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MISS MARY SHEEPHANKS.

OUR readers will learn with great regret that Miss Sheepshanks has again had to sever her connection with our paper. The Alliance is very grateful for all the work Miss Sheepshanks has done for it in the past and as Editor since the Rome Congress. The following brief details of Miss Sheepshanks' career serve to show what a valuable international personality she is.

After some years' work at the Women's University Settlement, London, Miss Mary Sheepshanks (Newnham College, Cambridge, England, daughter of the late Bishop of Norwich) became Principal of Morley College (London) for working men and women, and there gained further insight into modern industrial conditions.

Active work in the suffrage campaign, and speaking tours in connection with it, led to an extensive tour in Belgium, Germany, Austria, and Poland in 1913, where Miss Sheepshanks addressed

large audiences in the chief Continental cities speaking French or German. After taking active part in the international suffrage congress at Budapest in 1913 Miss Sheepshanks became secretary of the I.W.S.A.



After the fall of Antwerp in 1914 she was sent on a special mission with food for the Belgian refugees. In 1919 Miss Sheepshanks became secretary of the Fight-the-Famine Council, and of its economic committee for European reconstruction. In this capacity she organised international economic conferences in London in 1919 and 1920. In 1919 she took part in the conference of the Women's International League at Zurich.

Miss Sheepshanks has recently travelled throughout many countries of South America, and spent eight months in observing conditions there, meeting many prominent men and women, and visiting its ancient as well as its modern cities.

THE MONTH'S MISCELLANY.

ALTHOUGH the French suffragists regret the defeat of many of their supporters in the recent elections, they have good reason for hoping that the new Government is not hostile to their cause. M. Herriot, in his book "Créer," has expressed views as to the future of woman which, though cautiously expressed, are nevertheless definitely reassuring to feminists. He desires for women better education, better economic conditions, and certainly envisages their eventual participation in political life. The Premier may not be so advanced as the author, but the fact that he has included in his Government M. Justin Godart must rejoice the hearts of the Union Française. M. Godart is president of the Woman Suffrage Group in the Chamber, and has proved himself the kind friend whose enthusiasm will surely not wane with the cares of office.

We find sometimes that British women from overseas tend to fear that Great Britain is "sitting down" under the slur of unequal franchise for its women. They have not been aware of the ceaseless agitation carried on by women's societies for an extension to women of really equal voting rights; but at last an equal franchise bill has reached a stage where it is obtaining full publicity—indeed, too much, when we wearily read through the innumerable letters and articles in the Press expressing the curious views of old and young, Tory and "crank," on the wisdom or unwisdom of giving votes to girls at 21. We did not hear the men of 21 referred to as boys, as far as I remember, and when these same people discuss the responsibility of women in certain important aspects of life, they are usually the first to remind us that women mature earlier than men. It is, of course, the excess of women over men in the population of Great Britain that terrifies our male opponents, but we may remind them that in practically every European country where women have been given equal voting rights, such an excess existed at the time those rights were given. And we have yet to see quoted any evidence that goes to prove that the excess of female voters in those countries has contributed to their speedy downfall. So, without fear, we are hoping that even by the time this is in print, the bill enfranchising women of 21 will have safely passed through its stages in the House of Commons. Readers will find details of the bill in our Great Britain Notes.

The Presidential election in the United States is occupying the thoughts of women as much as men. Women have succeeded in obtaining equal representation on the national committee in charge of the national Presidential campaign rules, and great efforts are being made to get a woman nominated as Vice-President. If they do not succeed in this on this occasion they will doubtless keep up the fight till success is won. That would mean that should the President die during his term of office, a woman would automatically become President of the United States. With the memory of Elizabeth of England and Catherine of Russia in our minds, perhaps the thought will not appear to women too tremendous to be borne.

We shall not know before we go to press what has been the result of the election in South Africa. The dissolution of the last Parliament came at a moment when it seemed as if the Women's Enfranchisement Bill might, at last, hope to become law. Let us hope that during the election campaign the women have made good use of the somewhat precarious position of the South African Party, and have secured pledges which will ensure that the Bill will be reintroduced and pass triumphantly into law should that party again obtain a majority. If, however, the Nationalist Party obtains office, the prospects are more than doubtful. We believe that General Hertzog himself is personally in favour of votes for women, but whether the party is sufficiently homogeneous to carry through such a measure, even if it so desired, is perhaps doubtful. All our good wishes for the success of the women of the Union in this coming Parliament are with them in any case.

The passing of the new Nationality Law in Sweden is particularly interesting, as it is the first European reaction to the passing of the Cable Act in the United States. It was to be hoped that the difficulties caused to women immigrants in certain cases, when on arrival in the States they no longer acquired the American nationality of the husband to whom they were going, though they had lost their own, would arouse a livelier conviction of the necessity for altering the law in those countries which send habitually a large number of emigrants to the States. This effect has not followed very rapidly, perhaps because the difficulties of women citizens do not hurt the feelings of governments very seriously, but now we shall hope to see further repercussions in the laws of other countries.

We publish this month a very interesting account of the German election from the point of view of the women members. The number of women in the Reichstag has been somewhat reduced, but Germany is still the country which returns the largest number of women members to its parliament. No doubt this is partly due to the system of proportional representation used—a consideration which has always caused feminists to be particularly interested in such systems,—although we notice the pathetic admission that women are not, as a rule, given good places on the lists. The attitude of party caucuses to their women candidates is, indeed, in every country, one of those things which badly need a "change of heart." Women candidates are often outstandingly successful and popular in what are known as "hopeless constituencies," and do their parties good service. In the case of a man candidate such service would probably be rewarded next time by his appointment to a more or less safe seat, but how seldom are the women thus rewarded!

The British Overseas Committee of the Alliance is doing a really considerable work of propaganda among women from the Overseas Dominions who have come over in large numbers for the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. Not only at its little pavilion in the Exhibition, but by means of personal interviews, correspondence, and the exercise of hospitality, we are trying to secure their friendship and interest in our work. The Committee have the services of a special organiser—Mrs. Winifred Giles—for this work, and the amount that is being done is no negligible contribution to what is certainly to be regarded as a section of international work. A conference on the work of women police was organised in one of the Conference Halls at Wembley, and resulted in a very interesting symposium on what is being accomplished not only in British possessions, but also in the United States. Commandant Mary Allen, of the Women's Auxiliary Service—the pioneer organisation in Great Britain for providing trained women police—has recently returned from a visit to the United States, and she told her audience much that was extremely interesting and encouraging as to what is being done there. We should like very much to know details of what other countries are doing. It is very difficult to get these particulars, and perhaps some of our readers may feel inclined to send us information.

Our Auxiliaries do not nearly often enough ask for our help. We were, therefore, very glad indeed when the affiliated society in Cuba suggested that a letter from the Alliance to their Prime Minister might have a good effect on their suffrage campaign. The letter received in reply was, unfortunately, in the best official and non-committal style, disclaiming any influence over the vote of the Legislature, which alone can give the vote to women, though explaining his personal sympathy with the cause. Still, we are not discouraged, since the seed, though sown on stony ground, may yet come up and bear good fruit.

The Alliance is very glad to welcome among the societies provisionally affiliated to it the Women's Freedom League of Great Britain. This society has for long

THIRD NORTHERN WOMEN'S CONGRESS.

Helsingfors, June 2-5.

THE North Sea and the Baltic had been grey and cold, but sunlight lit up Helsingfors as we steamed slowly in to the harbour, where we were greeted by Miss Furuholm's kindly, stately figure. Each delegate found a smiling hostess and the friendly busy stir of Congress work and festivities. Within a couple of hours we were being royally entertained at an evening party, where greetings were exchanged. Next morning was the opening ceremony in the beautiful hall of the University. The five Northern nations spoke to a large assembly, at which the Foreign Minister, the President's wife, and several of the Diplomatic Corps, were present. I had the honour of bringing the greetings of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance to this strong progressive group, and Miss Henni Forchammer those of the International Council of Women. It seemed impossible that Finland should have passed through war and dread revolution as one looked at the wonderful building and heard Sibelius' glorious music or watched the keen intelligent faces. Finland may, indeed, be taken as the symbol of freedom and progress. The busy harbour, the incredible number of fine public buildings, gave proof of amazing vitality. Then a charming luncheon in a restaurant surrounded by the birches in their earliest spring dress enabled us to renew old friendships. A discussion on the development and organisation of the Northern Group was followed by a reception in the Palace of the Czars by Mme. Stahlberg, herself a well-known author, whose charming welcome we appreciated all the more as we watched her keen interest in the work of the Congress. Finland is to be congratulated that the women of the highest Government circles are not shy of women's questions.

Later, Fru. Hedvig Gebhard, of Finland, gave a splendid report on the importance of the housewife's work in the whole system of national economy. The paper was listened to with breathless interest, and was followed by lively discussion. It is, I think, a good omen for the development of the woman's movement that in these Northern lands, where women have had longer experience of the vote, and have gained and now enjoy such a great measure of equality of status, rights, and opportunities, they should feel able to return to discuss the special work and difficulties of the married woman, the housewife, and the home. The war has shown that the ordinary expenditure and consumption of the average housewife affect the welfare and the economies of the country to an extent not hitherto realised, and the Northern women realise their responsibility in this matter.

Fru Lindblom gave an account of experience gained since the passing of the new marriage laws in Sweden. The Swedish marriage law is the most advanced in the world, and it was of intense interest to learn how well it was working. Fru Lindblom gave us her personal experience as official Government mediator in separation and divorce cases, and expressed the opinion that separation or divorce was rarely asked for except on serious grounds.

Dr. Tekla Hultin, of Finland, followed, on reforms needed in the marriage laws of Finland, and the subjoined resolutions were passed.

