

WOMEN'S SERVICE

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# THE INTERNATIONAL

# WOMEN'S NEWS

## JUS SUFFRAGII

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### Contents.

	Page		Page
President's New Year Message .....	25	Reviews .....	27
Events of 1936 .....	26	Switzerland .....	28
Obituary .....	26	Women in the Home .....	29
Zurich Study Conference .....	26	News in Brief .....	20
Australia .....	26	Great Britain .....	30
U.S.A. ....	27	Open Door International .....	30
Women's Peace and Disarmament Committee .....	27	The International Abolitionist Federation .....	30
		Section Française .....	30

### PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE.

*"Mercy and truth are met together;  
Righteousness and Peace have kissed each other."*

This lovely imagery of the old psalm gives us the ideal to which we women must direct our efforts with all the cool and steady courage which imminent disaster calls forth from the brave.

Month after month of 1936 has seen Europe slipping back into the ruthless intolerance of the middle ages.

God's gifts of conscience, of courageous thinking, of scientific research are persecuted by those who have not the intelligence to meet their claims with argument and tolerance. Wars of religion, too, are deliberately revived and mercilessly pursued.

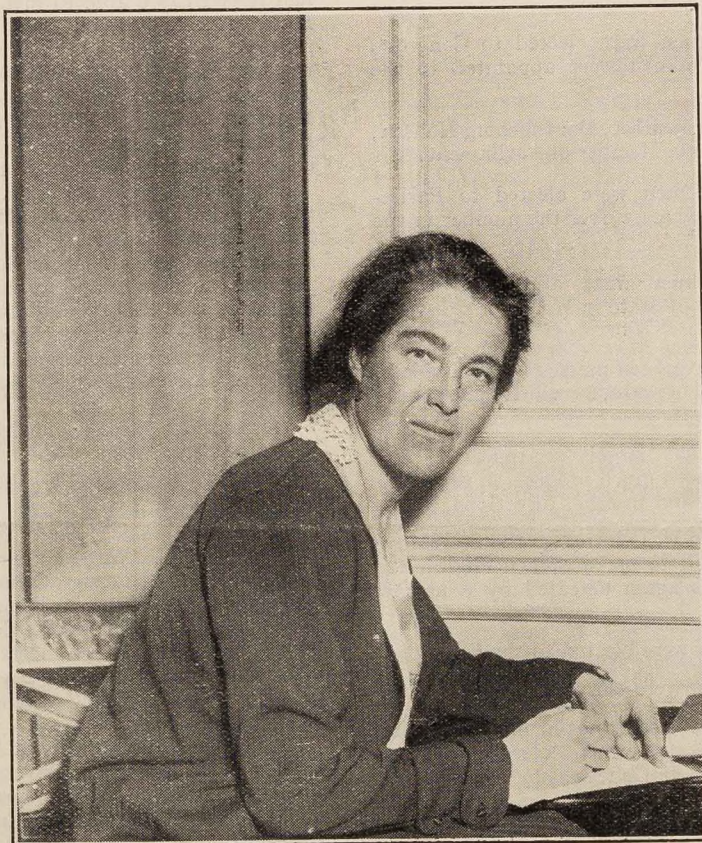
The League of Nations has suffered more from half-hearted service of its powerful friends than from the attacks of its disloyal or absent members.

The "darkest hour before the dawn" may not yet be here. But the challenge must be met by women. Under the menace of physical danger or social ostracism we must

fight on for mercy and truth, righteousness and peace. Because our hopes are so often enshrined in the

lovely bodies of our children we cannot let our responsibilities and our work be limited by their needs. Perplexed and suffering mankind needs mothering by strong and valiant women who have won their own freedom, broken their chains, tested their loyalty to their women comrades.

The best cure for anxiety is hard work, and 1937 offers us the most wonderful opportunity. For the first time in history since the old Church Councils anxiously discussed the temptations offered by woman's existence, the statesmen of the world must marshal and sift the evidence presented to them of the valuable services now being rendered by women in government, in science, in industry and social work. We shall see that righteousness and peace are better represented where women with their responsibility for



Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

home and child, for the old and the sick, are given the political and economic means to fulfil their duties freely. To lose heart now when peace and democracy are both in peril would be disloyal to our inner spiritual selves. Steady, clear thinking, generous contributions in money, hard personal work given ungrudgingly by the half of mankind may yet rescue civilisation.

We greet with gratitude the women of the nations of the Americas, whose courageous declaration of mutual justice and co-operation is an inspiration and example. To all our members and friends we send a message of thanks for work done in 1936, of hope for the crowning of our efforts in 1937.

MARGERY I. CORBETT ASHBY.

