

WOMEN'S SERVICE

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# THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE NEWS

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## WOMEN'S VICTORY IN NEWFOUNDLAND.

WE know that we may offer the hearty congratulations of all our readers to the women of Newfoundland on their recent victory. Mrs. McNeil, Hon. Secretary of the Women's Franchise League of Newfoundland, reports that there was a splendid gathering of women at the opening of the House, and every time the Bill was on the Order Sheet women flocked to the House to show their interest. Mrs. McNeil says: "Those who have followed the Women Suffrage cause from the beginning have been deeply impressed with the difference of tone existing now in the House from that which characterised it formerly."

And, indeed, the speeches are of a high order. The Prime Minister, in moving the second reading of the Bill, said he considered it an honour and a privilege to do so. He ran through the various attempts, or sham attempts, to pass a Suffrage Bill, the petitions received, and the treatment meted out to the women, and said that when he considered how the women had been treated, and the way in which they continued to come to the House in their hundreds and still smiling, had he been the hardest-hearted man in the world and the greatest woman-hater, he would still have to admire their behaviour in the matter.

Dr. Robinson, in the Upper House, or Legislative Council, who was in charge of the Bill, also made a most eloquent speech in introducing it, as the following extract will show:—

No power on earth can relieve either man or woman of their responsibilities before God or their fellows. It has been left for man to assume the sole prerogative of control, and thereby at times to lessen, at others to increase his burdens; whilst refusing to share with his co-burden bearers—and sometimes the bearer of burdens far heavier than his own,—those rights and privileges which, rightly used, may do more towards lightening the loads of all. The times have changed and we must change with them or lag behind, the self-confessed victims of an isolation which has blinded our eyes to the movements of the years; our ears to the calls of right and

justice; whilst our memories are arrested at the threshold of the World War.

There were no women more pure, more noble, and more inspiring than the wives and mothers of the Victorian age, but these moved in a world far different from this in which the women of the present live. Theirs was the right that these of to-day are asking. But they desired it not, nor was there any need such as now. The paths they traversed were secluded, and their interests were more centralised. Steam, electricity, radio, and a hundred causes have widened woman's horizon in these days, and womanhood, essentially the same, has larger spheres of both interest and duty. No longer may her sense of citizenship be limited to the home circle. She too has learned, perhaps better in many ways than men themselves, its responsibilities, and with courage and confidence and proved ability prefers to face them, in the times of peace, as she did so well and so fearlessly in the days of war. Florence Nightingale lit a lamp whose rays burn more brightly as the years pass by, and whose oil is that of a "Sisterhood," which recognises the kinship of humanity and the unity of its interests, irrespective of race or sex."—*Evening Telegram, St. John's.*

The Women's Franchise League has forwarded the following resolution of thanks to their Prime Minister, who replies that he will treasure it amongst his proudest possessions, and hopes it may prove to future generations that at least one good piece of legislation was accomplished during his tenure of office:—

To The Hon. W. S. Monroe, Prime Minister of Newfoundland.

Whereas when responsible government was bestowed on this country no provision was made for political rights for the women of Newfoundland;

And whereas for many years the question has been raised that women should be politically equal to men;

And whereas recently the Women's Enfranchisement League of Newfoundland was formed for the attainment of this object and the matter was brought to the attention of the House of Assembly;

And whereas thanks to the courtesy, courage, and indefatigable energy displayed by you personally and to the aid given by the members of the House of Assembly the women of Newfoundland have at last obtained full political rights;

Now be it resolved that the gratitude of the Women's Franchise League of Newfoundland be offered to you and to the members of the House of Assembly through whose efforts the right of Woman Suffrage, so long denied, has at last been recognised.

On behalf of the Women's Franchise League of Newfoundland.

President—

1st V.P.—Antonia Hutton.

2nd V.P.—Emilie G. S. Fraser.

3rd V.P.—Janet Murray.

Honorary Secretary.—Fannie McNeil.

Hon. Treasurer.—Mary Kennedy.

Assistant Hon. Treasurer.—Margaret Burke.

(Space has been left for Mrs. Gosling's signature when she returns from Bermuda.)

## THE MONTH'S MISCELLANY.

### OUR PRESIDENT'S TOUR.

WE receive splendid reports of Mrs. Corbett Ashby's tour. She is spending crowded days of meetings, receptions, press interviews, luncheons, dinners, and is everywhere receiving the most cordial welcome. Immediately on landing at New York, Mrs. Ashby was entertained to lunch by Miss Gildersleeves, Dean of Barnard College, and after a reception by the University women and another by the English Speaking Union, and countless press interviews and photographers, went off to dine with our wonderful Honorary President, Mrs. Chapman Catt, to meet officials of the League of Women Voters, Leslie Commission, and many other notable women. Mrs. Catt is a recognised leader of a splendidly organised campaign against war. Mrs. Ashby writes that she is looking forward—as indeed we all are—to the inspiration Mrs. Chapman Catt will bring to Paris in 1926. The following letter from our President will be of special interest to our readers:—

DEAR MRS. BOMPAS,

You may like a few words from me for the May number of *Jus*. I wish I could give you a report of the meeting at Indianapolis, but fear to delay sending this.

I am having a wonderfully warm welcome from the University women here, and in nearly every town they have cordially invited the League of Women Voters to co-operate in the meetings and receptions, so that I am meeting the women who are standing for international co-operation and understanding—those who bore the brunt of the suffrage fight and those who are carrying on the immense task of educating the women voters in this country of vast size. All my audiences have been enthusiastic over my account of the political and social work done by the women of other lands. It is unsafe to generalise after a visit of only ten days, but I do feel the women have a great handicap to face in their press, which devotes such a few lines to foreign affairs that it must seem hard to the average voter to grasp there is a living working world outside the U.S.A.

The women here are splendidly alert, keen, and intelligent—the spread of education wonderful. One is everywhere oppressed as well as impressed by size and numbers. In the Ohio State University there are 10,000 students. The problem of giving them University culture must therefore present a different aspect from ours. In 12 hours' express journey I seemed to pass only one great town; it took me five hours in an express to get from one neighbouring city to another. We do not know the difficulties or the wonderful possibilities of this great and friendly land.

MARGERY CORBETT ASHBY.

We have received a copy of a new fortnightly journal, the *Hoja Universitaria*, published in Lima by the Federation of University Women of Peru, under the editorship of Doctor Miguelina A. Acosta Cardenas. Its aim is to break down artificial barriers which prevent women taking their full share in building up a better social order, and to destroy the ignorance which prevents women realising their rights and duties. We wish our new contemporary a long and fruitful life.

We have also received copies of an interesting thesis presented by Dr. Miguelina Acosta to obtain her LL.D., or the corresponding Peruvian degree. The thesis deals with the reforms required in the Civil Code of Peru to make men and women equal before the law. The thesis is calculated to rejoice the heart of any feminist.

The first International Congress on Child Welfare will be held in Geneva in August, under the patronage of the Swiss Federal Government. It is anticipated that a thousand delegates from fifty different countries will attend the Congress.

We publish in this issue two articles of great interest to housewives: one showing the possibilities of electricity in saving labour in the home; the other, the extent to which it is used in Canada.

We are eagerly watching the progress of the Suffrage Bill giving Frenchwomen the right to vote in municipal and cantonal elections, which passed the Chamber of Deputies on April 7 by 300 votes to 183. The Bill also confers upon women the right to be elected to municipal and cantonal bodies. We offer our French colleagues our cordial good wishes for the speedy success of this Bill as an instalment of equal franchise which we hope will not be long delayed once the municipal vote is won.

L. DE A.

## THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

THE Seventh International Labour Conference is to assemble this year on May 19. It will have before it a varied and interesting agenda, for not only are the Draft Conventions, provisionally adopted last year (prohibition of night baking, weekly rest in glass tank-furnace industry, and equality of treatment of national and foreign workers as regards accident compensation), to be reconsidered with such amendments as have meantime been proposed, but the important problem of social insurance is to be tackled for the first time. This discussion will be of particular interest at a time when all political parties in England are developing their policy as regards "All-in" Insurance schemes, and it is probable that an international convention on the subject of Workmen's Compensation will be adopted. Proceedings will open, as usual, with a debate on the Director's Annual Report, a most comprehensive and interesting survey of labour conditions all over the world. The progress of each country with regard to ratification of Draft Conventions is reported, and employer and worker delegates of every country have the opportunity of asking their own and other Governments what they have done, and what they mean to do, in this direction. Machinery by which labour legislation can be universally applied, and the standard of labour conditions, East and West, gradually levelled up, is of vital interest. The number of ratifications of International Conventions registered is some measure of success or failure of the organisation in this respect.

The I.W.S.A. and other organisations in this and other countries are pressing for the appointment of women delegates to the Conference. It is of the utmost importance that women should be adequately represented at all the Labour conferences.

A League of Nations Union party of employers, workers, and private individuals interested in international problems will leave London on May 21 to visit Geneva during the time of the Conference. Members will have a unique opportunity of studying this World Parliament of Industry at work, will be able to visit the Secretariat of the League and the I.L.O., listen to lectures on the work of the Organisation, and make excursions of all sorts in the neighbourhood. It should form an interesting and delightful holiday. Those interested should apply for further particulars to the Secretary, League of Nations Union, 15, Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W. 1.

## WOMEN'S INTEREST IN ELECTRICAL DEVELOPMENT.

By CAROLINE HASLETT.

Director Women's Electrical Association.

UNTIL quite recently the many applications of engineering science had been considered completely outside the scope and sphere of women's interests. Although women enjoyed the advantages which engineering science gave to them in the form of railway transport, quick sea travel, and in many other ways, they were not supposed to take any interest whatever in the practical side of such wonderful inventions.

With the coming of the Internal Combustion Engine, which eventually made possible the small, light, two-seater car, many women who had hitherto regarded tools and engines as something quite impossible for the feminine mind to understand, began to realise that some practical knowledge of the handling of tools and the mechanism of an engine was necessary if they were to take advantage of all the privileges which civilisation was offering them.

The idea still existed, however, that the woman in the home could not possibly have any interest in the work of the engineer, and yet gradually we find that with the further utilisation of electric power the engineer is turning his attention more and more to the home, as being the place where his knowledge can be turned to useful and good account.

In this way it is gradually beginning to dawn upon the mind of the electrical engineer and the woman in the home that they can no longer regard each other as living in separate worlds. There is undoubtedly in the home ample room for the engineer to exert his or her inventive abilities toward reducing some of the drudgery and uncongenial work which thousands of women have to face every day.

It perhaps was not unnatural, however, that it waited for a small body of technical women known as the Women's Engineering Society to make the first attempt to interest the non-technical woman in the potential value of electricity, not only as a labour-saving agent in the home, but as a great force in remedial work and in ridding our cities of the smoke nuisance.

The Women's Engineering Society, which came into existence at the end of the war with the object of opening up the engineering profession to women, has slowly but persistently created a small niche for women in the professional engineering world. This organisation has been in existence for six years and has organised two successful International Conferences of Women Engineers, one at Birmingham University in 1923 and at Manchester College of Technology in 1924. Having established their own position in the engineering world, it seemed a natural development for women engineers to put their technical knowledge at the disposal of all women in relation to home work, health, industry, and business occupations.

The fact that on the Council of the new Women's Electrical Association such interests as housing, town planning, hygiene, and domestic science are brought into touch with the technical engineer is, perhaps, the most hopeful development which has recently taken place in the woman's world.

