on these commodities, and their consequent high prices to the consumer.

"No More War" Demonstration.

We decided to take part in the "No More War Demonstration" held in Hyde Park, July 28, our members forming a special contingent of the procession, which marched from Regent's Park to Hyde Park, where we had our own speakers.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

NORTHERN IRELAND.

Belfast Women's Advisory Council.

TWO measures of the first importance to feminists have been before the Northern Parliament this year. The first is the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, following that passed by the Imperial Parliament in 1922, but omitting the dangerous section of Clause 2, under which a first offender under twenty-three can plead "reasonable ground of belief" that the girl against whom an offence is committed was over sixteen. The rapid passage of this measure and the absence of serious opposition were satisfactory evidence of the strength of the feminist position in Northern Ireland.

The Education Bill, a measure of the first importance, endeavoured to make a reality of compulsory attendance, restriction of child labour, and correlation of educational activities. The main effort of the women's organizations was directed to the first of these points. Personal investigations had enabled the Advisory Council to outline the most urgent matters in which reform was needed, especially with reference to health conditions. The high sickness rate among children has long been a cause of grave anxiety, and the Council are convinced the evil must be attacked at its sources—housing, child labour and bad school conditions. The Educational Bill is a real effort to put education in the six counties on the right lines, and has been welcomed by all who have the welfare of the country at heart.

As elsewhere, there has been a deliberate attack on women jurors. A Departmental Committee was appointed to investigate conditions of jury service in Northern Ireland, and the opportunity was taken to attack the work of women jurors. Accordingly a deputation from the Advisory Council gave evidence

success of their Bill, as it is sometimes stated that it is merely ploughing the sand to work for a private member's Bill. The National Union has always held that failing the possibility of a Government measure, a Bill brought forward by a private member has, with luck, the chance of success; and in any case is well worth while for the sake of the opportunities it affords for education both inside and outside the House of Commons and for wide publicity. Even if this particular Bill had failed to become law, the work that has been put into it has been well worth while, if only for the Press publicity it has received. Press publicity on the importance of an equal standard of morals between the sexes is slowly but surely influencing public opinion in the right direction.

Though in no way concerned with the N.U.S.E.C., we cannot refrain from mentioning in this connection the triumphant success of "Lady Astor's Bill" on its report stages in the House of Commons. This Bill, it will be remembered, prohibits the sale of intoxicants to young people under 18. It has already passed through the House of Lords, and will shortly find its place on the Statute Book.

Our New Headquarters.

The National Union, after a temporary exile of a few years, occasioned by the commandeering of its former offices during the war, has now returned to its natural home—Westminster. It has been fortunate enough to acquire offices on the ground floor in Dean's Yard, under the shadow of Westminster Abbey, and close to the Houses of Parliament. Our new offices will be much more convenient for visitors from other countries, and we hope that those who follow our work from month to month in these columns will take the opportunity of their next visit to London to inspect them.

The Summer School, Portingscale, Keswick.

The attendance of at least some visitors from other countries has always been an attraction of the Summer Schools organized by the N.U.S.E.C., and we hope that the school to be held in one of the most beautiful parts of the Lake Country from September 21 to 28 will be no exception. The outstanding feature of this school will be that there will be comparatively little formal lecturing and plenty of time allotted to discussion. The subject will be the Reforms on the Programme of the National Union with the economic, social and legal assumptions on which they are based. One section will deal with International Relationships.

The fees are comparatively low—from £3. 3s. for board and lodging, and £1. 5s. for the school fee.

Every effort will be made to make the school useful and enjoyable to students from other countries. Application should be made as early as possible, as in the College in which the school will be held accommodation is very limited.

ELIZABETH MACADAM.

15, Dean's Yard, Westminster.

Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

A resolution has been sent by the C.W.S.S. to the Ministry of Labour condemning the new Trade Boards Bill as a reactionary measure calculated to increase the possibilities of underpayment by limiting the number of Trade Boards and crippling the powers of those in existence. This Bill would cause particular hardship to women, as women largely predominate among the sweated workers. A public inquiry, as suggested in the Bill, would be a great deterrent to the setting up of Trade Boards, as women workers in sweated trades are usually afraid to give evidence in public.

Miss Emily Fortey will represent the C.W.S.S. at the Semaines Sociales at Grenoble, and Miss Sylvia Grieson at the International Catholic Congress, to be held in Constance, August 10-15.

before the Committee as to the need for an increased number of women on the panel for jury service. The usual difficulties were made as to the impropriety of the presence of women in the jury-box when cases of a certain type were under discussion, and the deputation put their view on this matter with clearness.

The position of the children of unmarried parents is exceptionally hard in Ireland, owing to the impossibility of obtaining any affiliation orders. A scheme has been drafted and submitted to the responsible Minister. The women members of Parliament have already spoken strongly in Parliament on this subject. Judging from the success of last autumn's work on behalf of the C. L. A. Bill, there will not be much delay. Legislation may be looked for early in the next Session.

As part of their effort to obtain better health conditions, the Council organized a deputation to the Corporations in support of the agitation for increased provision of playing grounds. As a result, one has already been opened in a very crowded neighbourhood of the city. Better arrangements for drinking fountains of a more sanitary type have also been made as a result of the Council's activities.

The opportunities for practical work afforded by the existence of a Parliament at their very door have been fully realized by the working women, who are enthusiastic in their support of the Council, the membership of which is steadily increasing as new organizations desire to be included. The work of the winter is regarded very hopefully, both in the city and in connection with the Northern Parliament.

DORA MELLONE,
Hon. Press Sec. B.W.A.C.

ITALY.

Women Gain the Administrative Vote. Italy's First Victory.

BY the passing of the Electoral Reform Bill on July 21 by 225 votes to 123, Italian women have scored their first suffrage success, and certain categories of women receive the administrative vote and eligibility.

The following categories of women are included:—

Women over 25 years of age—

- (1) Who have won a war decoration;
- (2) Who have received a medal for civil valour or in the sanitary or education service;
- (3) Who are mothers of soldiers killed in the war;
- (4) Who are recognized as legal guardians of their children and exercise "patria potesta";
- (5) Who have high educational qualifications;
- (6) Who are literates and pay communal taxes of 40 lire.

Only women who demand it will be placed on the register. Women living in immoral houses are excluded. Women are eligible for certain offices, but not for the office of mayor, president of the provincial council, member of the provincial administrative committee.

The "Via Crucis" of Italian women is well known abroad, but there is no harm in recording it for the women who are fighting to attain their rights, so that the struggles of a group may serve as an incitement to others and make them appreciate women's struggles.

At the end of 1863 the Italian Chamber discussed Woman Suffrage; in 1871 a Bill was rejected by the Commission charged to examine it. Since then, in 1880, 1882, 1884, 1886, 1905, 1907, 1910, 1912 (in which year four Bills were introduced by the deputies *Lucifero, Christenti (?), Mirabelli, Vaccari), 1913, 1918 (in this year, too, there were several Bills (the Sandrini, Crelli, Canepa and Socialist). Woman Suffrage came up in various forms, but always unsuccessfully.

In 1919 the Deputies Martini, Gasparotto, Sandrini, presented a Bill giving the franchise, political and

* The names in the MS. are indecipherable.—Ed.

administrative, to women on the same terms as men. At the same time Signor Nitti's Government brought in an exactly similar Bill—only excluding prostitutes from the suffrage. This Bill was passed by the Chamber of Deputies, but for political reasons, the Chamber was dissolved before the Bill passed the Senate, and in accordance with Italian custom that laws which have not passed the Senate when the Chamber is dissolved are dropped, the Woman Suffrage Bill was dropped.