#### EVENTS OF 1936.

- Australia.** Two women were elected to the State Parliament of Western Australia.
- Belgium.** Two women were elected to the Chamber, and three were co-opted to the Senate.
- Brazil.** Our Board Member, Dr. Bertha Lutz, has become a member of the Federal Parliament. Several women are Members of the State Assemblies, and in the State of Rio de Janeiro, two women are Secretaries of State. More women were appointed to the Diplomatic Service, and many women are Mayors, etc. There is evidence of steady progress all round.
- Ceylon.** One woman was re-elected to Parliament, and women were granted the municipal franchise, which had so curiously been withheld when they obtained the political franchise.
- Cuba.** Seven women were elected to Congress, and two women were appointed to the Diplomatic Service.
- Denmark.** Our Board Member, Dr. Ingeborg Hansen, has become a Member of Parliament.
- Finland.** Sixteen women were elected to Parliament, an increase over the number in the last Parliament.
- France.** Three women were appointed Under Secretaries of State in M. Blum's Government.
- India.** Women have been made eligible to sit in the Council of State, for which they already had the right to vote.
- Iran.** The veil has largely disappeared, and there has been much progress in regard to the education of women and in other directions.
- Norway.** One woman was elected to the Storting, and the Bill to make women eligible for all Offices of State was again defeated by a narrow majority.
- Spain.** Six women were elected to the Cortes.
- Sweden.** Ten women were elected to the Riksdag.
- Switzerland.** There was a substantial increase in the number of women elected to the Councils of Prud'hommes in Geneva.
- U.S.A.** A second woman became a member of the Senate.

#### OBITUARY.

The Alliance suffered a very grievous loss by the death of Ingeborg Walin, Member of the Board and Chairman of the Committee for Like Conditions of Work for Men and Women. The Marquesa del Ter, also formerly a Member of the Alliance Board, died very suddenly in London. Our columns have recorded with regret the death of Frau Marianne Hainisch, the veteran woman leader in Austria; Dr. Budzinska-Tylicka, a pioneer in Poland; Miss Leigh Browne, one of the old guard of British suffragists; Miss Homersham, a pioneer in accountancy as a profession for women; Dr. Katharine Bement Davis, of the United States; and Marguerite Durand, the founder of "La Fronde," the first newspaper in France run by women.

We record with the deepest regret and heartfelt sympathy the death of Adrian Gray Corbett, our President's only brother, who had inherited from his father and mother a deep sense of fair play towards women. While at Oxford he made a remarkable speech in favour of woman suffrage to the National Conference of Liberal Women, in spite of hostile comments from the Chair and the platform. The motion was lost, but his speech strengthened the determination of many present to refuse work and funds to any party that opposed elementary justice to women.

During his service at the Ministry of Munitions, he gave steady and constructive help to the new women police. But more than any definite service, was his unfailing understanding and pride in the work done by his mother, wife and sisters.

#### ZURICH STUDY CONFERENCE.

The preparations for this Conference, to be held from February 26th to March 1st, are going forward. We had hoped to be able to give details as to the actual Hall, Hotels, etc., but these are not quite definitely fixed yet. By the time this number appears, however, the information will surely be available, and anyone who wishes to obtain it should write to Miss Dorothy Heneker, at Alliance Headquarters, 12, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1. We shall also, of course, be writing again to our Auxiliaries.

This is designed to be a real study meeting, and all visitors will be welcome. It is not proposed to go through the formalities of appointing official delegates, so we hope that all members of our Auxiliaries, our personal members and subscribers, and all those interested will endeavour to attend to take part in the discussions. The Winter Season will still be in full swing in the mountains, and Winter Sports and Woman Suffrage provide an agreeably alliterative title for a holiday.

We have not space to republish the Programme, but if anyone has mislaid their copy of the December number we shall be glad to supply another copy free.

#### AUSTRALIA.

Miss Ellinor G. Walker has taken the trouble to send us a full and interesting account of the Fifth Triennial Meeting of the Australian Federation of Women Voters in Adelaide, held during the Centenary Celebrations in South Australia. It is a matter for real regret that the size of our paper makes it possible only to give a few extracts when we would so gladly have published the whole.

Conference met purposely in Adelaide from September 12th to 18th, in order to dovetail in with the Women's Congress on Child Welfare, an official part of the South Australian Centenary Programme, which had organised meetings and functions for almost every afternoon and

evening, with addresses from valuable interstate speakers and from the famous overseas guest, Professor Winifred Cullis. The mental switching to and fro from Federation activities to Child Welfare subjects, and the excited atmosphere of a State celebrating its hundredth birthday, undoubtedly imposed somewhat more strain than usual upon delegates, though amply worth while from the fullest points of view.

A special type of conference was necessitated, morning meetings only being possible. The Federation met this problem of restricted hours by definitely concentrating on a single big subject, expressed as "An Australian Defence of Women's Right to Equality, Political, Civil and Economic." To this all the time was granted which remained from a few essential matters, triennial reports, and preparations for the next three years.