A wonderful meeting took place in the National Theatre that evening, when 1,300 people listened to grand music, and saw Mrs. Elli Björkstén give a fine gymnastic display with her pupils from the University. The system is so beautiful that the audience broke again and again into enthusiastic applause. One could only compare the girls to the friezes of the Greek temples or the maidens on Greek vases.

Professor Crohens gave a lecture on the "Paradise Saga in the Culture of the Christian World," and then came speeches and music from the I.C.W., I.W.S.A., and representatives of the five Northern countries, Mrs. Asmundsen, of Iceland, receiving a specially warm welcome after her long journey. Mme. Stahlberg kindly entertained me in the President's box until it was time

co-operated with the Alliance, but it was not until the Rome Congress widened the constitution of the Alliance so as to admit the affiliation of additional national societies, that the League could be actually admitted to affiliation. A similar welcome addition to our forces comes from Roumania, where the Association pour l'Emancipation Civile et Politique de la Femme roumaine has recently been admitted to provisional affiliation, after an equally long period of unofficial co-operation.

When our readers look through this number, perhaps they will be struck by the paucity of official news from our Auxiliaries. The Editor is most painfully struck by it herself, especially when she reflects on the number of personal letters written to try and secure such news. We are well aware that to send news to us every month would be an intolerable strain on those who are already up to their eyes in work, but when we are left to see important feminist gains published in the usual brief way in the general Press, without receiving one word from the Auxiliary in the country concerned, a little feeling of bitterness will creep in. Cannot each society make an arrangement whereby once every three months one of their members undertakes to send a résumé of their doings to us? We go to press about the 18th of each month, and we do not mind whether communications are in English or French, or German or Spanish—though in the latter cases we may have to translate them, as our English printers make an extra charge for printing in other languages. The suggestion has been made to the Editor that if we do not receive news we might *make it up!* What an interesting article might be invented of a wonderful series of victories—and what a wonderful series of disclaimers we should receive by the next post! It is a tempting prospect, but we hope that our kind correspondents (to whom we are really ever so grateful, though we may scold at times) will save us from such a desperate remedy.

THE EDITOR.

MEMORIAL TO MR. AND MRS. HASLAM.

WE have much pleasure in publishing the following letter respecting the proposed memorial to Mr. and Mrs. Haslam, whose magnificent work for the cause of women will always be remembered with gratitude by their fellow-workers for woman suffrage:—

To the Editor of *Jus Suffragii*.

MEMORIAL TO MR. AND MRS. HASLAM.

Mrs. Bewley, Mrs. White Birch, Miss Buchanan, Miss Leigh Browne, Lady Dockrell, Miss S. C. Harrison, Miss Mary Hayden, M.A.; Miss Katherine Maguire, M.D.; Mrs. Wyse-Power (Senator), Mrs. Sanderson, Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington, T.C.; Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Solomon, Miss White, LL.D.

Madam,—In accordance with a widely expressed desire, it has been decided to take steps to inaugurate in Dublin a memorial to the life and work of Mrs. and Mrs. Haslam, where the value of their united life-long free service to the cause of humanity, and particularly their unceasing work for the enfranchisement of women (1866-1918), is warmly acknowledged and respected by all parties.

It is proposed that a drinking-fountain for children, of which a tablet commemorating their devoted public service would form part, should be erected in St. Stephen's Green. A sum of 200 guineas will suffice for this; any donations beyond the sum required for the fountain it is proposed to devote to opening a fund to assist in establishing a Day Industrial School in Dublin.

MARY HAYDEN, *Chairman and Treasurer*,
47, Windsor Road, Rathmines.

S. C. HARRISON, *Hon. Secretary*,
7, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

April, 1924.

to occupy the stage, a somewhat nervous proceeding, as I was introduced in English, Swedish, and Finnish, under the gaze of 1,300 eyes. Helsingfors has, indeed, set us an example difficult to follow in the large audiences that met us each day.

Next day there was a discussion on women in the Church. Miss Dorothea Scholdager, of Norway, introduced the subject in an able speech, and was followed by a most interesting farmer's wife from North Finland, who had herself replaced the pastor both in teaching and in the Church services, to the content of the population, until stopped by the horrified bishop.

Fru Lindblom gave us an excellent paper on the nationality of married women. The Swedish Government has passed the law giving a married woman the right of choice, and this will, I understand, come into force next January. Meanwhile, we hope the Swedish Government will request that the subject be placed on the agenda of the Assembly of the League of Nations in September.

It is a question of great urgency for women, who are now sometimes left in the intolerable position of having no nationality.

There is no space left in which to sing the kindness and hospitality shown us everywhere, and the lovely picnic lunch at Brando, near Helsingfors. We all came away much impressed by the energy, enthusiasm, ability, and kindness of our friends and fellow-workers in Finland.

MARGERY CORBETT ASHBY.

Training for Women in Earning Their Own Living.

By FRU. T. MARKELM SVENSSON.

1. In order to secure a more thorough training of women in gaining their own living this meeting of women resolves:

(a) That school teaching should be combined with advice as to future career both in the lower and in the upper schools.

(b) That this instruction should be given by means of lectures, films, statistics, talks, and eventually by exhibitions of various forms of women's work.

(c) That pamphlets should be printed and given out, and other information given explaining the training, requisite personal qualifications, possibilities of salary and of promotion, with all that is required in the different forms of women's work.

(d) That special bureaux be set up to give advice as to careers, and that these should eventually be combined with placing and training bureaux.

2. As the rush of women into certain forms of work is much too great, new kinds of work and possibilities of new careers should be pointed out to women. For this it is necessary:—

(a) That detailed proposals for new work and careers for women should be published and spoken of in women's circles.

(b) That courses specially arranged to train women in this new work should be arranged.

The Work of the Housewife in Regard to National Economy.

By FRU. HEDVIG GEBHARD.

As regards the vital importance of the housewife's work in the scheme of national economy, this Third Northern Women's Congress declares:—

1. That the housewife should teach herself to think from the point of view of national economy, not only from her point of view as an individual.

2. That she should teach herself to understand the duties that fall to her as the leading consumer, and should organise her activities from an economic and professional standpoint.

3. That the State and the municipalities should arrange suitable instruction in household economy suited to the housewife's various needs.

4. That the State and the municipalities when dealing with any question should have regard to the economic interests of the home and of the housewife.

Marriage Laws.

By DR. T. HULTIN.

The Congress declares:—

1. That a reform of the out-of-date marriage laws should be made as soon as possible in all the Northern lands represented at the Congress, since the same has not yet been carried through.

2. That the new marriage law should be based on legal equality.

3. That this marriage law, in order to follow a similar legal development in the Northern lands, should be based as far as possible on the Swedish reforms of the year 1920, and the experience gained in Sweden.

4. That the Congress urges the women of the Northern lands to work unitedly and energetically to achieve this.

MRS. KELLY AT WEMBLEY.

IN June we published a brief account of the International Council of Women's Conference at Wembley. Here is another point of view:—

Mrs. Kelly's one-roomed tenement in ——— St., Dublin, rejoices in the appellation of "front drawing-room," paying for that privilege with a rent of 5s. 6d. a week. Mrs. Kelly began at once. "Yes, I went after all, Miss. Nick had me persecuted writin' for me to go, an' him gettin' the daughter married; so off I went, an' had the time of my life. Sheila made a pretty bride, and the husband's a fine young fellow, though I couldn't understand him at first. Very free and easy. 'Well, Grannie, 'ow are you?' 'Ope I see you well. Give us a kiss, old lidy.' But I soon seen there was no harm in him, only good nature. Yes, I went to Wembley, Miss—grandest place ever you seen. I seen the linen from Belfast—oh! the tablecloths, like satin, and the lovely patterns on them! And quite near the Ulster pavilion was Jacob's Biscuit Factory. 'Glory be to goodness,' sez I, 'there's Patsy Brady wid a white cap on him from Bishop Streeet.' An' he workin' away as sober as a judge. I thought he might have spoke, an' me all the way from Dublin, and walked off with myself. But a boy come runnin' after me. 'Lidy, lidy, Mr. Bridy says as 'ow 'e'll be pleased to 'ave a word with you if you come back at 12, w'en 'e's off dooty.' So back I went sure enough, an' Patsy took me round. 'Mrs. Kelly,' sez he, 'I'm glad to see yourself. I do be lonesome-like in this big place betimes.' And, indeed, I was moithered with the noise and crowds, and there were so many wonderful sights, and I want to see it all; but sure, it would take you a fortnight to see the half of it. I went to them meetin's you told me about. They talked something wonderful about how there should be no more fightin'; wonderful clever ladies they were, and it's a pity they weren't here when the fightin' was goin' on." I hastily interrupted, noticing the twinkle in her eye.

"It's very little good when the fighting has begun, Mrs. Kelly."

"Yes, Miss, of course; it's before the fightin's begun that it must be stopped, if it's to be stopped at all. But what's the use of them ladies talking beautiful to each other, them that never handled a rifle in their lives? It's them who do the fightin' that you want to talk to."

"Yes; but those ladies were from ever so many different countries, and it's a good thing for them to meet each other. You liked those Belfast ladies you met here last week? Do you know they are sending 1,000 children from Belfast to Wembley?"

"Yes, Miss, I heard that; and, indeed, I think there'd be less fightin' if the childer had more places to play in, and things to play with, like swings and sand heaps, the way them ladies had them in that playground they made, so that the childer wouldn't be playin' at shootin' and drillin' all the time. Then they might be less keen at the fightin' when they're big."

"They might, indeed," I said fervently.

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

AUSTRALIA.

West Perth Election.

THE defeat of Mrs. Cowan at the recent State Assembly elections came as a great surprise to many.

Mrs. Cowan had a very difficult position to maintain in Parliament in that she blazed a track, and did it with dignity.

The result of the West Perth election has not disheartened us, because on the whole we do not consider the West Australian men are opposed to the principle of women being in Parliament, and have every confidence that at no distant date the presence of women in the halls of our Legislature will again be an accomplished fact.

