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# THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS

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### EGYPTIAN LADIES' POSTER DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE THE PARLIAMENT.



These are not English militant "Suffragettes," but young Egyptian women holding a political demonstration in the public streets. The posters demand: Woman Suffrage, Restriction of Polygamy and Divorce, Equality in Education.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS.

## MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

The third meeting of the Medical Women's International Association will be held in London from July 15 to 18. The last meeting was in Geneva, 1922. The present meeting will be held under the auspices of the British Medical Women's Federation, of which Lady Barrett is president and Dr. F. M. Dickinsen Berry secretary.

## Conference on the Prevention of the Causes of War.

Organised by the International Council of Women, in co-operation with the World Alliance for Promoting International Friendship through the Churches, the World's Young Women's Christian Association, and the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union, will meet at the British Empire Exhibition, Wembley, London, on May 5, 6, 7, and 8, under the chairmanship of the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair. The Conference is open to representatives of International Societies and their National Groups, and to individuals. The speakers at the Conference include: Signora Chiarairgio Giolitti, Italy; Mme. Avril de Ste Croix, France; Dr. Nitobe, League of Nations; Miss Marta Mundt, International Labour Office; Baroness Mannerheim, President International Council of Nurses; Dr. René Sand, League of Red Cross Societies; Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P.; Prof. Caroline Spurgeon, President International Federation of University Women; Mme. Malaterre-Sellier, France; and many other prominent speakers and workers. Mrs. Corbett-Ashby will take the chair at a public meeting on Tuesday, May 6, at 3 p.m., on the Rights of Women to Full Citizenship.

## International Federation of University Women.

The third biennial conference of the International Federation of University Women will be held in Christiana from July 28 to August 1.

## International Summer Schools.

Among other lecture schools, etc., being arranged by the International Study Group for this summer is a very attractive week in Dublin, from July 25 to August 1, on "Ireland of To-day." Speakers include Senator James Douglas, W. B. Yeats, Lennox Robinson, Professor Henry, Miss Louie Bennett, Mr. Lionel Smith Gordon, Mr. Henry Norman, and Sir James Percy.

Visits are also being arranged to Geneva for the International Labour Office Conference in June, and to the Assembly in early September.

For particulars of all activities application should be made to the Secretary, Mrs. Innes, 29, High Oaks Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

## Turkey.

As we feared, women are not yet enfranchised in Turkey, but a very active campaign is going on, and a correspondent informs us that rapid progress is being made. At present efforts are being concentrated on obtaining a "family law," of which we hope soon to give particulars.

## South Africa.—Woman Suffrage Shelved.

Unfortunately, the dissolution of Parliament has prevented any further progress with the Woman Suffrage Bill, which, as reported in our last issue, had passed its second reading and been sent to a committee. The task of getting a Bill through will have to be begun *de novo* in the next Parliament.

## The First Woman Cabinet Minister.

Nina Bang, the new Minister of Education in Denmark, is the first woman Cabinet Minister. Our next issue will give further news of her.

## PROTECTION FOR WORKING WOMEN.

By ALICE HAMILTON,

Assistant Professor of Industrial Medicine at Harvard, newly appointed Member of the Health Committee of the League of Nations.

THE sharply opposed attitudes of two groups of women toward the question of special laws regulating the work and the wages of women make it incumbent on all of us who have strong convictions on the subject to make our views public, so far as possible, in the hope that from the multitude of counsellors wisdom may emerge. I belong, myself, to those who hold that women need special protection because of their greater helplessness as industrial workers compared to men, and because of their physical handicaps, and my opinion is based on a close acquaintance with industry for more than fifteen years. I did not enter on my study of the subject with any preconceived ideas of women's greater need for help and protection; rather the reverse, for I come of a family of suffragists and did not have to be converted to that point of view. Nor did I ever wish for special protection or special favours during my own life as a professional woman. It is contact with cold facts that has forced me into the position I now hold.

In the first place, the problem of women in industry is, in the majority of cases, the problem of the young girl and of the working mother. Here are some statistics from a factory employing 3,336 men and 1,031 women. They are divided into the different age groups as follows:

	Men.	Women.
Under twenty years .....	14.3% ...	36.0%
Under thirty years .....	53.6% ...	82.0%
Between thirty and forty years .....	22.0% ...	14.0%
Over forty years .....	23.6% ...	6.0%

These figures mean that a far larger proportion of women than of men in this typical plant are in the period of life when caution, foresight, self-control, regard for the future, are not very great. Youth is foolish, reckless, and individualistic. Anyone with any experience knows how much harder it is to organise women than men, and certainly one reason for this is the over-abundance of youthful workers among the women; they are not looking forward to a life of industrial work as the men are; they hope to marry, and although many of them after marriage come back to the factory, that does not enter into their outlook before marriage. The man faces a life of employment in industry; the girl does not, and it is very hard to arouse in her a vital interest in the organisation of her trade.

On the other hand, the older women are, as a rule, even harder to organise, for they are mothers of families, widows, deserted, or with sick or incompetent husbands, and it would be hard to find a more rooted individualist than the woman in industry whose children are dependent upon her.

Women, then, are less able to organise and by their own strength bring about the methods of protection which everyone will admit they need. But this is not all. The fact that they are women means that they require more protection. The prohibition of night work is more important for them than for men. Whatever may be true in the future, it is undeniable at present that women in industry almost always carry a double burden, their work in the factory and their housework and the care of their children. Read the report of the Consumers' League of an investigation in the mills of Rhode Island during the war, and you cannot fail to be convinced of the evils of night work for women. The father of a family, if he works at night, can get his sleep during the day and yet have his meals served him and his children cared for; the mother of a family cannot.

It is more necessary to protect them against trade poisons. I have quoted so often the British statistics on the greater susceptibility of women to lead poisoning that I will not repeat them now, but will confine myself to some recent figures published by the United States Public Health Service and gathered in American potteries. The average length of exposure to lead of the men who

developed lead poisoning was seventeen years, but the average length of exposure for the women was only 9.3 years. "It should also be mentioned that in most plants the length of day for the female worker is from one-half hour to one hour shorter than that of the male worker. It would seem that the female reaches these stages of lead poisoning in about half the time required for the male to reach them." Comparing the men and women who work side by side in the dipping-rooms, it was found that there were no cases of lead poisoning among fifty-eight male ware-carriers, but sixty-two women doing the same work had a rate of 4.8 per cent. Among seventy-one male dippers' helpers the rate of lead poisoning was 8.4 per cent., but among 149 female dippers' helpers the rate was 14.4 per cent.

Then there is the effect of the mother's work on her children. The fundamental difference between the two sexes is that women bear children and men only beget them. Injury to the father can result in injury to the germ cell; injury to the mother may have not only this result, but may also cause continual damage to the child throughout the nine months of intra-uterine life. The figures which prove this in the lead trades have been quoted too often to need repetition. After all, only a minority of women in industry are exposed to lead poisoning. Let me offer instead the statistics which deal with the effect of the non-poisonous trades on the pregnant woman and on the health of her baby. The United States Children's Bureau has lately published evidence which has a decided bearing on these points. An investigation made in Baltimore seems to show that the mother's employment away from home, either preceding confinement or during the baby's first year of life, is harmful to the child's health. The still-birth rate among mothers who were employed in industrial pursuits during the year preceding confinement was more than twice as high as that among mothers who were not so employed. Of the live births to mothers employed, 6.2 per cent. were premature, as compared with 5.7 per cent. to mothers not employed. The mortality rate during the first month of life was 77.3 for each thousand among babies of mothers employed, or nearly twice the rate (39.9) among babies of mothers not employed.

Breast feeding is denied the baby whose mother works away from home, and the mortality rate for the first year among babies included in this study was one and one-half times the rate among babies of mothers not employed. This does not tell the whole story, for students of infection and immunity have found that the breast-fed baby has a greater resistance to infection than the bottle-fed baby, and that this increased resistance is prolonged beyond the first year of life. The investigators were careful to rule out the factor of poverty in these mortality rates, making their comparisons within the same income groups.

Confirmatory evidence comes from Fall River, Massachusetts. Dr. George Clifford King of that city has made a study of the deaths of babies during the first year of life, and finds that the Portuguese, who have but 28.87 per cent. of the births, have 45.76 per cent. of the deaths; while the Canadians have 15.93 per cent. of the births and 14.6 per cent. of the infant deaths. About twice as large a proportion of Portuguese mothers are engaged in work outside the home during pregnancy and after childbirth as is true of women of other nationalities.