Very characteristic was the dignified affirmation of principles, immediately followed by practical resolutions concerning the appointment of women to certain commissions and boards. Other highlights were the Triennial Report, a summary of ceaseless and valuable work, and the report of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, with its survey of the world position for women, with which the Federation is directly affiliated. Nor must one fail to record that a comprehensive resolution in support of World Peace, and another urging justice for the aboriginal race, were given special prominence at this first meeting of all-Australian women.

Nearly three mornings were devoted to the chief subject of Conference, admirably introduced with papers by Mrs. Jessie Street (N.S.W.), Mrs. Amy Wheaton (Victoria) and Miss Ruby Rich (N.S.W.) on "International Agreements affecting the Status of Women." Subsequent papers and discussions dealt with the National Memorandum on the Status of Women to be prepared for the League of Nations, and Political, Civil, Moral and Economic aspects of the question. A wonderfully rich field was covered, the many contributing speakers including Mrs. Julie Rapke (Vic.), Mrs. Williams (Q.), Mrs. Carlile McDonnell (S.A.), Mrs. Emily Bennett (N.S.W.), Mrs. Rowland (W.A.), Miss Anna White (Vic.), and the Rev. Winifred Kiek (S.A.). Valuable as were the facts revealed concerning Independent Nationality, Legal Domicile of Married Women, Prostitution Laws, Equal Pay and Opportunity, Women in Industry, Public Services, Professions and the Home, etc., etc., the chief benefit from this Woman's Forum was, perhaps, its general clarification of the position with regard to women's liberties in the world to-day, the threat that faces them, and the immense importance of the League of Nations enquiry into the Status of Women. This alone may stamp the Conference as thoroughly worth while.

#### U.S.A.

The National League of Women Voters send us their Bulletin, which is always full of pointers showing the varied and important work being done federally and in the States. One of the most important pieces of work is perhaps that for the substitution of what is called the "merit system" for the "spoils system" in the public service. The tradition has been that directly one or other of the two big political parties, Democrat or Republican, gets into power they put their "good party men" into all the lucrative positions. That is the "spoils." The League is working steadily and far from unsuccessfully for the substitution of "merit"—the best man for the job.

The list of the League's Publications shows how wide a field of citizenship interests is covered, and elsewhere we give a brief review of a particularly interesting pamphlet on Foreign Policy.

A correspondent has sent us the following notes on the work of the National Woman's Party towards securing the Equal Rights Amendment to the constitution:

Members of the United States National Woman's Party, which picketed the White House in the fight for woman suffrage, assembled in New York the other day for their biennial convention, still militant for women's rights. Although they and other suffragists won the right to vote, leaders of the party said "Sex prejudice is still widespread" as they prepared to launch a campaign for another amendment to the constitution. There is less colour than in the old days when the founder of the movement, Alice Paul, burned her watch fires on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington under the Senate's nose, but there is no less spirit. What they seek is stated in very few words: "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and in every place subject to its jurisdiction." It is believed that the equal rights amendment will be passed at the coming session of Congress.

There are still many laws in the 48 States which discriminate against women. There are States where a married woman's earnings belong to her husband, where women are excluded from jury service, and where a father can still will a child away from its mother.

L.R.

#### WOMEN'S PEACE AND DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE.

The Committee is proposing to meet in Copenhagen from February 11th-13th next, with a one-day Conference on International Affairs on the 12th. The subjects of discussion will be: The Actual International Situation, and Renewed Attempts to break the International Deadlock by Economic Methods, by Political Methods, including Arms Limitation.

#### REVIEWS.

L'EDUCATION DE LA FEMME EN TURQUIE. Georg et Cie, S.A., 5 Couraterie, Geneva.

This book is the thesis of a Turkish student, Refia Ugurel, for her doctorate at the University of Geneva. She was granted her degree, and indeed this is a quite important study of women's education in Turkey, and makes interesting reading. The author gives a brief introduction in the form of the place of women in pre-Islamic days, when, according to tradition and such documents as are available, it appears that women were on an equality with men even to sharing with honour in the fighting forces. She then passes to the influence of Islam on Turkish social organisation, with its effects on the increasing seclusion and loss of public influence of women. It is stated clearly, however, that this was not really the direct teaching of the Koran, but due to religious custom gradually transforming the Prophet's precepts, as happens, alas, with all religious leaders.

We are then taken through the period of political and social unrest after the downfall of the Sultan, Abdul Hamid, when women also felt the call to take part in the movement of national liberation, and a real advance was made in providing educational facilities for girls. But the larger part of the book consists of a detailed account of the real revolution accomplished under Ataturk in this domain as in others. The doctrine of sex equality has been put into practice by the provision of every kind of school and training institution, for the most part co-educational.

The author is frankly nationalist and fervent in her admiration and gratitude to Ataturk. While she mentions the various schools set up from time to time by

various religious bodies, or groups of other nationalities, she does not seem to allow that they had any influence on Turkish education, and dismisses the American Girls' College in so few words that one cannot help feeling that there is just a tinge of ingratitude.

**AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY.** Issued by the National League of Women Voters, Washington. Price 25 cents.