In 1919 the law on Women's Civil Status (*Capacità giuridica*) was passed, which did away with the necessity for a married woman to have her husband's authorization to dispose of her own property, and gave her the right to exercise any profession, to be a member of a Family Council, and to act as guardian. This law was energetically supported by the Woman Suffrage Federation, and it was largely due to their work that it was passed by Chamber and Senate.

In 1920 the Hon. Signor Sandrini, during the debate on the Administrative Electoral Reform Bill, proposed an amendment, accepted by the President of the Council, Signor Giolitti, to extend the administrative (local government) vote to women.

The Chamber voted in favour, but again, for political reasons, there was a dissolution, and the work of the Federation was lost. Now the moment came when efforts were crowned with success.

The Hon. Signor Mussolini, on his rise to power, appeared to be anti-suffragist, but in interviews and private audiences, and in particular to Professor Terruzzi, whom he nominated Government representative to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance Congress, he gave assurances in favour of the administrative franchise for women. He repeated his promise to the Congress. The Bill was drawn up in agreement with the Woman Suffrage Federation, whose representatives were received by the Hon. Signor Acerbo, with whom the drafting of the Bill was discussed.

The following took part in the discussion: Dr. Troise Romelia, for the Central Committee; Dr. Margherita Ancona, for the Milan Committee; Signora Benedittini, President of the Rome Committee and of the Press Committee of the Congress; Professor Bice Sacchi, for the Mantua Committee; Signora Jachia, Secretary of the Turin Committee.

Now that it is passed we shall devote ourselves to working for the Parliamentary vote. The Federation has worked for eighteen years, and is the only society working for this object in Italy. It is due to its work and propaganda that the ninth I.W.S.A. Congress was able to be held in Rome. By lectures, publications and continual propaganda it has permeated public opinion and the national conscience with the justice of women's demands, of which they have just been granted an instalment.

(Dr.) TROISE ROMELIA,
Secretary of the Woman Suffrage Federation.

JUGO-SLAVIA.

I.—The Position of Women in Jugo-Slavia.

ALTHOUGH the Jugo-Slav woman proved during the war her maturity and ability to take part in responsible work, the war found her still entirely without civil rights. The chief cause of this condition of things is to be found in the struggles of our political parties. Some of them fear that woman suffrage would strengthen the clerical party too much, especially in Slovenia, where this party is at present the strongest; but the chief cause of women's civil disabilities is in the whole national outlook, which is that women's place is the home and only the home. This is the view of most of our men, and especially those in Parliament, so women will have to fight for long to gain their rights as human beings. They will have to fight this point of view not only in men, but also in women, who are still the greatest opponents of their own rights. The greatest obstacle is to be found in those women who are in a state of moral

and financial dependence upon men, and men are unwilling to part with the privileges they enjoy in the law, and which they would have to give up if women are to take a share in legislation and public affairs. Jugo-Slav women carefully follow what is done in Parliament, but they are not taking any part in party politics. They are keenly conscious that they should have the right to vote and to take an active part in changing laws for the rights and protection of women and children. Our women's societies, which exist in the chief centres of the country, are struggling to attain civil and political rights. Women suffrage has been adopted as a programme by the National Women's Union, which includes 200 Croatian, Serbian and Slovenian societies. This Union organizes demonstrations and conferences on woman suffrage. It sent petitions to Parliament, demanding the franchise; agitation was carried on by lectures, public and private, in the Press and in our magazine *Zenski Pokret*. Many members of Parliament are on the side of the women and support their claims. Most of the political parties include woman suffrage in their programme. In 1921 the provincial Governments of Croatia and Slovenia gave women the right to vote in communal and town elections. In Zagreb at the last city elections some of the parties included a woman candidate in their lists. These candidates were not elected, but the mere fact that women were on the lists had a good effect on public opinion. Serbian women have not yet secured the suffrage for communal or city elections. Jugo-Slav women are admitted to study in all the faculties at the University, and this year two women students have been appointed in the Law Courts. This has made quite a sensation; the Press is divided; everyone was startled; the majority of the members of the law faculty supported the women. Last year a Serbian woman lawyer was allowed to plead in court and succeeded in securing an acquittal for her client. In social work Jugo-Slav women work through societies, but they are still only allowed a secondary place, and it is not yet admitted that work for women and children is best done by women. As a wife and mother, the Jugo-Slav woman has made no advance in the last fifty years; she has no rights, and the only women who will be able to improve this condition of things are the women who are financially independent. The unmarried mother and the illegitimate child are treated as step-children of the law; this is a question needing women to solve it. Our deepest shame and humiliation is in the question of prostitution; it is not at present quite in its old shape, when women were slaves, shamefully treated by the owners of tolerated houses. This year the tolerated houses were put a stop to, and regulation was introduced. This permits girls of seventeen years of age to be given the prostitute's booklet, if her parents or guardians allow it. Our women tried their best to prevent this new law coming into force, and tried to have arrangements made by which women could protect these poor unhappy girls and to take them out of the hands of the police. We know that it will not be easy in this country, with an unequal moral standard, and where the State's first object is to protect debauched men and to throw all the guilt on unprotected women. Last December our Ministry of Health published the following Order:—

Paragraph 1.—All women employed as artists, dancing and singing girls, waitresses, maids, cooks, etc., in public localities such as bars, variety theatres, cafés, etc., before entering their employment must be examined by a physician, and this examination must be repeated monthly.

It is more than clear that the Ministry of Health in this was looking after the health of the men. The intention of this Order is to make men safe in the pursuit of their passions. They can infect others as much as they like without any control; they are not obliged to be treated; but if a woman, however honest a girl, is earning her living as a cook or maid or artist, she is ranked with professional prostitutes. As you can imagine, this Order created a storm among women, and societies of foreign artists protested against it on account of their members who come to variety theatres as visitors;

but the doctors defend this Order in the Press, taking it from the man's standpoint that he must be protected, especially married men, who may under the influence of drink get infected and transmit the infection to wife and children. The only alleviation that has been allowed to women employed in public localities is that, if they prefer, they can be examined by a private physician if they choose to pay him. Probably this very provision has driven many an honest woman to prostitution to earn the money to pay the physician and so avoid police control, which classes her with public prostitutes. This new shame to women would never have been allowed if they had equal political rights with men, so whatever question we touch, we always find that to improve our conditions our first need is the vote, and our first duty to put all our force into this fight. I have shown you the position of the Jugo-Slav woman. Her fight is a hard one, and it will take her a long time to win the victory unless she is helped from outside. We appeal to you, our happier sisters, to help us; you have lived through all that we are living through now, and you have experience of this fight, in which you are now enjoying the fruits of your own victory.

ADELA MILCHINOVITCH.

II.—The Economic Equality of the Sexes.

Since 1918 the position of women in Jugo-Slavia has improved greatly in industry and the professions, whereas the political position remains unchanged. In order to earn a woman has to leave her home and enter public life, and as soon as this fact was grasped she attained without much opposition the means and possibility of working. When we consider that our modern civilization only dates from the second half of the eighteenth century, it must be admitted that women have made rapid advance, especially in education. They can attend all schools and universities, and when their training is complete enter some public employments. They can enter many professions, and fresh avenues open out to them every day; but, compared with the past, if we wish to keep the existing picture of our right to work we must consider the present situation of our country, where everything has to be reorganized. For the present we have not yet got unified and common laws for the whole kingdom, therefore women's rights are not uniform in all our provinces. Everything concerning our life is subject to Government orders and regulations and to local and regional authorities, and this condition of things will last until Parliament has passed a new code for the whole country. This has been already drafted, and parts of it have been submitted to Parliament, after being accepted by the Government. Nearly all these proposed laws contained principles and tendencies favourable to women's equal rights. The first law which is to be submitted to Parliament is that on State Officials (Civil Service). This provides for complete equality of women with men, equal salary and the right to enter the highest positions. Although this law has not yet been passed, it is actually in force in the Post Office and the Transport Services, where women fill administrative posts and are appointed inspectors and *chefs de service*. In elementary and secondary education women are appointed by nomination; they have equal salary and the right to marry and retain their posts; but for economic reasons, women who are married to State Officials (members of the Civil Service) only receive half the bonus given for the high cost of living. Another factor to be noted is that women teachers and professors never become inspectors and heads of departments in the Ministry of Education, and men are always appointed as heads of elementary schools and of the girls *lycées*; but still nothing in law prevents women being appointed to these posts, and it is only the anti-feminine prejudices of the men in authority which prevent them rising to the higher ranks in the same way as their male colleagues who have the same qualifications. The proposed law relating to judges and lawyers does not forbid women becoming judges or lawyers, though it does not specifically mention them.

earnest attention of our own National Congresses, such as compensation and rest for women before and after confinement, suppression of night work of children, etc. To-day we would call your attention to two conventions adopted at Washington in October, 1919, but which have not, as yet, been ratified by all the States.