European countries, whose industrial history is older than American, face these facts and try to deal with them by laws limiting the hours of work, forbidding night work, forbidding exposure to poisoning, providing for a period of rest before and after childbirth, and for the breast-feeding of babies during the mother's employment. At the International Labour Congress, held in Washington in the autumn of 1920, the women of the Latin countries were strongly in favour of laws to require the installation of day nurseries in factories as well as provision of a pause during the working hours for the mother to nurse her baby. The British and the American women opposed this, because they did not wish to establish, or perhaps we had better say to recognise officially, the employment of the nursing mother outside of the home. There is much to be said on both sides, but the Anglo-

Saxon stand can be defended only if we use every effort to abolish the conditions which we shrink from recognising.

What I would urge upon the opponents of special legislation for women in industry is that they work for the fundamental reform of industry first, later for the special reform they are now pressing, the equal status of men and women in industry. It is quite true that the dangerous trades should be made safe for both sexes; the eight-hour day, the six-day week, the abolition of night work, are desirable for both men and women, and strong trade organisations are the best safeguards for both. But until we have secured these measures for both sexes, let us not take them away from women. The protective legislation we now have for American working women is feeble and scattered; let us not destroy it till we have something to take its place. If there is a river to be crossed, it is better not to give up the ferry-boat before the bridge is built.

That there are some skilled women workers who suffer from legal regulations of their trades is undoubtedly true, but they are a small minority compared to those who need these laws. For one woman linotypist, there are hundreds of girl press-feeders in unorganised printing shops. For one woman supervisor, there are hundreds of department-store saleswomen. Surely it would be better for these exceptional women to turn their efforts toward the framing of amendments exempting their own class from the operation of a law rather than to oppose all legal control of the hours of work of less capable and fortunate women. "We that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves."

The argument that the weak will be actually benefited by ignoring their weakness and asserting that they are as strong as men, can take just as good care of themselves and are only hampered and injured by protective legislation, can be answered by pointing to those States which do not protect them, or which for many years did not. Anyone who knows the condition in the textile States before the introduction of laws regulating hours knows that this theory is untenable.—From the *Woman Citizen*.

## NOTABLE WOMEN.

## Mary Anderson.

MISS MARY ANDERSON, Director of the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labour, is no book-taught advocate of the rights of the working woman. She was a factory worker for eighteen years, and knows more of the real conditions of labour as they affect women than any other woman who has the public ear. She is a native of Sweden, where she was born on a farm near Lidköping, one of a large family of children. When she was sixteen she came to the United States and to Ludington, Michigan, to join a sister who had emigrated some years before. Miss Anderson had had a sound primary education in Sweden, and she set to work at once to learn English from the newspapers.

When she removed to West Pullman, near Chicago, in Illinois, she understood the language well enough to obtain work under an American foreman in a boot factory, where she remained eighteen years. She completed her education at the night public schools, and became active in the labour union, being ultimately elected president of a local union of the boot and shoe workers. She remained in factory work until she was made an organiser for the National Women's Trade Union League, from which time her rise was rapid and assured. During the World War she had charge of working conditions for women in the Ordnance Department, and was assistant director of the Women's Bureau from August, 1918, to August, 1919, when President Wilson appointed her director. She was reappointed by President Harding, and has been conspicuously successful in the conduct of her office. Miss Anderson is a member of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, National Women's Trade Union League, National League of Women Voters, and the American Association for Labour Legislation.

**WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.**

Address made by Miss MARY ANDERSON,  
Director of the Women's Bureau,

At the Women in Industry Conference of the Fifth Annual Convention of the National League of Women Voters, in Buffalo, on April 24, 1924.

IN the law creating the Women's Bureau in the Department of Labor we are charged with the responsibility of formulating standards and policies for the employment of women, and are given powers of investigation to find out under what conditions women are now employed. It is, therefore, our concern to know what laws—for they are in themselves standards—were created for the safety and well-being of the women workers, and whether or not these laws have, in practice, helped or hindered wage-earning women.

Every State in this country, with the exception of Florida, has enacted at least one law which covers only women, and which ensures to those who work outside the home some measure of standardisation of the conditions under which they work. It is estimated that nearly four million are covered by such laws. The most numerous group of labour laws are those that limit the number of hours that a woman may be employed. This limitation varies from eight to eleven hours per day, but 25 out of the 43 States that have such laws limit the hours of work for women to 8, 8½, and 9 per diem. Supplementing this legislation in 19 States are laws providing that women workers must have one day of rest in seven, time to eat their lunch, and a rest period after a certain number of hours of continuous employment.

Moreover, 15 States prohibit the employment of women at night in certain occupations. Another type of law requires that women at work shall be given seats. Forty-one States have adopted this regulation. The other important group of labour laws for women is that which requires the payment of a minimum wage. Thirteen States in the Union have these laws, which establish, either by Act of the Legislature or by the action of the commissions created for this purpose, rates of pay below which women's wages may not fall.

While the laws actually cover these numbers, every woman worker, whether she work in a factory, a store, or an office, is benefited by these laws—even the woman in the home. Few laws include office workers; yet both these classes are benefited by the fact that some women's hours of work are limited. If the factory workers have short hours and shop earlier, merchants close earlier of their own accord. If all day workers must stop at the end of eight hours, an employer seldom keeps his office force longer, unless there is a real emergency. A custom of an eight-hour day becomes established in the community, and all wage-earners are helped in acquiring this standard. Moreover, the shorter work-day in store and factory means that the mother or the home-maker need not get up so early to prepare the breakfast, and can get through with her work earlier in the evening. The longer the work-day in the factory and shop, the longer the work-day for the woman in the home.

These special laws for women have been enacted over a period of almost a century, and have been passed at the request of the citizens of the country, who sought thus to correct abuses that they realised were injuring American womanhood.

The experience of the Woman's Bureau has been that the conditions under which women work are definitely better in those States that have established good legal standards than in those States where these standards are low or utterly lacking. It has not been the experience of the Bureau that these laws have kept women from obtaining employment or from advancing in their chosen fields; on the contrary, the census of 1920 shows that the number of gainfully employed women in all occupations is increasing, and that the number of women employed in the higher-paid occupations, such as the clerical group, shows a much larger percentage of increase over 1910 than do all other classes combined.

Divers inquiries all show that many different circumstances enter into the demand for the employment of women, and determine whether women keep jobs and advance; but none of them show that the restriction of the hours by law, the minimum-wage legislation, etc., have kept women from employment.

It is because we are facing facts, and not theorising, that restrictive labour legislation for women is advocated. Such legislation does not hamper the vast majority of women whom it affects. It raises their standards, as I have shown. It brings their hours more nearly the 48-hour week worked by the majority of men wage-earners. It raises their wages a bit. Women's wages are so far below men's wages that it was necessary to step in with legislative enactment in order that some justice might be done.

**MEXICO.**

The Women's Co-operative Union has appealed to all women to join in a movement to demand peace. They demand that men should cease fighting and should decide the quarrel about the Presidency at the electoral urn.

Señora doña Sofia Villa Buentillo, an eminent suffragist, speaking on behalf of the Union, has appealed to women to use to the full their influence on their menfolk to restore peace to their beautiful country.

**NEW ZEALAND.**

The Women's Christian Temperance Union is demanding that sexually degenerate men guilty of criminal assaults on children should be rendered incapable of repeating the crime. A New Zealand grand jury recently recommended legislation on these lines. At present there are in every country men so perverted that as long as they live and are at large they are a menace to children.

**Saskatchewan Farm Women.**

The Women Grain Growers' Association of Saskatchewan, under the able presidency of Mrs. Ida McNeal, take an active share in the social and political life of the community. They had a big influence in securing woman suffrage, mothers' pensions, amendments to laws affecting women and children, the provision of domestic help in rural homes, and better medical care.

**Saving Infant Life.**

The New York infant mortality rate has fallen from 144 per thousand in 1907 to 66 in 1923. The Bureau of Child Hygiene of the City of New York spends over a million dollars yearly in its protection of mothers and children. There are seventy baby health stations, with two nurses in daily attendance, and a visiting physician. First-quality milk is sold slightly below market price. Extreme care is taken in the regulation of the practising midwives.

**Women's Symphony Orchestra.**

A newly formed orchestra consisting entirely of women gave its first concert on April 3 in the Queen's Hall, London, when Dame Ethel Smyth made a plea for support on the ground that women players are excluded from most symphony orchestras.

**Women Engineers.**

The Women's Engineering Society, founded in England four years ago, has over 200 members, and held an international conference on April 3, in Manchester. Two points of special interest to women were brought forward; one was the extremely close connection of engineering with the practical problems of local administration, the other the backwardness of the application of science in saving household labour, this being due to the lack of scientific education of women.

**REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.****AUSTRIA.****Women in the Service of the Vienna Police.**

THE discussion of the question, "Women Police," in the League of Nations has caused the Austrian Council of Women and the Association for Women's Political Interests to have the co-operation of women in the Vienna police treated in a specially arranged meeting of authoritative personalities. The Vienna Police-president, Hans Schober—also internationally well known and esteemed for his former activity as a Chancellor,—was invited to have an inquiry held by the police. First it was necessary to get information as to the direction in which women are already active in the police service, and at the same time to learn what the police authorities think of the further wishes of the women. Before an overcrowded hall the Director of the Police, Dr. Bruno Schultz, spoke first, and then Police-president Schober himself.

Dr. Schultz first described the development of the police service, especially in connection with social and relief work. Then he spoke of the activity of the co-operating women, and explained what may still be expected and required of women in future. It was an excellent lecture, which attracted attention by the subtle uniting of the actual theme with his personal conception of the high ethical mission of women. The audience heard with satisfaction that of the 1,200 persons employed in the police service—not belonging to the constables and detective service—about 400 are women. Most of these women are working in the office and administrative service; still there is a considerable number who were entrusted with specific police work for which women are specially fit.

In 1898 the admission of 60 women in lower functions was begun—mostly relatives of men in the police service. To-day 17 women have already the rank of vice-directors in the offices. The Vienna police directory has organised a relief office, which development is still being worked at. In this office, which is divided into three divisions, women are now carrying out the most remarkable police work. There is first of all the Juvenile Relief Office, which has to fight against the brutalisation and neglect of children. In this office six female relief officers receive the detained children, they carry out the investigations of all these cases, they make the necessary visits to parents or relations, they carry through the communication with offices, associations, employers, etc. The second division is the Police Juvenile Home, destined to receive temporarily neglected or forsaken children until provision has been made for their being placed permanently in an educational establishment or for a safe return to the parents. Children and juveniles up to eighteen are received and attended to, and so far as possible taught by four female relief officers; above them is a female head officer. Finally, the Juvenile Relief Office has also undertaken the important task of watching the conditionally sentenced or conditionally pardoned juveniles. At present there are 56 children of this kind in Vienna, who are visited every month by a female relief officer. This officer has to care for the moral and educational development of the children.

Among the tasks of the women in the police is also the co-operation in the saving and relief of drinkers (Trinkerrettung und Fürsorge). Here work some members of abstinent organisations, voluntarily. At the Moral Police one female relief officer is working, who has to watch the morally endangered girls. This officer is assisted in her responsible work by the help of investigators, who have proved excellent, as their appearance in an establishment may be quite unobtrusive. A university woman, who has the title "Pflegekonsulentin," has taken on the relief for the morally endangered over eighteen. Besides, three women are occupied in the police prison as guardians.

Police-director Dr. Schultz desires that women should be entrusted with criminal tasks, the co-operation of women in the emigration office, the relief by women of

the families of persons arrested by the police or the law courts. The use of women lawyers in leading positions he makes dependent on the answer to the much-debated question if women may act as judges. Concerning the street service of women, the most important point of the whole problem, and the most urgent demand of women, Police-director Dr. Schultz is of opinion that women in general are not fit for it; but in closer discussion with the writer of this article it has transpired that Dr. Schultz esteems highly the activity of the so-called "police matrons," and that he would welcome this institution in Vienna.

Police-president Schober desires first of all the employment of police women physicians. On the whole, he is of opinion that women's specific ability could work even in other directions of the police service with good effect. He praised the women working in this service, and one could see from the tenor of the speech that he would not refuse admission to women police. Unhappily, Austrian women cannot at present work for an increase of women in the police service and for an extension of their activity, as the financial fetters caused by the reorganisation of the State finances enforce the greatest economy in the State. But it may be hoped that the demands of women will find realisation after the complete economic reconstruction of the country.

Vienna, 15th April, 1924.

GISELA URBAN.

**GERMANY.****Women in Politics.**

THE proceedings of the last biennial meeting of the German National Council of Women, which took place from March 17th to 19th in Mannheim (instead of Munich, as was first intended), offered a most impressive instance of the fact that the women's political and parliamentary situation is, at the bottom—notwithstanding inevitable national varieties,—about the same in all countries where they have the vote; and, further, that therefore the conclusions the women will draw from this fact must also be—and are, indeed—the same everywhere.

Of all the important and burning actual questions on the Mannheim programme (see the article in the March issue), the question of women in political life aroused the greatest interest and the liveliest and most thorough discussions. This was due not only to the impending Reichstag elections, but also to general internal conditions, the key-note of the proceedings being exactly the same as that of Miss Rathbone's excellent presidential address at the recent annual meeting of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship of Great Britain some days later: "Put not your trust in Parties."\* Experiences of the same kind as referred to by Miss Rathbone have taught also the German women "that our cause . . . cannot really be identified with any political party, since it here appeals to sympathies, and there arouses prejudices, which are independent of party, or class, or time, and lie very deep down in masculine human nature"; that we are, after many a valuable acquisition and fine progress, caught by a back-flowing wave; that we have to take up our old task of Sisyphus, and that never a strong woman's movement was more necessary than it is at present.

A significant feature of the Mannheim Convention was that, from these considerations, the proposition to turn away from pure party politics met with almost unanimous approval, and that even the idea of a new party for the furtherance of women's claims and endeavours was raised again by one of the speakers, a prominent democratic parliamentarian in a leading official position. It was not the much-discussed "Woman's Party" she had in view—that would, for obvious reasons, be a failure from the beginning,—but she wished those very claims and endeavours to be something like a nucleus to gather together all those who are striving, not only for material, but also for ideal, aims—not for party interests, but for a higher human culture.

\* *The Woman's Leader*, March 28th, 1924.

Besides such far-reaching plans for future development, the claims and tasks of the day were, especially with regard to the coming elections, accentuated emphatically from different points of view. Many of our women parliamentarians, being present, joined in complaining that the women electors were not yet equal to their duties, and often forsook them in their struggles. Other leading women pointed out that from most natural reasons this was only self-evident—the masses of women have been hitherto kept away intentionally from all politics, and have had no political interests whatever, and the small minority of social and political workers in women's organisations when entering the political arena had to accept and to follow the old, purely masculine systems and procedures, which often meant considerable difficulties and impediments for them within the parties, as well as outside of them. The more the women may wish to influence and alter the political and social conditions the more they must endeavour to get hold of these systems and procedures, and to get the mass of women acquainted with them—as Dr. Bäumer pointed out, to transform the political machinery one must learn how to handle it.

A great and difficult double task is at present before the German women voters, and the 4th of May—the election day for the Reichstag—will be a test for their political intelligence and responsibility, with regard to the percentage at the polls, as well as the number of elected women candidates. The first task is by far the easier, as the parties will give their help and do the utmost to bring all their women members to the polling box, while in the other direction less than nothing can be expected from the parties, who, on the contrary, will do their utmost to keep women out of safe places on the lists. It is to be hoped that the united efforts of the women of all parties may have some good results in this respect.

MARIE STRITT.

Dresden, 16th April.

#### The I.C.W. and the I.W.S.A.

The National Council of Women (Bund deutscher Frauenvereine) at its general meeting unanimously adopted the following recommendation sent to it by the Allgemeiner deutscher Frauenverein: "The A.D.F., as the German national section of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, urges the Bund deutscher Frauenvereine to declare in favour of the closest possible union of the I.C.W. and the I.W.S.A., and to take the necessary steps so far as the I.C.W. is concerned. The A.D.F. will do all in its power to further such union as far as the I.W.S.A. is concerned."

#### A Correction.

We greatly regret that in the report on women jurors in last month's issue the figure "77" was printed by mistake for "11." The sentence on page 103 should read: "In one large city, in 7 out of 11 cases" women jurors were vetoed.

#### British Women M.P.s.\*

This is a very valuable little guide for all who wish to be up to date in biographical and other facts concerning Britain's eight women M.P.s. The information in the eight sketches is specialised and remarkably condensed. There is no padding. A portion of each sketch is reserved for a brief biography of the woman M.P. in question, the remainder being devoted to details of her Parliamentary work.

#### Women Police.

In the House of Commons, on April 3, the Home Secretary said that the number of police forces employing women was 34, and the number employed was usually small, only London and Lancashire having more than six.

In Scotland, Glasgow recently appointed ten women for certain duties, and the Chief Constable gave a favourable report on their work, and it is now recommended that they be appointed as regular members of the police force.

\* By D. M. Northcroft (Women's Freedom League). Price 4d.