As a first step the Women's Electrical Association organised a series of three lectures on such subjects as the following: "The Live Wire," "The All-Electric Home," and "What is Electricity?" These were given by Miss Margaret Partridge, B.Sc., who is a domestic engineer, and the interest displayed in the apparatus shown at these lectures was truly amazing; in fact, many people would have reversed their point of view that man is the sole possessor of the mechanical sense!

The lecturer gave instruction in the mending of fuses and the wiring of a house, and the questions which came tumbling in from the audience afterwards showed the keen appreciation and interest which women have in any development which is going to alleviate the awful

drudgery in the home, which has been the lot of women from time immemorial.

The question of tariffs was discussed and suggestions were made of improvements in existing electrical apparatus, and the possibility of part ownership—amongst a community—of the more expensive equipment such as washing-machines, vacuum cleaners, etc.

Apart from arranging this short series of lectures the new Association has also supplied lecturers to other women's organisations in various parts of the country. A lecture at Worcester on "Rural Electrification" evoked a very interesting discussion on the possibilities of rural electrification reviving our village industries.

The tremendous field of activities before this new women's organisation is so great in scope that it is impossible to conceive the limit of its interests. The organisation will concern itself with the influence of the wider use of electricity on child life, cleaner conditions in the home, and a purer atmosphere in our cities. With the wise and careful use of better illumination much of the eye-strain which produces fatigue in children and adults can be overcome.

Perhaps, however, there can be no greater achievement at the moment than to work for the time when the woman in the home is no longer forced to perform uncongenial tasks, which can more effectively be done by machines and electrical power.

Women have for too long been the slaves of domestic drudgery, and the time has come when they must refuse any longer to spend 50 per cent. of their time in cleaning away dust and dirt which can much more effectively be done by the aid of a machine.

The value of the development of electricity in spreading out our population over the countryside is a question which will concern members of the Association. Just as steam brought us together in masses so electricity may help us to spread out again and enjoy the benefits of the countryside with the amenities of the town, whilst enabling us to decentralise in this way without ruining the country, as has in the past usually been the result of such movements.

A proof of the wide interest which this new movement has created is evidenced by the fact that applications for membership have been received from India and Canada.

Full particulars can be obtained from: The Women's Electrical Association, 26, George Street, Hanover Square, W. 1.

## WASHINGTON CONGRESS.

THE Sixth Quinquennial Congress of the International Council of Women will be held at Washington from May 4 to 14. The programme is extensive, covering a wide field of international and feminist questions. There are resolutions on the agenda dealing with disarmament, the Court of International Justice, the League of Nations, the International Labour Office, European Reconstruction, etc. The "Rights of the Child" will be fully discussed, and National Councils of Women will be recommended to collaborate with the National Committees of the "Save the Children Fund" in drawing up a Children's Charter suitable to the needs and conditions in each particular country.

Other resolutions deal with equal pay for equal work, equal opportunities in trades and professions, the abolition of State Regulation of Vice, and a number of other important matters. Indeed, the programme is so varied that it will be hard work to get through the agenda in the ten days allotted to it.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mrs. Chapman Catt, and Dr. Aletta Jacobs will represent the International Woman Suffrage Alliance at the Congress.

## NIGERIAN WOMEN'S PETITION.

WE have received from the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations the following petition, which was presented by the women of Nigeria to the Governor, Sir Hugh Clifford. While giving a detailed reply to the petition, the Governor received it very unfavourably, and with respect to the women's complaint that no effort is made to civilise the backward races, says that it shows they have no knowledge of the matter. The women, in a dignified and well-reasoned reply, reiterate their demands, and express surprise that their petition should have given offence to the Government.

We are not, of course, in a position to judge of the grievances of which the Nigerian women complain, but we feel that when intelligent and trustworthy women are convinced that these grievances do exist, an impartial inquiry is called for, and as the signatories of the petition would welcome any help we can give them on this side we are glad to give publicity to their petition.

Petition to Sir Hugh Clifford, Governor of Nigeria:—

The women, both educated and uneducated, find that there is hardly any provision made for their employment whereby they can earn their livelihood. All the Government offices are closed to them; about the only ones open to them are the hospital, prison, and asylum. At the hospital the number of probationers admitted is limited indeed, and the conditions under which they can be accepted are such as prevent many who love the work and are in every respect fitted for it from taking advantage of that opening.

2

The conditions under which the majority of women have to live, bear and train up their children are such as increase the death-roll and retard progress.

(a) Many of the houses and streets in certain parts of Lagos are under water in the rainy season, and many of the drains are exceedingly bad, e.g., Isalegangan, Oko awo, Oke Arin, Lafaji, etc.

Many of the market places have insufficient protection for the sellers from the heat in the day and the rain in the wet seasons. It may be mentioned here that Government had promised to erect new market sheds that would meet all requirements, but up to the present this promise has not been fulfilled.

(b) Those who are wives of Government officials when they travel from place to place with their husbands, find that no provision in many—and a very poor one at that in some—towns is made for their housing.

Many of the hospitals at these stations will not supply food to patients: the patients are to get their friends to take them daily what they need. The nurses are mostly untrained and inexperienced.

(c) The women feel that proper provisions should be made for the housing of the African officials, for once they leave their homes for out-stations, but for their colour, they are as strangers as European officials.

The convenience of the Hospitals, too, should be such as would give comfort to the sick. The Lagos hospital should train enough nurses of both sexes to feed the hospitals in out-stations.

(d) Throughout Nigeria, as far as we know, there is no maternity hospital, nor is there any provision made for the care of sick children and infants who have lost their mothers.

2. There is no proper river service whereby the various adjacent markets could be reached, from where the bulk of the foodstuffs used in the towns and produce exported to Europe are bought.

It must be mentioned here that the majority of those who frequent these markets are women. The exposure and risks to which they are subjected are very great.

The African officials are compelled to travel on Government steamers when ordered to out-stations. These launches have no second-class cabins, and the first-class ones are denied them as being reserved for Europeans. So these officials of all grades are compelled to travel on deck with their wives and children. The discomfort can be better imagined than described, especially for the higher class officials.

A river service on the same lines as the railway service is just what is needed.

(f) The vulgar and obscene language in the streets of Lagos, the lewd songs, pernicious newspaper literature, indecent behaviour, and the want of action to discourage prostitutes from all other parts of Nigeria openly making this town their headquarters, have nothing but an effect for much evil on growing children which ends in making them bad citizens. The number of juvenile offenders in almost every crime goes to prove this, to say nothing of the spread of venereal diseases. The women feel that the vigilance of the police nowadays is not what it was in days gone by, and that thereby the tone of the Colony is lower than it was. Even in highly civilised countries it is found necessary for the police to be most active in maintaining order and decency, how much more should such be necessary in this part of the Empire.

3

In Lagos the Government has made no provision for the education of girls. This is considered very unfair. Schools after the style of those established in America for negroes, it is considered, would be most beneficial. There literary and Industrial training is given side by side, and girls are turned out with very high literary and musical attainments, and are fully qualified in various industrial subjects. They come out to the world fully equipped in every respect and are quite an asset in their respective towns, in that alongside with their books they are taught the dignity of labour.

4

In Lagos in particular there are no technical and mechanical institutes to which mothers could apprentice their sons.

The Public Works Department take a remarkably small number of apprentices at its various departments.

Mothers are quite at a loss what to do with their boys. The Government seem to encourage youths to do only clerical work, as a vast number is employed in Government offices, and the training given at Government schools appears to be only with this object in view. The women would therefore urge that technical and mechanical schools be established in Lagos and other parts of Nigeria for the theoretical and practical training of youths in the various trades and industries.

5

The liquor traffic is one that the women feel they must with all the strength they possess raise their voices against. As women they know the real havoc this traffic has played and is playing in their homes; no terms can be found strong enough to express its demoralising effect on both old and young. Surely England, which has done so much for the African, will not now for the sake of filthy lucre sell the body and soul of those she holds in trust.

Nigeria has given and is giving the wealth of her resources to Europe, and she is getting what Europe knows is harmful in return.

It appears to the Christian women in particular, and this they have noticed with great grief, that Government has for some years now adopted the system of leaving the more backward races in Nigeria almost entirely alone in their backwardness, making no effort whatever as in the days of the Good Great Queen Victoria to civilise them. For instance, in all those parts of Nigeria where some of the tribes still go about without clothes on their bodies and are still in a half nude state, Government appears to make no attempt whatever to improve their condition and raise them to a higher level.

In those places it appears that the chief concern of Government, after prohibiting human sacrifice and slavery, is to establish civilised system of collecting revenue and of getting all raw materials on and in those lands to enrich other lands, and give the owners nothing stable in return.

The Christian women, knowing how much they have been benefited by the knowledge of the religion of Christ and of education and civilisation, pray that it may please Government to grant the same advantage to their backward sisters and brothers throughout Nigeria.

## REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

## AUSTRIA.

THE Austrian Council of Women held its thirteenth general meeting on March 28 and 29, at which was given an interesting survey of the present activities of the Austrian women's movement. Founded by Marianne Hainisch, the mother of the State President, the Council united, before the downbreak of old Austria, above 100 associations. Now, as the associations of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, Southern Styria, and Southern Tyrolia have had to part from the Council, it comprises only 60 associations. But whilst formerly purely charitable associations formed the majority of the members, it is pleasant to state that now associations representing professional or educational interests are predominant. Some commissions of the Council, such as the legal, the Press, the educational, the hygienic, and the commission on alcohol are doing very efficient work.

At the general meeting a new commission was founded—the Commission for Social Science,—which undertakes to collect material on the economic and cultural situation and to report upon the professions and callings in which women's services are specially required. Martha Braun, a young woman doctor of national economy, is the president of this Commission, and the Council expects new developments from her work.

## The Nationality of Married Women.

Besides the reports of the Commissions and the dispatching of the agenda the general meeting considered three subjects. Frau Dr. Annie Leuch, from Bern, spoke at an evening meeting on "The Nationality of Married Women," and gained much applause for her clear and concise explanation of the whole matter and of the different efforts being made to settle the question. Those who attended the Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in Rome will remember with pleasure the Swiss woman leader as one of the most prominent delegates from Switzerland. Austrian women will now undertake to interest Parliament in the alteration of our laws concerning the nationality of married women and urge the Government to take part in an International Conference.

## Women's Movement and Housekeeping.

The second subject dealt with by Frau Gisela Urban was the efforts of the women's movement in the sphere of housekeeping. The speaker referred to the growing interest of women in housing reform, the aim of which must be to give a home to each family, and to persons living alone, which could be made really home-like. Women have to make a great many practical demands, above all, the admission to building and housing commissions and to building societies. No building or rebuilding plan should be approved which does not fulfil all demands in reference to hygiene and beauty. Special attention must be given to the building of practical kitchens, pantries, etc., and also the building of practical lofts, cellars, washing-rooms, etc. Women must also endeavour to gain influence in the prices of essential foods and other necessities, and bring order into the chaotic conditions of production, distribution, and consumption. Institutes for scientific dieting must be set up, as well as depots where all wares may be tested, and also all instruments and machineries for the household; also systematic instruction for the producing of space-saving furniture must be given. Though the social household-management (häuslicher Grossbetrieb) must be recommended in many cases in large cities, it is still necessary, considering that the great majority of mankind adheres to the single household, to strive for a reform of the single household, which will be brought about by instructing the housewife to save time and work, to divide the work in the best way, and relieve the housewife from the fatiguing, hard, unsanitary, and mentally unsatisfactory work. Also the recognition of housekeeping as a profession is absolutely necessary, not

only to gain for the housewife the respect due to her, but also to organise a provision for the housewife by insurance in case of illness or accident and relaxation by holidays, etc., which as yet is still missing. The recognition of household work would doubtless have the result that the work of housekeeping would be more appreciated, so that intelligent women would make up their minds to choose housekeeping as a profession. To gain for the household the development so necessary for it, something must be done by the State. The speaker explained that in the same way as production and industry are represented in the State, so also should the household. Departments of Housekeeping should be founded. This theme will be treated in detail later.