The chief clauses of these conventions are as follows:—

(1) *Draft of a convention relative to the employment of women before and after confinement:—*

ARTICLE 2.

For the purpose of this convention, the term "woman" signifies any female person, irrespective of age or nationality, whether married or unmarried, and the term "child" signifies any child, whether legitimate or illegitimate.

ARTICLE 3.

In any public or private industrial or commercial undertaking, or in any branch thereof, other than an undertaking in which only members of the same family are employed, a woman—

(a) Shall not be permitted to work during the six weeks following her confinement.

(b) Shall have the right to leave her work if she produces a medical certificate stating that her confinement will probably take place within six weeks.

(c) Shall, while she is absent from her work in pursuance of paragraphs (a) and (b) be paid benefits sufficient for the full and healthy maintenance of herself and her child, provided either out of public funds or by means of a system of insurance, the exact amount of which shall be determined by the competent authority in each country, and as an additional benefit shall be entitled to free attendance by a doctor or certified midwife. No mistake of the medical adviser in estimating the date of confinement shall preclude a woman from receiving these benefits from the date of the medical certificate up to the date on which the confinement actually takes place.

(d) Shall in any case, if she is nursing her child, be allowed half an hour twice a day during her working hours for this purpose.

ARTICLE 4.

Where a woman is absent from her work in accordance with paragraphs (a) or (b) of Article 3 of this convention, or remains absent from her work for a longer period as a result of illness medically certified to arise out of pregnancy or confinement and rendering her unfit for work, it shall not be lawful, until her absence shall have exceeded a maximum period to be fixed by the competent authority in each country, for her employer to give her notice of dismissal during such absence, nor to give her notice of dismissal at such a time that the notice would expire during such absence.

(2) *Draft of a convention relative to the night work of children employed in industry:—*

ARTICLE 2.

Young persons under eighteen years of age shall not be employed during the night in any public or private industrial undertaking, or in any branch thereof, other than an undertaking in which only members of the same family are employed, except as hereinafter provided for.

Young persons over the age of sixteen may be employed during the night in the following industrial undertakings on work which by reason of the nature of the process is required to be carried on continuously day and night:—

(a) Manufacture of iron and steel; processes in which reverberatory or regenerative furnaces are used, and galvanizing of sheet metal or wire (except the picking process).

(b) Glass works.

(c) Manufacture of paper.

(d) Manufacture of raw sugar.

(e) Gold mining reduction work.

We may later interest ourselves in other international conventions and recommendations adopted by the various conferences, but as these two particular conventions conform with the decisions of our Congresses, we think that all the National Councils could take up these subjects with the Parliaments of their own countries with a view to obtaining the ratification of these two conventions with the shortest possible delay.

Such decisions as are taken by the International Labour Conferences assume the form either of conventions or of recommendations (1), and it is for the Parliaments of every country concerned to put them into effect. The Governments of the States participating in the work of the International Labour Conferences are, indeed, under obligation to

bring before their own Parliaments Bills embodying the adopted conventions, but in most countries there is little disposition to press the passage of a measure advocated by an international body (2).

(1) The *international convention* drafts make it incumbent on the State members of the International Labour Office to bring a Bill before their own Parliaments. *Recommendations* are not so imperative in character, but the members must submit them to the proper authorities in their own countries and try to carry them into effect.

(2) A table showing the present state of ratification in the various countries will be found annexed to this letter.

And it is precisely here that we, an organization of women, conscious as we are of the value of international co-operation, could and should help the International Labour Office:—

(a) By communicating with the Parliamentary Committees having charge of Bills relative to international conventions;

(b) By trying to influence public opinion in our own countries through the Press and by public meetings with a view to obtaining the discussion and adoption of the conventions and recommendations.

In countries where the women have the right of vote, their influence will be far weightier still, and those of them who are members of Parliament could lend us powerful aid.

We consider that international legislation of this kind is of very great importance, for, even apart from the beneficial results to mankind which it seeks to accomplish, it gives expression to a desire for a close understanding between the States, and embodies a first attempt at international solidarity which can and should make us hope for further action in the interests of peace and union between the nations.

We think also that the International Labour Office will feel more disposed to listen to the wishes expressed by our Congresses if we, on our side, can help the Office to perform successfully the splendid and difficult task which the League of Nations has entrusted to it.

For the Committee of liaison,

(Signed) C. BRUNDSCHVICG,

Secretary.

53, rue Scheffer, Paris, 16.

WOMEN VOTERS.

SHOULD women voters who are feminists join the existing political parties, or can they best attain their ends by remaining aloof from them and working from outside rather than from within? This is a question which has been much discussed during the last few days, when the Ninth Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance has been meeting in Rome.

There is no dispute about the goal the feminists have in view. So much at least is clear. To that extent, at any rate, the representatives of the forty-three nations assembled present a solid front. It is, when you come to think of it, remarkable that there should be this identity of aim uniting the women of India with the women of Finland, that on this subject the women of Brazil speak with the same voice as the women of China and Japan.

Listening to the Congress day after day, it is wonderful to hear similar ideals, similar aims expressed in different languages and in different accents, by one speaker after another, till it is gradually borne in upon one, if it has not previously been realized, that this "Feminism," as it is called, is a world-wide movement of the utmost significance.

These aims may be quite briefly summarized. They are, that women voters should take their places among the ranks of citizens on the same terms and with the same duties and privileges as their brothers. It is a claim of women to share equally in the life of their common humanity. Duties are involved, for the life of the true citizen is a life of social service, and privileges, though claimed on the one hand, must be abandoned on the other. The privileges of equal opportunity involve the abandonment of the privileges of the weaker and protected.

This life of fuller citizenship and unrestricted opportunities is claimed in the belief that women have something of value to contribute for the good of the whole.

The "calling" of the politician, for with such high seriousness is it regarded by these women feminists, is worthy of the best gifts, the widest experience, the deepest knowledge which can be attained by the best types in our civilization. The woman's point of view will, it is contended, bring much of fullness to the national life, and the male politician also will have much to give in return to his less experienced sister.

So much for the goal, but how can it best be attained? That is the rub. One step farther may be taken together before the parting of the ways. There must be separate organizations of women. On this the five or six hundred women assembled in conference at Rome are agreed. These women's organizations, voters, societies, citizenship leagues and the rest, must devote themselves to the study of the special questions affecting women. Four separate Commissions have presented reports on such subjects as the welfare of children, the protection of motherhood, the conditions of the woman industrial worker, and the various aspects of the terrible problem of prostitution and the social evils resulting therefrom. The reports on these subjects are voluminous documents showing much work and thought, and full of constructive, one might almost in some cases say revolutionary, proposals, for the future ordering of the world in regard to these matters. This is the woman's realm. The study of such subjects is of so great importance as to demand in every country at least one society constituted for the purpose.