### GREAT BRITAIN. NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

#### The Annual Council Meetings.

THE annual Council meetings, which were held on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 26th, 27th, 28th, and 29th of March, were characterised by much vigour and enthusiasm. Miss Eleanor Rathbone took as the text of her presidential address, "Put not your trust in Parties." She surveyed the position of the Woman's Movement after six years of the extension of the franchise, and sounded the keynote of the Council—an anxiety, which stopped short of pessimism, as to the attitude of the Labour Government towards the reforms on the programme of the Union, in spite of the fact that the Labour Party has long been fully committed to their support. Resolutions on subjects of current interest in connection with the Bills before Parliament, some of which we give below, were passed, including several which elicited a good deal of lively discussion. One of these dealt with a proposal in connection with the Legitimacy Bill, and an amendment was carried, by three votes only, so sharp was the difference of opinion, "to except from the benefits of the Bill children whose parents were at the time of their birth legally unable to marry." Two resolutions are of special interest because they affect the future policy of the National Union in some degree. One of these extended the object of the Union, which is now as follows:—

"To obtain all such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women, and also such reforms as are necessary to make it possible for women adequately to discharge their functions as citizens";

and the other removed Proportional Representation from the general programme of the Union by a narrow majority.

Perhaps the most noticeable feature of the Council was the increased share in its proceedings which was taken by delegates from the societies, and as usual the actual work done was not the sole business of the week. The National Union is a political though a non-party organisation; it holds its Councils in London while Parliament is sitting, and delegates took the opportunity to interview their members and feast their eyes on the sight of several women members seated in the historic Chamber. Several deputations in which delegates took part took place during the week, including the deputation to the Home Office, where Miss Tancred represented the Union, and a deputation to the Scottish Office. Other delegates, by the kind invitation of Lady Astor, attended the conference on Juvenile Employment, held at her house in St. James's Square.

#### The Social Events of the Council.

The Council is a period of solid work with little distraction of a frivolous character. The week was, however, enlivened by two social events, both of which indirectly at least combined business with pleasure. At the annual public luncheon, at which Miss Eleanor Rathbone presided, the guests of honour were Mrs. Henry Fawcett, J.P., LL.D., Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., the first woman member of a Government; Lord Askwith, who had given distinguished help to the Union during the year in the House of Lords; Mr. W. M. Adamson, M.P., who is in charge of the Equal Franchise Bill on which so many hopes are centred; Lady Terrington, M.P., Lady Astor, M.P., and Mrs. Wintringham, M.P. Chief guests of honour on previous occasions were also present, and it was generally felt that a National Union luncheon without the first woman members would be lacking in interest. Short speeches from our beloved Mrs. Fawcett, from Miss Bondfield, Lady Astor, Lord Askwith, and Mr. Adamson not only possessed the humour and lightness appropriate to the occasion, but sent their hearers away inspired for further efforts for the Women's Cause.

The Reception at Bedford College was of an international character, and the chief guests were Mrs. Corbett Ashby, president of the I.W.S.A., and Miss Manus, of Amsterdam, who was fortunately in London

## SECTION FRANÇAISE.

### NOUVELLES FÉMINISTES.

#### Grande-Bretagne.

#### Union Nationale des Sociétés pour l'Égalité des Citoyens.

Les meetings annuels du Comité.—La vigueur et l'enthousiasme ont caractérisé les meetings de cette année, qui ont lieu les 26, 27, 28, et 29 mars. Miss Rathbone a pris pour texte de son discours présidentiel: "Ne mettez pas votre confiance dans les partis." Elle résuma la situation féministe après six ans de suffrage: "Une anxiété proche du pessimisme, en ce qui concerne les promesses du gouvernement socialiste." Parmi les résolutions votées, deux sont d'un intérêt spécial parce qu'elles précisaient le but et l'avenir de l'Union. 1°. L'Union a pour objet d'obtenir toutes les réformes assurant une égalité réelle des hommes et des femmes relativement aux libertés, statuts et opportunités sociales et politiques qui leur permettent d'accomplir leur œuvre de citoyens. 2°. Suppression de la représentation proportionnelle dans le programme général de l'Union.

D'autres résolutions furent votées sur les projets de loi en discussion au Parlement; en particulier sur la loi de légitimation.

L'Union Nationale est une union politique, mais n'est pas un groupe de parti; elle tient ses séances à Londres pendant que le Parlement siège. Les déléguées, venues cette fois en grand nombre, virent leurs députées en séance du parlement; d'autres assistèrent à une conférence chez Lady Astor, sur le travail des enfants; enfin, deux déléguations furent reçues au Ministère de l'Intérieur et à l'Office écossais.

Au lunch public annuel, présidé par Miss Rathbone, les invitées d'honneur furent Mrs. Fawcett, Lord Askwith, Mr. Adamson, et les députées, Lady Terrington, Lady Astor, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Mrs. Wintringham. Une réception internationale eut lieu à Bedford College; les invitées d'honneur furent Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Présidente de L'Alliance internationale, et Mlle. Manus, d'Amsterdam.

L'Exposition du British Empire.—Le Comité des Colonies britanniques aura un pavillon à l'Exposition de Wembley. L'Union Nationale, la Ligue pour la Liberté des Femmes, l'Alliance Sainte-Jeanne y enverront des déléguées confédérées chaque mercredi. De plus, l'Union Nationale recevra à son siège social, 15, Dean's Yard, près de Westminster, les membres des sociétés étrangères.

Au Parlement.—Peu de progrès ce mois-ci. Le projet de loi pour l'égalité politique des deux sexes est toujours en suspens. La réforme relative à l'égalité des droits de tutelle, présentée par Mrs. Wintringham, a passé en seconde lecture.—Le gouvernement a présenté une proposition de loi donnant des droits égaux sur les enfants en cas de séparation légale, mais non quand les époux vivent ensemble; il donne à la mère les mêmes droits de tutelle qu'au père.

Comité d'enquête sur le travail des femmes dans la police.—Cette enquête a été faite par le Ministère de l'Intérieur. Deux femmes: Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan, de l'"Army Corps," et Mrs. Barton, sont du Comité. Un rapport favorable encouragera les municipalités timides à nommer des policewomen. Le nombre des policewomen employées actuellement est de 34. Glasgow a nommé dernièrement dix femmes et le chef de la police a fait sur elles un rapport très favorable.

#### Afrique du Sud.

La dissolution du Parlement a arrêté le projet de loi suffragiste qui avait passé en seconde lecture; tout est à recommencer.

Les femmes prennent aujourd'hui un intérêt spécial au bien-être des indigènes et ont créé de nombreuses œuvres de protection.

Il y a de grandes chances de bénéfices pour les fermières qui veulent venir, avec un petit capital, s'installer dans les régions fertiles.

#### Indes.

Les premières femmes magistrats.—Quatre femmes ont été nommées magistrats dans la ville de Bombay. D'autre part, Trichinopoly et Tanjore, deux villes d'ancienne civilisation et centres de l'orthodoxie hindoue ont chacune reçu une femme dans leur conseil municipal. Une femme a aussi été admise au syndicat de l'Université de Madras.—A Madras, l'Association des femmes a tenu un meeting pour demander au gouvernement des Indes et au Secrétaire d'Etat de réviser les dispositions du Reform Act qui ferment aux femmes l'entrée des Conseils Impériaux et législatifs. Cette résolution a été présentée au Gouverneur de Madras, qui, tout en déclarant qu'il recevait pour la première fois une députation de femmes, promit de consulter son Cabinet et de présenter la requête au Vice-Roi avec sa recommandation.

#### Etats-Unis.

Ligue Nationale des femmes électeurs.—Les femmes réclament l'interdiction du travail des enfants.—Après le rapport de la Commission Judiciaire de la Chambre des Représentants, la Commission Judiciaire du Sénat a proposé un amendement à la Constitution fédérale, donnant au Congrès le pouvoir de réglementer ou de prohiber dans tous les Etats l'emploi de personnes au dessous de 18 ans. Les discussions de la Commission étant publiques, 16 organisations féministes constituant le "Comité des Femmes," s'étaient fait représenter par leur Présidente, Miss Mary Stewart, qui fit une déclaration précise et brève; Miss Grace Abbott, chef du "Bureau pour les enfants," donna des renseignements si lumineux qu'un membre la déclara, "l'avocat le plus habile qui ait paru ici." L'amendement est soutenu par la Fédération américaine du Travail. Le seul opposant fut le Conseil de l'Association nationale des Manufacturiers.—On découvrit que dans les pénitenciers de la Caroline du Nord la limite du travail masculin est de 8 heures par jour, tandis que celle du travail des femmes et des enfants est de 10 heures.

Ecoles politiques pour les femmes.—La Ligue des femmes électeurs du Minnesota, en coopération avec le "State Teachers' College" (Ecole Normale), organise des Instituts de politique qui se multiplieront jusqu'à ce qu'il y en ait dans tous les Etats. Un sujet d'un intérêt spécial est la réorganisation du gouvernement. Il est prouvé qu'il y a de 19 à 100 branches d'administration différentes et aucune réglementation générale du personnel, droits, devoirs ou comptabilité.