Equal Citizenship Gathering in Adelaide.

Conference of Societies, March 26, 27, 28.

At somewhat short notice it was resolved that delegates from the bodies affiliated under the Australian Federation of Women's Societies for Equal Citizenship should meet in Adelaide on March 26 for a three days' conference in order to confer with Mrs. Jamieson-Williams, who was expected to arrive about March 27 from London by the s.s. Persic.

Mrs. Jamieson-Williams, M.A. (N.S.W.), one of the vice-presidents of the Federation, has been absent in Europe for twelve months. She was one of the delegates from Australia to the International Women's Congress on World Citizenship held in Rome last May. The Women's Non-Party Association of South Australia (Mrs. Carlile McDonnell, president), one of the affiliated bodies, invited Conference to meet at their headquarters in King William Street.

It is on occasions such as this that the tremendous distances between the States, and the expense incurred in travelling is realised, and it is a matter of satisfaction that twelve to fourteen inter-State delegates were present at such very short notice.

The deliberations of Conference received very sympathetic consideration from the South Australian Press.

From the point of view of the Federation the most important business was the consideration of amendments of the Constitution, and the inter-State machinery has been greatly strengthened as a result.

In future this body will be known as "The Australian Federation of Women's Societies for Equal Citizenship."

A comprehensive report of the work, aims, and achievement of the Federation since its inception late in 1921 was submitted, and it was pointed out that it was never likely that a long list of societies would be affiliated with the Federation, for it was not probable that a number of separate societies in each State would be working for an equal citizenship programme, and such bodies only were eligible for affiliation.

Reports were received from Congress, Rome, 1923, and a resolution placed on record expressing confidence and appreciation for the manner in which the nine delegates representing the Federation had carried out their duties while abroad.

Women Police.

South Australia Increases Number.

During my recent visit to Adelaide I had the privilege of spending a short time in the office of Senior Policewoman Miss Cocks, and of hearing from her something of the work that is being carried on by the fine band of ten women police now on duty in that city. It was particularly interesting to hear that the Commissioner of Police in Adelaide, Brigadier-General Leane, who proved himself to be such a fine man during the war, that he is very sympathetic towards the women police, and so appreciative of their valuable work that he increased their number from five to ten almost as soon as he was appointed Commissioner. This number is all too small even now for the amount of work that can be done, but, however, his attitude in promptly increasing the number

shows he is alive to the best interests of the young life of the community, for it is among the boys and girls that a large amount of the work of the women police is carried out. It is much more of a preventive nature than can be explained or understood unless one can sit and listen, as I did, to the details of some of the cases Miss Cocks was dealing with just at the time of my visit. In fact, the preventive and protective work that may be accomplished by enlightened and good women in their official capacity as police is difficult to estimate, nor is it sufficiently appreciated by the parents in the cities in whose interests noble and unselfish services are being rendered to the community.

HELEN KING.

[Editor: An interesting and valuable point is that in South Australia there is a separate department for women police, and they are directly responsible to the Commissioner of Police.]

In the Report for His Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary, Great Britain, September 29, 1923, Sir Leonard Dunning says: "Personally, I am convinced that in many a large town there is police work which can be better done by a woman than by a man, because she can gain the confidence of the woman or girl from whom she seeks information, or over whom she wishes to establish her personal influence to a greater extent than is possible for him."—*The Dawn*.

AUSTRIA.

Austrian Women in the Fight Against Venereal Diseases.

IN order to cause the Government to occupy themselves with the law for the fight against venereal diseases which has been expected for several years, the Austrian Council of Women arranged an enquête for the examination of the requested demands. As a basis of discussion the bill which the Society for the Fight Against Venereal Diseases had worked out some years ago was used by the enquête. In the chair was Frau Ernestine Fürth; and Frau Dr. Hedwig Fischer-Hofmann, the chairman of the Health Commission of the Austrian Council of Women, gave a thorough survey in which she, above all, pointed out the differences between the present draft and the new German law. Professor Dr. Finger, the chairman of the Society for the Fight Against Venereal Diseases, illustrated the leading thoughts of the draft which is to help to victory the abolitionist idea, demanded by all who fight for an equal moral standard for men and women. No longer will the woman alone be treated as the bearer of infection, but both sexes will be affected equally by the law, which will offer a means for compulsory examination and compulsory treatment. In this way the regulation of prostitution will be abolished, but not as Regierungsrat Dr. Weinberger, the chief of our moral police, declared, by the police task of inspection, else it would be impossible to seize the infected persons, who, according to the present mental state of the population, spread the infection without a sense of responsibility. It is necessary to force the afflicted persons to take treatment in their own interest, as well as in the interest of the community. Very interesting were the further debates in which, especially, the treatment of poor people at the public expense was demanded; also the development of relief for fallen girls (gefallene Mädchen), as an amendment to the law; and the creation of relief offices, to which the tasks should be entrusted which nowadays are the sphere of the police.

The enquête finished with the acceptance of a resolution in which the Government is requested to examine the bill as quickly as possible, and to do their best that the law so long overdue should be passed. The Austrian Council of Women has already submitted this resolution, and intends to carry on this affair with the greatest energy.

A New Law for Midwives.

On June 5 the National Assembly accepted a new law regulating midwives' work. The proposals were made

by Professor Dr. Piscacek, an authority in this sphere, but the women members of parliament of the two great parties have completed the bill and repeatedly urged the passing of the law. As reporter, the Christian-Socialist member, Olga Rudel-Zeynek, discussed the bill in an excellent manner, and declared that the bill considers two points of view—firstly, to raise, socially and economically, the profession of midwives, hitherto greatly neglected; and, secondly, to bring into line the conduct of confinements with the progressing knowledge of science and practice, and to make it permanently adaptable to all new experience. The new law fixes clearly the sphere of duties of midwives, who also have to be helpers of the health and police boards. It is stated that the profession of midwife includes advice to pregnant mothers, help at birth, the nursing of the lying-in woman, of the new-born babies, and co-operation in mother and baby relief. Important is the decree that the midwife must refrain from all secondary occupation by which her cleanliness could be endangered, and that a secondary occupation could only be carried on by the consent of the health board. Still more remarkable is the decree that repetition courses for midwives must be arranged by the federal countries, and that the midwives after a certain number of years, which is to be fixed by the local authorities, are obliged to attend these courses in order to complete their knowledge, and especially to get acquainted with the newest methods and treatments. Quite new is also the decree concerning the creation of chambers of midwives (Grenion), whose duty it will be to stand for the public and legal interests of the profession, to improve the condition of the midwife, and to work out evidence for the authorities. These chambers will also found establishments for the welfare of their members.

The new law is a model law, as the different districts are obliged to make regulations for the securing of public assistance for midwives, to fix the conditions for the occupation of public midwives, to regulate the terms for confinements and other midwife work, to arrange the question of vacations, and to provide for the requirements of birth. It is also a task of the country authorities to fix the number of the freely practising midwives according to local necessities, and to divide the districts in circles to which the single midwife must belong. The supervision of the whole work of midwives is the duty of the Ministry for Social Administration, who will work out a plan of teaching, and, after having heard the chambers, a regulation of the service of midwives.

The Austrian Women's Movement, which has endeavoured for years on the initiative of Marianne Hainisch, to raise the profession of midwives, welcomes the new progressive law, and is glad that this law, which in professional respects as well as in its consequences concerns only women, has at last been drawn up with the co-operation of women. As yet such laws have been discussed and accepted by men at the green table, without being touched by the breath of life; the women themselves had nothing to say. From the manner in which this law was evolved, and from the spirit of it, one can see the importance of the introduction of the women's vote.

GISELA URFAN.

Vienna, June 13, 1924.

GERMANY.

Women Members in the New Reichstag.

THE elections of May 4 (which resulted in remarkable successes for our extreme parties of the Right and Left) means, as regards the number of women parliamentarians, a little step backward; instead of 34 elected in 1920, this time only 28 entered the Reichstag. Most of the loss is due to the general decrease in the Socialist Party, while on the other side the gain with Nationalists and Communists does not compensate the loss in this direction. Having but just got the exact figures I am able at last to give the readers of the I.W.S.N. a short statement which may be of general interest.

The united Socialist Party had 33 women candidates on their lists, of whom 10 were elected among 100 members (1920, 21 among 171); Communists, 26 women candidates, of whom 5 elected among 62 members (1920, 2 among 26); German National Party, 34 women candidates, of whom 4 elected among 96 members (1920, 2 among 65); Catholic Party (Centrum), 20 women candidates, of whom 4 elected among 65 members (1920, 3 among 72); German People's Party, 2 elected among 44 members (1920, 3 among 65); Democrats, 2 elected among 28 members (1920, 2 among 39); Bavarian People's Party, 1 among 15 (1920, 1 among 20). With the extreme Nationalists (Deutsch Völkische Freiheitspartei) and to the many small parties which rose up at this opportunity, no woman was elected. This shows that—while the loss of 10 women members on one side is only half-way covered by a surplus of 5 on the other—the number of women members in the so-called Middle Parties is about the same, or is even somewhat greater, proportionally, than it was before. Considering the fact that this time also the parties have not shown themselves very eager to secure the safest places on the lists for their women candidates—with honourable exceptions, however, two women being put in the first, several others in the second place,—we must not look upon this decrease as a defeat for the women, but only as an inevitable consequence of the general political regrouping.

Exact statistics about the participation of the women voters at the polls this time have not yet been issued, but from what could be gathered in newspaper reports, their percentage was about the same, or almost the same, as the men's—namely, 75-85 per cent. on the average. This was, of course, due not so much to the endeavours of the women's organisations, though they also, particularly the National Council of Women, did their best to remind the women of their duties as citizens, as to the efforts of the parties to win the masses for their purposes and interests.