This is a pamphlet which is not only of interest in that it sets out in an admirably simple and clear form the main lines of the foreign policy of the U.S.A., and how it is put into effect, such as is valuable to a foreign reader, but also because it suggests an example which might be followed with great advantage for other countries. It may be true that the policy of the European countries is not so clear-cut owing to a longer tradition and a stormy history, but nevertheless there are certain main lines which make a thread through history; just as there must everywhere be a machinery for putting policy into practice, and a part to be played by the citizen. Nowadays all intelligent people are interested in foreign policy, and yet how many are not baffled by a sense of confusion, and still more by a sense of impotence. Most women's organisations in their meetings and conferences adopt resolutions addressed to their governments on matters more or less directly affecting its foreign policy, and if those resolutions are to be practically possible they must be based on a reasonably informed membership. So here is a valuable piece of work lying to the hand of the Alliance Auxiliaries in each country.

We would just add that, slipped inside the cover of the pamphlet, there is a duplicated "Study Guide" for use with it, in some sort an examination paper on the points dealt with for the use of study circles or other groups.

**OUR FREEDOM AND ITS RESULTS.** Published by the Hogarth Press, 52, Tavistock Square, London. Price 8/6.

The most stimulating sections of this book are those in which after summarising the past and vividly describing the present, the five authors have tried to show us whither we are going, or shall we rather say whither we have the opportunity of going. What has come and is coming of the freedom of women is the question these distinguished women answer.

*Changes in Public Life*, by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.P., for twenty years a member of the Liverpool City Council, is a capable summary of the spirit and the means by which British women won the vote. The catalogue of what women have won is inspiring, but I was most interested in the section where Miss Rathbone tried to analyse what should be the special contribution of women as women over and above the contribution they will make to public life as citizens.

*Changes in Law*, by Dr. Erna Reiss, a Member of Lincoln's Inn, and the author of "The Rights and Duties of Englishwomen," is difficult to review because it is so closely written, too packed with essential historical and present-day facts. Dr. Reiss sums up by saying that "equality has been largely achieved."

*Changes in Employment*, by Mrs. Oliver Strachey, is dealt with in three sections, the Past, the Present and the Future. The past tells of the dynamic and revolutionary changes made by the war. In the present we get a picture of the five and a half million women working for pay, 37% of the whole female population between the ages of 14 and 65. The proportion of married women is 9.7 of the total number of married women, or 897,000 individuals (Census 1931). The fact is, alas, noted that the most important cause of the widening employment of women is that their labour is cheaper than that of men. We are given an interesting review of the present

facts and the possible future. Mrs. Strachey says: "When it comes to a choice between things and people, most women disregard the things." But most of the work which has carried prestige, power and money value with it has been concerned with things.

*Changes in Sex Morality* is by Miss Alison Neilans, member of the Alliance Executive and Secretary of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene. The first section gives us a magnificent and moving summary of the struggle for the abolition of State regulation. In the section about the present it is clearly explained how knowledge of birth control and of the dangers of venereal disease have altered conditions for men and women, and ends with a remarkably fine statement of the problem. "An easy solution for the individual may not be good in the long run and if generally adopted for the community and the race."

*Changes in Social Life*, by Mrs. Mary Agnes Hamilton, one time Labour M.P. and well-known author, gives an interesting analysis of the young woman of to-day, and under the wit there is much sympathy and understanding. Emancipation and social reform are working to gain for women and for the workers social justice and social decency. We cannot yet know the extent of the change or the effect of the outlook of the free mother on her boys and girls. Mrs. Hamilton notes many remaining absurdities, the solidarity which the fight for emancipation created among women, the perplexity and earnestness with which young women are groping towards finer human relationships.

A fine and moving book.

MARGERY I. CORBETT ASHBY.

**LE LIVRE DU CONGRÈS.** Published by the Rassemblement Universel de la Paix, Palais d'Egremont, Brussels.

This is the Report of the great international congress held in Brussels in September last. It contains photographs and messages from many well-known people, summaries of the speeches, the text of the Resolutions, and an account of the work of the Special Commissions. There is an introduction showing how the R.U.P. came into being, lists of adherents and delegates to the Congress, etc., etc.

We would also call attention to the fact that the British National Committee publishes a Monthly Bulletin on the international work, to be obtained from 27, Chester Terrace, London, S.W.1. In addition we receive periodically from the International Headquarters duplicated bulletins on "The I.P.C. and its Work throughout the World," and much other interesting matter.

**OUR CAUSE**, a symposium by thirty distinguished women, edited by Shyam Kumari Nehru, being a survey of Indian women's activities in every sphere of life, will be reviewed next month.

#### SWITZERLAND.

The Canton of Vaud has introduced a Bill to insist on the resignation of married teachers, or for the resignation on marriage of teachers in future—the "Mouvement Féministe" does not give the text of the Bill and we are not quite sure of its terms. In any case the feminists of the Canton are already up in arms and we hope they may be able to defeat this Bill as they did in 1929. There are 177 married women teachers in the Canton and this seems to have upset the Cantonal Committee concerned.