## Austrian Women and the Reform of the Penal Laws.

The speaker on this occasion was Frau Ernestine Fürth, who dealt with reform of the marriage laws, the raising of the age of consent, the reform of laws dealing with prostitution, etc.

The general meeting of the Austrian Council of Women leaves the impression that Austrian women, in spite of all obstacles caused by economic conditions, work indefatigably for the progress of women and for the elimination of all social prejudices and legal injustices which must be abolished if complete equality is to be realised.

GISELA URBAN (Vienna).

## GERMANY.

## The New Public-Houses Bill Rejected in the Reichstag.

THE organised German women, in all lines of social and political work, look upon the rejection of the new Bill for public-houses and licences (Schankstätten-gesetz) in the Reichstag, February 18, though it means a defeat for culture in general, mainly as a defeat for their own cause. I have referred already, repeatedly, to the first Government Bill, and to several significant though only very slight and cautious reforms it contained concerning licences, liquor traffic for children, small possibilities—not more—for local option, etc. This Bill, having passed its first reading in June, 1923, was still sleeping in the committee on population politics when the dissolution of the Reichstag (May, 1924) put an end to its further development. In accordance with the efforts of the many anti-alcoholic and women's organisations, several Socialist members had moved that a new Bill on the same lines should be brought before the Reichstag at once. This motion, supported by the great majority of the committee, was discussed, and lost by a majority of 199 against 165, 16 members refraining from voting, the latter belonging to the Conservative parties, which are, with regard to their liquor-producing agricultural groups, strongly opposed to the smallest restrictions in this domain.

Though they were, from long experience, by no means too optimistic, this result was, nevertheless, a bad surprise for the reformers, who, after the preliminaries, had expected some concessions at least. The failure is obviously due partly to the paralysing spectre of prohibition, as an inevitable consequence of the women voters—though the draft had provided for strongest barriers against the introduction of local option,—partly to the unscrupulous propaganda of the alcohol producers and sellers, revelling in the most miraculous fables about the effects of prohibition in the United States. But, had as was the result, as such, the discussion in the Reichstag was worse; it may, indeed, be called unworthy. With the most illogical, most threadbare, most ridiculous arguments, even with absolute falsehoods, arousing, from time to time, the usual "gaiety," the representatives of the brewers, vintagers, distillers, and public-house keepers gained the day over all the well-founded, valid, irrefutable arguments of the supporters of the Bill.

To the latter belonged, with exception of the Conservatives, the women members of all parties. One German Nationalist woman only did not recoil from a "No" when the vote was taken. Six others, in the conflict of their personal convictions and party discipline, refrained from voting. So, three being absent, 23 of the 33 women members voted in favour of the Bill, and Dr. Marie Lüders, in her splendid speech in the name of the minority of the Democrats—after having stated that, for the first time in a German legislative body, only two parties, alcoholists and anti-alcoholists, were present,—could rightly point out that behind her stood by far the greatest party outside of the House, the German women of all political and religious convictions, together with the best elements of the German youth, that party whose weightiest interests were at stake in these proceedings. Not less impressive was what the other women members of the Socialist and Catholic party said on this occasion, the high standard of their speeches contrasting most favourably with those of their opponents. As some little satisfaction in this most unsatisfactory matter, the German women outside have all reason to be proud, once more, of the German women inside of the House.

As another small success, something of a payment on account, one may consider the motion which was brought in by the Conservative member Strathmann, as compensation for the original motion: "That the Government be asked to lay a Bill before the Reichstag, at once, for the protection of the young people against the dangers of alcoholism, and for the regulation of licences—under the explicit condition, however, that prohibition in Germany shall be excluded." This motion was carried by a majority of 305 against 53, six members refraining. Its carrying out will, to be sure, in spite of the last clause, give the many organisations concerned another opportunity to go on with their hard fight against alcoholism. They will start with a propaganda-week, which first was planned for March, but postponed on account of the presidential elections to the middle of May. Throughout the whole Reich, from the pulpits of the different denominations, in public meetings, by demonstrations of every kind, the claim for local option will be raised, together with strong protests against the decision of the Reichstag and the handling of the matter on February 18. The women's organisations will, of course, play a considerable part in these demonstrations.

MARIE SHUTT.

Dresden, April 16.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

### NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

#### Women's Bills Before Parliament.

THE main interest for women in political developments during the weeks immediately preceding Easter lay in the progress of the Guardianship of Infants Bill, of the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill, both of which have now passed their report stage in the House of Commons. The main provisions of these Bills have been outlined before in these columns. They embody important principles for which feminists have long been striving, but neither Bill can be regarded as a counsel of perfection. Various amendments which would have materially improved the Bills had been tabled, most of them at the initiative of the National Union, but they have met with ill-luck. The consideration of these Bills had been preceded by a long and academic discussion of a small Bill dealing with agricultural statistics, with the result that barely an hour remained before the private members' motions were due to be taken. Mr. Locker Lampson, who was in charge of the Bills on behalf of the Government, had simply to take the line that there was no time to state his arguments against them fully, though if there had been any adequate discussion their reasonableness would have been sufficiently apparent.

Some small gains were, however, obtained. The Home Secretary promised to consider in the Guardianship Bill the extension of the limit (imposed during Committee)

of the enforceability of an order for maintenance, when husband and wife were living together, from three to six months. In the Separation and Maintenance Bill he promised to see whether enforced cohabitation when the husband is suffering from venereal disease as a ground for separation is covered by the existing law under the interpretation of "cruelty," and, if not, to include it specifically. Two others concerning an ordered definition of "children" to include "step-children," and an important technical amendment relating to the discharge of an order were accepted. A further attempt will be made when the Bills come before the Upper House shortly after it reassembles to press for the amendment giving the court power to divide the furniture of a home when a separation and maintenance order paper has been obtained, to make adultery a ground for separation, and many others.

We confidently expect that these two measures, both of them our own somewhat maimed offspring, will become law this summer. They are not all we want, but they are all we are going to get at present, and we must make the best of them, comforted by the reflection that though they do not offer the full measure of equality that we desire, they will bring relief to many women who are suffering under the hardships of the present law.

#### Broadcasting Parliamentary News.

The National Union has nearly completed its second series of fortnightly talks to women from 2LO (the London wireless station). The subjects have included legislation affecting women and children, women in Parliament, women in local government, and women in the League of Nations. The talks are usually given under the name of a "non-party woman," though their source is a fairly open secret. Mrs. Wintringham, alas! no longer a Member of Parliament, gave one under her own name on the work of a woman Member, and Lady Astor, who will speak in a few weeks, can hardly be disguised under a non-party cloak. It is also hoped that Miss Wilkinson, M.P., will follow, so that all parties will be duly represented. One or two affiliated societies of the National Union in large cities have also adopted this valuable method of education. In a note in this paper last month the plan was recommended as an up-to-date method of propaganda and publicity. But perhaps a word of warning may be useful to those who adopt the practice elsewhere. Very great care has to be taken to avoid any attempt at propaganda in the sense that controversial matters are discussed and opinions expressed on one side or the other, and, further, any attempt to push the interests of any particular organisation must be suppressed. The reasons for these restrictions are perfectly obvious, and, notwithstanding, the educational results of such broadcast talks are, we think, well worth while, and the authorities who permit them deserve the gratitude of the women of the country.

#### A Summer School at Oxford, August 25 to September 8.

May we once again remind readers in other countries how welcome they will be at St. Hilda's for our summer school, of which fuller particulars were given last month. A new section dealing with international affairs has been added. Every effort will be made to make the school specially useful to students of other nationalities. St. Hilda's is beautifully situated on the river, and the school will provide many opportunities for boating, tennis, motoring, and sight-seeing under the guidance of those who know Oxford intimately. Students may come for a week if they desire. Full particulars may be had on application. W. E. M.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship,  
15, Dean's Yard, Westminster.

#### THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

OUR eighteenth annual conference is being held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, at the end of April. The agenda itself is an interesting one. In the first resolution the chief objects of the Women's Freedom

League are reaffirmed—equal suffrage, equal opportunities and equal pay for men and women throughout all branches of our national life; equal guardianship for children; provision of work and training for unemployed women; appointment of women prison commissioners, women governors, women deputy governors and women medical officers in all women's prisons, and women inspectors of prisons; women police; and the raising of the age of consent. Other resolutions call upon the Government immediately to put into force the provisions of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act; to expedite a Bill to enable British women to retain their nationality on marriage with a foreigner; so to amend the law that it is not possible for a husband to leave his wife penniless; to assess the incomes of husband and wife separately; to raise the school age to 16; to make better provision of housing accommodation; to grant widows' pensions on a non-contributory basis; to reduce the age to 65 for old-age pensions; to make such provision that no child shall be born in prison; to compel railway companies to provide compartments reserved for women on all trains; to abolish capital punishment, and to stop the traffic in worn-out horses. There is also a resolution protesting against the attempts being made to exclude women from Courts of Justice and Inquiry, which by law and custom are open to the public, and another demanding that every Bench should have women magistrates.

At the close of this Conference Miss Isobel Goddard will speak to the delegates on "Family Endowment," to be followed by a discussion. In the evening a dinner will be given to Miss Emily Phipps, B.A., Barrister-at-law and Editor of *The Woman Teacher*, at the Minerva Club; and on April 26 there will be a reception to the new president and the new executive committee, delegates, members, and friends of the Women's Freedom League at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

April 18, 1925.

#### ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

At our annual meeting held on March 14 it was emphasised that until Equal Franchise is won, St. Joan's S.P.A. must remain primarily a Suffrage Society. We are profoundly dissatisfied with the Government's attitude towards this question. We distrust the suggestion of a conference to deal with it. There is every probability that contentious matters, such as raising the voting age for men, will be tacked on the equal franchise, and women be cheated again of their rights, and we hold to our demand: A Government Bill giving votes to women on the same terms as men.

As regards the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill, we have been pressing for the insertion of a clause making the adultery of either husband or wife a ground for a separation order in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction. Unfortunately the Bill was hurriedly passed through its third reading in the House of Commons just before the recess, without this clause, so efforts will now be made to have an amendment to this effect inserted when the Bill comes before the House of Lords.

The present law is unjust to those who cannot afford the expense of going to the High Court, and particularly affects Catholics, and those sections of the community who under no circumstances apply for divorce, but who do apply for a separation order.

## HOLLAND.

### Another Setback for Women.

HITHERTO the Dutch Town Councils have had the right to discharge women teachers on their contracting marriage; but the latter had the right of appeal to the Deputed States or Council of State, and it frequently happened that the decisions of the Town Councils were quashed and the teachers retained their position. Now, however, the Second Chamber of Parliament has passed a Bill which confers upon the Town Councils the right to discharge women teachers under 45 years of age on their getting married, and their right

of appeal is consequently repealed. Many members of the Chamber—and especially the few women members—protested in strong terms against the Bill, but it was in vain as the Minister regarded it as an act of equity towards other women in the Civil Service, who are always discharged on marriage.