Only 10 of the 28 are "new women" in Parliament; 18 were already members of the last Reichstag or of the National Assembly of 1919. We rejoice in the fact that several of the most prominent pioneers in the woman's cause, and leaders of our largest organisations, are among them. As their senior, I will mention first Clara Zetkin, the well-known champion of the Socialist women and the Socialist movement for long years, and at present the leading spirit of the Communist group, a woman of extraordinary intellectual and oratorical powers, of an ardent temperament as well as—notwithstanding her fanaticism—incontestable integrity of character. There is, further, Paula Mueller-Otfried, a prominent member of the German National Party, the founder and able president during more than twenty years of the large national organisation of Protestant women (Deutsch Evangelischer Frauenbund). More from the point of view of tactics than of principle, she formerly was an energetic opponent of woman suffrage, and is now demonstrating, in her own person, how effectively women will stand as legislators for the interests of their sex and the welfare of the people, especially in questions of an equal moral standard. About the same is to be said of the member of the Catholic group; Frau Hedwig Dransfeld, a woman of a rarely refined culture and high literary qualities, as editor of the excellent paper, *Die Christliche Frau*. As founder and president, also during long years, of the model organisation of the Catholic Women's Union (Katholischer Frauenbund), she always declared herself against woman suffrage from the standpoint of the Catholic Party, and is now, since 1919, by means of woman suffrage, representing that same party's standpoint, to the benefit of the women of her country. Of the eminent democratic member and leader of the woman's movement in Germany, Dr. Gertrud Bäumer, I need not say much to the readers of this paper, her person and manifold work being sufficiently known in our international organisations. It was a great satisfaction for her many co-workers in the woman's movement when, as one of the first German women (1919), she entered the political arena, where her great capability has been acknowledged by friends and opponents.

Dresden A., June 16.

MARIE STRITT.

GREAT BRITAIN. NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP. Equal Franchise Bill.

THE Representation of the People Act (1918) Amendment Bill has been having a rather adventurous time in Committee. Readers will remember that when this Bill was first introduced it contained clauses providing not only for Equal Franchise between men and women, but also for many very contentious reforms in our Franchise Law. It was shown during the debate on the second reading of the Bill that although the House was strongly in favour of the Equal Franchise clauses, many sections would fight very hard against the other clauses. This point of view was put forward at the first meeting of the Standing Committee which was considering the Bill, with the result that now all clauses have been dropped except those providing for Equal Franchise. In spite of opposition from many of the Conservative members, the Bill has, in the meantime, been gradually passing through its Committee stage, and on June 19 emerged triumphantly. The attitude of the Government has been friendly, but hardly keen; the Home Secretary stated that if the Bill got through Committee the Government intended to give it facilities—i.e., Government time—for its later stages.

It is difficult to foresee what will be the attitude of the House of Lords, and therefore impossible to prophesy whether the Bill will reach the Statute Book this year, though we have great hopes that this may be the case.

The Guardianship of Infants Bill.

The Government measure on the Guardianship of Infants passed its second reading in the House of Lords on Tuesday, June 3. Except in the Preamble, which only states the principle without providing machinery for its being carried out, the Bill falls short of Mrs. Wintringham's Bill in the very important respect that it in no way lays down that mothers and fathers are to have equal rights and responsibilities over their children. It does, however, in the Preamble declare the desirability of equal parental rights; it also gives identical rights of application to the Courts in cases of dispute; it provides for such cases being heard before police courts, and that the welfare of the child shall be the sole principle on which they shall be determined; it gives precisely equal rights to both parents with regard to the appointment of guardians after death, and it gives a mother the right to obtain an order for the custody and maintenance of the child without leaving her husband.

A sharp difference of opinion between women's organisations has shown itself with regard to the attitude to be taken in connection with this Bill. The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, which had initiated and drafted not only Mrs. Wintringham's Bill but all the previous guardianship measures, hopes that the Government Bill will not be wrecked. Although limited, it will succeed in removing the great majority of cases of real hardship and will do something towards improving the status of the mother. This being so, the National Union feels unable to take the grave responsibility of refusing the appeal of the many mothers whose husbands are using their rights tyrannically with regard to the custody, maintenance, etc., of their children. The National Union also thinks that the Bill will form an excellent jumping-off ground for an amending Bill at a later date, which will give all for which it has been fighting so long. If, however, the present Government measure is ruined it will be difficult to get as much again for a long time to come, and no chance at all of getting more until more time has elapsed than we care to think of. Just as when the Suffrage Bill of 1918 was before Parliament, all women's organisations accepted the compromise with the intention of fighting for more later, so is it to be hoped that the majority of women's organisations will adopt this same statesmanlike attitude on this occasion.

The Legitimacy Bill and the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill have both passed through their Committee stage, and in the next month's issue we hope that they will have at least passed through the House of Commons.

British Empire Exhibition.

The N.U.S.E.C. has been working with the British Overseas Committee of the I.W.S.A. in running a hut and in supplying speakers for most of the Conferences held at the hut. It is hoped that this will give an opportunity for getting in touch with many friends of the women's movement overseas.

The Annual Report of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

The annual report of the N.U.S.E.C., which has just been published, shows what has been achieved and what has been attempted during last year. It is impossible to read the report without realising more vividly than ever how many "women's questions" still exist and how wide a field is covered by the activities of the Union. It shows, that is to say, how truly the granting of the franchise to women meant only the end of one chapter and the beginning of another, and not the end of the volume. The N.U.S.E.C., whilst congratulating itself on such solid achievement as the passing of the Matrimonial Causes Act, is not tempted to allow pride in any success to hide the number of things it is attempting but has not yet achieved. The programme before it is still wide. It has sent out a programme of constructive work, showing how much the local societies can and should do. This circular, combined with the annual report, should give a fresh impetus and a fresh faith to all who have the imagination to visualise the realities lying behind the printed word.

E. M. H.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

We cordially appreciate the decision of Mr. W. M. Adamson and the promoters of the Representation of the People Act (1918) Amendment Bill to drop all its clauses with the exception of the Equal Franchise clause for women and men. It is just possible that the Bill may pass into law this session, but as the Government has not adopted it delays are apt to occur, and these delays are dangerous, especially as the length of life of the present Government is so uncertain. If the Bill does not become law this session we shall urge the Government to bring in and pass through all its stages into law a simple equal-franchise measure at the earliest possible date next session.

At public meetings held by our branches the Women's Freedom League continues to urge the Government to give equal opportunities and equal pay for similar work to men and women throughout all branches of the Civil Service; and local governing bodies, moreover the Government, are being urged by us to grant equal pay to men and women teachers of the same professional status. We are also calling upon the Minister of Transport to make it compulsory on railway companies to provide carriages reserved for women on all trains in the interests of (1) young girls who have to travel by train to and from evening classes in technical schools, etc.; (2) women travelling with young children; and (3) women who prefer to travel with members of their own sex.

With regard to the Guardianship of Infants Bill recently introduced by the Government in the House of Lords, we are definitely opposing this because it does not attempt to grant to the married mother in the home, and under normal conditions, equal right of guardianship with the father of their children. We particularly resent the Lord Chancellor's statement, when moving the second reading of this Bill, that a woman has not altogether the same status as the man, because it is necessary to preserve the position of the family as a unit, and if you have a unit there must be a head to that unit!

Members of the Women's Freedom League have taken their full share in the work of the Pavilion at Wembley run by the British Overseas Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and we were delighted to meet so many of our Overseas visitors at the reception we arranged for them recently at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Our members also took part in the conference on women police held at Wembley on June 14.

HOLLAND.

ON June 14th and 15th the annual meeting of "De Nederlandsche Vereeniging van Staatsburgeressen" (Women Citizens) was held at Leiden. Thirty of the local branches had sent delegates, and although not all the members of the Leiden branch were present their number was satisfactory. No wonder, for the agenda was most important.

Mevrouw van der Hoeve-Bakker took the chair, as the president (Mevrouw Thiel-Wehrbein) had to resign because of bad health, and Dr. Aletta Jacobs, the honorary president, had not yet returned from the U.S., where she attended the congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Both presidents had sent greetings to the meeting and best wishes for its success, and telegrams were sent in answer.

As there is nobody at this moment who could spare the time to act as president and take the lead, a resolution was accepted to postpone the election till the right woman was found.

The principal point of discussion for this meeting was the slight to the rights of women by the present Government, and how to take action against it. The board of officers had put on the agenda the following resolution: "That for the coming elections (in 1925) a strong action be carried on against this Government, that sorely shortens and neglects the rights and concerns of women and children."

Mevrouw Mulder van de Graaf, speaking for the board of officers, declared that this does not mean taking action against any party, but only against members of the Government who most shamefully tread on the rights of women on the pretence that as a Christian Government they are bound to do so. She proved that a Christian Government might be found in which the women could trust.

Some of the branches had sent in amendments, as they considered it better to work more positively for the election of men and women who held the same opinions as the Staatsburgeressen. Other branches feared that the resolution, as it was worded, endangered the neutrality of the organisation, and might do a great deal of harm if it were carried.

The amendments were meant to support those political parties that have on their programme the same principles as the feminists are propagating, but the majority saw the danger of losing its independence and part of its members—the non-party women and those belonging to those parties that would not be officially supported. Against these arguments some delegates opposed, that in the end one ought not to be frightened at the words "party politics," because it will always be the representatives of one or the other of the existing parties to which women will have to turn for the fulfilment of their wishes. At last a resolution was proposed by Mevrouw van Itallie-van Embden, on which all the delegates agreed, so that it was carried unanimously. In consequence of it, the Vereeniging van Staatsburgeressen will work "with a programme of its own, wherein its principles will be fully expressed, and propagate it at the elections, amongst all the Netherlands voters, by any lawful means within its power."

Another important subject was the report worked out by the committee for a better marriage law, and especially that part of it concerning divorce. On the whole, there had been little objection amongst the members, but by some delegates a few alterations were wanted to make sure that no injustice be done in cases of lasting lunacy, nor in those of imprisonment. The Dutch law does not as yet name lunacy as a reason for divorce, so this point was very seriously considered before the report was accepted, with thanks to the committee.