The Council for the Canton of Bâle has appointed a woman, Mme. Geschwind-Rehenass, as a Member of the Cantonal Council for Price Control. These Committees have been set up to prevent unreasonable rises in prices as a result of the devaluation. This appointment was demanded by a great variety of the most different women's organisations acting in co-operation, and that also is a victory.

## WOMEN IN THE HOME.

The Women's Freedom League Bulletin comments on the proposal of the London County Council to establish a residential training school in hotel management for boys only. This will complete the present training school where again boys only are taught cooking and waiting. For girls there is already a training school for Tea Room Cookery and waiting. So these household arts, for which women are so often told they are specially suitable, are apparently right for them only when ill-paid or not paid at all! The really good jobs as cooks and managers, the big "tips" for waiters are evidently more suitable for the male!

This text tempts one to discourse at length on "men taking women's jobs." We are so tired of hearing that women are taking men's jobs, with never a word about the way in which women have had every constructive piece of work in that sacred place "the home" taken out of their hands the very minute that men saw money could be made out of them. Men put up in tins every form of food, advertise them widely, thrust them down the consumers' throat, and then turn round and blame women for feeding their families on them! Men make the bread, and very bad bread, too; men make the jam—out of curious materials very often; men set up spinning and weaving mills, and blame the women for working in them; men spend millions on finding out new dyes, where once women pressed the colour from the heather and the lichen; men set up sweat shops to make the clothes. And then women are told to go back to the home to do the repetitive work of cleaning and cope with men's synthesised food products, called lazy sluts if they go to the "pictures," on "their husband's money," and hounded back if they try to make some money for themselves. Did our blood boil over the vote? How dangerously high should our temperatures become when we hear the sort of things that are said about the working woman, her housekeeping and her poor amusements. The woman who seldom comes in for men's reproaches is the one kind of woman that sometimes makes others of her sex blush: the real parasite, the woman with money to pay servants and nurses, who gets through her days with the help of bridge and what not. There are not very many of her in reality and even they are the victims of a social order and the lingering tradition that a man could show how far up the tree of success he had climbed by keeping his wife in idleness—like a real lady!

This leads us on so naturally to a wise little article in the "Mouvement Féministe" on men's leisure. In the course of a Conference on training for housewives, one of the speakers addressed to the Government, a Resolution suggesting that part of men's leisure could be spent in assisting their wives in the housework, to the great benefit of the peace and happiness of the home.

It is told how a working woman, whose husband is on short time in his factory, asked what she was to do with him in their one room during his off days. When it was suggested that he might give her a hand, she replied that he would say "It was not his work." Not all husbands would say the same, but it is a fact that as hours of work are shortened by law or custom, a revolution is required to ensure that the husband shall share some of his new leisure with his wife by helping her to get through her domestic work, so that she also has a little freedom. The speaker at the Conference gave her audience the wise council that they should distribute equally between their girls and boys any share of the house work that they might be called upon to undertake. She might have added another piece of advice, namely, that the young wife would do well to see that a wise mother's training in this respect is kept up in the early days of marriage!

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

**Far Eastern Conference.** This long awaited Conference on Traffic in Women in the East will be held in Java (Dutch East Indies) in February next. It is hoped that women will be named among the delegates, and we already know that the Government of India has appointed as its delegate Mrs. C. S. Mukerji, with Miss Millicent Shepherd as adviser.

**Jane Addams Fund.** The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has instituted an International Peace Fund in memory of its former President, Jane Addams.

**Bermuda.** The Woman Suffrage Society held a great suffrage meeting in the Colonial Opera House, at which Lady Astor, M.P., spoke.

**Belgium.** The Bulletin of the Women's Section of the Labour and Socialist International records "with some bitterness" that the recent Congress of the Belgian Labour Party failed to appoint any woman to the Bureau of the General Council, to replace Mme. Spaak, who did not stand again.

**Canada.** As a result of the approval of the Ordination of Women by the United Church of Canada, of which the news came to us from Mrs. John Scott (see November issue), Miss Gruchy of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, is the first woman to be ordained into any Church in Canada.

Commenting on the recent defeat of the Quebec Provincial Suffrage Bill, Mrs. Scott recalls as some compensation that at least no woman voted for, still less was a member of, the recent Legislative Assembly, under which immense defalcations were found to have been going on for thirty years!

**France.** The Senate has adopted the first reading of the Bill to remove the civil incapacity of married women. Unfortunately a Senator succeeded in preventing the Bill from being considered as an Urgency Matter, which would have permitted its complete passage in one sitting, so that it will have to come up again after the New Year. The tone of the debate showed an immense improvement on that of days not so long since, when the venerable Senators rocked with amusement at the questionable jokes of M. Duplantier, now happily departed from the scene.