Such questions belong to the borderland between social economics and politics. What of politics proper—the politics which have hitherto been the domain of the male? It is obvious to all that women have necessarily less experience and less knowledge of these matters than men. Hence feminists are still unanimous that the secondary object of women's organizations must be to study and gain knowledge of these questions. But is that all? Feminists must study, must acquaint themselves with political questions. Agreed. And having studied, and being possessed of the necessary knowledge, what then? How to make that knowledge a living part of the political life of all countries? That is the crux of the matter, that is the knotty point.

The majority of the enfranchised feminists assembled at Rome have by resolution expressed the belief that the task of feminism is completely fulfilled in pointing out to "party women" their obligations in this matter of citizenship, the feminists themselves remaining outside the party organizations. This argument is reinforced by the fact that in some countries politicians have asked the opinion of avowedly non-party women as to the desires and requirements of women in legislation.

Ibsen in one of his plays heaps scorn upon the "compact majority," which is practically always in the wrong. This, we venture to surmise, is a case in point. It is noticeable that at the Rome Congress those delegates who took the minority view that women should join their political parties belonged to those countries whose women have had most experience of political life—in particular Finland, America and Sweden. It may possibly be only too sadly true, as frequently stated during the course of the debate, that "party women" have become "party slaves," doing the hard work at election times and influencing the party programme not at all. But what has been, need not always be "*la donna e mobile*"!

In any case, who are the "party women" to whom the Congress appeals for support of their feminist programme? They are first and foremost "party women," that is to say, women who put party first and feminism at its best second, at the worst nowhere. Is it reasonable to suppose that such women will put any item of a feminist programme before party advantage?

Let us take one small matter as an example—the increase of women among parliamentary candidates. All are agreed in theory that such an increase is desirable, but when it comes to the point can you expect "party women" to consider the claims of a woman candidate with favour against the immediate party advantage of a suitable male candidate?

As a matter of sober fact, the chief difficulty in the way of the adoption of women candidates for Parliament is the reluctance of local constituency associations to accept one. The individuals may agree in theory that it is desirable to promote the candidature of women, but when it comes to the selection of a candidate, the "good party man," preferably in a position to pay his own expenses, who will make the seat safe "for the party," will, in nine cases out of ten, be the candidate chosen. There are always excellent reasons why in any particular constituency, at the exact moment in question, it would not be wise to venture into the unknown and risk the effect of a woman candidate upon the electors. What else can you expect, moreover, when, as unfortunately generally happens, the comparatively small number of feminists in a constituency remain aloof, leaving their sex to be represented upon the constituency committee by women whose only claim to the position is that they are "good party women," which, commonly interpreted, means that they are the wives of "good, sound party men"?

Again, the views of his constituents are always necessarily of interest to the member of Parliament, since upon the continuance of his popularity with the said constituents his hold upon the seat depends. But what matters, *par excellence*, are the views of his supporters, and, above all, the views of his committee. The others are outsiders. And in the event of a clash of interests the supporters and the committee come first. While feminists deliberately remain among the outsiders, is it likely that their views and their programme will have much weight with the candidate in question?

Exceptional women will always wield exceptional influence, and no argument is sound which is based upon the influence of these select and favoured few. While we have a system of democratic Government it remains in general true that, in spite of any exceptions you may quote, it is ultimately public opinion which prevails. While feminists are content to stand aloof and influence the parties from outside, their influence and power will never be very great. They must make their choice of party. They must enter the arena and join the ranks of the ordinary voter, make themselves of value to their party, and be elected to their party associations. Then, and only then, will the ordinary woman be able to make effective, through the ordinary channels of representative government, the programme of full and equal citizenship which the feminist so ardently desires.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MORALS COMMITTEE: A CORRECTION.

Compulsory Treatment and Detention.

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

MADAM,—In the note on page 158 of your July issue you state that the Chairman of the Morals Commission is of opinion that the following resolution should be added to the list of those adopted by the I.W.S.A. Rome Congress:—

"Concerning the fight against venereal diseases, the Congress believes above all in the voluntary system; diffusion of information on venereal diseases; facilities for treatment of all persons in numerous appropriate centres."

My recollection of the final decision is different. When the resolution was first brought up, the English and French did not correspond, and it was carried as recommended in the French version, after the English had been made to correspond with that version.

Afterwards, at a very late session of the Congress, Dr. Davies, U.S.A., raised the point that the resolution should not have been so passed because no amendment was to be allowed to the resolutions coming from the Committees; and she moved to reconsider the decision. This was put to the vote and the Congress voted *not* to reconsider it. Notwithstanding, the Congress went on

discussing it, and after a number of other speeches had been made, another vote to reconsider was moved, and this time was carried. After that the resolution was laid on the table; so that it cannot stand as one of the resolutions of the Alliance.

I remember very clearly because I was supporting the passage of the resolution, and think it a great calamity that it was not adopted. At the present moment, when so many countries are instituting compulsory methods of treatment for venereal disease, which automatically carry with them the compulsory examination of women, that central crime of the old regulation system, it is a serious blow that the Alliance as such is prevented by the loss of this resolution from opposing this abomination. Compulsory methods carry with them not only compulsory examination, but also compulsory detention of persons alleged to be diseased, another of the accompaniments of the old regulation system. The fact that the place of detention is called a hospital and that the warders are doctors does not really make it any the less a prison.

Then, too, and this aspect concerns the Alliance more especially, such regulations tend to be applied not universally, but to the helpless, especially to women. Figures are not always available, but the following are of interest in this connection. Mr. Rowntree Gillett, an authority on this question, states that he was informed by Dr. Kilbourne, at Topeka, who is Health Officer for dealing with venereal disease in the State of Kansas, that they had made great efforts to treat men and women equally, and at one time had 700 men detained, and 1,800 women; but that the place of detention for men had later been closed while that for women still continued. Comment is needless. This is the kind of thing that happens.

As two views were expressed on this subject at Rome, and as it is one of vital importance to the equality between the sexes, I hope that other readers will write their views in reply. It would be valuable if each country where compulsory detention is in force would supply the official figures of the number of men and the number of women who are being detained for compulsory treatment.

I am, etc.,

CRYSTAL MACMILLAN.

71, Harcourt Terrace,
London, S.W. 10.

July 4, 1923.

"ENGLISH" NOT "BRITISH" LAW.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I should like to call your attention to certain inaccuracies regarding the law of Scotland which appear on pages 131 and 134 of your number, May-June, 1923.

First, on page 131, in "1 (b) By Inheritance":—The statement is found "in many countries, for example, Australia . . . Great Britain . . . the husband may will the whole of his property away from his wife . . ." In Scotland the widow has certain legal rights which cannot be interfered with by any testamentary writings of her husband. On his death she can always claim her share of his movable estate, the *Jus Relictæ*, which amounts to one-third if there are children, one-half if there are no children. As regards *heritable* estate, the widow has an inalienable right to her *Terce*, or life-rent interest in one-third of property in which her husband died infert.

Again, in "2. The Provision for Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children," we read, "in every country, except Great Britain, the child may become legitimized on the subsequent marriage of its parents." In Scotland, the child has always been legitimized on the subsequent marriage of its parents, save in the case of a child born to a man and woman between whom there existed at its birth a real impediment to marriage (for example, the fact that one of the parents was already married).

On page 134, under "Great Britain (d)," "Wives and children have no absolute rights of inheritance. The husband may disinherit them completely . . ." As already stated, wives have certain absolute rights of inheritance in Scotland. The same holds good of the children. No matter how a father may will his property, a one-third share of his whole free movable estate vests in his children on his death. That is, if a man be survived by a widow and children, his movable estate is divided into three equal parts, of which one vests in the widow by virtue of *Jus Relictæ* already referred to; one vests in the children (share and share alike) as *legitim*; the remaining third being known technically as "Dead's Part." Of this last third only can he dispose by will.