Les femmes dans les fonctions publiques.—Dans le Wisconsin, aucune femme n'était admise dans le service d'état jusqu'en 1922; aujourd'hui il y en a plus de 300. Dans le Massachusetts, la Commission du Civil Service annonce que, de ce jour, tous les examens seront ouverts aux femmes.

Le travail de nuit.—La Suprême Cour des Etats-Unis a soutenu la loi prohibant l'emploi des femmes dans les restaurants des villes entre 10 heures du soir et 6 heures du matin.

La décroissance du Lynchage.—Le Chiffre le plus bas a été atteint en 1923 et ce résultat est dû aux efforts considérables des groupes féminins des Etats du Sud pour améliorer les rapports de race.

Les femmes dans l'industrie.—Tous les Etats, sauf la Floride, ont voté des lois de protection pour l'ouvrière. Quatre millions de femmes environ sont protégées par

ces lois. La limitation des heures de travail des femmes varie de 8 à 11 heures par jour. Dans 19 Etats, les lois obligent au repos hebdomadaire et précisent le temps du lunch et du repos. 15 Etats prohibent le travail de nuit, 41 Etats obligent à fournir des sièges aux vendeuses. 13 Etats précisent le minimum de salaire. En outre, les statistiques du "Bureau pour les femmes" montrent que le nombre des femmes mieux payées, et celui des femmes occupant des postes supérieurs augmentent.

#### Amérique du Sud.

Melle. Manus, à la réception de Bedford College, fit un discours sur la situation politique des femmes dans l'Amérique du Sud. Dans beaucoup d'Etats les femmes remplissent des fonctions importantes; elles sont docteurs, magistrats, etc.; et cependant la plupart des femmes ont perdu tous leurs droits civils en se mariant. Elle rappela que la visite de Mrs. Catt au Brésil a amené la formation d'une Société suffragiste et son affiliation à l'Alliance internationale.

#### Autriche.

*Les femmes dans le service de la police de Vienne.*—Le Directeur de la police de Vienne, dans un discours à la Société des Nations, a montré que des 1,200 personnes employées à la police de Vienne, 400 étaient des femmes; 17 sont Vice-directeurs d'Offices. En outre, la direction de la police viennoise a organisé un office des secours. Dans la première division, 6 femmes sont chargées de recevoir les enfants détenus et de faire les enquêtes; dans la deuxième, 5 femmes dont une "Head Officer" reçoivent les enfants perdus ou abandonnés; dans la troisième, une femme, officier de secours, visite 56 enfants placés sous la surveillance de la police.

Il y a aussi des femmes dans la police des mœurs, dans la police contre l'alcoolisme et dans la police des prisons.

#### Allemagne.

Le meeting biennal du Conseil national des femmes Allemandes a eu lieu du 17 au 19 mars à Mannheim. La

résolution principale fut de tenir le parti féminin en dehors et au dessus des partis. Ce parti féminin aura uniquement pour objet la réalisation des besoins et des buts féminins, buts moraux aussi bien que matériels. Au dessus des intérêts des partis, elles travailleront à la plus haute culture humaine. En attendant, beaucoup de députées présentes se plaignirent que les femmes électeurs ne fussent pas encore à la hauteur de leur tâche. —Le 4 mai, jour d'élection pour le Reichstag, les membres du Conseil national travailleront à amener le plus de femmes possible au scrutin.

#### Pologne.

*Le jour des travailleuses.*—Le 23 mars, une splendide manifestation fut faite par les travailleuses de Pologne. Long cortège des différentes sociétés féminines avec leurs bannières, tribunes dressées au coin des rues, salles de réunion débordantes. L'héroïne socialiste, Sénateur Boleslaus Limanowski, présida et le siège d'honneur fut donné à une autre doyenne de la lutte polonaise, Marya Paszkowska, qui, aux jours sombres de la captivité, fit échapper des prisonniers de Sibérie et sauva les enfants des proscrits. Les oratrices rappelèrent au public combien la nation doit aux femmes patriotes qui ont maintenu l'amour du pays dans le cœur des petits Polonais en leur enseignant, dans des écoles cachées, le langage et l'histoire de la Pologne. Quand le pays recouvra son indépendance, les femmes obtinrent sans effort, grâce à la reconnaissance des patriotes, le droit de voter et de siéger comme membres de la Diète et du Sénat et ces femmes luttent maintenant pour les droits de leurs sœurs. Ce sont elles qui ont, par leur insistance, obtenu une loi pour la protection du travail des femmes et des enfants. Mais il reste beaucoup à faire et cette démonstration avait pour but d'amener les travailleuses à s'organiser pour améliorer leur situation matérielle et intellectuelle.

#### Turquie.

Les femmes ne sont pas encore affranchies, mais une campagne très active est menée dans le pays.

at the time, and their speeches certainly roused the delegates to greater interest in the work of the Alliance.

#### The British Empire Exhibition

The Overseas Committee of the I.W.S.A. is organising a pavilion at Wembley during the British Empire Exhibition, with which the National Union is co-operating with the Women's Freedom League and St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, and has undertaken to send representatives to be in charge every Wednesday, when it is proposed to hold informal weekly conferences on subjects related to the reforms on the programme of the Union. In addition to this, the officers and Executive Committee propose to arrange definite times when they will be at home at the Headquarters Office, 15, Dean's Yard, to receive visitors from overseas and other parts of the country. All members of auxiliaries in other countries who are in London during the period of the Exhibition are invited not only to visit the pavilion, but also our delightful Headquarters, under the shadow of Westminster Abbey, and almost within a stone's-throw of the Houses of Parliament and the river.

#### Parliamentary.

There is this month little progress to record. The Bill providing equal franchise for men and women is still awaiting consideration by a Committee of the House of Commons, its progress having been delayed owing to the contentious nature of a Bill which, having received its second reading earlier, had to be considered first by the same Committee. Rumour has it that the clauses dealing with matters other than women's franchise are to be dropped, which should ensure rapid progress once it comes before the Committee. The outstanding event with regard to the reforms on our programme has been the debate on the second reading of Mrs. Wintringham's Guardianship of Infants Bill on April 4, and the announcement of the Government's intentions with regard to it. Her Bill, drafted by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, had a really wonderful reception. In the course of a long debate only two speeches were made against the Bill, and at the end there was no need for a division, only one dissentient voice being heard. Mrs. Wintringham contributed a fine speech, and four of the other women M.P.s also spoke. The upshot of it all is that the Government has introduced a Bill of its own, but it is limited in extent, and negotiations which have since taken place have succeeded in making it only a little wider. Briefly, the Government proposals will give absolute equality in the law between mothers and fathers in cases which can now come before the Courts—i.e., chiefly in cases of separated couples—but give no fresh right of application to the Courts with regard to disputes when couples are living together, and do little to raise the status of the mother. They enable a wife to obtain an order for custody and maintenance when still living with her husband, but do not provide for orders being enforced until she has left him. They give to a mother equal rights with a father to appoint guardians for the children after death. It is no good denying that this proposed measure comes as a disappointment; it gives much less than equal rights and responsibilities between men and women. But it has the outstanding merit that it will, humanly speaking, be sure to reach the Statute Book, whereas Mrs. Wintringham's Bill with no Government facilities comes too late in the session to have any chance.

#### Committee of Inquiry into Work of Women Police.

The Home Office has set up a Committee to inquire into the work of those women police who have been taken on by local authorities. Two women, Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, late chief administrator of the Queen Mary's Auxiliary Army Corps, and Mrs. Barton, assistant secretary of the Women's Co-operative Guild, have been appointed. A favourable report—and we are confident that the report will be favourable—is bound to encourage nervous local authorities to include women in their police force.

## INDIA.

### First Women Magistrates.

FOUR women have been nominated honorary magistrates in the City of Bombay by the Government. They are Lady Cowasji Jehangir, Lady Jagmohandas Varjiandas, Dilshad Begum, and Mrs. H. Hodgkinson. The last-named is also one of the elected municipal women councillors of Bombay City. Bombay has appointed a woman from each of the outstanding communities. Mrs. Cousins was appointed a year ago, and was the first woman magistrate in India.

### Women on Madras Municipal Councils.

Trichinopoly and Tanjore, two cities of great culture in the past, and at present centres of Hindu orthodoxy, have each placed a woman on their municipal council—viz., Mrs. Gnana Dorai, M.A., and Mrs. Razak. A woman is also for the first time on the syndicate of Madras University—viz., Shrimati Radabhai, B.A.

### Women Claim Entrance to the Legislatures.

Madras women are demanding the removal of the bar to their entrance to the Legislative Councils. The Women's Association held a meeting, addressed by Mrs. Rama Rao, M.A.; Miss Mahadeva Shastri, Mrs. Gauri Anisnal, M.A.; Mrs. Gaupat Rai, Miss McDougall, and others. The following resolution was passed: "This meeting requests the Government of India and the Secretary of State to revise the rules of the Reform Act which disqualify women from membership of the Legislative and Imperial Councils, and to amend them in such a manner as will enable women to become members of the Councils."