It was decided that in September meetings will be held all over the country, where the curtailment of women's rights will be discussed by men and women speakers that are able and willing to do it.

About the committee named in this meeting to study the question of sexual information for young people we shall tell more when it will have set to work.

H. VAN BIEMA-HYMANS,

INDIA.

Women's Indian Association.

THE Women's Indian Association has issued a statement expressing unqualified support for Dr. Gour's Bill raising the age of consent from 12 to 14 for married girls, which is shortly to come before the Indian Legislative Assembly.

Annual General Meeting.

The annual general meeting of the Women's Indian Association, held at the Theosophical Hall, Adyar, on Saturday, May 19, was attended by over 200 ladies from all parts of Madras and by almost as many gentlemen. Lady Sadasivier presided over the successful gathering, and welcomed the delegates who had come from Vellore, Coimbatore, Bangalore, Alandur, Saidapet, Mylapur, Georgetown, Adyar, Madanapalle, Bellary, Enangudi, and other branches.

Report for 1923-24.

The Women's Indian Association has now completed seven years of useful work, which has annually enlarged its sphere of activity till to-day it stands as an All-India Association which commands respect in all the Councils of the land, and which has a notable record of achievement in its history, both in the social and political aspects of women's progress. The Association is recognised by all as the champion of all causes which relate to women and children.

During the year new branches were formed in Nasik, Karur, Endamanal, Sivaganga, and dormant branches revived in Mysore and Trivandrum. There are now 51 branches in 18 centres, with a membership of 2,500. Particularly good work has been done by the Madras, Bombay, Bhavnagar, Coimbatore, Surat, Trichinopoly, Vellore, Nasik, Anantapur, Bellary, Madanapalle, Rajamundry, Trivandrum, and Benares Branches. Madras and Bombay cities have been the most active centres of work. In Madras City there are now five strong branches, and in Bombay two, one of which has the largest membership in the Association.

Classes are held in the branches for religious, general, and handwork subjects. In some cases badminton and other games are played. Some branches collect money to maintain night schools. The members of quite a large number of branches have this year taken a great deal of the responsibility of the National Baby Week arrangements, and have undertaken the regular superintendence of Baby Welcome Centres. This is a work in which the members will become of increasing service to the country.

The year has seen the fruition of a number of causes for which the Association has worked. The Mysore women have been granted the vote for their representative Assembly and for their Legislative Council on the same terms as men, though the sex disqualification still prohibits them from entering the Council. For the first time women have voted in Bengal as municipal voters in the elections for the Corporation of Calcutta. The members of the Association took an active part in encouraging the women voters to use their votes at the elections for the Legislative Councils in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies in November last, which was their first opportunity for using their service of responsible citizenship. The number of women who voted was gratifyingly large. In the elections for the Bombay Corporation four women stood and were all elected. Three of them are members of the W.I.A. In Bombay City four women Justices of the Peace have also been nominated, one for each community. One of them is a member of this Association. The first woman municipal Councillor has also been elected in Rangoon, Burma. Two lady barristers are now practising in the courts, both members of our organisation. The Imperial Assembly has raised the age of consent in the case of unmarried girls from 16 to 18, and it is committed to the principle of raising the age of consent from 12 to 14 for married girls. Finally, the Madras Corporation has resolved to introduce compulsory primary education for all the girls and boys of the city in a scheme to be completed by the end of seven years beginning from 1925. Three years ago none of the above events was possible, and it has largely been through the agitation and activity of the

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

IN 1912 only two women sat in the National Nominating Convention of the Democratic Party, and they were the first two women in the history of American politics to be made delegates to a convention of one of the major parties. In 1920 there were 96 women delegates and 200 women alternates in the Democratic Convention at San Francisco, and at the Republican Convention in Chicago 27 women delegates and 133 alternates. This year, before the Republican Convention at Cleveland began, on June 10, it was announced at National Republican headquarters in Washington that the number of women delegates and alternates would reach 425. An even larger number is expected at the Democratic National Convention, which will hold its opening session in New York, June 24.

The National League of Women Voters maintained special League headquarters in Cleveland during the Republican Convention. Miss Belle Sherwin, League president, was assisted in receiving visiting League women and others by the secretary, Miss Elizabeth Hauser, of Ohio. A delegation of women affiliated with the party attended the Convention and presented planks for inclusion in the party campaign platform. Miss Julia Lathrop, of Illinois, first vice-president of the National League, and former head of the Children's Bureau, headed this delegation, which included Miss Ruth Morgan, of New York, director of the League's work for international co-operation to prevent war, and third vice-president; Mrs. Ann Webster, of New Mexico, who was a member of the commission the National League sent to the women of Europe last year; Mrs. James Morrisson, of Chicago, also of that woman-to-woman commission; Mrs. Sumner McKnight, president of the Minneapolis League; Mrs. W. A. Shockley, of Nevada, League director for the seventh region; and Miss Gladys Pyle, a member of the South Dakota Legislature.

The same planks will be presented to the Convention of the Democrats, which begins in New York, June 24, and the delegation from the League of Women Voters, which will present them, is headed by Mrs. Solon Jacobs, of Alabama, and includes Mrs. Minnie Fisher Cunningham, of Texas, second vice-president of the National League; Mrs. W. G. Hibbard, of Illinois; Miss Gertrude Ely, of Pennsylvania; and Mrs. La Rue Brown, of Massachusetts. Mrs. Jacobs, Mrs. Cunningham, and Mrs. Brown have been made members of the Convention Advisory Committee, which is headed by Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt, and charged with the work to prepare and present for adoption, planks embodying legislation approved and desired by the women of the country.

The planks prepared and presented to both Conventions by the National League of Women Voters read: International Co-operation to Prevent War: We support the proposal for the entry of the United States into the Permanent Court of International Justice, and urge on members of the Senate the action necessary to such entry as an important step in substituting law for force in the settlement of international disputes.

We heartily advocate a policy of participation in international conference and of co-operation with international agencies, both for the elimination of the causes of war and for humanitarian purposes. We urge that such co-operation already begun be made official.

Public Welfare in Government: We favour the prompt enactment of Federal laws for the protection of children in industry following the passage and ratification of the Child Labour Amendment.

We favour adequate appropriations for vocational education in home economics, for the Women's Bureau and for the Children's Bureau in the Department of Labour.

We commend the results secured under the operation of the Maternity and Infancy Act, and urge the continuance by the Federal Government of this co-operation with the States for the protection of maternity and infancy.

We favour recognition of the immediate need of an equalisation of educational opportunity throughout the

Women's Indian Association that the laws have been changed. Our members are now working to remove the disqualification of sex which prevents women from being elected or nominated to the legislative councils and the higher legislatures. Large public meetings were held in Madras and Bombay, and the Governor of Madras received a deputation from the women on the subject, and has sent his recommendation and that of the majority of his Cabinet to the Viceroy and Secretary of State for India that the councils should be opened to women. The Association is also on the alert to see that the status of women as equal citizens with men shall be included in all schemes for an Indian Constitution or in extended reforms.

The members acknowledge with gratitude a further donation of 500 dollars through Mrs. Chapman Catt from American funds, which is to be devoted to the promotion only of the political emancipation of Indian women.

A special feature of the year's work has been the establishment of the Women's Home of Service in Mylapur, Madras, by the Association. It is a fine rented house standing in a large, airy compound. It consists of a Baby Welcome Centre, affiliated with Madras Presidency Child Welfare Association, and classes for training in home industries. A lady superintendent, a qualified nurse, and, at present, two stipendiary adult pupils, live in the Home. There is room for more resident students, who will be trained to become vocational teachers or to earn their own living by their handwork. The Home was opened in August, and since then there has been a total of 9,200 attendances at the Baby Welcome during the nine months, of whom 1,300 were treated for simple ailments, such as itch, constipation, worms, colds, and hurts, and the remaining 7,900 represented hot bathing and hair-dressing. Over two thousand individual children and women have taken advantage of the services of the Baby Welcome. Eighty pregnant women have been visited and helped, of whom eighteen were successfully confined as emergency cases by the Home nurse, and the others directed to the hospitals or attended by the Corporation nurses; fourteen babies have been given milk. It has distributed clothing to 90 children.

The Centre has been able to accomplish solid practical work for the improvement of the health of the children and the mothers, and has the possibilities and the popularity now through which to extend its activities still further next year.—*Stri-Dharma*, May, 1924.

NORWAY.

MY visit to Christiania on June 10 has left such pleasant memories that I must thank, through *Jus Suffragii*, the vice-president, Mrs. Keilhau, and the members of the committee who arranged the meeting and reception for me.

No date could have been less convenient than Tuesday in Whit-week, and when I announced my visit I could only hope to meet a few members of committee. However, our energetic vice-president, Mrs. Keilhau, and her committee managed to arrange a meeting in the fine hall of the university, and I was able to address a considerable audience on the work of the I.W.S.A. in connection with peace, and to explain that in addition to our main objects we had felt compelled to add our influence to work for peace and with the League of Nations, since peace is a fundamental condition for our constructive work, and women, as the newest class of citizens, must be prepared to help to solve this most urgent problem. There was a surprisingly good audience considering the date, and afterwards at the delightful reception I had the pleasure of meeting many friends, among them Dr. Dagny Bang and Mrs. Kjelsberg.

It is always an inspiration to visit Norway and realise how much women have gained there as individuals and citizens.

It is for this very reason that they welcome a declaration from the I.W.S.A. of its attitude towards peace and the League of Nations, since they have achieved much of our main object. More women in Parliament are urgently needed to help reforms concerning nationality and to watch the interests of working women.

MARGERY I. CORBETT ASHBY.

nation, and favour action in conformity with this American ideal.

We favour the removal of legal discriminations against women by specific measures not prejudicial to women's labour laws or to social welfare legislation.