A man has absolute power to will his *heritable* property as he thinks fit except in the case of entailed estate, i.e., lands, the succession to which devolves by prior deeds always upon the heir of the present proprietor and which cannot therefore be willed away from the heir.

Illegitimate children have no rights of inheritance. In referring to the law of Great Britain, distinction must be made between the law of England and the law of Scotland. Scotch law is quite distinct from English law, and varies in very many important details. In regard to the question of equality of status and rights as between men and women, Scotch law has always been greatly in advance of English legislation.

I am, yours truly,

H. S. THOMSON,

Honorary Secretary Parliamentary Committee.

Edinburgh Women Citizens' Association,
21, Castle Street, Edinburgh.

July 5, 1923.

NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

Position in British Parliament.

A PARTICULARLY interesting position has been reached with regard to the Joint Committee of both Houses which has been considering the question of the nationality of married women. The Committee consisted of five members of each House, with Lord Chelmsford as chairman. Sir John Butcher presented a draft report, which recommended that a British woman marrying an alien should have the right to retain her British nationality if she so desired. The five members of the House of Commons voted for the report and the five peers against it, so that the report was not adopted. Lord Chelmsford then presented a draft report suggesting that there should be no material alteration in the existing law, and this was supported by the peers and opposed by the representatives of the Commons, and was consequently not adopted. It was finally decided that both draft reports should be embodied in a White Paper, which has now been laid on the table of the House, and will be issued shortly. It is said to be many years since there has been a clean-cut difference of opinion of this kind between the two Houses.

Mrs. CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT.

L'ALLIANCE internationale pour le suffrage des femmes, qui a tenu, à Rome, au mois de mai, son neuvième congrès, fut fondée en 1902 par une Américaine, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt.

Cette fédération, qui devait devenir si puissante et pousser ses ramifications jusqu'aux points les plus reculés du vaste monde, ne comportait, à ses débuts, que cinq groupements.

Seuls, en effet, quatre Etats de l'Amérique du Nord et la Nouvelle-Zélande avaient alors reconnu le droit de vote aux femmes.

Aujourd'hui, grâce à l'autorité, à l'activité et à l'inlassable dévouement de l'Américaine au grand cœur qui la fonda et ne cessa de la présider, l'Alliance groupe quarante-trois nations. Vingt-cinq ont affranchi leurs femmes. Le monde compte 138 millions d'électrices.

Il ne nous a point paru possible de laisser partir cette femme admirable à qui ses sœurs doivent tant de reconnaissance et dont il nous plaisait de dire: "Rien ne vaut la douceur de son autorité," sans tracer à grands traits son portrait et sans rappeler quelle fut sa noble carrière.

**

Il semble que toutes les fées aient entouré son berceau et que leur prodigalité envers elle fut immense, puisque les plus beaux dons lui furent dévolus. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt est belle, d'une beauté souveraine. De taille élevée, portant haut la tête que couronnent des cheveux blancs, les yeux bleus, d'un bleu pervenche, elle est vêtue avec recherche, de bleu souvent, d'un bleu couleur de ses yeux ou d'une robe ornée de ce même bleu qui lui va si bien. Elle passe et tout le monde s'incline sur son passage avec une ferveur respectueuse. Mrs. Chapman Catt ne se contente pas d'être belle — quoique la beauté à elle seule soit déjà un singulier mérite et d'autant plus grand que de mauvais esprits prétendent que le féminisme est la rançon des femmes laides, de celles qui ont été privées de l'amour.

Ses yeux bleu pervenche et son fin sourire qui fleurit sur des lèvres minces sont empreints d'une grande bonté. Belle et bonne. D'autres femmes, dans son pays et dans d'autres pays, sont belles et bonnes. Mais combien peuvent prétendre à sa grande intelligence, à sa culture,

à son jugement et à ses dons d'expression qui font d'elle une oratrice incomparable.

La voici sur l'estrade, debout, et l'air vraiment royal. De toute sa personne émane une grande autorité. Elle parle, ses gestes sont sobres, mais c'est par le timbre de la voix qu'elle accentue et module. Sa diction est parfaite, chaque mot porte. Son éloquence n'a rien d'électoral. Elle va jusqu'au fond du sujet qu'elle traite et des paroles de conquête, d'espoir sortent de sa bouche:

"Levez-vous, femmes du monde entier! Révoltez-vous et toutes ensemble luttez contre l'antique esclavage qui vous retient encore prisonnières. Vos pays ont besoin de vos forces respectives, ne les leur marchandez pas."

**

C'est à la libération des femmes qu'elle consacra sa vie. Dans le monde entier, elle tenta de les organiser et de les éveiller au sentiment de la responsabilité. Grande voyageuse, elle visita, bien entendu, tous les Etats de l'Amérique du Nord. Puis elle estima qu'il fallait sans cesse aller plus loin, dans les pays mêmes où l'émancipation des femmes semblait le plus difficile; elle se rendit au Japon, en Chine et contribua, dans ces pays, à l'établissement de groupes nationaux.

En octobre dernier, elle était à Rome pour y jeter les premières bases du Congrès dont le *Figaro* a déjà rendu compte. De là, elle partit pour l'Europe Centrale, rejoignant Londres, d'où elle s'embarqua, en décembre, pour le Brésil, l'Argentine, le Chili, le Pérou, l'Uruguay, Panama.

Grâce à ses dons de persuasion, une organisation panaméricaine de femmes fut fondée dont elle accepta

INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the Six Months ended June 30, 1923.

"JUS."			DISBURSEMENTS.		
RECEIPTS.			DISBURSEMENTS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Transfer from General Fund, being loss on "Jus" for the six months ended June 30, 1923.			Printing	361	10 6
per contra	351	6 0	Salaries	60	10 8
Subscriptions	101	3 6	Rent	12	10 0
Y.W.C.A. Supplement	21	11 6	Miscellaneous Expenses	51	16 11
Cash Sales	12	13 1			
Total	£486	14 1	Total	£486	14 1

GENERAL.					
RECEIPTS.			DISBURSEMENTS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance, January 1, 1923—			Transfer to "Jus," per contra	351	6 0
Cash at Barclays Bank, Ltd. ..	139	4 4	Salaries	393	5 8
Cash in hand	0	18 11	Extra Office Help	8	19 1
			Light, Heat and Cleaning	25	15 6
General Donations	140	3 3	Rent	25	0 0
Rome Congress Pledges	675	18 0	Printing and Stationery	36	2 10
Members' Fees	205	11 7	Telephone, Telegraph and Messengers	19	9 11
Less Transferred to "Jus"			Postages	21	4 2
Subscriptions and Report			Repairs	2	2 5
Receipts	115	15 6	Insurance	2	6 9
			Office Equipment	0	13 1
Report Receipts	89	16 1	Miscellaneous	44	1 7
Woman Suffrage in Practice	14	12 0			
Affiliation Fees	10	17 1	Balance, June 30, 1923—		
Miscellaneous Receipts	30	7 8	Cash at Barclays Bank, Ltd. ..	161	9 7
			Cash in hand	0	12 7
Total	£1,092	10 2	Total	£1,092	10 2

CERTIFICATE.

We have audited the cash receipts and disbursements of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance for the six months ended June 30, 1923, and certify that the above is a correct statement thereof.

LONDON, July 10, 1923.

HASKINS & SELLS,
Certified Public Accountants.

la présidence. L'organisation encore provisoire groupe les femmes des trois Amériques. Mrs. Catt présidera leur congrès qui se tiendra l'an prochain à Buenos-Aires.