It is quite understandable that a large number of Town Councils will take advantage of their rights now they no longer need be apprehensive of their resolutions being quashed on appeal.

The Bill has still to be debated in the First Chamber, but as in the Second Chamber the voting was simply by the Right Party as against the Left, there is very little hope of its being thrown out.

The two women M.P.s of the Right Party left the meeting before the voting. C. KEHRER-STUART.

## HUNGARY.

### Pedagogic Inquiry.

EDUCATION has always been one of our chief concerns. The danger of a general "reform" in girls' education threatening us from the part of the Ministry of Education, we claimed to be heard on the subject, and arranged an exhaustive pedagogic *enquête* on girls' education.

This inquiry lasted all through our winter season and was presided over by our vice-president, Mrs. Szirmai, with great tact and energy. Big meetings were held every Monday. The best pedagogues of the country treated the subject from the kindergarten stage up to Universities, including all scientific, art, and training schools.

The lectures were attended by an ever-growing audience, so that we were obliged to change our halls successively for larger ones and were very well reported in our best papers.

A memorial, the result of this *enquête*, will be delivered to the Minister of Education by a deputation from our Society.

### Protection of Child Labour.

On the same occasion a memorandum will be presented concerning the protection of child labour. Our laws make schooling compulsory up to the age of 12, but prohibit child apprenticeship before the age of 14. Thus the child who does not partake in higher education is either corrupted by the street or is sent to a factory, particularly when the district physician, on account of poor development or weak health, does not consent to its employment at an artisan's. There is no restriction upon employment in factories, and these unfortunate children working in factories have not even the benefit and rest of the apprentices' school. Miss Julia Vajkay, leader and organiser of the Red Cross work-schools in Hungary, gave us a very instructive lecture on this theme. The meeting, in a resolution, commissioned our Society to apply to the Minister for Education and for Commerce to raise the age of compulsory school education to the age of 14, and compel factories to observe the same restrictions in the employment of children as are observed in the case of artisans.

### Lectures on Peace.

Since the lectures of Sir George Paish and Madam Duchéne we had a very interesting lecture by Miss Mary Sheepshanks on the Geneva Protocol of the League of Nations, and a very solemn memorial meeting on Mr. E. D. Morel, the great advocate of the rights of oppressed people and the brave champion of the cause of peace. Miss Anna Kéthly, M.P. (Social-Democrat), gave a touching account of Morel's life work, and Miss M. B. Thornton gave an excellent report of Mr. Morel's life.

### Annual General Meeting of the Feministák Egyesülete

On April 2 we had our general meeting, the twentieth since the foundation of our organisation. Our vice-president, Mrs. Szirmai, looking back on the activities of our National Suffrage Alliance, gave an account of its history, and gratefully remembered our great pioneers and leaders: our national president, Vilma

Glücklich, whom the general meeting elected immediately and enthusiastically for the twentieth time, and of our great woman, our leader in political activities, Rosika Schwimmer, and the two international presidents, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt and Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Mrs. Szirmai expressed the regret of all members at the absence of the two leaders, and remembered also mournfully those who were our faithful co-workers unto their death. She spoke of our successful work in gaining the vote and in the initiation of many now popular ideas, which were regarded as very bold at the time they were started, and spoke of all the critical historical times we had to pass. After the powerful speech of our vice-president, Professor Balassa gave a brilliant lecture on Jokai's women in his novels, and of his pacifism. We took this occasion to join in the general celebration of this our greatest novelist, the centenary of whose birth is commemorated all over the country. A splendid secretary's report from Mrs. Melanie Vámbéry and the re-election of the old board completed this festival meeting. We received many very flattering greetings from various fraternal organisations.

#### Constitutional Bills in the National Assembly. Local Elections in Budapest.

The Government presented two Bills to the National Assembly for the formation of a Parliament—*i. e.*, a Suffrage Bill for the Upper House and one for the House of Commons. The first is to be constituted of: (1) Titled persons or certain dignitaries of the churches and of the court; (2) the elected members; and (3) the nominated members.

The elected members are: (1) Such *male* members of the aristocracy, dukes, counts, or barons (including the members of the Hapsburg family living permanently in Hungary), who are proprietors of estates and together with the taxes of *wife* and children pay therefrom at least 3,000 gold crowns direct taxes; (2) members of the local and county councils; (3) members of certain organisations and institutions of agriculture, industry, and trade, science, art, public education, and of other different callings.

From the last two categories women are not excluded, but female members of the aristocracy are excluded, although the taxes on their own estates count for the husband's qualification.

The House of Commons Bill leaves the qualifications of the woman voter of the last Government Election Order unaltered—*i. e.*, higher age and better education.

As in Hungary the committee stage of the Bills precedes the general discussion of the House, we addressed the members of the Suffrage Committee and asked them to give women equal rights. In case the Bills should pass unamended in the Committee we shall ask all members to defend the case of women's equal franchise, and we hope to find again in the Committee some staunch advocates of our cause.

Local elections in Budapest will presumably be settled for the middle of May. There will be an ardent struggle between the parties, and the three chief opposition parties are allies for the Campaign.

We in our franchise club, the Feministák Egyesülete, keep non-party, and will call a meeting to explain to our members and other women voters what responsibilities women have in possession of the vote, and how much local administration affects their life, their home, their family, and last, not least, the community.

EUGENIE MISOLCSY MELLER,  
for "Feministák Egyesülete."

#### INDIA.

WE have received from Mrs. Jinarajadasa a letter suggesting that the article by Mr. Bhagat Ram on the position of women in India takes too pessimistic a view of the question. There is a brighter side, and Indian women, as we believe our readers are aware, are making rapid progress towards better conditions. For instance, the bill to raise the age of marriage for girls from twelve years to fourteen is receiving a great deal of support.

#### Cochin Again Leads.

In certain directions so quickly does the women's movement advance in India that each month sees some new and noteworthy step forward being taken. This month we are happy to record that a woman has been nominated to an Indian Legislative Council for the first time *in her own right*. The Government of Cochin has nominated Mrs. T. Madhavi Amma as a member of its new Legislative Council. It will be remembered that the sister State of Travancore was the first to include a woman member, but Dr. Lukhose Poonen, the lady in question, got her seat in the Council by virtue of her appointment as a substitute for the Darbar physician—a man. Now Mrs. Madhavi Amma is the first woman *directly* appointed as a member of an important Legislative Council. We congratulate her on being the recipient of the historic honour and hope she will be the forerunner of many Indian women M.L.C.'s. Cochin State has been ever in the van as regards women's progress, which is what one would expect in a State where matriarchy still holds sway, where the rate of female literacy is the highest in India, and where the wife of the Maharajah wields very great political influence. Governments which appoint only one woman to an assembly of over a hundred men make the position and power of that lady unnecessarily difficult by not giving her at least one woman companion. We understand that another lady in Cochin was asked if she would accept nomination and replied in the affirmative, but her nomination was later vetoed because her husband was an elected member. Such an objection is absurd. If a husband and wife may each vote separately surely they may also represent separately! A similar case is likely to arise for the Travancore Council elections. We trust that the wife will not be sacrificed to the husband or *vice versa*. Each has a valuable viewpoint and a different experience to contribute to the subject under discussion. The British Indian States should now follow the lead of these two respected Indian States and freely throw open their doors to women. Too long have they lagged behind in retaining the sex disqualification. It was in 1921 that this magazine first began to call for the opening of the Councils to women, and now public opinion is all in favour of it and only the central Indian authorities fail to keep pace with the time.

#### A Woman Suffrage Resolution in the Punjab.

It is good to find that a champion for womanhood has arisen in the Punjab in the person of Mr. Lala Bodh Raj, who has tabled the following resolution for the Punjab Legislative Council which meets this month, closing on the 23rd inst. Our readers will wish him speedy and entire success in his efforts:—

"The Council recommends to the Government so to amend the Punjab Legislative Council Electoral Rules as to amend the sex qualification in the matter of registration on the electoral roll of persons who are entitled to vote in the elections held for the Punjab Council."—*Sri-Dharma*.

#### SWEDEN.

##### Married Women's Nationality.

AT the request of the I.W.S.A. and the Fredrica Bremer Förbund the Swedish Government has recently resolved to take measures for submitting the question of the married women's nationality to international debate. The letters regarding this matter from the two above-mentioned societies have been handed over to the General Secretary of the League of Nations for delivery to the Commission on the Codification of International Laws. The president of this Commission is the former Swedish Prime Minister, Mr. Hjalmar Hammarskjöld. He is one of the Swedish M.P.s who have worked for the granting to married women of full independence in the matter of nationality.

As is known, the Swedish Riksdag in 1924 passed a Bill on citizenship which also granted certain reforms *re* the married women's nationality. The most important of these reforms is that a Swedish woman marrying an alien does not lose her Swedish citizenship until she takes up her permanent abode in her husband's country.

#### Wages for Women in the Civil Service.

An enactment *re* salaries for women in the Civil Service was passed by the Riksdag in February, 1925.

In a certain sense it may be said that by this enactment women will receive the same salary as men, but this equality is limited by restrictions. Thus, in offices where a man's salary will be increased at four fixed intervals a woman will get only three such augmentations. In higher degrees, where a man will get three augmentations to his salary a woman will get only two. So in all offices, though men and women start with equal pay for equal work, the women's final salaries are lower than the men's.

This enactment is considered to be of temporary character, and the women's organisations are resolved to continue their work for full equality in this matter.

Thus, although the solution of the question of salaries for women is not satisfactorily solved, the advantage has, however, been gained that the law of 1923, generally admitting women to the Civil Service, will enter into force on July 1, 1925.

#### New Woman Member of the Riksdag.

In March, 1925, Mrs. Signe Wessman, of the Social Democratic Party, became member of the Second Chamber of the Riksdag. She was elected as substitute last autumn, and entered the Riksdag at the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Branting.

Five women are at the present time members of Parliament. AXIANNE THORSTENSON.

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

##### "The Tonic of Conventions."

IF one may judge by the interest displayed in a round of women conventions conducted during April, women of America are taking the advice offered not so long ago by Mrs. Maud Wood Park, former president of the National League of Women Voters. "Attend conventions—they will prove a tonic to you," is the remedy suggested by Mrs. Park for "that tired feeling which comes with spring."

Representative women have gone from one convention to another during April, and indications now point to another twelve to fifteen days of conventions in May. First of all, in April, there was the annual convention of the American Association of University Women in Indianapolis. Scores of members of the National League of Women Voters, who are college women, and therefore eligible to membership in the Association of University Women, attended the Indianapolis meeting. Among them was Mrs. Park, who has just completed a ten weeks' tour of colleges, speaking to students in the interest of the League's campaign for better citizenship.

The second gathering of note was the sixth annual convention of the League in Richmond, Va., from April 16 to 22. As this is written on the eve of the convention, actual reports of convention action must be postponed until the next issue. It was a gala occasion, hundreds of women whose interest centres in more efficient government, the establishment of an assured world peace programme, and the various phases of public welfare in government, gathering from all parts of the country. It was the first convention in the South, and the first time, since her election to the presidency, that Miss Belle Sherwin presided over convention sessions. Members of the national board of directors preceded delegates to Richmond for a three-day meeting, and returned to Washington after the convention for a three-day meeting at national headquarters.