This resolution was presented by a deputation of women to the Governor of Madras, who declared that it was the first time he had ever been approached by a women's deputation, and who promised to consult his Cabinet and forward the resolution to the Viceroy with his individual recommendation. In his non-official conversation with the members of the deputation he showed keen interest in the advancement of women, and his appreciation of women's aspirations and their powers of public usefulness.

STRI DHARMA.

## POLAND.

### The Women Workers' Day.

ON the 23rd March a splendid manifestation was made by the women workers of Poland, in Warsaw. A huge procession paraded the streets, bearing flags of different women's organisations. Tribunes were erected at street corners, from which women speakers addressed the public. Several large halls were filled to overflowing by so many women that the masculine sympathisers had to content themselves with forming a spallier in the street to let the speakers pass. The veteran Socialist hero, Senator Boleslaus Limanowski, was chairman, and the seat of honour was offered to and accepted by another veteran of the Polish struggle for independence, Marya Paszkowska, who was universally acclaimed when she took her seat. The honour was indeed due to her. In the darkest days of Poland's captivity she was an intrepid and unflagging soldier. Thanks to her efforts, many a victim escaped from prison or Siberia. She took care of the children of political prisoners who were either in prison or exile, and saved them from ruin physically and morally. Her gift for collecting money for these purposes was quite extraordinary, and Marya and her collector's box was a well-known figure in the streets and cafés of Cracow, where Poles enjoyed more liberty and could contribute money to help the starving children of political prisoners without fear of being arrested.

On the occasion of the women workers' celebration the speakers reminded their audience how much the nation owes to the women patriots who kept up the love of their country in their children's hearts, who at imminent personal risk taught in secret schools the children of the nation to read and write their own language and the history of their land. When Poland regained her inde-

pendence, mindful of the services they had rendered, women obtained without a struggle the right to vote and to sit as members of the Diet and Senate, and these members fight valiantly now for the rights of their sisters. It is they who have by their energy and insistence succeeded in getting a new Bill passed for the protection of women's and children's work. On local boards, and in the Ministry of Work, Polish women are active in calling for measures to ameliorate the conditions of working women, and altogether in political and social life the women of Poland play an important and active part. Every Government board has women employees occupying responsible posts, and their efficiency and conscientiousness is universally accorded. Nevertheless, the women-pioneers feel that the mass of the nation is still not sufficiently conscious of the amount of work still to be done before the position of women becomes such as it ought to be, before the conditions of work are fitting, and before women who bear more than their share of social labours, since they have the double duties of household labour and of bread-winning, as one of the speakers, Dr. Budzinska-Tylicka, reminded her hearers, are fittingly cared for and suitably remunerated. Therefore the object of the women's demonstration was to draw in as many women as possible to organise themselves and to carry on the work of enlightenment and education.

In any case, the organisers of the first women-workers' day in Poland had reason to be proud of their success. The proceedings concluded with music, performed in a highly satisfactory fashion.

KATHERINE MALECKA.

### SOUTH AFRICA.

#### WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

##### The Turn of the Tide.

By Miss JOHNSTONE SCOTT,  
Parliamentary Secretary, W.E.A.U.

ON Friday, February 15th, the House of Assembly debated once again the Second Reading of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill. Last year the Bill was defeated by a majority of one; this year it has been carried by a majority of 6. The House was challenged to vote for or reject a great principle—to say, in fact, whether it would continue to inflict upon the women of South Africa an international stigma. Hitherto, the men of South Africa have held the women to be unfit for the vote; they have at last, though tardily, reversed this opinion, thereby saving their reputation in the eyes of the civilised world. For the first time in the history of the suffrage movement in South Africa—33 years—a division on the Second Reading has been carried.

The motion for the adjournment was defeated by 59 votes to 43. Immediately after this the main question was put and carried by 54 votes to 48. In 1923 twenty of the South African Party members voted against the Bill; some of the conversions are not complete, however. Certain members agreed to vote for the Second Reading only on the express condition that the Bill was referred to a Select Committee. This policy was, therefore, indicated in the mover's opening speech.

Now comes the most critical point of this long struggle. By common consent, and because the special circumstances of South Africa make the details of the measure somewhat intricate, the Bill has been referred to a Select Committee, with instructions to report before March 28th. The time limit is satisfactory, because it makes it possible for the Bill as amended in Select Committee to pass through all its stages this session, provided the Committee is able to bring forward a solution which the House can agree upon. So far Parliament has never given serious thought to the question of Women's Enfranchisement; now, for the first time, the responsibility of giving real thought and consideration to the matter has been deputed to a specially chosen Committee. The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Duncan), Colonel Creswell, General Byron, Mr. Marwick, Mr. Geldenhuys, and Advocate Stuart are well-known suffrage supporters; the

three remaining members represent the Nationalist Party and are anti-suffrage in their view—they are Messrs. de Waal, Hugo, and Smit.

It may be well to briefly review the exact position of the Women's Suffrage movement, so that those who are extreme optimists may realise that there are still great obstacles to be overcome before final victory is achieved.

Since Union the principle of Women's Suffrage has been affirmed three times—by the Senate in 1918, by the Assembly in 1919 and 1920, the majority in 1919 being 2 and in 1920 27. Private Members' Bills have been introduced into the Assembly on five separate occasions—in 1914 by Mr. Wyndham, in 1920 by Mr. Brown, in 1921-22 by Mr. Feetham, in 1923 and 1924 by General Byron. A division on the Second Reading was reached in 1922 and 1923; in both cases this was lost by 3 votes and by 1 vote, respectively. The Bills all sought to enfranchise women on the same terms as men; the actual form of words used differed in 1914, 1920, and 1921. The Bill of 1921 has been reintroduced during the three following years. The position which we now have to face is that the House seems absolutely determined not to pass any Bill which asks for the vote on the same terms as men. The objections raised are that under the existing franchise laws a certain number of non-European women in Cape Province would become enfranchised; there is an immovable prejudice in the Northern Provinces against any extension of the coloured franchise, however small, even though it would only affect the Cape and not the other three Provinces. There is a further objection that in the Transvaal and Orange Free State every European woman over 21 would have a vote, whilst in Cape Province and Natal, where an earning and property qualification exists, the number of women enfranchised would be considerably less. Also owing to these qualifications a position would arise by which a coloured woman would be able to qualify as a voter, whilst a daughter of well-to-do parents, living at home and not earning a salary, would remain unenfranchised. This position, of course, exists now in regard to the coloured male voter, but in the eyes of the Honourable Members this is not an anomaly, but it would become so if coloured women became voters!

The Prime Minister, in his carefully considered speech, said that it must be left to the Select Committee to decide what the qualifications for women should be in all four provinces. He went on to say that:—

"Historically, seeing what South African women had done in the past, the vote could not be denied them. But the difficulty in the way was the position of the coloured women of the Cape—the question of the coloured vote. They should, however, not do an injustice to all the white women of the country merely because of that difficulty.

"There were many people who argued that women in South Africa should not be given the vote until the native question had been solved. He feared that that was asking too much. He asked members to consider this question very carefully, and not do an injustice.

"I would," proceeded General Smutts, "take the bold step of inaugurating uniform franchise for the whole of South Africa, but the practical difficulties in the way are well-nigh insurmountable. Whoever read Clause 35 of the Constitution would see that that was framed in such a way that it would be nearly impossible to lay down uniform legislation for the whole of the Union.

"So far as men were concerned, the Constitution did not only refer to people who actually had the franchise, but to people who would eventually get it. In regard to women, they were on an entirely different footing. Nowhere did they possess the vote, and they, therefore, had a clean slate.

"Let uniform laws be laid down, and although they would not be able to exclude the native women of the Cape Province from these rights, still they could formulate those laws in such a way as to prevent too large a number of them getting the vote—those, namely, who were incapable of judging of the importance of public matters of the day, and therefore unfit for exercising a certain amount of influence in this connection. Giving this kind of native woman the right of putting weight in

the scale would expose the country to a very grave danger indeed."

In some quarters there was a feeling that the one party or the other would gain great advantages by adoption of the franchise for women, but in all the countries where it had been introduced it was proved that no material change in this regard ensued. General Smuts instanced New Zealand, which, like South Africa, was largely populated by a rural community, and it was a matter of experience that the women of the rural districts went to the poll in as great numbers as those of the towns.

It was, therefore, unfounded to state that in our case the women of the veldt would abstain from voting and leave those of the towns to turn the balance in the direction they desired.

General Hertzog (Smithfield) said he regarded the Prime Minister's remarks as being of the greatest importance. So far as he (General Hertzog) was concerned, he had not the slightest objection to the vote being given to the white women of South Africa.