Son voyage fut un triomphe. Tous les présidents des Républiques sud-américaines, celui du Chili, de l'Uruguay, du Brésil, de Panama, de l'Argentine, du Pérou qui, auparavant, n'avaient jamais envisagé la possibilité de donner aux femmes le droit de vote, devinrent, à la suite de la visite de Mrs. Catt, favorables au principe.

Partout où les femmes ont besoin d'elle, partout où il faut animer du souffle de la vie des masses amorphes, grouper des forces hésitantes, Mrs. Catt rayonnante de bonté et de foi se présente.

**

Un des privilèges de ma vie a été de rencontrer plusieurs femmes supérieures : je n'en ai jamais approché qui eussent, comme elle, de si beaux dons.

La tâche est lourde pour celle qui lui succédera à la présidence de l'Alliance, car pour toutes celles qui l'auront connue, son souvenir demeurera impérissable. Mais Mrs. Corbett Ashby — nommée à la place de celle qui manifesta une telle volonté de se retirer que la discuter eût été déshonorable — est tout à fait capable de maintenir l'impulsion qui est nécessaire à l'Alliance.

J'ai eu le plaisir de faire la connaissance de Mrs. Corbett Ashby en 1919, alors que, pendant les négociations du traité de paix, des femmes alliées entretenaient du vote les plénipotentiaires étrangers. Elle voulut bien venir avec moi à une réunion du Pré-Saint-Gervais et y prendre la parole. Ce furent, je crois, ses débuts à Paris où elle se fit, depuis, entendre plusieurs fois.

S'exprimant en français avec une grande aisance, elle put entrer directement en contact avec notre peuple. D'ailleurs, quand prenant possession du bureau elle remercia le Congrès de l'avoir élue, elle prononça son discours en quatre langues, en anglais, en français, en italien, en allemand. Une telle connaissance linguistique pour une présidente d'Alliance internationale, est tout à fait précieuse. Mrs. Catt, et c'est le seul regret qu'on peut exprimer en parlant d'elle, ne parle qu'anglais.

Le père de Mrs. Corbett Ashby, M. Corbett, fut membre de la Chambre des Communes. Elle-même appartient au parti libéral qui, deux fois, en 1898 et en 1922, la porta aux élections.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby, dont je m'honore d'être l'amie, est une amie de la France. Qu'elle trouve ici tous nos vœux et l'expression de notre joie qu'un poste de cette importance lui ait été confié. Il fallait ses rares qualités pour qu'une difficulté qui aurait fait vraisemblablement échouer toute autre candidature ne fût point, pour elle, un obstacle. Mrs. Corbett Ashby est une jeune femme, quarante ans peut-être.

— Quarante ans, une jeune femme, direz-vous, non sans quelque surprise.

Mais oui, tout est relatif, et les têtes chennues, dans nos congrès, sont nombreuses.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby est à l'âge où la femme est en pleine force, en pleine vigueur. Nous saluons avec joie sa jeunesse : présidente de l'Alliance internationale pour le suffrage des femmes, elle fera certainement de grandes choses.

ALICE LA MAZIÈRE.

Officers of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, elected at the Ninth Congress, Rome, May 12—19, 1923.

President : MRS. CORBETT ASHBY, 33, Upper Richmond Road, London, S.W. 15, England.

Hon. President : MRS. CHAPMAN CATT, 404, Riverside Drive, New York, U.S.A.

First Vice-President : MME. DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER, 14, Rue Pierre de Serbie, Paris, France.

Second Vice-President : FRAU A. LINDEMANN, Köln, Marienburg-Wolfgang Müllerstr., 20, Germany.

Third Vice-President : DR. M. ANCONA, 8, Via Morigi, Milano 8, Italy.

Fourth Vice-President : MRS. GIFFORD PINCHOT, Executive Mansion, Harrisburg, Pa., U.S.A.

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By-law of the I.W.S.A. Constitution.

"The International Woman Suffrage Alliance, by mutual consent of its auxiliaries, stands pledged to preserve absolute neutrality on all questions that are strictly national."

Headquarters and EDITORIAL OFFICES of the I.W.S. NEWS : 11, ADAM STREET, ADELPHI, LONDON, W.C. Telegrams: "Vocorajto." Telephone: Regent 4255.

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THE LADY PARMOOR.
MRS. JAMES A. WEBB, JNR.
MRS. E. C. CARTER.

Treasurer :

EXPERIMENTS IN ESTHONIA.

IN a past issue of this Supplement a brief account was given of the Esthonian girls who took a disused playground and made gardens of it. This was only an experiment to meet the need of an increased and more varied food supply, but it is an experiment which seems to have come to stay, for this summer more girls are at work on more ground, and those who are not actually in gardens are coming to the Y.W.C.A. after the offices and shops close, to practise the art of canning and cold-packing. The Y.W.C.A. was able to have an exhibit at the public exhibition of the Agricultural Association, the first body of amateurs to be represented, and won several prizes. This was not the only public recognition, for the Y.W.C.A. received a certificate from the Board of Agriculture itself.



Embroidery Class, Reval.

Gardening, canning, and demonstrations of fireless cooking (a priceless benefit in a wood-burning country where exorbitant prices are charged in the towns) were some of the features of work in the Reval Y.W.C.A. Reval has also distinguished itself in technical education, and recently held an exhibition of every branch of needlework. But Dorpat (Tartu), the pretty little university on the banks of a river, also has a flourishing Association with clubs and groups of Girl Reserves, which, if they work in language groups, also come together for councils and for play. They have even a song which is sung together simultaneously in four languages.

An idea of the change which the Association is making in the lives of girls is given by the name which one of them gave to the centre. The house, once a large private home, was the seat of a Bolshevik tribunal, and was nicknamed the house of tears. One of the members says it should now be called the house of joy.

GIRLS IN LATVIA.

UP on the Baltic Sea lies the new Republic of Latvia, new as a Republic, but old as a country, with a population of over 1,500,000, of whom about 250,000 live in the capital city of Riga. But if the Republic is new, its people in experience are old, for they have only just emerged from years so crowded that they have left their mark on even the young girls. They have seen too much; they have lived too close to the naked necessities of life; they have been too much stimulated and have had too few opportunities for normal development. There has, too, been an abrupt change in the balance of power inside the country. Governed by Russia until the last few years, the control of agriculture and industry has been chiefly in the hands of the Baltic Germans who both conquered and converted the Letts in the twelfth century. The Letts themselves, the original population of the country, were for the most part servants, cultivators of the soil, and so forth. Now Lettish is the official language of the country, necessary for any official post; Lettish professors are busy working out Lettish equivalents for scientific and technical terms, and a vivid national spirit has grown up.

Into this background the Y.W.C.A. has fitted itself, and under the guidance of a unit of trained American secretaries a girls' movement has sprung into being. At the end of the first few months' work the problem was how to cater for all the girls who were flocking to the building. In the summer 200 girls took turns at playing tennis, beginning at 8 a.m. and going on till 10 p.m. Few had played before, and the physical director was on her feet all day. The modern methods of physical development were a revelation after the hours of stereotyped drill which was the girls' idea of gymnastic work, and the small class and large audience with which the physical department opened soon changed into a class that outstripped the audience. The gymnasium was once the reception room of a baronial mansion, with a fine polished floor inlaid with stars of dark and light wood. "Every girl on a star-jump," suggests the scene in the hall nowadays.