April 23 was another gala day, with a reunion in Washington, D.C., of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, of which Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt is president. It may seem somewhat inconsistent that there is need for a woman suffrage association in the United States, but, because of bequests pending which cannot yet be assigned, the association must be kept intact. The morning hour was a business session, followed by a "Looking Backward" luncheon at which members of the Executive Council reviewed the "tedious struggle which never paused nor hesitated until the aim of the women in 1848 was written into the Constitution." Washington was fittingly selected for the

reunion city, because thirty-four years ago the organisation was created in Washington, as a union of the National and the American Woman Suffrage Associations formed in 1869 and 1870 respectively. Each was the direct outgrowth of the scattered organisations preceding them and dating from the first woman's convention held in 1848.

Hardly has this gathering adjourned before a smaller group of representative women from Latin and North American countries arrived in Washington for the All-American Women's Conference called by the acting chairman, Mrs. Catt. Tentative plans at this time of writing indicate it will be a charming, instructive five-day gathering beginning on April 29.

May 4 will witness the opening of the Quinquennial Convention of the International Council of Women in Washington. Women from all over the world are focusing their attention on this gathering, and more than forty-six countries will be represented. A list of brilliant national and international speakers has been announced, and evidences point to a stirring ten-day meeting. Mrs. Maud Wood Park will be one of the United States delegates, while Miss Julia Lathrop, first vice-president of the League, will be one of the alternates.

#### Mrs. Corbett Ashby in New York.

Naturally much interest was displayed in Mrs. Corbett Ashby's first address in New York City. It took place March 30 before the New York branch of the American Association of University Women. Mrs. Ashby said that with women having the franchise in twenty-seven countries they had taken on a great responsibility in national and international affairs. Women must be made self-conscious of their responsibilities, she said, for they are a new force in national life and have power and vision to arouse new enthusiasm. They must insist on a high standard of leaders, she declared.

Mrs. Ashby said that it would be useless and futile to scrap the present League of Nations, with all its shortcomings, in favour of another. "You would have to approach the same Governments which fumbled with the League at Versailles in 1919, and experience shows that they are not much better in 1925 than they were six years ago," she asserted.

Sex has no bearing on ability in Congress, according to Mrs. Mae E. Nolan, who has just completed two years of service as a Congresswoman from California.

"I do not believe that the sex of a member of Congress is of prime political importance," she said. "A capable woman is a better representative than an incapable man and *vice versa*. It depends upon the person rather than the sex. After all, the chief responsibility in legislative matters rests with the electorate. If it is alert, informed, and insistent, it will get good representation at Washington from either a man or woman member in Congress."

One of the best paid women holding public office in the State of New York is Mrs. Edward V. Colbert, whose nomination as a member of the state motion picture censorship commission was recently confirmed. She receives an annual salary of \$7,500.

Women are taking a special interest in the international conference for the promotion of world peace to take place in San Francisco November 11, 1926. Dr. David Starr Jordan is arranging for the meeting. Much interest is also centred in the programme for the fifth annual session of the Institute of Politics at Williams College from July 23 to August 22.

ANNE WILLIAMS.

#### PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION FOR WOMEN.

##### A Reply to Miss Wren.

NEW YORK STATE has had a fifty-four hour law for women, and the prohibition of night work between 10 at night and 7 in the morning, since 1912. As Director of the Bureau of Women in Industry of the New York State Department of Labour, I have had an opportunity to watch the trend of women's employment

in New York State for the last seven years. The whole trend of employment over this period shows that conditions of employment as to hours and wages of women have improved tremendously, and that women are in a wider variety of occupations, more and more of them each year reaching positions of responsibility. The burden of proof is upon Miss Wren and the Women's Party as to whether conditions would have been as satisfactory for women if we had had no such laws. Furthermore, in New York State we have 113,000 girls under 17 years of age who are gainfully employed, and 482,000 or 42 per cent. under 25 years of age, and 941,000 or 80 per cent. of women employed under 44 years of age. In other words, almost 20 per cent. of the women wage earners in New York State are of child-bearing age.

In addition to the youth of the women workers, only 12 per cent are members of trade union organisations, so that the large majority of them bargain as individuals rather than collectively. If the women workers in New York State were mature women, belonging to trade union organizations, there would be no need for protective legislation. Because of the slow development of the trade union movement among women, and because the trade union woman herself believes that the shorter day, by legislation, will tend to increase organization among them, the organised women in this country stand solidly behind protective legislation for women.

Miss Wren speaks of the women who lost their positions as conductors and guards on our street railways and subways because of special legislation. Miss Wren's statement is not based on facts. The facts are that these women were taken on by the transportation companies during the period of the war to replace men. The companies preferred employing men and, the moment the Armistice was signed in November, 1918, they adopted the policy of slowly dropping their women and taking back their men. The companies said from the beginning that the women working there were not taken on permanently, but were purely replacement workers.

Miss Wren and her associates claim that the law prohibiting the employment of women printers in newspaper offices at night, has decreased their opportunities for employment. This is another of her statements not based on facts. The truth is that women printers are not used in newspaper offices in this State in any considerable number to work on the night shift. Miss Wren and her associates claim that there were hundreds of women printers thrown out of employment through the Night Work Law. When this was checked up, there were 18 women in all.

There is no doubt but that special legislation for women has interfered with the employment of certain individuals, but an exceedingly small number. On the other hand, the legislation which is now on the New York Statute Books has given our working women better health, more leisure, has tended to stabilise their employment, and regularise it. It has increased, rather than decreased, the number of women workers.

Miss Wren and her associates have only to contrast the conditions of employment and the opportunities of employment in States where they have no Protective Legislation to the State where they have, and she will see, if she faces it honestly, that the women's positions are much better in States where there is Protective Legislation.

I thank you very much for giving the space for my reply.

NELLE SWARTZ,  
Director, Bureau of Women in Industry.

### NEWS OF DIVERS WOMEN.

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

#### Progress in Bagdad.

A correspondent sends in the following interesting news:—

It gives me great pleasure to report and, no doubt, real pleasure to your readers, to learn that there exists now a club for women in Bagdad and that I was privi-

leged to be presented to them to-day to bring them an informal greeting from our president, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, now on the way to America, as well as the assurance from their sisters in other countries that we hope soon to see them enfranchised.

Naturally, in view of the difficulty of Moslem women leaving their homes and moving about freely, progress is slow. There seemed genuine warmth in their response to this greeting and little address.

The early history of the club—only five months old—is interesting. A sign was put out, when the house was taken, "Progressive Club." The movement nearly came to an abrupt end when the Imam saw the King and complained of this bold and unwarranted movement among women. They were asked to change the name to "Club for Charity" (women, it seems, must always be "humanitarians").

Instead of complying the ladies removed the sign. Two months later, however, they calmly put it back again, and it has remained unchallenged and unmolested.

Although Bagdad to-day has been *en fête* for the signing of the Constitution and made great political demonstrations, the political aspect of the Woman Question is quite off the map as yet, though while they help orphans, teach dressmaking, and are educating themselves, they are also giving free classes to women who are illiterate and who come after their day's work is done.

This curious response by the illiterates—men and women—is one of the most hopeful signs in Iraq as in Turkey.

### VICTORIAN WOMEN'S CITIZENS' MOVEMENT.

We hear with great pleasure that the Victorian Women's Citizens' Movement recently passed a unanimous resolution asking for membership of the I.W.S.A. through the Australian Federation of Women's Societies for Equal Citizenship.

The aims of the V.W.C.M. are to secure:—

- (a) The early candidature of women of all parties for Parliament (Federal and State), and for Municipal Councils.
- (b) The early appointment of women as Justices of the Peace.
- (c) Such reforms as are urgently needed to raise the standards of social and national life.

### WOMEN IN SOUTH AMERICA. Business and Professional Women of South America.

UNDER the above title Miss Emma Chapin contributes a most interesting article to the *Woman's Press*, March, dealing with the position of women in Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, and Argentine, countries where the Y.W.C.A. is organised. Miss Chapin tells us that in regard to salaries there is one general principle that seems always to hold good: that is that men and women do not receive equal pay for equal work. For the rest we cull the following extracts from her article:—

#### Brazil.

Among the professional women, perhaps writers are the most outstanding. In 1922 the annual prize given for the best poem written by a Brazilian was won by a woman, but the poems had been submitted anonymously! A group of younger writers have become interested in literature for younger girls and are using the folklore of their own country in much of their work. In the field of dramatic art one young woman, the daughter of the foremost woman writer, has been a great success. Although many of the physicians and surgeons in South America are brilliant, nursing has never been recognised as a profession. The question of providing adequate training for nurses has been discussed in different countries, but Brazil has made the first real beginning. A nurses' training school, which offers a three-year course, was opened two years ago under the Federal Health Department in co-operation with the Rockefeller Foundation. As in the other countries, the government

demands that all public school teachers must be graduates of a normal school, and, on the other hand, there is a general understanding that the government is responsible for providing positions for all graduates. At the close of the school year many young girls go from the smaller towns and country districts to certain centres to prepare for entrance examinations to the normal school. In Rio de Janeiro the Y.W.C.A. is planning to provide courses for these students.

Most of the young women working in offices are only one or two generations removed from Europe. The purely Brazilian woman is slow about going into business. Most of the employers are foreign firms. It is seldom that a girl is a private secretary. She usually works in a large office with other people. There are many more women typists than stenographers. As a rule, the latter must have command of at least two languages, and many firms on general principle prefer men stenographers. Brazil has her women sculptors, painters, musicians, doctors, lawyers, dentists, and pharmacists, but except in teaching music and the fine arts they have only recently entered the professions.

#### Uruguay.

The smallest country, yet one of the most progressive, is Uruguay. A year ago Srta. Angela A. Perez gave the readers of the *Woman's Press* a resumé of the activities of Uruguayan women. To quote: "Women compose ninety per cent. of the teaching profession . . . teachers in boys' grammar schools are women . . . directors, committee, and office assistants of the girls' normal school are all women. . . . Of the nineteen inspectors and twenty-three assistant inspectors for the secondary schools, five are women. In newspaper work several women of social prestige and intellectual attainments carry on important activities, it being an interesting fact that all of them use pseudonyms to sign their articles. . . . In the awarding of degrees in the University in February, 1923, among those receiving diplomas were ten women pharmacists and fourteen dentists. The National University is co-educational, and women are taking degrees in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, civil engineering, law, and architecture."

There is not a great demand in Uruguay as yet for business women, although there are some in the government offices and business houses. Men respect a woman in the professions, but the tradition against her entering the commercial world still exists.

#### Chile.

The women educators of Chile have an unusual place of importance. Many of them belong to the "Consejo Nacional de Mujeres," an organisation standing for the best things in the feminist movement. Not only are they interested in students in the great university city of Santiago, where they have a hostel for women, but they are working for anti-tuberculosis, anti-alcohol, and social reform legislation. The president of the Consejo is a public school principal and a real leader. It is about fifty years since women were admitted to the university where to-day there are a thousand women studying. All of the forty-nine national high schools for girls have women principals. After the war with Bolivia and Peru, women took the places of men in many occupations. One of the hold-overs from that time is the woman street-car conductor. In that land steeped in Spanish customs and traditions one finds a woman with her queer uniform of white apron and little black straw hat perched on the top of her head ringing up the fares! As in most other countries the number of business women is limited, and many of those who are in offices are daughters and granddaughters of foreigners.

On the board of directors of the Santiago Association are several young women who are prominent educators and leaders in the social betterment of Chile. They played an important part in the recent Child Welfare Congress recently held in Santiago.

