



# THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE NEWS

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## MEETING OF THE DUTCH NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AMSTERDAM, JULY 8



1. Mrs. Van Itallie van Embden, 2. Dr. Aletta Jacobs, 3. Police Inspector Hoogendijk, 4. Police Inspector Kehrer, 5. Mrs. Mansfeldt De Witt Huberts, 6. Mrs. Bakker van Bosse, 7. Mrs. Bakker-Nort, M.P., 8. Mrs. M. Corbett Ashby, President of the Alliance, 9. Miss J. Westerman, M.P., 10. Miss Blaauw, 11. Mrs. Polak-Rosenburg, 12. Miss Van Vriesland, 13. Miss Rosa Manus, 14. Miss Marie Heinen.

N.B.--Please note new address on back page.



### PEACE STUDY CONFERENCE, AMSTERDAM, NOV. 17-19.

Although we shall not be able to publish the programme and other particulars of this Conference until our October number, we would like to assure our readers that arrangements are going well forward on the lines indicated in the account of the Board Meeting in the July issue. Mrs. Corbett Ashby recently attended a meeting of the Dutch Auxiliary in Amsterdam which discussed these arrangements at length and with enthusiasm. The photograph on the front page shows her in the midst of a group of women Members of Parliament and other well known women. The Conference will be held in the new Colonial Institute in Amsterdam, on the dates stated above, and we would ask all our Auxiliaries when beginning to make their autumn and winter plans, to bear this date in mind.

It is proposed to have delegations of 12 members from each Auxiliary, of which three will be delegates with right to speak and vote; the remainder attending for the purpose of study of the problems in view of subsequent national work. As far as possible, delegates with special expert knowledge should be selected.

### ALLIANCE HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA.

August 29th to September 17th.

In our last issue we announced that the Alliance would open temporary Headquarters in Geneva during the Assembly of the League of Nations as a centre for feminist visitors. We can now give some further details which will, we hope, induce all members and friends of the Alliance who may be in Geneva at that time to take the opportunity of strengthening the bonds of international feminism.

Last year complaint was made that the office was too far from the League, so this year we are glad to be able to announce that we have taken rooms within three minutes' walk of the Salle de la Réformation, where the Assembly of the League is held, namely, at "Le Foyer du Travail féminin, 11 Cours de Rive (2nd Floor; telephone: Stand 00-34). It will be easy, therefore, for those attending the Assembly to come there at the end of the session, or even in between the speeches, to meet their friends, read the papers, have tea, get information, etc. We hope also to be able, as last year, to provide members of the Alliance with cards for the Assembly. We would also call attention to the fact that there are two restaurants in the building, so that one can have lunch and then pass into the office for a quiet talk, or look through the papers.

In order to permit the Secretary to attend other meetings, etc., which take place in Geneva during this time, it has been decided that experience from last year makes it desirable that the office should be open only in the afternoon from 2 to 4 every day, except Sunday, from August 29th to September 17th, this being the period of the greatest international activity. We hope that several members of the Board of the Alliance will be in Geneva at that time; and in any case the President, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, and the Secretary, Mlle. Gord, will be delighted to seize the opportunity of meeting old friends and members of the Alliance, and to make the acquaintance of new ones.

In accordance with suggestions made to us, every Monday at 5 o'clock the Alliance will be "At Home" to all who care to come and have a cup of tea in the certainty of meeting interesting figures in the woman's movement. Further, during these three weeks we hope to organise, either in the evening or late afternoon, short talks by distinguished feminists on various questions of international feminist interest.

We hope by these means to make our Headquarters an active and lively centre for the woman's move-

ment, and that at a time when Geneva becomes the very centre of international life. But if we are to succeed in this object, we must have the co-operation of all the members of the Alliance, and we beg that you will all spread the news of these Headquarters, come yourself if you are to be in Geneva, tell your friends to come, and help us to make the Alliance known and its work appreciated in every quarter.

E.G.D.

### LEAGUE OF NATIONS: COUNCIL MEETING, JUNE, 1927.

The 45th Session of the Council did not accomplish anything very striking, and showed a disposition to put decisions off until after the Assembly in September. The Report of the Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference was considered and postponed until after the Assembly to give the States Members time to consider it. M. Benes, the Rapporteur, professed his belief that progress was being made in spite of the difficulties which were being met with. Herr Stresemann expressed the view that a different attitude must be adopted in future if any real progress is to result. The representative of Great Britain, Sir Austen Chamberlain, expressed apprehension lest public opinion should demand quicker progress "out of ignorant zeal." Perhaps there was something rather painfully characteristic of the British phlegm in this fear, which is almost certainly not one of the fears on the disarmament question which would have occurred to most people. The Council also gave consideration to the forwarding of its "preventive" procedure in case of war, a report being sent to States Members, together with reports on financial assistance to States victims of aggression and the legal position which would arise in case of the application in peace time of economic pressure, particularly maritime blockade.