The girls are avid for education of all kinds. They are industrious, with a tremendous capacity for hard

work. Even dramatics are taken seriously, and the classes in languages, millinery, sewing and so forth were attended by 1,000 students. It is not only the elder girls who flock to clubs (grouped round languages, Lettish, German and Russian, not nationalities), the younger girls with their school aprons of black sateen are coming along too, and in the Girl Reserve groups are finding outlets for body, mind and spirit. It is this balance that the Y.W.C.A. is working for, active spirits resting on well-trained minds in healthy bodies. Latvia is expecting much from its women. The Y.W.C.A. girls are getting themselves ready to meet that demand.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN NORWAY.

WE have often heard of the progressiveness of the Scandinavian countries, and Norway seems in that respect to be one of the most outstanding. This shows itself in the spirit of co-operation which we find developing more and more in that country among associations of various kinds. The Young Men's and the Young Women's Christian Associations do not work here, as in other countries, as two separate organizations, but have united under the name of "The Young People's Christian Association" under one Joint National Committee, which meets at regular intervals in order to discuss matters of common interest. This, of course, does not prevent the full autonomy of either section in all matters relating to the developments they are specially concerned with.

Last summer an important Conference of the Young People's Christian Association was held at Trondhjem. It was a nation-wide meeting of representatives of both sections, which only takes place every three years. About 500 people attended, more than 300 of them being delegates from all over Norway, even from far-away North-eastern Finmark.

To those interested in the development of the movement during the last period of three years, the reports given by the National Secretaries were very illuminating. These developments have been considerable, especially on the woman's side of the work, from which some items are given here.

One of the outstanding events during that period has been the formation of a Joint Committee of the Young Women's Christian Associations of the five Scandinavian countries, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, and Iceland, as a Northern Y.W.C.A. movement. Norway took the lead in calling the first conference of representatives from these five countries to Christiania in 1919. Since that time an All-Scandinavian Conference has been held in one of the countries concerned every year, and an inter-Scandinavian travelling secretary has been appointed, an Iceland woman, whose work has proved most valuable in influencing the policies of the Association in those countries, so much alike in language and yet so widely differing in many other respects.

Wider international relationships have been kept up by Norway sending a delegate to the Conference of the World's Y.W.C.A., and through visits from members of the World's Y.W.C.A. travelling staff. There has been co-operation, too, with other international associations, e.g., the Christian International and The World Alliance for Friendship through the Churches. The first Norwegian Y.W.C.A. worker has now gone to China, to work there under the Chinese Y.W.C.A.

Inside the country there are now 675 local centres of work, and a very satisfactory growth of the junior work of the Association is reported. The Girl Guide Movement especially is becoming more and more popular. It is almost entirely under the leadership of the Y.W.C.A. and has 2,600 girls enrolled in troops and companies all over the country. This work is looked upon as one of the most important, as helping to form the ideals for life of the adolescent girl, and the National Secretary is giving a great deal of her time to visiting and organizing, she being herself the Chief of the National Girl Guide Movement of Norway. One of the big needs is, however, for more trained leadership in junior work (girls' work),

and it is hoped to appoint special travelling secretaries for the work of training leaders in the future.

A big problem presents itself in the fact that the wide north-eastern tract of the country called "Ost-Finmark" is so thinly populated that great difficulties are experienced in organizing work. A special travelling secretary has been appointed for that district. She will spend her time travelling from town to town as a kind of travelling teacher, holding where possible training courses of three months each for from 12 to 18 girls at a time. The subjects to be taught will be in most cases: housewifery, handicrafts, hygiene and gymnastics, baby care, singing and Bible study. Trained leadership is imperative for all the sections of the work, and it is necessary to study modern methods of approach to young people which will call forth an harmonious development of body, mind and spirit, and lead to the formation of strong personalities.

GIRLS' CLUB ON A PALACE STAIRCASE.

THE old royal palace in Athens has a new decoration for its golden staircase, for the staircase with the corridors attached and the entrance hall are now the club centre for hundreds of young girls. The nucleus of the club was a group of young Greek girls, refugees from Smyrna. They had been members of the flourishing Young Women's Christian Association there, and gradually found each other in Athens, where was also the young secretary of the industrial centre, who had just returned from the summer course in social and industrial subjects held by the World's Y.W.C.A. in London. Every girl seemed to bring her friends with her, and classes and group meetings leapt into existence. In fact, the President said, "No sooner do we have benches made, than there are more girls than benches."

The following extract from a recent letter tells its own tale:—

"I cannot but write a few lines to you before going home to-night. . . . The girls have just gone. It seems like a dream. . . . It is exactly one week since we started English, French, German, Greek, Literature and Recreation classes. To-day I went around to see how the classes were getting on. I was so happy to see the girls eagerly awaiting and anxious to hear what the teacher would say. They all looked so pleased and happy as they were leaving their classes. I took Miss B. to Mr. M.'s class, which he had on the staircase. We had no chairs, so most of the girls were having their lesson standing, but they looked happy. . . . Our door is put in now, and Mr. K. has promised to send his men to paint it. . . . Mr. K. promised to make our partition (across the hall) as soon as our benches and our furniture are ready. The place is so big that, as many things as one puts, still they look like nothing. . . . Yesterday we had the first recreation meeting. . . . sixty girls in a small corridor. (The committee met at the same time at the end of the staircase.) You can imagine over sixty girls having recreation in a small corridor, can you? Well, we did have it, and the girls were very pleased and took part in the games, except a few who were on the staircase watching us playing. They asked to have volley ball and basket ball, and we were all so glad E. could teach it, but she is gone. There is another girl now, A. M., who was in Miss F.'s gym. class (in Smyrna), and she will lead the games. We are to get permission to go once a week to the public playground near the stadium. As for volley ball and basket ball, I am going to see Mr. M. and ask if we can borrow from him balls for one or two months until our girls get interested in the play and gather the money themselves to buy what is needed. . . . Of course, everything goes on slowly, and if one thinks how slow we are, one gets discouraged, but again I say when we started we did not have five drachmas to buy paper to send the invitation to the girls, and I told the girls in our office, 'Here, girls, I give my membership fee, you give yours, and we will

buy the paper." I got twenty drachmas and bought some paper, and F., with some other girls, sat until late at night to finish them. . . . I forgot to tell you what a fine meeting we had on the staircase last Sunday. There were about two hundred girls. . . . I enclose a picture of our first out-of-door meeting, in the theatre of Dionisos, where Professor S. is relating the history of the place."

Comment is unnecessary.

A DAILY VACATION SCHOOL IN CHINA.

HERE we are. Just a door in a whitewashed wall, and over it the sign bearing the Blue Triangle and the name for which it stands. The height of the wall marks it as belonging to a wealthy man, and looms up in great contrast to the low houses of its neighbours. As we step beyond the first courtyard and pass into the next, from which come lively cries of "Pass it on," "He stepped outside the circle," "Pass it on." Who are these active youngsters running here and there in the small stone court-yard? They are the children from the narrow crowded streets around the Association. With them are a half-dozen young students from the Government Training School. They are teaching the active children to play a form of captain-ball, which must be greatly adapted to fit the small court bordered with its water-jars and stone benches.

The bell rings. The youngsters fall into line (some of them remember to run to the wash-basin first). When the music starts they march into the chapel. Now they are singing lustily, following the words splashed in high black characters on the sheets of green and pink paper pinned on the blackboard. Now the leader, a girl who is doing this Vacation Bible School work as a piece of voluntary service, is testing the children in the verses they learned yesterday. To-day it is the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians they are repeating in unison.

After this they divide into classes. Each little group is in charge of a student. Ten o'clock sees the reading classes begin. Since it is easier to memorize the lesson by chanting it aloud, all proceed to shout at the top of their lungs. After the lesson has been sung to the little tune the children have learned from the teacher, each child comes to the front and recites the lesson for the teacher.