We believe that any legislation for equal rights between men and women should be drawn with most careful consideration of each specific type of law involved, instead of attempting to deal with the subject by blanket legislation, such as the so-called Equal Rights Amendment. Otherwise, the complexities of the subject may cause inequalities instead of the desired equality.

Efficiency in Government: We support the principles of the merit system as the basis of appointment to office and of promotion in office, and urge its extension to all the agencies of the executive branch of government.

We advocate the enforcement of the merit system, through legislation providing for the adoption of sound methods of personnel administration through adequate financial support of the agencies responsible for the application of the merit system.

BOOK REVIEWS.

EL RAISUNI, THE SULTAN OF THE MOUNTAINS. By ROSITA FORBES. (Butterworth, 21s.)

This is indeed "interviewing" on a grand scale, and Mrs. Rosita Forbes is to be congratulated on the enterprise she showed in motoring to the Brigand's Lair and in taking his "life history" from his own lips. The seances must have been strenuous: one occasion lasted from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and another till the following dawn. The result is an interesting account of a personality for whom the following titles of distinction are claimed: Warrior, philosopher, psychologist, and saint. One might add strategist of no mean order, for few chiefs of untrained levies have so long successfully defied European troops.—*The Women's Leader*.

Dorothy Canfield in "The Home-Maker," with a courage as unusual as it is able, challenges the formula that every woman is a home-maker and every man a bread-winner. The book opens with Evangeline Knapp on her knees "scrubbing furiously at a line of grease spots which led from the stove toward the door to the dining-room." She is a woman of energy and ability, an uncomfortably perfect housekeeper, an executive who loves to plan and finish things, and she is tied to housework and three growing children, neither of which is ever finished except by a catastrophe.

Her husband is a dreamy, contemplative person to whom material things are of negligible value, and who is such a failure as a money-maker that he tries to commit suicide. He even fails at that, and becomes a chair-bound invalid able only to tend to household things while his wife goes joyfully into the world to a job which gives her talents exercise. Then Lester Knapp discovers that he is a born home-maker, a person to whom the infinite detail of daily housework is soothing. And the children are the most absorbing, breath-taking adventures in the world, while to his wife they were stupid, immature, careless trouble-makers. Their adjustments, and possible readjustments, are stimulating reading.—*The Woman Citizen*.

PAMPHLETS.—We have received two pamphlets, both of which should prove of great value to suffragists. One deals with the work and personalities of "British Women M.P.s." A short account and a photograph of each of the eight women now sitting in the British Parliament is given, and forms a useful and handy book of reference for those concerned with the Parliamentary work of women. Mrs. Northcroft is to be congratulated on this useful companion to her pamphlet on the work of women in the League of Nations. It is published by the Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1, price 4d.

The second is entitled "A Simple Guide to Committee Procedure," and has been written by Miss Eleanor O. Lambourn, and published by Women Publishers, Ltd., 170, Strand, London, W.C. 2, price 1s. It is an invaluable

(Continued at foot of next column.)

NATIONAL BABY WEEK COUNCIL.

ONE of the most influential pieces of propaganda which the National Baby Week Council (whose headquarters are at 117, Piccadilly, London, W. 1, England) has undertaken during the current year is the "Empire's Bonniest Baby" Competition. The work of the National Baby Week Council is entirely devoted to propaganda on questions relative to maternity and child welfare.

The "Empire's Bonniest Baby" Competition is being conducted in connection with Imperial Baby Week, which is being held during the last week in July at the British Empire Exhibition. It was not an easy matter to devise a competition of this type which should be equally fair to prospective competitors throughout the Empire, but after much consideration the Council devised a scheme which, as far as possible, should present equal opportunities to the children of British subjects throughout the Empire.

Entry was invited by means of a photograph showing the competitor unclothed. Each photograph had to be accompanied by a score sheet on which 22 detailed questions had to be answered by the mother and a medical practitioner examining the child. Age, height, weight, number of teeth; age at which the competitor first sat up, stood up, and walked without support; nature of the food (natural or artificial), whether any night feeds had been given or not; information regarding the condition of the skin, presence or absence of rickets; ear, eye, and other sensory defects which might not be obvious in a photograph, and so on, were required, and a medical signature stating freedom from obvious physical or mental defects was also required. The competitors are divided into three classes, those from 3 months to 9 months; 9 months to 2 years; 2 years to 5 years.

The Judging Committee of the National Baby Week Council is composed of child welfare and of medical experts.

At the time of going to press entries from British Guiana, Bermuda, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Newfoundland, Canada, India, Egypt, Palestine, South Africa, and West Indies, as well as from the British Isles, have already been received.

In some parts of the Empire sub-competitions have been conducted—for example, Australia, Ceylon, Malta, Canada, and South Africa. By means of these an expert committee in that part of the Empire concerned has worked along the same lines as the Imperial Judging Committee to secure a short list of best entries, which have been forwarded to the National Baby Week Council to participate in the competition for the Imperial prizes.

While it is recognised that this is by no means an ideal baby competition, the National Baby Week Council, nevertheless, feels that it is the best that can be devised under the circumstances. It is all to the good that throughout the Empire, by means of this score sheet, and the generous announcements which have appeared in the Press of all parts of the Empire on the subject of the competition, the attention of British subjects has been drawn to the important matters concerning the physical fitness in child life. This has been, by no means, a beauty competition. The medical judges have selected, first and foremost, according to accepted standards of health and fitness and proportion in development.

Through this competition it is very obvious a great opportunity has been opened up for the development of the Baby Week movement to the farthest parts of the Empire.

(Continued from previous column.)

able little work for those who act as officers on committees—and which of our readers does not? The duties of the officers, the procedure at meetings, the taking of minutes, preparation of constitutions, all these subjects are dealt with in a manner which is admirably clear and simple, and should be of the greatest value to those who are just initiating a new society, and also to those of more experience who may suddenly want to lay the ghost of a doubt as to whether they are in fact conducting their procedure on the right lines.

AN IRISH SOCIAL WORKER OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

Lady Arabella Denny.

NOWADAYS, it is regarded as quite proper and commendable—nay, more, it is fashionable—for women of high social rank to work amongst the poor. Even seventy or eighty years ago this was not so. Still less was it the case a few generations earlier. The lady of the eighteenth century, even when a kind mistress to her own dependants, concerned herself but little about "the common people" in general. At most, she purchased a ticket for a ball or a "ridotto" got up to raise funds for the relief of some exceptional distress. There were, however, a few women who went further, and gave personal service to the distressed, and to them special credit is due, since they had usually to face much opposition and not a little unkind criticism. Such a woman was Lady Arabella Denny. Born in 1707, the second daughter of Thomas Fitzmaurice Earl of Kerry, Lady Arabella married in 1727 Arthur Denny, then M.P. for the County Kerry, and on his death, thirteen years after, was left a childless widow.

In 1737, the Irish House of Lords appointed a Committee to report on the state of the Dublin Workhouse, regarding which, and particularly regarding the treatment of the destitute children, many of them foundlings, who were received there, several complaints had been made. The Committee reported that things were certainly not satisfactory. In order to reform abuses they have, they declare, "applied to several ladies and gentlemen of the city for advice and assistance, which was readily given." Of these ladies Lady Arabella was one.

For a while there was some improvement. The ladies frequently visited the workhouse, and made various good regulations. Then the attendance dropped off gradually. Modern social workers will understand the situation. The rules were not observed, and things became again as bad as ever. Of 4,035 children admitted into the workhouse in seven years, only 799 survived to grow up. Whether Lady Arabella continued her visits we do not hear, but if she did her efforts did not meet with much success. The detailed report furnished to the Parliament in 1758 is a veritable chapter of horrors. Not that it appears to have horrified anyone very much, for no action worth mentioning was taken in regard to it.

In 1761 Lady Arabella appears to have begun to occupy herself seriously with the affairs of the workhouse, and especially with "The Foundling Wing." In the Report furnished to the Irish House of Commons in April, 1764, it is stated that "for three years past by the particular and constant attention of the Right Hon. Lady Arabella Denny . . . everything relative to the management and other concerns of the house hath been conducted in a most exact and proper manner." Details are then given as to her activities. She visits the house once a week or oftener, remaining some three hours; she keeps a list of the foundling children and of the persons to whom they are given out to nurse, making remarks in her book as to the health of the children and the behaviour of the nurses. To satisfactory nurses she gives premiums. This, it is stated, has caused the nurses to exercise "extraordinary care," so that the lives of many infants who were "weak and sickly" have been saved. She sees to the making up of the clothes, so that stuff is not wasted. She has supplied a clock for the nursery in the house itself, that the children may be punctually fed, and also a set of counterpanes for the cots. The doctor, apothecary, and chaplain consider that the children are now well cared for, and the mortality amongst them has greatly diminished. In consequence of this report it was resolved "That the thanks of the House be given to the Right Hon. Lady Arabella Denny . . . and that Mr. Cranier do acquaint her ladyship therewith."

Lady Arabella did not confine her philanthropic activities to the workhouse children. In 1766 she founded in Lower Leeson Street, Dublin, an institution for the reception of "unfortunate" Protestant women. This Magdalen Asylum still flourishes, and has now attached to it a handsome church, one of the most fashionable and well attended in the city. Lady Arabella's own means were limited, but she succeeded in

obtaining large subscriptions and legacies for the asylum, and even induced Queen Charlotte, wife of George III., to become its patron.

During her long widowhood Lady Arabella lived in different parts of what are now the suburbs of Dublin, but which were then rural neighbourhoods, separated entirely from the city. She went into society and entertained in a quiet way. Mrs. Delany, the wife of Swift's friend, whose diary gives us so many glimpses of the social Ireland of her day, frequently mentions having met her and "drunk tea" in her company.

Lady Arabella died in 1792, at the age of 85, and her body was, according to the directions she had left, conveyed to Tralee, that it might rest in her own native county.