**Great Britain.** Though one would not like to take the British Union of Fascists too seriously, it is of some interest to note that it is coming out as a political party and has announced a list of candidates, on which appears the names of two women, one of them a former militant suffragette.

At a recent sale at Christie's, a Rembrandt was sold for over £2,000. It was once the property of an ardent suffragist, Miss MacGregor, and was again and again seized by the Sheriff's officers and sold to pay the rates and taxes which she refused to pay on principle. She always bought it back, but it is something to hazard a Rembrandt!

**Hungary.** The reform of the Hungarian Parliament is shortly to come up for discussion, and women have already presented a petition asking for equal franchise. This petition has been signed by thousands of important women and several leading politicians have expressed their sympathy with the movement.

**Mexico.** The I.C.W. Bulletin tells us that, though Mrs. Bryan Owen was forced to resign her post as United States Minister to Denmark on her

marriage to a Danish subject, Denmark will still have a woman Minister, as the Mexican Government has appointed Senorita Palma Guillen as its Minister in Copenhagen. She was for two years Minister in Colombia.

**Spain.** Madame Isabel O. de Palencia, formerly President of one of the Alliance Auxiliaries in Spain, and well known to many of our readers, has been appointed Spanish Ambassador to Sweden. In offering her our congratulations, we regret that this honour comes to her at a moment so deeply clouded by anxiety and distress.

**U.S.S.R.** A number of the wives of deep-sea divers employed by the Soviet Ship Salving Trust organised a class to learn diving. They proved apt pupils and several of them have now been taken on to the staff of the Trust for ordinary duties.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

We hear a great deal these days about the gradual breaking down of sex barriers in the Civil Service and the ever-widening scope of women's employment, but it is important that this satisfactory aspect of equality should not blind women to the financial side of things which presents a less pleasing picture.

Changes effected in the salary scales of various groups of women in recent years show a general worsening of the position of women as compared with men. Since the Tomlin report:

1. The scientific workers of three Departments have been deprived of equality.
2. The Governor of the Girls' Borstal has been deprived of equality.
3. The Housemistresses of Borstal have been deprived of equality.
4. The Assistant Commissioner of War Savings has been deprived of equality.
5. The Employment Clerks of the Ministry of Labour have lost equality between the ages of 19 and 22.
6. The two most senior women in the Service have not been allowed to benefit from the reconstruction of the Administrative Class salaries, with the result that whereas their salaries formerly fell within the Principal Assistant Secretary's scale, they now fall within that of an Assistant Secretary.
7. A worse percentage relationship has been fixed for women Tax Officers.

8. The salary scale now drawn up for Laboratory Assistants shows differentiation for men and women from the recruiting age of 19, and a normal maximum amounting to only 71 per cent. of the men's.

9. Last, but by no means least, the recent award of the Industrial Court in the case of Departmental Clerks, although raising the maximum of both men and women, greatly increased the disparity between them at that point. The women's maximum which was formerly equivalent to 85 per cent. of the men's now represents only a little more than 75 per cent.; while men gain an increase of £67 on their maximum the women are given only £27.

On this evidence it cannot be denied that women Civil Servants have had ample warning of Treasury policy in regard to their pay. It is imperative that all women, in every organization, should unite in resistance to any further retrogression as regards relativity, which obviously makes the fight for Equal Pay more difficult.

—Opportunity.

A Brixton (London) paper gives an interesting account of how a woman, Lady Sandhurst, was actually elected to the London County Council as a member for Brixton long before women had been given the franchise for that

body, and actually took her seat at the first meeting of the then new Council. The Council placed an order on its agenda that its Parliamentary Committee should report what steps should be taken to ensure the rights of women duly elected (by men's votes!). But before anything was done, a man—presumably the candidate who had been defeated by Lady Sandhurst—took the question to the Court of Appeal. The court held that the lady "was not a fit and proper person" to be elected to the Council, and the gentleman who brought the case was elected in her stead. It does not seem very "sporting" of the Brixton electors to vote for the man who had been successful in turning down their first choice, but maybe there was no alternative.

#### OPEN DOOR INTERNATIONAL.

The Fifth Conference of the O.D.I. will take place at Salzburg, Austria, from July 6th-10th, 1937, preceded by a Summer School from July 1st-5th. Among the subjects to be discussed are: Nutrition policies as they affect the woman worker; the place of women in pensions schemes; the possible effect for women workers of population problems; women's work in glass-making; the agricultural woman workers and maternity.

The current number of the news sheet, "The Open Door," contains some interesting, though not cheerful, paragraphs on women's working conditions in different countries. Some of the items chronicling the adoption of "protective" legislation for women may be regarded as good news for some of our readers; but when they come side by side with others telling of reductions in women's salaries and speaking of enquiries into the increasing number of females engaged in work which could be done by males, it does suggest that the method of protecting women by passing special legislation has not succeeded in giving them a sound economic status.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL ABOLITIONIST FEDERATION.