#### Argentina.

Conditions in Buenos Aires more than in any other part of South America resemble those of a northern city. It is a metropolis with a population of 1,700,000. There are thousands of young women employed in

government offices and by foreign and Argentine firms. Many of these girls and women are pure Argentines who have dared to enter the business world. Since the Y.W.C.A. began its stenography and typewriting classes seven years ago, several good business colleges have opened. Women have entered all the professions, and some have had great influence in the country. The first woman physician was a true pioneer, facing tremendous opposition from all quarters, but with the result that women now study medicine without calling forth the slightest criticism. This same woman organised the Red Cross Society of Argentina, and through it the first-aid classes which hundreds have attended and for which diplomas and medals have been given. In case of an accident in the street, no one may render aid until a policeman or an ambulance arrives except a person who has a Red Cross medal. This seems a queer custom, but for the injured person it is a protection against rogues.

Woman's standing in the educational world is high. They are principals and vice-principals of important schools, and the great army of public school teachers are women. Some have written text-books which are now being used in the schools. . . . In Argentina the number of professional women is much larger than in other countries, and for that reason there are different groups with varying ideas as to social reform and the need of legislation regarding the legal status of women.

### TO WHAT EXTENT DOES A DIFFERENTIATED SEX PSYCHOLOGY EXIST?

Mlle. SARA REY ALVAREZ, whose name is already known to our readers through her interesting contributions to our paper, recently gave a lecture before the Institut de Hautes Etudes de Bruxelles dealing with the above question. It is one which must be of the very greatest interest to feminists, for it is on the basis of the existence of certain fundamental sex differences in the mental and moral being that a great deal of opposition to equality between men and women is founded. Mlle. Rey wisely devoted the first part of her lecture to the absolute necessity of approaching the consideration of this subject not from the point of view of observation of existing conditions alone, but by going back to the study of those causes which have resulted in present conditions. It is the biological study of the question which is alone likely to result in a discovery of the truth. She shows that most of those who have dealt with this subject seem to have deduced from observation that women are more emotional and less reasoning than men; but if observation and analysis lead to the conclusion that women are more instinctive, more emotional, less highly individualised than men, let us consider what are the causes which have led them to be so. Mlle. Rey goes on to point out that there seems to be very little difference at birth in the vigour or the constitution of male and female infants, and it is therefore not unreasonable to suppose that the very considerable differences which are shown later in life may be, at any rate, in part due to the difference in training and life conditions. This view is supported by the study of those primitive races where the women are the workers, showing practically no inferiority or difference in physique from the men. If this be true of the physical being, it is even more likely to be true of the mental and moral being, when the very great differences in the environment and training of the sexes are taken into consideration. As Mlle. Rey most truly says, the games of childhood—that very centre of infant life—give one of the most striking examples of such artificial differentiation. The lecturer then proceeded to show that there is ample proof that hereditary traits, whether intellectual or physical, are transmitted to offspring without regard to sex. This is necessarily a very brief account of the arguments submitted, but it is hoped it may give an idea of a question of much interest to women, and may provide matter for further reflection and study. It is well for women who are still in the position of having to strive for their equal share in life, to have at hand something more solid in the way of argument for their right to such a share, than merely their own inward conviction of its being just and justified.

## THE USE OF LABOUR-SAVING DEVICES IN THE HOME.

BUSY as I am, it seems to be "up to me" to write something about labour-saving devices in the home, because Fate caught me up, many years ago now, a girl whose education and training had been all towards social work, lecturing, writing, etc., and dumped me down in a country where most women, even educated ones, are cook, nurse, housemaid, laundress, seamstress, washer-up, wife and mother, all in one. A very small percentage of women have domestic help of any kind; wages are high—incompetent "generals" get anything from thirty dollars a month up (*i.e.*, £72 a year), and even at that are difficult to get—and there is not the slightest doubt in my mind that this country is suffering not only by way of small families, but also mentally and in the general level of culture and manners, because of the overworked lives that many, if not most, of its housewives lead.

As usual, there is a bright side to even this difficult problem, for the very difficulty of running a house on the old-established principles is developing architects and engineers who are building easier-to-run houses and inventing machines to do the old hand-done jobs.

To begin with our houses: they are smaller, more compact, few corners, fewer stairs and passages, etc., with much built-in furniture, and heated by a central furnace, burning anthracite, that is looked to twice only in twenty-four hours, and never goes out from October until May. There are no grates to clean and no coal to carry (except, maybe, to the sitting-room, where English folk at least like a fire for companionship's sake), the house is an even temperature, and though most of us sleep with windows wide open, with maybe forty degrees of frost outside, there are warm bathrooms to dress in, and a well-aired house takes no time to warm up in the morning.

The domestic hot-water supply is heated from a coil in the firebox of the furnace during the winter, giving an unlimited supply of almost boiling water in the taps, and in the summer it is heated by an electric water-heater attached to the hot-water boiler. The latter is more expensive, but very convenient. Bathrooms are everywhere, even in the poorest modern houses, and in bigger houses there are many of them; a washing-stand is practically an unknown piece of furniture, so is a wardrobe, every room having its built-in "clothes closet." All the fittings, too, door knobs, taps, etc., are nickel-plated and easily cleaned by a rub, leaving no brasses to be cleaned daily. Floors are almost invariably of polished hardwood, beautiful to look at and easily "mopped" over, with nothing but rugs, which are easily shaken or cleaned with a vacuum cleaner, for few now use a broom. By the way, my newest vacuum cleaner is adjustable—by turning a screw I can make it clean either the bare floor or the thickest of pile carpets, and mops have followed the brooms to the land of "has-been-ers." For the occasional polishing of the floors one has electric floor polishers, and now even electric floor scrubbers are on the market.

For sewing we have electric motors attached to our machines. For the laundry we have electric washing-machines, wringers and irons, which are an incredible saving of time and annoyance. This winter I have installed a further improvement, an electric ironing-machine (at a cost of £25). It is like a mangle, with electrically heated rollers and driving power. It does everything but the most frilly garments, and saves a half-day's time every week, so that it will not take long to save its cost in actual cash. I myself can wash, rinse, blue, wring, and hang out an average of two hundred garments, including everything from sheets to baby's socks, in two hours, with little or no physical exertion, even the hanging-out being done on an endless line round two pulleys, which means that you can stand in

a sheltered dry spot (and this with three feet of snow on the ground is a consideration), put your clothes basket on a table, and never need to stoop to lift out the clothes.

For cooking we not only have the smaller and very convenient appliances like electric toasters, coffee percolators, tea-pots, kettles, etc., but we have electric ranges with insulated ovens and thermometers on the door to register the temperature inside. You raise your oven to the desired temperature, put in your whole dinner, leave the heat on for a short while to go through the food and not cool off your oven. Then you turn off your heat (or maybe turn it to "low"), and leave your dinner until you are ready to eat it, when it will be cooked to a turn by a slow steady heat, and, best of all, provided you give it long enough to cook, it does not matter how much longer you leave it there. You can do your house work, go down town or to a meeting, the dinner will be hot and ready to serve when you come in; no watching of pots, no cleaning of burnt pans, and, if this equipment be supplemented by a fireless or hay-box cooker, no everlasting three times a day preparing meals, for they can be prepared at once, the kitchen cleaned up once for all, and each meal be left to take care of itself and to keep hot in a separate compartment. At night time the oven is always employed, with very little extra consumption of electricity, by putting in the porridge and the stock-pot for the next day.

Washing-up, too, that bugbear of servantless households, can now be done by machine. Dishes, etc., are put into racks, lowered into a big container, soap powder and boiling water added, and a handle turned, either by hand or by electricity. At the bottom of the container are two paddles like an aeroplane's propellers. The movement of the handle moves these propellers so violently as to dash the boiling suds against the dishes while the latter remain stationary. The greasy water is drained off, another kettleful of boiling water put in, and a few turns of the handle rinses the dishes. The water is again drained off, the cover removed, and the dishes, other than silver and glass, dry with a bright glossy surface in the live steam. No dish-towels, except for glass and silver, which are easily lifted out and dried while piping hot; no fear of non-sterile dishes, very little handling, and so time is saved and breakages are few.

And so one could go on. The normal educated woman in Canada has, as a rule, to do far more in her house than the average woman in England; but the woman who can and does intelligently plan her work, and uses the appliances at her disposal, will find herself with at least some leisure every day to devote to outdoor life and public service, not to mention having a mind not dulled by drudgery and a body not worn out, which things have been a great hindrance to the energy which every woman needs to give to her own self-development and to the mental companionship of her husband and children.

It is difficult to give any statement of what such an equipment costs, as prices of appliances vary so much in different countries. As to running costs, my house has twelve rooms and three bathrooms. For light, cooking, cleaning, washing, sewing, etc., our bill for electricity is not more than £2 a month. Heat takes more electricity than power; for instance, it costs more to heat an ordinary electric iron than it does to run the washing machine for the same time.

Living as we do within eighty miles of Niagara, electric power is cheap in Toronto, and after an initial "service" charge, depending on the size of the house, the cost per kilowatt-hour is two cents (one penny) up to a certain consumption, and after that it falls to one cent (a halfpenny) per unit. EDITH LANG.

## SECTION FRANÇAISE.

## LA FEMME ET L'AUTORISATION MARITALE.

LE vestibule de la 1<sup>re</sup> Chambre du Tribunal est d'un enseignement salutaire. J'engage ceux qui sont convaincus que les femmes sont fort bien traitées par la loi à s'y promener quelquefois. "Pour les autorisations maritales," crie un garçon dans le couloir. Et une à une, accompagnées d'un avoué ou d'un avocat, les femmes s'avancent. Que demandent-elles à la justice? L'autorisation que leur refuse le mari, le mari despote, volontaire, ou simplement procédurier qui déclare ne pas vouloir autoriser la femme à agir. La Chambre du Conseil examine la demande de la femme, écoute les objections du mari et statue selon l'équité. Notez-le, d'ailleurs, la femme obtient presque toujours gain de cause. La jurisprudence corrige heureusement les rigueurs absurdes de la loi.

Et voici ce qui m'amène à de si sombres considérations le vestibule de la 1<sup>re</sup> Chambre: Une femme avait pour mari un homme dépensier et méchant. Le ménage pourtant était prospère; grâce au labeur et aux économies de l'épouse, le mari, chef de la communauté, avait acheté un immeuble. Un jour il vend l'immeuble, met le prix dans sa poche, jette sa femme à la porte du domicile conjugal.

L'infortunée—soixante-huit ans—demande la séparation de corps. Elle décide en outre de récupérer sa part de communauté sur les biens vendus par le mari en fraude de ses droits.

Et voilà le drame légal.

Pour ester en justice, la femme doit être autorisée par le mari. Le mari naturellement refuse l'autorisation à sa femme, il a été toute sa vie tyran au mépris du droit, comment ne le serait-il pas aujourd'hui à l'abri de la loi. Le mari refuse l'autorisation à sa femme d'entamer un procès contre lui, qui donc d'ailleurs l'en blâmerait? C'est la justice qui donnera cette autorisation.

Vous voyez, n'est-ce pas, à quelles conclusions risibles et navrantes amène la loi "masculiniste." Singulière justice, en vérité, qui met la femme dans une situation d'infériorité décisive et qui détermine tous ses gestes et tous ses actes. Or, chaque jour, les couloirs des tribunaux nous prodigent des exemples d'injustices légales, dont la femme est la triste victime. Les antiféministes qui le sont par ignorance et par indolence plus encore que par préjugés, ne seraient-ils pas sages de venir s'informer à des rudes réalités?