The interpretation placed upon the Prime Minister's speech in Parliamentary circles is that an entirely new qualification should be laid down for all women, and that this should be some form of educational test. Possibly the Prime Minister has in mind the Rhodesian qualification. By Ordinance 14, 1912, the franchise qualifications in that country were raised—wage qualification from £50 to £100, and property from £75 to £150. In addition to this a higher educational test was imposed, by which a prospective voter might be required to write a dictation test of 50 words in the English language. If the ultimate decision arrived at was that a new qualification for all women was desirable, the difficulty would be to find something which the various political parties could agree upon.

The Labour Party would oppose, as undemocratic, a property qualification, or high wage-earning qualification. The Nationalists, as a party, would oppose any qualification which did not exclude the coloured women in Cape Province. Some members of the South African Party would also take this line. On the whole, therefore, a civilisation test, in the form of an educational test, seems to be the qualification which would be likely to secure the greatest measure of support from all parties, and would automatically overcome the supreme difficulty of the uneducated coloured vote. It is interesting to recall that in Cape Province the wage-earning and property qualifications were raised in 1892 to the amount at which they now stand—namely, £50 per annum, or £75 occupation of property. The educational test was also added, with the deliberate intention of restricting the number of native and coloured voters. A further safeguard was introduced two years later. It was provided in the Glen Grey Act, 1894, that individual tenure of location allotments granted to natives under that Act should be deemed to be communal tenure for the purpose of franchise laws, and that the value of land held or occupied under such tenure should therefore not be reckoned for the purpose of the holder's franchise qualification.

The appointment of the Select Committee has an interesting parallel in the history of the English Suffrage Movement. In 1916 the whole question of the Parliamentary register and the qualifications for voting in Great Britain were referred to a non-party conference consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament, presided over by the Speaker of the House of Commons. He said, after reciting the difficulties of the situation: "It is our duty, one and all, to set ourselves to find a solution which will be a lasting settlement of a very old and difficult problem." It was an illustration of the intense strength and the vitality of the Suffrage Movement that, though the Conference was proposed by an anti-suffragist, supported by another, and presided over by a third (the Speaker), yet as a result of its deliberations some measure of women's enfranchisement was recommended by a large majority of its members. So having regard to this past episode, we have no doubt some justification for optimism in the appointment of our Select

Committee—only "let it be an optimism accompanied by alertness, ever watchful and vigilant."

Mrs. Fawcett, in her "History of the Suffrage Movement in Great Britain," refers to the age limit imposed upon women under the Act of 1918: "The thirty-years age limit for women was quite indefensible logically, but it was practically convenient in getting rid of a bogey whose unreality a few years' experience would probably prove by demonstration." She goes on to say: "We remembered Disraeli's dictum, 'England is not governed by logic but by Parliament.' What is true of one country in this respect is undoubtedly true of other countries. Norway adopted a similar method regarding women voters; it lasted six years, after which they were granted equal franchise with men." We have, therefore, definite examples from other countries where a qualification has been accepted in the first instance because it has been the obvious way to get the principle of women's enfranchisement established; once established, limitations gradually diminish and finally disappear altogether, and are as though they had never been.

### SOUTH AMERICA.

MISS MANUS, in a speech she made at the Reception given at Bedford College by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship (the British Auxiliary) made some most interesting references to the position of women in South America. In recalling her visit there with Mrs. Catt last winter, she told of their experiences in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay, and brought out very clearly some of the curious anomalies which exist there. In most of the South American states there are women who hold important positions as women lawyers, doctors, etc., side by side with women for whom marriage seems to mean extinction as far as civil rights are concerned. Our readers will perhaps remember that one outcome of Mrs. Catt's visit to Brazil was the formation and affiliation to the Alliance of a Suffrage Society, the secretary of which is Miss Bertha Lutz, who represented the Brazilian Government at the Rome Congress, and holds the important Government post of secretary to the National Museum, which she gained as the result of a triumph in a competitive examination, in which she competed against many men, all the previous holders of the office having been men.

Headquarters has recently received an interesting communication from Peru, a state where suffrage organisation does not yet exist, though there, too, there are many brilliant women holding important positions as lawyers, etc. Our correspondent says that the word "suffrage" still excites terror in Peru, and that the Alliance cannot yet hope to secure an auxiliary there. There are, however, two women's organisations which carry on propaganda among women—the Liga Peruana de Laboradoras Pacifistas, and La Legion pro Cultura Feminista."

### EFFORT TO AMEND NIGHT-WORK LAW DEFEATED.

The bill to amend the night-work law enacted last year has met with decisive defeat. This bill, which gained but three affirmative votes in the Senate, would have made it possible for the Commissioner of Labor to permit women in certain industries to work between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., if he felt sure that their health and morals would not be endangered.—*Hackensack Record*, March 4, 1924.

### WOMEN'S INFLUENCE DECREASES LYNCHING.

1923 shows the lowest number of lynchings yet recorded in the United States, and this is attributed to the strenuous efforts of groups of women in the Southern States to improve race relations. It is hoped that this stain on America will soon be wiped out altogether, and that violence will give place to law.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.  
NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS.  
Women Demand Prohibition of Child Labour.

THE Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives has reported to the House, and the Senate Judiciary Committee has voted to report to the Senate, the proposed amendment to the Federal Constitution giving to the Congress power to regulate and prohibit in all the States the employment of persons under eighteen years of age. Advocates of the measure are hopeful that the necessary two-thirds majority vote in both Houses will be obtained before the session of the Congress adjourns.

The hearings before the House Committee were especially interesting. Congressional Committee hearings are open to the public, and persons who wish to be heard either in support or in opposition to a measure, whether they be acting for themselves as citizens or in behalf of a business, professional, or welfare organisation, are commonly given ample opportunity to present their views. The committee sits as a board of inquiry, and the proceedings are by custom informal to a degree, the chairman seldom rebuking a speaker, and individual members of the committee entering on occasion into something like debate with the person addressing the body.

The House Committee gave ten hearings on the proposed amendment, each hearing beginning at ten o'clock in the morning and ending at about noon, when the two Houses of the Congress convene.

Miss Grace Abbott, chief of the Children's Bureau, appeared at all the hearings and gave testimony less as an advocate of the measure than as a person possessed of special knowledge of the subject who could furnish a fact basis on which to proceed. The statement by a committee member that she was "perhaps the ablest advocate that has appeared here for the amendment" expresses but a slight degree of the adoration hearers felt for her unvarying accuracy, her unending patience under questioning, her remarkable grasp of the whole subject of child labour, not only in the United States, but in other countries, and the simplicity and directness of her statement.

The advocates of the amendment included sixteen national organisations of women—American Association of University Women, American Federation of Teachers, American Home Economics Association, General Federation of Women's Clubs, Girls' Friendly Society of America, National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, National Consumers' League, National Council of Jewish Women, National Council of Women, National Educational Association, National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, National League of Women Voters, National Women's Christian Temperance Union, National Women's Trade Union League, National Board of Young Women's Christian Association, and Service Star Legion. These organisations make up the Women's Committee for a Child Labour Amendment, and were represented by its chairman, Miss Mary Stewart, of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, who presented the viewpoint of women briefly and clearly.

Mrs. Harriet Taylor Upton, vice-chairman of the National Executive Committee of the Republican Party, told the committee that in travelling ten thousand miles in the various States she had found women everywhere in favour of the amendment.

Mrs. Emily Newell Blair, vice-chairman of the Democratic National Committee, who was unable to appear in person, sent a letter strongly advocating the adoption of the resolution for the amendment. The amendment has the endorsement of the American Federation of Labour also.

The principal opposition speaker was James A. Emery, general counsel of the National Association of Manufacturers of the United States, representing manufacturing interests in twenty-seven States. North Carolina objected through representatives of the Child Welfare Commission of the State and the State Board of Health. It was brought out in the inquiry that, in North Carolina, inmates of the State penitentiary are limited to an eight-hour work day, but that by law the work day for women and children is ten hours, or sixty hours in the week.

Objection to the proposed amendment was made chiefly on the grounds that the matter should be left to the individual States.

Since the Congress has passed two laws intended to abolish child labour, supporters of the amendment confined themselves for the most part to showing that since the intention of the Congress has been expressed in those two laws, both of which the Supreme Court has found unconstitutional, a situation exists in which, in accordance with Article V. of the Federal Constitution, the Congress may properly "deem it necessary" to propose an amendment.

Women's School of Politics.

The Minnesota League of Women Voters, in co-operation with the State Teachers' College, is conducting a series of institutes of government and politics which will not be concluded until each congressional district in the State has had its school.