Notice has reached us that the 47th Congress of the Federation will take place in Lille, France, from May 20th-23rd, 1937. The subjects to be discussed are the right of the State to oppose individual prostitution, and means to oppose commercial exploitation of the prostitution of others; the right of the State to impose compulsory measures for the control of venereal disease on a single category of patients; the formation of public opinion in moral questions and the effects of regulation on that opinion.

#### SECTION FRANCAISE.

##### VŒUX DE LA PRÉSIDENTE POUR LA NOUVELLE ANNÉE.

"Charité et Vérité sont unies; Justice et Paix s'embrassent." Cette image du vieux Psaumier demeure l'idéal vers quoi les femmes dirigent leurs efforts avec le sang-froid et le courage nécessaires pour dominer l'imminent désastre. Il semble que mois après mois de l'année 1936 nous ait fait rétrograder vers l'intolérance cruelle du moyen-âge. Ces dons de Dieu que sont la conscience, la pensée courageuse, la recherche scientifique désintéressée ont été persécutés par un ennemi autoritaire. Les guerres de religion aussi ressuscitent. La Société des Nations a encore plus souffert par la tiédeur de ses partisans que par les attaques des forces hostiles.

Nous ne pouvons discerner quand sonnera "l'heure sombre qui précède l'aube." Mais de toute façon, nous femmes devons être prêtes à lutter pour "Charité et Vérité; Justice et Paix." Comme nous entourons nos petits enfants de soins et d'espoirs, de même cette

humanité chancelante a besoin du secours vaillant des femmes fortes.

Le meilleur remède à l'anxiété c'est le travail: 1937 nous en offre l'occasion. Il y a loin des discussions des Conciles de l'Eglise sur la femme, éternelle tentatrice, à ces conseils du monde moderne où prennent part des femmes compétentes dans toutes les branches de l'administration, de la science, de l'industrie, du statut social.

Veillons à conserver notre place où elle est utile, à accroître notre représentation dans toutes les sphères, économique et politique où nous pouvons travailler pour le bien de la famille, de l'enfant, des vieillards, des malades, de l'éducation sous toutes ses formes, avec générosité de cœur et de geste.

Nous saluons avec gratitude les femmes des deux Amériques dont la déclaration admirable nous est un exemple de justice mutuelle et de coopération.

d'après MARGERY CORBETT-ASHBY.

#### NOUVELLES BREVES.

**Congrès d'Extrême Orient.** Il a enfin été décidé que ce Congrès sur la Traite des Femmes, se tiendra à Java au mois de février prochain. Nous espérons que les déléguées comprendront des femmes et nous savons déjà que le Gouvernement de l'Inde enverra Mme. C. S. Mukerji et Miss Millicent Shepherd.

**A la mémoire de Jane Addams.** La Ligue Internationale pour la Paix et la Liberté dont Jane Addams était présidente a décidé d'ouvrir une Collecte internationale, en souvenir de Jane Addams.

**Bermudes.** La Société pour le suffrage a tenu un grand meeting à l'Opéra Colonial où Lady Astor, M.P., a prononcé un discours.

**Belgique.** Le Bulletin de la Section féminine de l'Internationale Socialiste remarque avec amertume que le Parti Socialiste Belge, après avoir accepté la démission de Madame Spaak, n'a pas nommé une femme à sa place, au Bureau du Conseil général.

**Canada.** L'Eglise unifiée de Canada, ayant accepté l'ordination des femmes, Miss Gruchy de Saskatchewan est la première femme acceptée pour un ministère religieux.

**Espagne.** Madame Isabel O. de Palencia, qui fut présidente d'une de nos Auxiliaires espagnoles et bien connue des Membres de l'Alliance vient d'être nommée Ambassadeur d'Espagne à Stockholm. En lui offrant nos félicitations, nous regrettons que cet honneur lui vienne à une heure obscurcie par l'anxiété et la détresse.

**France.** Le Sénat a adopté en première lecture un projet de loi, abolissant l'incapacité civile de la femme mariée. Un Sénateur a cependant réussi à faire ajourner la discussion de cette mesure "non urgente." De sorte qu'il nous faudra attendre à l'année prochaine pour le vote de la loi. Le ton du débat a montré les progrès accomplis; les sénateurs ne traitent pas le féminisme à la légère, et le temps est passé où les plaisanteries grossières d'un Duplantier provoquaient le rire des vénérables représentants, au palais du Luxembourg.

**Grande Bretagne.** Nous ne voulons pas accorder à l'Union Fasciste britannique, plus d'importance qu'elle ne mérite; cependant nous devons remarquer que les Fascistes sont maintenant constitués en parti politique, que des candidats sont déjà nommés, dont deux femmes. L'une d'elles a été une suffragette militante.