YVONNE NETTER,  
Avocat à la Cour.

## MADEMOISELLE IRÈNE CURIE.

Vient de Soutenir Avec Succès Une Thèse de Doctorat Ès Sciences.

IL est devenu un fait très fréquent que des femmes ou des jeunes filles présentent des thèses de doctorat, rivalisant avec celles de leurs futurs collègues masculins, ou même les dépassant. Cela s'est, pour ainsi dire, assimilé à notre existence moderne. Mais c'est, un événement exceptionnel que de voir soutenir par l'aspirant une thèse qui représente le fruit de dix années de recherches personnelles, capables de faire faire un pas en avant à une science encore dans l'enfance. Cet exploit nous nous sommes habitués à le considérer comme réservé aux vieux savants. Il vient d'être accompli par une jeune fille de vingt cinq ans, Mlle Irène Curie, qui porte en elle-même le magnifique héritage d'un nom deux fois illustre.

Le 31 mars elle présenta à la Sorbonne, pour l'obtention du grade de docteur ès sciences, un exposé portant ce titre: Recherches sur les rayons alpha du polonium, oscillation de parcours, vitesse d'émission, pouvoir ionisant. Le polonium fut le premier corps radio-actif découvert par M. et Mme. Curie en 1898.

Mlle. Curie s'initia pendant la guerre dans la radio-logie. Actuellement elle est préparateur à l'Institut du Radium de Paris et la collaboratrice de sa mère.

Dans une entrevue avec une rédactrice du "Quotidien," celle-ci lui ayant demandé si sa carrière n'était pas trop fatigante pour une femme et si elle n'impliquait pas un renoncement à la création d'une famille, elle s'exprima dans ces termes: "Je ne pense pas que la science soit trop pénible pour une femme. Je crois que les aptitudes scientifiques d'un homme et d'une femme sont exactement les mêmes. On estime parfois que le résultat des travaux d'une femme est moindre, mais c'est parce que toutes ne comprennent pas qu'elles y doivent consacrer autant de temps. Une femme de science doit renoncer aux obligations mondaines. Elle peut accepter les obligations familiales à condition d'en assumer les charges en surcroît. C'est alors très lourd, mais ce n'est pas impossible à concilier. Pour ma part, je considère la science comme l'intérêt primordial de ma vie. Mais je n'en fais pas une règle pour autrui. Chacun a ses goûts personnels, il serait absurde de généraliser."

Mlle. Curie a exprimé dans ces simples phrases le terrible dilemme que la société pose actuellement à toute femme voulant s'initier à la vie laborieuse ou intellectuelle: le renoncement à se former une famille à soi ou l'accumulation de devoirs et de responsabilités. En effet, la civilisation a intenté de cultiver l'esprit de famille jusqu'à avoir créé l'égoïsme de la famille—dont la femme est la première victime—au lieu de respecter l'individualité de tous, hommes et femmes, qui est le seul moyen de s'acheminer vers l'harmonie universelle. Et c'est au nom de cet idéal que l'on prétend enchaîner la femme à l'amour et au foyer.

Je souligne avec plaisir que le cas de Mlle. Curie vient renforcer la thèse maintes fois soutenue par moi, de l'héritage bilatérale des facultés intellectuelles et des aptitudes scientifiques et artistiques, à l'encontre de l'opinion générale que l'admet seulement dans les instincts, les passions et les sentiments, et conçoit au même temps l'existence d'une intelligence féminine complètement différenciée, c'est à dire, intuitive, inapte à l'abstraction et au raisonnement, et prétend que le ressort central de la psychologie féminine serait la prépondérance des sentiments sur la raison et la volonté.

SARA REY ALVAREZ.

Londres, le 10 Avril, 1925.

## NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

La Septième Conférence Internationale du Travail.

Cette conférence aura lieu le 19 mai. Son programme est très étendu: prohibition du travail de nuit pour les boulangers, repos hebdomadaire dans l'industrie du verre, égalité de traitement pour les travailleurs nationaux et étrangers en ce qui concerne les accidents du travail (le problème important de l'assurance sociale sera traité pour la première fois), discussion sur le chômage, effet de l'application du plan Dawes sur les conditions économiques, méthodes de conciliation dans les disputes industrielles. L'Alliance internationale du Suffrage demande que les femmes soient représentées à la conférence; il est nécessaire que les femmes ne soient pas tenues à l'écart de ces discussions. Tous ceux qui désirent visiter Genève pendant cette conférence peuvent s'adresser à The Secretary, League of Nations Union, 15, Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W. 1.

## Danemark.

Nouvelle loi sur le mariage.—En 1922, une loi donnait aux parents des droits égaux sur leurs enfants. Aujourd'hui, une nouvelle loi sur le mariage demandée depuis 1908 a passé à l'unanimité: les biens de chaque conjoint, soit qu'il les possède au moment du mariage, soit qu'il les acquière plus tard par don ou héritage, lui restent acquis sans qu'un contrat soit nécessaire. La propriété de famille ou la propriété commerciale de l'un des conjoints ne peut pas être engagée, louée ou vendue sans le consentement des deux parties. Le mari et la femme doivent contribuer à l'entretien de la famille, selon leurs moyens respectifs; le travail domestique de la femme comptant pour une contribution. Chaque conjoint peut réclamer un inventaire pour protéger ses biens propres contre les créanciers de l'autre partie.

La première femme Alderman a été élue à Copenhague, c'est la Doctoresse Uvilda Harbou-Hoff. Le Comité d'études contre les dégénérés a nommé une femme Dr. Estrid Hein parmi ses membres.

#### États-Unis.

Plusieurs Conventions ont lieu en avril et mai. En avril: Convention annuelle de l'Association des femmes diplômées d'Université à Indianapolis. Parmi les oratrices, citons Mrs. Park qui vient de faire une tournée féministe de dix semaines dans les Universités. Du 16 au 22 avril, sixième Convention annuelle de la Ligue nationale des électrices, à Richmond. Le 23 avril, réunion à Washington de l'Association nationale du suffrage des femmes; c'est à Washington que la Société a été fondée en 1869. Le 29 avril, Conférence pan-américaine de cinq jours. Le 4 mai, verra l'ouverture de la Convention quinquennale du Conseil international des femmes à Washington. Plus de 46 pays y seront représentés. Le programme en sera très étendu: des armements, cour de justice internationale, société des nations, Office international du travail, reconstruction européenne. Les droits de l'enfant y seront pleinement étudiés, et on recommandera aux Conseils nationaux des femmes de collaborer avec les Sociétés protectrices de l'enfance. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mrs. Chapman Catt, et Dr. Aletta Jacob représenteront l'Alliance internationale du suffrage au Congrès.

Le premier discours de Mrs. Corbett Ashby à New York a eu lieu le 30 mars devant le groupe de New York des femmes diplômées de l'Université. Mrs. Ashby dit que les femmes étant affranchies maintenant dans 27 pays elles ont pris conscience de leurs responsabilités dans les affaires nationales et internationales. Elles doivent porter tout leur effort à obtenir des gouvernants de haute valeur. Parlant de la Société des Nations, elle dit que malgré ses imperfections, il serait futile de la combattre et de la remplacer par une autre organisation, car les gouvernements qui ont si mal organisé la Société à Versailles en 1919 ne vaudraient guère mieux en 1925. Les sociétés féministes s'intéressent beaucoup à la conférence internationale pour la paix mondiale qui aura lieu à San Francisco le 11 novembre, 1926, et leur intérêt est fixé sur le programme pour la 5<sup>e</sup> session annuelle de l'Institut de politique à Williams College du 23 juillet au 22 août.

#### Bermudes.

La Société suffragiste des Bermudes vient de s'affilier à l'Alliance internationale. Cette Société va présenter un projet de loi au Parlement pour le suffrage des femmes.

#### Cuba.

Le "Partido Nacional Suffragista" s'organise en fédération des associations féministes et a tenu son second congrès national en avril.

#### Mexique.

Le mouvement féministe à Mexico.—C'est une femme, Señorita Cholita Gonzalez, qui est secrétaire du nouveau président du Mexique. Elle est, comme autrefois Juana Ines de la Cruz, une féministe de la première heure, ce qui est d'autant plus remarquable que les Mexicains traitent encore la femme en esclave.

#### Brésil.

Le Brésil est le premier pays de l'Amérique du sud qui ait organisé un enseignement pour les infirmières. Dans les écoles publiques les maîtresses sont toutes préparées par des écoles normales et diplômées, le gouvernement leur assure toujours une position. Les femmes qui travaillent dans les bureaux sont d'origine européenne, les pures brésiliennes reculant devant le préjugé. Le Brésil a des femmes sculpteurs, peintres, musiciens, docteurs, avocats, dentistes, pharmaciens, mais tout cela est récent.

#### Uruguay.

Ce pays est très féministe. 90% des membres de l'Enseignement sont des femmes, les écoles secondaires de garçons ont des professeurs femmes. Dans le journalisme, il y a quelques femmes distinguées. En 1923, parmi les diplômées, il y avait 10 pharmaciennes et 14 dentistes. L'Université nationale est mixte, et les femmes prennent leurs diplômes en médecine, art dentaire, pharmacie, droit, architecture, etc. Il y a des femmes dans les pro-

fessions libérales, mais pas dans le commerce; le préjugé s'y oppose.

#### Chili.

Beaucoup de femmes éducatrices appartiennent au Conseil national des femmes. Les femmes sont admises dans les Universités depuis cinquante ans, et il y a maintenant un millier d'étudiantes. Après la guerre contre la Bolivie et le Pérou, beaucoup de femmes ont pris des métiers masculins. Il y a peu de femmes dans le commerce, et ce sont des filles d'étrangers.

#### Argentine.

Les conditions à Buenos-Ayres sont, plus qu'ailleurs, semblables à celles du Nord. C'est une métropole de 1,700,000 habitants. Il y a des milliers de femmes employées dans les bureaux du gouvernement ou dans des firmes argentines ou étrangères. La première femme médecin a fondé la Croix Rouge. Presque tous les membres de l'enseignement public sont des femmes. Le nombre des femmes dans les professions libérales est plus grand que partout ailleurs. Buenos-Ayres vient de nommer 50 femmes dans la police c'est une innovation dans les contrées latines d'Amérique.

#### Terre-Neuve.

La victoire des femmes.—Nous offrons toutes nos félicitations aux femmes de Terre-Neuve qui viennent d'obtenir le droit complet de suffrage et d'éligibilité au Parlement. Le premier ministre, en présentant le Bill à la seconde lecture, a dit qu'il regardait cette démarche comme un honneur et un privilège. Le Dr. Robinson, de la Chambre haute, ou Conseil Législatif, en présentant le Bill, fit un discours très élevé, où nous lisons ceci: "Aucun pouvoir sur terre ne peut dispenser un homme ou une femme de prendre ses responsabilités devant Dieu et devant ses semblables. Les hommes ont assumé jus qu'à présent les responsabilités politiques, mais les femmes d'autrefois vivaient dans un temps fort différent du nôtre, leur vie était plus recluse et leurs intérêts plus centralisés; l'horizon de la femme, sa sphère d'activité se sont élargies, et ses devoirs ne se limitent plus à la maison. Les intérêts de l'humanité sont indépendants de la race et du sexe. La Ligue d'affranchissement des femmes a envoyé ses remerciements au premier ministre.