Tiny fingers skilfully twist this bamboo here and there—then a flower basket; it is put on the table for completed work. Bits of rags are fashioned into lumpy dolls dressed in Western style. It must be a wonderful moment to stand by while the teacher carefully paints the features on the doll one has so painstakingly made. The sand board slowly but surely becomes a replica of West Lake, with its encircling mountains, temple roofs and pagodas.

The weeks slip by and the children wistfully see the end of their play days close. In spite of heat and the work, the school has been a real vacation for the children. The change has not been merely in clean faces and friendly smiles, but in an eagerness to go on exploring what such schools have to offer. We are assailed on all sides as to when we will "kai we" (open the school) again.

(NOTE.—This is only one of similar schools in which educated members of the Chinese Y.W.C.A. are sharing their knowledge with less fortunate girls and children.)

THE WEAVING SCHOOL OF THE INDIAN Y.W.C.A.*

THE question of an industry in connection with such missions as have many women in converts' homes, or other institutions on their compounds, has long been an acute one. Some of them have confined their efforts to lace making and embroidery, for which the market

* Abridged from "Woman's Outlook in India."

is congested, and others have undertaken weaving, or stamping bed covers, or basket making, or similar industries. When the market is close at hand and natural, and especially if the manufactured articles are of such a character that they will take the place of articles which have to be purchased by the mission, or when they are indigenous, both to women themselves and to the locality, it seems more satisfactory than when the sale as well as the oversight of the work requires expert or foreign assistance. Miss Maya Das (Associate National General Secretary) made a survey of the industrial missions before undertaking the experiment of affording some technical training of this character to vernacular secretaries. But with the opening of weaving departments in the industrial missions, especially in the women's work, it was found that the supply of suitable teachers was exceedingly limited. Few could pay the salary of a man graduate of an institute, and the boys or men trained as artisans were not intended by the institutions as teachers, although in many cases such were engaged. There was also the question of women's classes for which men could not be employed, as in zenanas, purdah schools, and other places from which requests came to the Y.W.C.A. when the first classes were begun in Calcutta in 1921.

With the removal to Serampore in 1922, and a house adjoining the Government Weaving Institute, in which the looms were erected, it was possible to offer to women the whole of the splendid three years' course (in English) leading up to graduation, or the practical course of a year for artisans. So far all the students have come from missions, and are either expected back to their own places or will be available, when ready, for other missions where the same type of work is required as that in which they will have spent the months of their training. It is reckless to expect a woman who has learned to warp and weave towels and dusters and saris of certain weaves, and to dye certain colours for the warp and weft, to go and organize a paying industry in the woollen durrie business, as was recently requested, or to expect girls after a few months' practice to earn skilled weavers' wages enough to compete with other master workmen. But it is possible for intelligent and dexterous women and girls with enough education to calculate the figures for quantities of yarn or chemicals for certain dyes, to substitute weaving for lace work, or at least to add it to such industries; and for certain girls who cannot become teachers of the ordinary school branches, owing to various causes, to enter a new occupation of promise. But what is most of all needed is a number of keen and skilful teachers of handiwork to specialize in weaving, by taking the full course, or some possible abridgment of it, and be highly trained specialists, able to organize and supervise the work of the artisans throughout a district or a type of school. In one of the Missionary Training Schools for Teachers the experiment has been so successful as an educational subject that they have secured their own equipment and are preparing some of their students to teach this subject. The experiment as a whole is too new and too full of promise along many lines, to predict; but visitation and correspondence is invited, and even orders may be received as soon as those already voluntarily given have been executed.

THE TRAVEL CAMP.

PEOPLE are accustomed to going abroad for conferences or as tourists, but how many "camps" go abroad? The British Y.W.C.A. would answer this question by producing an illustrated leaflet, printed in the blue one hopes for in skies and seas, describing the camps that will be held this year in France and Belgium. Last year French girls were visitors at English camps, and the desire to learn French raged like measles. This year's friendly invasion of France and Belgium will give these enthusiasts a chance to show that British girls can be linguists—if they will—and that their interest in the world at large is not bounded by the Channel.

AT THE SIGN OF THE BLUE TRIANGLE IN COLOMBO.

PATHEPIC sights are frequently witnessed in the streets of Colombo when an Orient or a Commonwealth Liner is in harbour. Women and children, apparently failing to realize the danger of walking the streets in the heat of the day without adequate protection from the glare of the sun, are constantly running the risk of sunstroke. Moreover, it is not uncommon to see babies in arms, without anything whatever upon their heads, and it is amazing that the casualties are not more numerous than they are.

For upwards of a year a very useful purpose has been served by the Blue Triangle Rooms, which are located in the centre of the town. These rooms are run by the Young Women's Christian Association, and not only is it possible here to obtain excellent tea, and even more substantial meals cleanly served in congenial surroundings, but there is also provided a rest room with couches upon which tired visitors may recline for half an hour or so.

When these rooms were first opened an effort was made to cater solely for the women folk, but this did not prove a success. Obviously, when a boat is in harbour, the women folk and the children do not come ashore alone, but are accompanied by their husbands, brothers, or other male relations. It was, therefore, decided to open the rooms to all, and since this has been done the sign of the Blue Triangle has proved increasingly popular. There is always a cordial welcome for everyone, but it is mainly for the women and the children that the rooms are intended. There is in charge a most enthusiastic European lady secretary, and all large passenger steamers are met on arrival, and the existence of the rooms is made known to those who are likely to be interested. Printed notices are posted on the notice boards of all passenger steamers a day before such vessels arrive at this port.

The Blue Triangle Rooms are also available as an Information Bureau for visitors, and they cater, as no other institution in Ceylon caters, for the Ceylonese business girls who are employed in the Fort. There are quite a number of women typists, telephone operators, and others, in daily attendance at local offices at which no facilities for taking a mid-day meal exist.



The house-cleaning squad washing out their "tools."

But sea-water has other uses, and the "housekeeping squad" on duty for the day find there is no pleasanter way of cleaning brushes and brooms and all the apparatus of cleanliness than by giving them a vigorous tubbing in the sea. Possibly the "squad" shares something of the wetness of their tools, but the brilliant sunshine soon remedies that.



The "grounds squad" going up the entrance path, which is lined with lavender.

The "housekeeping squad" are not the only workers. The "grounds squad" here seen walking towards the house between hedges of lavender, housemaid the garden as vigorously as the "kitchen squad" their quarters.



Nature study hour.

As to the intellectuals, in the intervals of bathing and games and camp-work in or out of doors, they study nature with ruthless thoroughness, discuss the universe, compose new topical songs, and generally use all their lively faculties to the utmost.

SNAPSHOTS FROM THE SEA OF MARMORA.

THE girls of Constantinople call it the "Garden of Happiness," and they go there for holidays and for picnics, using every kind of boat, from the prosaic ferry to a real live submarine chaser.



Swimming hour—Turkish girl in foreground.

Needless to say, it is by the sea, and no matter what you were formerly, you rapidly become amphibious.

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DAME EDITH LYTTTELTON.

THE new woman delegate to the League of Nations is well known in political circles in England. She was a Balfour by birth, and married the Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, the Unionist politician, who was Colonial Secretary after the South African War. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton was thus brought into close touch with British Overseas Dominions and helped to found the Victoria League to form and preserve friendly personal relations between the mother country and its dependencies. In particular, besides cultivating the social side, Mrs. Lyttelton did much to develop artistic and literary relations, arranging for exchanges of



books, pictures, etc.

After attending the International Conference of Women in Paris during the war, at which she was one of the speakers, Mrs. Lyttelton was impressed by the similarity of ideals and community of interests of British and American women and became an active member of the English-Speaking Union, devoting herself to the Common Interests Committee, of which she is Chairman, and which does much to help Americans in England to follow their special hobbies, e.g., if they are interested in gardens, they are given facilities to visit private gardens in