A subject of special State interest is the reorganisation of the State government. The Legislature of 1923 created an interim committee to study the matter after the session ended and to report with recommendations not later than the 1st of May, 1924. Mrs. F. W. Wittich, chairman of the Department of Efficiency in Government of the Minnesota League of Women Voters, attended the hearings of this committee, which were addressed by the heads of the many administrative Departments of the State, and has drawn up an outline for round-table discussion at the League schools, with a forecast of the committee's probable report.

Facts brought out at the hearings are that there are between ninety and one hundred different administrative departments, and that there is no standardisation of personnel, duties, powers, or finance. Fifty-two departments are wholly appointive, and there is throughout the State government, as in the government of many other States, a great amount of overlapping, duplication, and unnecessary expense. The long ballot is used, and 213 State officials, including those of the legislative and the judicial branches, are voted for.

It is believed that as a result of the new interest of women in State government the governments of many States will be simplified and made more efficient. Minnesota women hope that recommendations to this end will be reported by the interim committee. The matter is expected to be a prominent issue in the autumn political campaign.

Women in Public Office.

A survey lately made in the State of Wisconsin shows that not fewer than three hundred women are holding public offices, and effectively disproves a statement recently made by a well-known writer that the "fashion" of electing women to office is passing. It indicates also that women are more and more seeing the wisdom of following the general custom of men and serving in smaller positions before they offer themselves for the more important offices.

In the State election of 1922 no woman candidate for national or State office was elected in Wisconsin; but the three hundred women successful in their candidacy for county, city, town, and village offices have given general satisfaction, and have "blazed a trail" for other women in the elections of this year.

Wisconsin has now one woman district attorney, three county clerks, three county treasurers, two registrars of deeds, two county clerks, and thirty-three county superintendents of schools. There is no woman sheriff, but the village of Marathon has a woman constable. One city, Crandon, has a woman mayor, Lulu Shaw; and one town, a woman auditor. Women are city treasurers in seven cities. There are five women city clerks, ten village clerks, twenty-four village clerks, one city councilwoman, six alderwomen, seven village trustees, five justices of the peace, two assessors, and enough women in other offices to make up the figure announced.

(Continued from page 127.)

There is not a dull page in it, and though it challenges criticism, and will no doubt rouse opposition, few will deny that it is a great contribution to social economy and to feminism. M. S.

THE DISINHERITED FAMILY.  
A PLEA FOR THE ENDOWMENT OF  
THE FAMILY.\*

By ELEANOR RATHBONE.

THE theory so brilliantly set forth in this remarkable book may open a new chapter in feminism. Its author candidly avows that she and her friends have cherished and worked at the principles it embodies for many years, but until women's political rights were safely gained they did not risk prejudicing the suffrage cause by economic claims that would rouse strong antipathy and reinforce political opposition.

The book shows the position of the wage-earner's family as it has developed since the factory system and since child-protection laws. Formerly, even the youngest children, even babies of three, worked and earned. Legislation during the last eighty years has progressively limited children's paid labour, and insisted on prolonged years of schooling and on a steadily rising standard of nurture, until the strain on the working-class wage, and above all on the working mother, has reached breaking-point.

No trade-union demands for a "living wage" succeed in meeting the case, nor, in the author's view, can the productivity of industry afford to pay to all wage-earners, married and single, male and female, a wage sufficient to provide satisfactorily for dependent children, a wage which would in the case of the large proportion of bachelor and childless workers be a luxury wage. The present system is supposed to provide for a "standard" or "normal" family of three children, and the author shows with ample and convincing statistics what an unreality this typical family is.

An indication of the right method and its excellent results was given by the war-time allowances, which were proportioned to the number of actual children, and led to a marvellous improvement in family conditions.

The author is able to illustrate these points from her wealth of practical experience in administering these allowances. This theory of family allowances has been the subject of interesting, fruitful experiments in France, Germany, Belgium, and Holland; and Australia, after elaborate inquiries, seems to be embarking on a similar policy. In France about half the industrial wage-earners are in receipt of family allowances paid by a "pool" of employers' contributions, and although the trade unions have shown some opposition to the scheme as being a weapon in the hands of employers, their demand is now that the allowances should be compulsory and State-controlled. Miss Rathbone examines the subject in all its bearings, analyses the existing system, its past history, present development, and future possibilities, and, having shown the unpromising prospects of the future, turns to an equally detailed examination of the alternative she advocates. There is no shirking of difficulties, no pretence that there are no drawbacks; but the claim is put forward, after careful statement and weighing of such objections as weakening of parental responsibility and undue stimulation of increase of population, that on balance the advantages of the change would far outweigh its drawbacks. To the wife and mother it would indeed open out new vistas of happy home-making; the gnawing anxiety of the husband's uncertain earnings, and his own indefinite subtractions from those earnings, would no longer oppress her; she would not be driven to work outside her home in order to eke out the family wage, nor would the younger children be stinted of food and clothing as at present.

The woman wage-earner would find the path smoothed to her claim for equal pay for work of equal value; there would no longer be the argument that the man must be paid more as he had a family to support. The one person who appears to stand to lose is the unmarried or childless worker, who would no longer have the surplus now available for luxuries.

But readers must acquire this valuable and important book and study the whole case at first hand. It is a book of absorbing interest, written with great clearness and with charm and humour as well as warm human feeling.

(Continued on page 126.)

\* Published by Edward Arnold, London. Price 7s. 6d.

SENORA AMALIA MALLEN DE OSTOLAZA,  
PRESIDENT OF THE CUBA SUFFRAGE  
SOCIETY.

SENORA AMALIA MALLEN DE OSTOLAZA was born when the war between Spain and Cuba was at its height. Her father, who had conspired against the Government, was condemned to death and his property confiscated. He, however, escaped with his family to Europe, and thus Amalia's early years were passed in London, Paris, Italy, and Spain, and later on in New York. At 17 years of age she returned to Cuba, married, and settled down. From the age of 12 she wrote little articles for the papers, and at 15 she translated a novel, "Claribel," from the English.

She was a born fighter, and as the status of women in Cuba was then entirely subordinate and offered no opening, Amalia found her one outlet in music. She qualified as professor of piano, singing, and harmony. She started the study of law, but gave it up on marrying.



Senora Amalia Mallen de Ostolaza.

For twenty years she has carried on in the Press a campaign for women's rights, and founded the review, *The Woman Worker (La Mujer Obrera)*, and later the weekly newspaper *Light (Luz)*, and for the last three years *The Suffragist (El Sufragista)*.

On December 12, 1912, she founded the National Feminist Party (Partido Nacional Feminista), which in 1915 changed its name to that of National Suffrage Party (Partido Nacional Sufragista). The party has scored many victories, the most important being the law giving married women the right to dispose freely of their property and dowry, which was passed on the 18th July, 1917. Since then it carries on active suffrage propaganda. Señora Mallen de Ostolaza is a woman of great beauty and great vitality, which she devotes to the cause of women.

MRS. CATT'S VISIT TO CUBA.

The National Federation of Women's Clubs gave a reusing welcome to Mrs. Chapman Catt. Ten days were devoted to conferences, speeches, tours of inspection, interviews, and delightful hospitality.

The Federation is a large organisation, of which Señora Pilar Morlén de Menendez is president. It was organised in 1921, and the total membership is nine thousand. Its objects are work for the benefit of women, including woman suffrage.

## NEW YORK.

## Night-work Law Declared Valid.

THE U.S. Supreme Court, in an opinion written by Justice Sutherland, has sustained the law prohibiting the employment of women in restaurants in cities of the first and second class between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. The case was brought by Joseph Radice, a restaurant keeper in Buffalo, and the validity of the law was challenged upon the ground that "it contravenes provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment, in that it violates (1) the due process clause, by depriving the employer and employee of their liberty of contract, and (2) the equal protection clause, by an unreasonable and arbitrary classification."

Justice Sutherland says: "The Legislature had before it a mass of information from which it concluded that night work is substantially and especially detrimental to the health of women. We cannot say that the conclusion is without warrant. The loss of restful night's sleep cannot be fully made up by sleep in the day time, especially in busy cities subject to the disturbances incident to modern life. The injurious consequences were thought by the Legislature to bear more heavily against

women than men, and, considering their more delicate organism, there would seem to be good reason for so thinking. The State Legislature determined that night employment of the character specified was sufficiently detrimental to the health and welfare of women engaging in it to justify its suppression, and since we are unable to find reasonable grounds for a contrary opinion, we are precluded from reviewing the legislative determination."

## Pending Legislation.

The Senate has passed bills providing for a 48-hour work-week for women and for a minimum-wage commission. An amendment to the hour bill is under consideration which will give the Industrial Board power to grant variations up to 54 hours for eight weeks in the calendar year.

## Minimum-wage Bill Defeated.

A minimum-wage bill was introduced in this session of the Legislature, and passed the House with only three negative votes. It failed, however, of passage in the Senate.

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

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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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