The Resolutions and recommendations of the Economic Conference were warmly recommended to all Governments, and the Council will at its next session study measures to strengthen the economic organisation of the League. In the meantime the Economic Committee is to hold a special session to consider how to give effect to the Conference resolutions on customs tariffs, etc. The Council is summoning a Diplomatic Conference for October to draw up an agreement on the abolition of import and export prohibitions and restrictions.

The dispute between Hungary and Roumania on the expropriation of Hungarian land-owners by Roumania was referred to the next session. The question of Memel was discussed and an agreement reached by the representatives of Germany and Lithuania outside the Council meetings.

The Council received the usual progress reports from the Permanent League Committees.

### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL DINNER AT GENEVA.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

On Wednesday, 15th June, 1927, a brilliant company of nearly 200 persons, from over thirty different countries, gathered in the big dining-room of the Hotel des Bergues. The International Council of Women acted as hostess, and entertained the Members of the Council of the League of Nations. It was a great occasion, for never before had the Council of the League accepted an invitation to dine with the members of a private organization. The tables were tastefully decorated with irises in the International Council colours, purple, yellow, and white. The Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, President of the International Council of Women, presided, and was supported at the head table by the members of the Board of Officers of the International Council. Nine members of the Council of the League of Nations had accepted the invitation, their

Excellencies Sir Austin Chamberlain, M. Paul Boncour, M. Benes, M. Zaleski, Jonkheer Beelaerts van Blokland, M. Villega, M. Urrutia, M. le Dr. Judice and M. Sarafoff. His Excellency Herr Stresemann had written to express his great regret not to have been able to accept the invitation, as he was the guest of honour at a Press dinner given the same evening. Dr. Nansen likewise wrote to say how sorry he was that he had a previous engagement. Sir Eric and Lady Drummond were also present, as well as prominent members of the League Secretariat and of the International Labour Office.

Lady Aberdeen, in her speech of welcome to the guests, drew attention to the importance of the occasion as recognizing the help that organized women could give to the League in all departments of its work. She showed how the pioneer women, who drew up the International Council of Women constitution in 1888 had in many points anticipated the Covenant of the League of Nations. The object of the Council has been to bring the women of all races, religions, and classes together in a common unity of purpose to further the principles and practice of the Golden Rule in all relations of life, and with this view National Councils of Women have been formed in forty different countries, each such Council being a federation of Women's Societies, and every Council, large or small, being given equal place and representation. Lady Aberdeen said that the International Council was expressly prohibited from associating itself with any one propaganda, and all the different lines of work which have been adopted have been undertaken by the unanimous vote of the affiliated National Councils, the first and foremost of these being Peace through Arbitration. All activities of the International Council have been carried on by means of that international co-operation which lies also at the basis of the work of the League, and which recognizes as its chief power the magic influence of bringing together divers individual personalities in common thought and purpose for common action. Sir Austin Chamberlain in his reply acknowledged the help that women could give and hoped that the League would be as strong and vigorous as the International Council when it had reached the venerable age of 39. Madame Avril de Sainte-Croix, in her delightful French way, spoke of international co-operation and what it meant for the world. M. Paul Boncour, in his reply, expressed the hope that the women in those countries where they still lacked the suffrage would soon come to their rights. Dr. Alice Salomon spoke in German of the ideal underlying all international work; she was followed by M. Benes, who pleased the guests very much by acknowledging that he had always been a good feminist, that when Czecho-Slovakia became an independent country the statesmen at once gave full rights of citizenship to women. In a short French speech Sir Austin expressed his appreciation of Lady Aberdeen's wonderful work through the International Council of Women, and her health was drunk amid cheers, and the evening closed with a reception, which gave the numerous hosts an opportunity of meeting their guests.

—The Woman's Leader.

### THE ECONOMIC CONFERENCE.

A most interesting address was given by Mrs. Barbara Wootton to the audience invited to meet her by the Joint Standing Committee of Women's International Organizations at the Caxton Hall on 27th June. Officers and members of the various international organizations were present, and Mrs. Wootton was asked many questions. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, took the chair, and gave a brief summary of the formation of the Joint Standing Committee. The members were the International Council of Women, the Alliance, the World's Women's Temperance Union, the International League for Peace and Freedom, the International Federation of University Women, the

International Federation of Nurses, the World's Union for International Peace and Concord, and the Young Women's Christian Association. The Joint Committee had heard with great pleasure that the Austrian Government had appointed Frau Emmy Friedlich to be delegate to the Conference. After hard work by the Committee, three women were appointed to the Conference by the Council of the League—Mrs. Barbara Wootton, Dr. van Dorp, M.P., for Holland, and Dr. Lüders, member of the Reichstag. Mrs. Barbara Wootton was given a warm reception on rising to speak. Mrs. Wootton said the importance of the Conference lay chiefly in the fact that it was the first effort since the war to view world economic conditions as a whole. There were present besides States members of the League, delegations from Egypt, Turkey, the United States of America, and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics (Russia). Most of the delegates were Government delegates, but amongst them were chiefly business or working people, not for the most part diplomatic representatives.