Christie's vient de vendre pour deux milles livres sterling un Rembrandt qui était autrefois la propriété d'une ardente suffragiste Miss Macgregor. Celle-ci s'était fait remarquer plusieurs fois par son refus de payer l'impôt et par le fait que le fisc saisissait le Rembrandt comme gage. Miss Macgregor rachetait toujours le Rembrandt, bien que disposer ainsi d'un chef d'œuvre soit plutôt hasardeux!

**Hongrie.** La Réforme du Parlement hongrois va bientôt être discutée et les femmes ont déjà présenté une pétition pour l'obtention du droit égal au suffrage, qui a la sympathie d'hommes politiques distingués.

**U.S.S.R.** Plusieurs femmes, mariées à des scaphandriers, employés par le Sauvetage d'Etat ont organisé une classe pour apprendre à plonger. Plusieurs d'entre elles sont maintenant attachées au Personnel du Service.

**Le Comité pour la Paix et le Désarmement** propose de se réunir à Copenhague du 11 au 13 février. Le 12 sera consacré aux Affaires Internationales. La discussion roulera sur: (a) La Situation internationale actuelle; (2) Comment arrêter la Crise par des méthodes économiques et par des méthodes politiques dont l'une sera la Limitation des Armements.

**La Porte Ouverte Internationale.** La cinquième Conférence de la P.O.I. se tiendra à Salzburg du 6 au 10 juillet 1937 et sera précédée par une Ecole d'Eté du 1er au 5 juillet. La discussion roulera sur les sujets suivants: La Nutrition et l'Ouvrière, les Femmes et les projets de retraites ou pensions; les problèmes de population et l'Ouvrière; les ouvrières dans la verrerie; les travailleuses agricoles et la maternité. Le Bulletin de la Porte ouverte contient des renseignements curieux sur la situation des travailleuses dans divers pays. Il en ressort que la protection de l'ouvrière, en apparence favorable à la femme, tourne toujours à son détriment et la confine en des occupations à salaires dérisoires.

#### LA CONFERENCE D'ETUDES DE ZURICH.

Les détails de cette Conférence ne sont pas encore fixes, mais certainement au début de janvier, toutes informations seront prêtes. Miss Dorothy Heneker répondra à toutes demandes de renseignements si celles-ci sont adressées à notre Bureau Central, 12, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1.

Tous les visiteurs seront les bienvenus — car il ne s'agit pas d'une réunion de déléguées, mais d'une conférence d'études — et comme du 26 Février au 1er Mars les sports d'hiver battent encore leur plein, nous espérons que des suffragistes de plusieurs pays pourront ainsi combiner leurs convictions et leurs plaisirs.

#### ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE.

La Ligue Nationale des Electriciennes nous envoie leur Bulletin où nous pouvons noter en détail tout le travail accompli fédéralement et dans les Etats respectifs.

Un des résultats les plus intéressants est la substitution graduelle du mérite au favoritisme dans la nomination des fonctionnaires. Il est en effet de tradition aux Etats-Unis que le parti politique vainqueur — qu'il soit démocrate ou républicain — récompense ses clients les plus dévoués par des places lucratives. La Ligue des Electriciennes s'est faite l'avocate du mérite et, en bien des circonstances ses efforts ont été couronnés de succès.

La stratégie du National Woman's Party est certainement ou partie responsable de l'atmosphère sympathique qui entoure l'Amendment à la Constitution

sur les droits égaux des sexes. Il y a moins de romantisme qu'au temps où Alice Paul entretenait un feu de bivouac dans Pennsylvania Avenue sous les fenêtres du Sénat, mais l'esprit militant persiste, les meetings sont nombreux où on acclame les oratrices, qui déclarent qu'en dépit du droit de vote, le préjugé du sexe dure toujours. Dans 48 états il y a encore des lois de discrimination contre la femme, par ex. où le mari peut approprier le gain de son épouse, ou enlever un enfant à sa mère.

#### AUSTRALIE.

Le Cinquième Congrès triennal de la Fédération des Femmes électeurs d'Australie s'est tenu à Adelaide en même temps que les fêtes du Centenaire dans l'Australie du Sud. Les membres de la Fédération suivirent alternativement les séances du Congrès sur la Protection

de l'Enfance et celles de leur propre Congrès, sans oublier de prendre part aux réjouissances nationales. Une notable invitée de la Métropole était Professeur Winifred Cullis. La Fédération concentra son activité sur une seule mais vaste question exprimée dans les termes suivants: Une Apologie australienne des droits de la Femme en matière politique, civile et économique.

L'affirmation de principes fut immédiatement suivie par des résolutions pratiques concernant la nomination des femmes à certaines commissions ou bureaux. On y lut le Rapport de notre Alliance sur la Position des Femmes à travers le Monde. On y élaborait d'autres résolutions ayant trait à la Paix Mondiale et à plus de justice pour les races aborigènes. Parmi les orateurs notons les noms de Mrs. Jessie Street (N.S.W.), Mrs. Amy Wheaton (Victoria) et Miss Ruby Rich qui lut un mémoire sur les Conventions internationales affectant le Statut de la Femme.

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