MARY HAYDEN.

NEWS OF DIVERS WOMEN.

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

BELGIUM.

The Chamber passed by a big majority an amendment giving women votes and eligibility for the "Tribunaux de Commerce."

COSTA RICA.

We congratulate Dona Sara Casal v. de Quiros on the success of her Bill for establishing a women's reformatory, which was recently passed by the Costa Rican Congress. Her proposition was so convincing that a monthly subsidy equal to that granted to the men's reformatory was allotted to a similar establishment for women.

FRANCE.

Women Auctioneers.

Owing to recent modifications in the law relating to auctioneers in France, women are now eligible to become public auctioneers on their own account. This is yet another sign of French women's progress. Already there are more women barristers in Paris than in any other capital. There are also many women doctors in France, and women at the head of all sorts of business.

Women and the Vote.

When the Presidential tangle is unravelled, one of the first tasks of the French Senate will be the consideration of M. Louis Martin's Woman Suffrage Bill. The recent General Election has, if anything, improved the chances of the measure, since in many cases the women's organisations have been able to obtain definite pledges from candidates. We therefore hope that M. Martin's Bill will meet with a better reception in the Senate than it found in 1919, when a similar measure was defeated by 156-134 votes. It is satisfactory to know that M. Herriot is sound on the Woman Suffrage question.

GERMANY.

Dr. Marie Munk is the first woman lawyer admitted to the Berlin courts. She is the daughter of a former high official, and is the authoress of a book on divorce reform.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Women in Medicine.

Recently there was a correspondence in *The Times* on the cost and outlook in the professions. The degree conferred by London University in the medical profession is admittedly the prize, but only the best brains should seek it, lest the attempts be strewn with disappointments. The result of the May examination for the degree of M.B., B.S. (Lond.) are now available. Out of 79 in the Pass List, 34 are women, and of 10 in the Honours List, three are earned by them—and a woman carries off the gold medal. These, surely, are brilliant achievements of heart and head.

University Women.

The British Federation of University Women held its fourteenth annual general meeting at Queen Margaret College Union, University Gardens, Glasgow, on Saturday. This was the first time that the Federation had met in Glasgow, for it was in 1921 only that the Glasgow Graduates' Association became a local association of the Federation. Branches are entitled to send representatives to the annual meeting in proportion to their numbers, and the numerical importance of the Glasgow

Association was strikingly illustrated by the number of local delegates who were present on Saturday. Representatives also attended from Bath, Bristol, Bangor, Birmingham, Durham and Newcastle, Edinburgh, Huddersfield, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, and Oxford.

ITALY.

The Marchioness Angelina Altoviti Avila, one of the pioneers of the women's suffrage movement in Italy, died at Florence on Saturday, aged 65.

KOREA.

In a recent issue of the *Korean Mission Field*, a religious paper published in Korea, is an account of the strides made during the past ten years in the woman movement in that country. The attendance of girls at primary schools has risen in ten years from four thousand to over forty thousand; a girl's consent is now asked before marriage; women are now allowed to make their own purchases; travel is now permitted freely to women; purdah curtains, which were once used to screen away women at meetings, have been removed; women are now becoming shopkeepers, and are being employed in factories; Korean women are replacing foreign women as missionaries, and while ten years ago no societies of women were in existence, there are now as many as fifty-eight recorded by the Government.

POLAND.

Several thousand women workers of Warsaw, Poland, recently organised meetings and processions to insist that women workers be given equal rights with men in all occupations and trades.

PORTO RICO.

Women of Porto Rico announce that they will carry their fight for the ballot in November to the Supreme Court of the United States. They are doing this because the Supreme Court of Porto Rico has decided against them in mandamus proceedings through which they attempted to be registered as voters. The registration officials refused them registration.

SWEDEN.

The Governments of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark recently decided to introduce Government Bills into their respective Parliaments improving the position for married women as regards the question of nationality. The Swedish measure has now passed both Houses and become law. It provides that a Swedish woman who marries a foreigner shall not lose her Swedish nationality unless she acquires the nationality of her husband by her marriage and also goes to live in his country—e.g., if a Swedish woman marries an American, she does not lose her Swedish nationality unless she goes to settle in the United States and also herself voluntarily becomes naturalised in that country.

TURKEY.

The famous American woman's college at Constantinople, which was founded as a "home school" in 1871, and was chartered as a college in 1890 by the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, has had the same president, Dr. Mary Mills Patrick, ever since its foundation. There are now over 350 native women students in attendance. This college, more than any other institution in the Near East, measures the remarkable progress of women in the Orient during the past 50 years. Halide Hanum, who has been the most prominent woman political leader in Turkey during the past twenty years, is a graduate of the college.

UNITED STATES.

The legislative season has closed in New York, and the following gains have been made: Out of 21 Bills removing discriminations against women, introduced by the Woman's Party in the Legislature, two have received the signature of the Governor and are now laws. They are: A mother is given equal rights with the father to the guardianship of the estate of their minor child. (Formerly, the father's right was greater than the mother's in this respect.)

Women public school teachers are given equal pay with men teachers. (Formerly, men school teachers could be paid more than women teachers for the same work.)

THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

The Sixth Session of the International Labour Conference opened at Geneva on June 16, and it may therefore be useful to survey the problems which were laid before it.

All the States members of the League of Nations are *ipso facto* members of this organisation. The number of States at present belonging to the organisation under this head is 56. Further, although Germany does not belong to the League of Nations, she is a member of the International Labour Organisation. The only two important Powers which do not yet belong are Russia and the United States.

The work done by the International Labour Organisation is already considerable; more than 30 draft conventions and recommendations have been adopted, concerning unemployment, emigration, industrial hygiene, hours of work, and the protection of women and children. For the most part they have led to legislative action being taken by the principal States members of the organisation.

During the Sixth Session the International Labour Conference will discuss:—

1. Development of facilities for the utilisation of workers' leisure.
2. Equality of treatment for national and foreign workers as regards compensation for accidents.
3. Weekly suspension of work for twenty-four hours in glass-manufacturing processes where tank furnaces are used.
4. Night work in bakeries.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

The Conference of the International Council of Women took place most successfully at Copenhagen from May 20 to May 28. Among the questions discussed were: Peace and Disarmament; Child Welfare; Rights of Minorities; White Slave Traffic; and the Nationality of Married Women. A farewell festival dinner was given in the guest hall of the Young Women's Christian Association, of Copenhagen, when speeches were made by Lady Aberdeen, Madame Avril de Saint Croix, and Dr. Alice Salomon.

It was decided that owing to the expense of the voyage and the low value of exchange in many European countries, it would not be possible to accept the invitation of the N.C.W. of the United States to hold the next quinquennial at Washington, and the invitation of the Austrian Council was accepted instead.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL HOUSING CONGRESS.

Women's International Housing Congress, Caxton Hall, London, July, 1924, under the auspices of the National Housing and Town Planning Council (honorary president, the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, LL.D., J.P.). The following subjects will be considered:—

- "The Duty of the State and Local Authorities in regard to Housing and Town Planning Legislation and Administration."
- "The Standards of Design and Lay-out of New Housing Schemes."
- "The Establishment of Garden Cities and Satellite Towns."
- "The Establishment of Housing Trusts and Public Utility Societies by Private Citizens (including employers) interested in questions of Social Welfare."
- "The Creation of Occupying Owners under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, or by means of Building Society Loans."
- "The Work of Trained Women in the sphere of House Property Management."
- "The Co-operative Provision of Homes for Women Workers in centres of population."

Additional interest will be given to the proceedings by the arrangement of visits to be paid to housing and town-planning schemes.

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

A TRAVERS LES LIVRES.

Les Victorieuses.

Par Dora Melegari.

"CERTAINS noms de femmes résonnent comme des clairons, d'autres comme des alléluias qui s'élevaient vers le ciel en chants de triomphe et en hymnes de reconnaissance." Ainsi Mme. Dora Mélégar, préface-t-elle son dernier volume *Les Victorieuses*, où elle nous retrace, en des pages charmantes, la vie des femmes héroïques, qui, à différentes époques représenterent l'élite de l'humanité.

Il y en a, parmi elles, de très grandes, de plus modestes, et de très humbles. Quelques-unes, telle Marie-Thérèse, se sont montrées d'habiles conductrices de peuples; d'autres, toutes de charme et d'intelligence fine, ont régné sur leur temps par leurs dons magnifiques; d'autres, comme Françoise d'Aubigné ont su enchaîner le cœur d'un roi volage par leur austérité, ou comme Christine de Pisan, ont osé entreprendre de défendre leurs sœurs opprimées en ce moyen âge français, dont les moralistes se montraient si cruellement hostiles aux femmes.

La vie de toutes ces femmes est à lire en cet intéressant volume. Peut-être, pour d'aucuns, les pages les plus attachantes du livre, sont-elles celles consacrées à Sainte Catherine de Sienne, à Hellen Keller, et enfin à celle de ces femmes remarquables qui vécurent le plus près de nous, Sœur Julie de Guéville, la plus modeste de toutes, qui, dans sa robe de bure, sut cependant, aux heures tragiques de la guerre, tenir tête à l'ennemi et adoucir l'agonie de tant d'enfants blessés à mort.—*La Française.*

G. A. S. C.

La Politique des Mœurs.

Notre vieille société européenne est encore detraquée, d'après les tristes années qui ont suivi la fin de la guerre et nous apportant les désordres du bolchevisme; l'égoïsme domine les pays, de même qu'il est maître chez un bon nombre d'individus.

Voilà pourquoi un livre n'ayant pour but que de montrer les moyens nécessaires à l'amélioration des mœurs, c'est donc une jouissance de l'esprit chez les gens qui aiment la grandeur de leur nation.