The Russian delegation seemed to have reached the point of admitting there was room for their system and the other on certain minimum conditions, which much resembled old radical programmes.

The problem was a world economically unhappy, especially that part of it called Europe, apart from countries such as China, where political conditions aggravated economic unrest. Yet even in Europe some facts were encouraging. The destruction of the war was the least evil. The actual raw materials, corn, and foodstuffs are there, the physical stuff is required. The organization for the transmutation of these is faulty. It is true of the whole world that production per head is higher not only in the whole world, but even in Europe. The population of the world is up 5 per cent., that of Europe is up 1 per cent., but we have not solved the problem of organization, since Europe has 10,000,000 unemployed. We have invested our capital and trained our skilled labour for industries which are gradually shifting outside Europe, leaving behind the invested capital and the skilled labour. For instance, the consumption of raw cotton by Europe has gone down by 2,000,000 bales, the consumption by the U.S.A. and Japan has gone up. Australia, too, is tending to manufacture her own wool. The war not only destroyed, but had the more serious effect of twisting our organization along wrong lines. For instance, Great Britain had 50 per cent. more of steel plant than before the war, yet the output was less. Not only Great Britain but the world had more ships, more shipyards, and more ship-builders than in pre-war days. The serious unemployment in various branches of engineering was increased by the war-time influx of new labour. The war idea was self-sufficiency and nationalism, which made trade difficult: (1) by prohibition of imports; (2) by new or higher tariffs; (3) by the creation of new states so that there are since the war 11,000 kilometres of new customs.

The Conference divided into three Commissions: (1) on Agriculture; (2) on Industry; (3) on Commerce.

1. No woman sat on the Commission which discussed such questions as improvements in credits and marketing.

2. The value of the second commission lay chiefly in the value of the general principles which it is hoped will gradually sink into people's minds. Its problems were further removed from the direct influence of the Conference since Governments cannot or will not touch them. The regulation of conditions comes too directly under the I.L.O. to be handled by the Conference. Many problems concern management and workers, not the Governments. However, three aspects were considered:—

(a) The rationalization of industry which includes its standardization, simplification, and stabilization, e.g. new machinery should not be installed without consultation with the workers, i.e., the professional and industrial organizations concerned.



(b) The provision of industrial statistics.  
 (c) The growth of international combines and kartels. In about a dozen great industries such alliance is taking the place of competition and disregards national boundaries.

The Conference was divided as to whether this trend was inevitable or pestilential, or both, and passed a compromise resolution.

3. The third Commission on Commerce is likely to be more immediately productive of results through subsequent technical conferences, which will draft actual treaties. As regards tariffs it was recommended there should be simplification, standardization, e.g., "domestic hardware" should carry the same meaning everywhere and include the same articles. Stabilization, i.e., tariffs should remain the same for a long period as pre-war. It recommended that there should be no prohibition of imports, and that increases of tariff designed to meet post-war conditions which had passed should be done away with.

Mrs. Wootton summed up the general usefulness of the Conference as follows:—

1. It was helpful and useful to hold it at all.  
 2. Apart from definite results, a good reason for holding it was to mark the beginning of a new era of greater friendliness and a new desire to remove obstacles to trade.

3. Resolutions were passed designed to strengthen the economic side of the League, which is now overpowered by the diplomatic and political side.

In answer to a stream of questions, Mrs. Wootton said the Conference had avoided certain questions because of the political difficulties, e.g., the mobility of labour which touched emigration and ran away from some difficulties, such as over-production and under-production side by side in different parts of the world, and the rationing of raw materials.

The Marchioness of Aberdeen moved a cordial vote of thanks, which was seconded by Miss Courtney of the League for Peace and Freedom.

—The Woman's Leader.