#### Grande-Bretagne.

##### Union Nationale des Sociétés pour Légalité Civique.

Projets de loi féminins devant le Parlement.—Deux projets de loi viennent d'être présentés au Parlement: le bill sur la tutelle des enfants, et le bill sur la séparation et la pension alimentaire. Ces deux bills sont encore très imparfaits; les suggestions faites par l'Union nationale n'ayant pu être discutées faute de temps. Nous donnerons le texte des lois lorsqu'elles seront votées.

Radio.—L'Union nationale a organisé des conférences par sans-fil tous les quinze jours. Les sujets portent sur la législation en ce qui concerne les femmes et les enfants, les femmes au Parlement, à la Société des Nations, etc.

Cours d'été.—Un cours d'été sur la politique internationale aura lieu à Oxford du 25 août au 8 septembre. Les étudiantes seront reçues à Saint Hilda. S'adresser pour tous renseignements à "National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, 15, Dean's Yard, Westminster, London."

##### Petition des Femmes du Niger au Gouvernement.

Nous avons reçu du Comité pour la représentation des femmes à la Société des Nations la pétition qui a été présentée par les femmes du Niger au gouverneur, Sir Hugh Clifford: "Les femmes à tous les degrés d'instruction constatent qu'aucun emploi ne leur est offert qui leur permette de gagner leur vie; tous les bureaux du gouvernement leur sont fermés. Les conditions hygiéniques des habitations sont déplorables; beaucoup de maisons et de rues sont inondées à la saison des pluies et les égouts sont insuffisants; les marchés sont exposés au soleil et à la pluie. Les femmes de fonctionnaires qui voyagent ne trouvent pas d'abri en route. Beaucoup d'hôpitaux ne donnent pas de nourriture aux malades, les nurses sont inexpérimentées; il n'y a pas, dans tout le pays, de maternité ni d'orphelinat. Il n'y a pas de service de bateaux pour les provisions. Les fonctionnaires africains sont obligés de voyager sur le pont de 3<sup>e</sup>

classe. Dans les rues de Lagos, l'obscénité du langage, des chansons, des journaux, le scandale des prostituées qui affluent de tous les coins du pays, ont un effet pernicieux sur la jeunesse au moral et au physique. Le gouvernement du Lagos n'a rien fait pour l'éducation des filles ni pour l'apprentissage des garçons. Quant au trafic des liqueurs, si funeste à la race noire, il devrait être supprimé. Des écoles pour noirs, semblables à celles d'Amérique, devraient être ouvertes. En résumé, il est nécessaire de civiliser les races arriérées, au lieu de les laisser croupir dans l'ignorance et le vice.

#### Iraq.

Les lectrices des Mille et Une nuits apprendront avec surprise qu'un club féminin c'est fondé dans l'Iraq, et la majorité de ses membres est composée de mahométanes.

Un club féminin s'est fondé à Bagdad il y a cinq mois. Le nom de "Club progressiste" ayant effrayé l'imam, celui-ci ordonna que le nom fût changé en celui de "Club pour charité." Le club, au lieu de changer le titre, enleva son enseigne et la remit tranquillement deux mois après. Bagdad est en fête pour l'établissement de la constitution, mais tout reste à faire pour les femmes. Celles-ci ont organisé des cours libres du soir pour les femmes illettrées, des cours de couture, des écoles pour orphelins, etc.

Une vigoureuse campagne est menée dans la presse contre le port du voile.

#### Indes.

Le mouvement féministe avance rapidement aux Indes. Ce mois-ci, une femme, Mme Madhavi Amma, a été nommée pour la première fois au Conseil législatif de Cochin. Cochin est à la tête du progrès féministe; la matriarchie y est en honneur, la culture littéraire des femmes y est la plus élevée, la femme du maharajah a une grande influence politique. Au Penjab, Mme Lala Bodh Raj a présenté une résolution au Conseil législatif pour faire supprimer la disqualification des femmes aux élections du Conseil.

#### Chine.

Une révolution sanglante, compliquée de tous les conflits d'intérêts, fait de la République chinoise le plus instable gouvernement du globe. Toutefois, un fait intéressant est l'affranchissement progressif des femmes. L'épouse chinoise, quoique soumise encore aux anciennes conventions d'obéissance aux anciens Rites, a toujours eu beaucoup d'influence dans son petit domaine. Avec l'éducation moderne, elle s'est encore affranchie. C'est déjà un contraste avec le passé que de la voir sortir dans les rues, dans les endroits publics, converser avec les hommes, danser avec eux, sans encourir les pénalités des Anciens Rites, qui l'eussent condamnée à la torture et à la mort. La dernière impératrice douairière, Tzu Hsi est le plus frappant exemple d'une personnalité puissante rompant avec les conventions. Les femmes instruites ont trois champs d'activité: professions libérales, commerce et philanthropie. Il y a des femmes banquiers, avoués, pharmaciens, dentistes, médecins. Celles-ci ont beaucoup à faire contre les pratiques superstitieuses. La Chine a déjà un parti suffragiste. En 1912 des femmes de loi formées à Paris ont fondé une école de droit et d'économie politique à Pékin; une nouvelle école a été fondée à Shangai par Mme. Hsu. Dans les écoles des missions, il y a 30 p. 100 de filles.

#### Autriche.

La Conseil national des femmes, fondé par Mme. Hainish, mère du Président d'Etat, a tenu sa treizième assemblée générale les 28 et 29 mars. Sur 100 sociétés qui y étaient affiliées, il en reste 60, après la séparation des sociétés de Bohême, Moravie, Silésie, Styrie, et Tyrol. Formé uniquement à l'origine, de sociétés de bienfaisance, il comprend aujourd'hui en majeure partie des sociétés d'intérêt professionnel ou pédagogique; sections d'hygiène, d'éducation, de journalisme, de droit, et une nouvelle section de science sociale. Trois questions ont été discutées: 1. la nationalité de la femme mariée. Après le rapport clair et concis de Mme. A. Leuch, de Berne, le Conseil a décidé de demander au Parlement de modifier la loi après discussion à la conférence internationale. 2. Mme. E. G. Urban a signalé la nécessité de développer la science domestique et l'hygiène, d'obtenir

l'admission des femmes dans les commissions pour la construction et l'aménagement des maisons; l'influence des femmes doit aussi s'exercer dans les questions concernant la production, la distribution, et la consommation des aliments; des instituts scientifiques d'application ménagère et d'hygiène doivent être créés avec exposition permanente de meubles et ustensiles pratiques. Le travail ménager devrait être reconnu comme une profession et l'Etat devrait créer un département d'hygiène et de science domestique. 3. Mme. E. Firth a traité de la réforme des lois sur le mariage, sur la prostitution, et a demandé que l'on élève l'âge du consentement (à l'amour).

#### Hongrie.

Pédagogie.—Une réforme menaçante pour l'enseignement féminin a amené des féministes à organiser une vaste enquête par une série de conférences qui ont attiré un auditoire nombreux. Le résultat de l'enquête sera soumis au ministre.

Travail des enfants.—Un memorandum sera aussi présenté au gouvernement, pour la protection du travail des enfants. La loi actuelle limite l'école obligatoire à 12 ans et ne permet l'apprentissage qu'à partir de 14 ans. Le résultat est que les enfants sont abandonnés à eux-mêmes pendant deux ans ou employés provisoirement dans des usines qui les exploitent.

Réunion générale.—La 20<sup>e</sup> assemblée annuelle de la Feministak Egyesület a eu lieu le 2 avril. Vilma Glücklich a été réélue présidente pour la 20<sup>e</sup> fois. L'Assemblée a rappelé le succès de ses travaux par l'obtention du suffrage et le progrès continu des idées féministes.

Projets de loi.—A Buda-Pesth, le gouvernement a présenté deux projets de loi à l'Assemblée nationale pour l'établissement des deux Chambres au nouveau Parlement. La Chambre haute sera formée 1<sup>o</sup> de personnes titrées et de dignitaires de l'Eglise et de la Cour; 2<sup>o</sup> de membres élus; 3<sup>o</sup> de membres nommés. Dans les membres élus, seuls les membres des Conseils de comtés et des membres de certaines sociétés d'art, science, industrie, etc, comprendront des femmes. Les membres de l'aristocratie ne comprendront que des hommes. Pour la Chambre basse, les femmes sont admises comme dans l'ancienne loi. La F.E. a réclamé auprès de la Commission qui doit discuter et présenter le projet de loi.

## SIMPLIFICATION DE LA TOILETTE FEMININE.

(Suite et Fin.)

Il est juste aussi d'effleurer, en passant, un chapitre un peu spécial, mais qui marque tout de même la tendance de la femme actuelle à simplifier le vêtement pour le plus grand bien de sa commodité personnelle; c'est le chapitre des deuils. Suivant un exemple venu d'Amérique, une jeune femme, de nos jours, n'est plus condamnée à traîner, pendant deux ou trois ans, le long, lourd, désastreux voile de crêpe, qui s'agrippait dans toutes les foules, et vous arrachait la tête les jours de vent: elle peut porter du blanc, en été, au lieu d'étouffer sous des cuirasses de laine noire. Il n'y a plus qu'en province que l'on compte encore sur ses doigts afin de vérifier si Mme X... n'a pas quitté son voile un mois trop tôt pour le rituel en usage.

Oh! je reconnais qu'il y a encore beaucoup à faire pour la libération complète; et j'abandonne bien volontiers à Marcel Prévost, par exemple, la ridicule chaussure à talon Louis XV, sur laquelle nos jeunes femmes trébuchent, non seulement sur le pavé de Paris, mais à travers les cailloux d'un chemin de campagne, les galets d'une plage! D'autant plus que j'ai, moi-même, pris fortement à partie celles de nos compatriotes qui, par leur genre "petite femme" contribuent à donner de nous toutes une exécrable opinion à l'étranger. (Mes appréciations sur certaines Françaises de Rhénanie m'ont, notamment, valu quelques solides inimitiés). C'est égal; ne soyons pas injustes; et ne décourageons pas les velléités de sage indépendance. Rappelons-nous les vertugadins et les fraises de l'époque Henri IV.; et la poudre des chevelures; et les crinolines, et les robes à traîne; et les corsets-poirs... Ce sont là des choses que nous ne reverrons pas plus que la poste aux chevaux.



Il y a désormais trop de femmes qui travaillent, soit afin de gagner leur pain quotidien, soit afin de réussir dans une carrière intéressante, pour qu'elles puissent passer trois ou quatre heures par jour à leur toilette, et encombrer leurs allées et venues d'un appareil de cortège historique. Ces femmes-là forment la grande masse, qui noie, malgré tout, les fantaisies ruineuses de quelques excentriques; grâce à elles, on est libre aujourd'hui, de s'habiller comme on veut, sans se faire remarquer. J'ai, quant à moi, la ferme conviction que, désormais, il n'est plus au pouvoir des magnats de

la couture d'imposer à la foule féminine une mode par trop gênante, ou trop contraire à l'hygiène, ainsi qu'on le voyait couramment jadis. Et, par des chemins très zig-zaguant, je le reconnais, nous allons sûrement vers cette simplification de la toilette qui est une des étapes de l'affranchissement féminin.

SUZANNE DE CALLIAS.

Quand les hommes auront abandonné les chemises et les faux-cols empesés ils pourront dire eux aussi qu'ils ont franchi une nouvelle étape vers l'affranchissement définitif.—*Note de la Rédaction "Le Droit des Femmes."*

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