C'est bien juste que l'on applaudisse pourtant l'honorable Monsieur Belotti, qui a été dernièrement de nos députés, pour avoir fait paraître son volume "Politica del Costumi." "Politique des Mœurs." Le titre vous renseigne au sujet de la thèse que l'auteur a choisie; mais il ne vous dira jamais la profondeur de certaines pages, la droiture de l'argumentation, même l'élevation de certaines paragraphes.

Nous autres femmes d'Italie, nous sommes bien fières qu'un féministe si convaincu tel que Monsieur Belotti ne craigne pas de soutenir les droits des femmes à la vie publique; nous autres, femmes chrétiennes dans le cœur et dans la vie, nous le remercions de la campagne qu'il continue contre le divorce, puisque nous savons bien que la vraie existence de la famille, le vrai foyer sacré n'est pas possible s'il n'y a pas l'indissolubilité dans le mariage.

C'est à l'Etat—j'en conviens avec lui—de donner des lois au sujet des mœurs, puisque les membres d'une collectivité, qui ne peuvent y dépenser toutes leurs énergies, ne sont que des bouches inutiles à la charge du gouvernement.

S'il y a dans ce volume des appréciations qui ne touchent qu'au caractère des habitants des pays du sud de l'Europe, on peut affirmer que dans la plupart des pages, tout ce qui est dit, est d'un intérêt concernant toute nation. Ici, comme d'ailleurs partout la loi ne suffit pas à donner la moralité publique; ici comme partout, elle n'est que le résultat des mœurs de chaque individu; il est donc nécessaire de former la conscience particulière; de convaincre nos concitoyens que la vie n'est qu'un devoir à remplir et qu'il faut y porter l'austérité et l'amour aux autres.

LES LIVRES FRANÇAIS.

Nous nous plaignons sans cesse en France que le plus mauvais de notre littérature soit, à l'étranger, le plus connu. Est-ce la faute de nos libraires qui n'envoient pas autre chose, ou du public qui ne veut pas acheter autre chose? La question serait trop ardue à résoudre. Ne perdons pas notre temps à apprécier les responsabilités d'autrui. Prenons les nôtres.

Puisqu'on me le permet, je vais essayer d'indiquer de temps en temps, ici, quels livres Français nous semblent dignes ou non d'être lus partout.

Je voudrais qu'on ne me trouvât point trop frivole si je fais une large part à la littérature d'imagination. N'est-ce sur nos romans et sur notre théâtre que l'étranger nous juge? Et s'il nous juge mal nos auteurs n'en sont pas toujours innocents. Il me semble bon de pouvoir dire si leurs peintures de caractères et de mœurs sont des portraits ressemblants ou infidèles des âmes et des mœurs françaises.

Je parlerai, autant que possible, des livres heureux qui portés par un succès dû soit à leurs mérites, soit à une habile publicité franchissent tout naturellement les frontières; mais aussi à l'occasion d'œuvres moins tapageuses qui nous paraîtront intéressantes, et bien entendu les livres de femmes passeront, à mérite égal, les premiers.

D'ailleurs le plus grand poète français actuel est, sans contredit, la Comtesse de Noailles; et nous comptons autant et plus de romancières que de romanciers célèbres.

Vous connaissez sûrement ces noms d'étoiles: Colette, Marcelle Tynaire, Gérard d'Houville, Gabrielle Réval, et peut-être aussi d'autres plus neufs: Andrée Corthis, Marcelle Vioux, Elisa Khais, Isabelle Sandy. Deux prix littéraires, cette année ont été attribués à des débutantes: Jeanne Galzy et Paule Régnier. C'est de leurs livres que je parlerai dans mon prochain article.

Aujourd'hui je rendrai seulement hommage à un talent qui s'annonçait avec maîtrise dans des genres encore peu cultivés par les femmes. Avec Marie Leneru, morte trop jeune, il y a cinq ans, nous avons perdu celle qui, parmi les littérateurs actuels, nous semblait le plus près de nous, féministes dominées par les préoccupations sociales. Un malheur sans nom l'avait foudroyée dès son adolescence: belle, fouguse, avide de connaître et de vivre, elle devint tout à fait sourde et presque aveugle. Une énergie inouïe et sa puissante vocation de penser et d'écrire la soutinrent. Elle fut célèbre dès sa première œuvre, une pièce de théâtre, *Les Affranchis*, publiée d'abord, jouée ensuite à l'Odeon. On lui reconnut aussitôt l'intelligence des idées et le don du style.

C'est pour le théâtre qu'elle a le plus écrit, car il nous reste d'elle quatre pièces. Mais si elle eût vécu, c'est ailleurs, à mon avis, dans l'histoire, la sociologie, la politique peut-être, qu'elle se fut affirmée. Ses pièces valent mieux à la lecture qu'à la scène; la dernière en date, *La Paix* est l'expression généreuse, souvent magnifique de sa révolte contre la guerre. Un livre, *Saint-Just* peu avant sa mort, offrait la promesse de ce qu'elle saurait faire des sujets historiques.

La grippe l'emporta lorsque approchant la maturité, sa santé raffermie, elle allait donner toute sa mesure. Depuis, sa famille a publié son journal. Et plus que tous les autres, ces deux volumes la font connaître et regretter. Ils disent le drame d'une vie meurtrie mais consolée par l'activité intellectuelle; la richesse d'une pensée subtilement et ardemment attentive aux grandes questions et aux grands faits; ils révèlent une forte et charmante personnalité consciente de sa supériorité et ambitieuse de gloire, d'autant plus captivante que sur-humaine par son courage et sa spiritualité, elle reste humaine et femme par les sentiments. Lisez les ouvrages de Marie Leneru.

JANE MISMÉ,

Vice-présidente de l'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes.

La "Bibliothèque Féministe et Féminine," 55, rue de Seine (6e), Paris, se met à la disposition de nos lectrices pour leur envoyer les livres français qu'elles souhaiteraient acheter.

et des droits égaux sur leurs enfants. Cependant le préambule déclare désirable l'égalité des droits et donne même des droits égaux dans l'application devant les Tribunaux, en cas de dispute; il déclare que l'intérêt de l'enfant sera le seul principe sur lequel il sera statué dans les cas difficiles; il donne des droits égaux pour nommer les tuteurs après la mort et il donne à la mère le droit d'obtenir la garde et la pension alimentaire des enfants sans demander la séparation. L'Union Nationale estime contrairement à l'opinion de quelques sociétés qu'il y a lieu d'accepter ce projet de loi imparfait en attendant l'heure favorable pour une revendication plus complète.

Projet de loi sur la légitimation.—Ce projet a dépassé la phase des commissions et le mois prochain verra la lecture à la Chambre des Communes.

Exposition de l'Empire britannique à Wembley.—L'Union Nationale a travaillé avec le Comité des Dominions de l'Alliance internationale même que la Ligue de la Liberté féminine, en construisant un Pavillon et en fournissant des conférencières.

Le Rapport annuel de l'Union vient d'être publié.—Il montre que le vote des femmes n'est qu'un commencement et qu'il reste beaucoup à faire. Il établit un programme de travail pour les groupes locaux.

Ligue de la Liberté Féminine.

La Ligue a pressé le gouvernement d'accorder dans le plus bref délai possible la franchise politique égale, les traitements égaux pour les fonctionnaires des deux sexes. Elle a demandé au Ministre des Transports de rendre obligatoire les compartiments réservés aux dames, dans l'intérêt des jeunes filles voyageant seules, des femmes avec de jeunes enfants, etc. La Ligue est de celles qui refusent d'accepter le projet de loi actuel sur la tutelle des enfants.

Indes.

Assemblée Générale Annuelle de l'Association des Femmes Hindoues.

L'assemblée a eu lieu le 19 mai à la Salle de Théosophie; elle comprenait plus de 200 femmes de toutes les parties de Madras et autant d'hommes. L'association a maintenant sept ans d'existence et de travail utile; elle a, chaque année, élargé sa sphère d'activité politique

et sociale. Cette année de nouvelles branches ont été fondées, ce qui porte à 51 le nombre des groupes repartis dans 18 centres, avec un total de 2,500 membres. Madras et Bombay ont été les centres les plus actifs. Certains groupes entretiennent des écoles du soir; un grand nombre ont participé à l'organisation de la Semaine Nationale des Bébés.

L'année a d'ailleurs été fertile en résultats. Mysore a accordé aux femmes le vote pour l'assemblée des Représentants et pour le conseil législatif, avec les mêmes droits qu'aux hommes; quoique la "sex disqualification" leur interdise l'entrée dans le Conseil. Au Bengale, les femmes ont eu le vote pour la première fois au Conseil Municipal de Calcutta. Aux élections pour la corporation de Bombay, quatre femmes ont été élues: trois font partie de l'Association des Femmes Hindoues. A Bombay également, quatre femmes ont été nommées juges de paix. La première conseillère municipale a aussi été élue à Rangoon, Burma. Deux avocates sont maintenant en fonctions à la cour. L'assemblée impériale a élevé de 16 à 18 ans l'âge du consentement pour les jeunes filles et compte élever de 12 à 14 ans l'âge du mariage. La corporation de Madras a résolu de voter l'instruction primaire obligatoire pour les filles et les garçons. Un dispensaire pour bébés a été créé à Madras, dans l'établissement du "Home of Service" des femmes. Il a soigné 9,200 enfants, du lait a été fourni à 14 et des vêtements à 90 enfants. 80 futures mères ont été aidées et envoyées dans des hôpitaux. La maison comporte en outre une classe d'apprentissage pour les industries domestiques.

Mrs. Chapman Catt a offert de nouveau 500 dollars qui devront être employés uniquement à l'émancipation politique des femmes.

Japon.

Une élection générale a eu lieu le 10 mai; mais les femmes n'ont pas encore le droit de vote. Elles mènent une campagne énergique: affiches, circulaires, journaux, visite au ministres, assemblées, discours. Le Japon possède deux groupes suffragistes, une branche de l'Alliance Internationale et l'Union pour le suffrage des femmes.

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

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