### PEACE PROGRAMME OF THE WOMEN'S LITTLE ENTENTE.

The Women's Little Entente ardently desires to see stable conditions of peace established in the South East of Europe, believing that this is essential for the peace of Europe. It has therefore adopted the following programme:

- A. Believing that peace can only be assured by organising for peace, it is opposed to every policy which encourages a militarist and imperialist spirit;
- B. It is opposed to every alliance, secret understanding or treaty which has as its object to put difficulties in the way of closer political and economic union between the countries represented;
- C. It firmly believes that the following are the best methods of securing such political and economic union between these countries:
- (1) A Customs Union and the abolition of passports;
  - (2) The adoption of a policy of unifying, increasing and improving means of transport and communication so as to increase intercourse between the countries;
  - (3) The organisation of sea-ports in such a manner as to serve the interests of all the countries;
  - (4) That each country, large or small, has identical duties with regard to its racial minorities: the effective protection of minorities so as to insure to each individual, cultural, economic and social development; and, on the other hand the prohibition of all propaganda,

official or otherwise, aiming at awakening the nationalist sentiment among minorities established in any country;

- (5) The establishment of a truly pacifist system of education in order to cultivate in the young a sentiment of sympathy and solidarity among all peoples, and the suppression in school text books of everything which develops a spirit of hatred or contempt.

D. Seeing in the League of Nations an institution which may genuinely insure universal peace, the Little Entente expresses its desire for the realisation of the following principles:

- (1) The abolition of the privileges of the great Powers.
- (2) The codification of the rights and duties of national minorities.
- (3) The more complete representation of peoples in their national delegations.
- (4) The adoption of the principles of compulsory arbitration and general disarmament, which it considers among the most efficient methods of securing universal peace.

### A BEQUEST TO THE ALLIANCE.

Last December we published a review of a little book by Leopold Katscher called "Sa Majesté la Femme," dealing with some incidents in the life of Mr. Jaakoff Prelooker. We had not space to quote Mr. Prelooker's plea for support for the Alliance, which appeared as an Appendix, which urged that everyone with any worldly possessions to leave behind them, should do what they can to endow in the measure possible some worthy cause in which they have been interested. This plea ended with a warm eulogy of the work of the Alliance as one of the very best beneficiaries which could be chosen by the humanitarian when disposing of his estate. Now Mr. Prelooker has informed us that he is himself carrying out in practice his own precepts, and that he is leaving to the Alliance a sum of £300. The Board of the Alliance at its recent meeting accepted his simple conditions with the greatest gratitude, though we all hope that it may be very long before the "Prelooker Trust" actually comes into being. If we mention this touching thought for our work now, it is not only because we want to express our grateful appreciation, but also because we do agree with Mr. Prelooker that it is an example which might be followed by others. If you are truly interested in any cause, it should be some satisfaction to know that even when you are gone, your work will live after you by means of a legacy—however small—which will bear your name onwards.

### TRAFFIC IN WOMEN WITHIN THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

BY ALISON NEILANS

(Secretary of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.)

#### Points from speech at the British Commonwealth League Conference.

The League of Nations' Traffic in Women Report does not deal with the Far East, but it is suggested that a further enquiry by the League shall investigate conditions in the East with regard to the Traffic in Women. The Report unanimously and in the most definite terms condemns the Licensed or Tolerated Brothels as the main factor in the traffic in women, as owing to the demand for variety and for young women, this permits attempts to obtain a continual supply of fresh women for Licensed Houses.

We British People are congratulating ourselves that

Gt. Britain does not figure in the Report. That is true of this country, where, owing to the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts and the severe laws against prostitution, and against sexual relations with girls under 16, the traffic cannot flourish. But what about our Crown Colonies and Protectorates?

#### India.

In Calcutta it is estimated by the police that there are some 38,000 prostitutes in the City, many of them living within the special vice areas which are recognised and tolerated by the authorities. The police estimate that considerably over a thousand girls over 14 years of age are in the Calcutta brothels, and that some 1,200 minor girls are brought into the City every year for purposes of prostitution. This means a continuous traffic in minor girls.

In Bombay the police estimate there are about 900 recognised brothels in the vice areas there, and here also girls of youthful age are brought in and sold to brothel keepers.

Comparing these Cities with Rangoon in Burmah, and Colombo in Ceylon, which have abolished their vice areas, I do not pretend that the traffic in women has ceased absolutely in these two Cities, but we have official information that an enormous improvement, almost unbelievable, has been brought about in Rangoon and Colombo, and that the change is chiefly due to the suppression of brothels and measures taken for the protection of young girls.

It is true that in India the British Government has not full responsibility, but we must see that the facts are known and make it clear to British Officials in the service of the Government that their influence must be thrown on the side of total abolition of the system of recognised brothels.

If we turn now to the Crown Colonies of Hong Kong and Singapore, Hong Kong has 300 officially recognised brothels and Singapore about 350. We know from the official papers which have been published, particularly in regard to Singapore, that there is a traffic in women, particularly in Chinese women, in both these colonies, and that while the British Government has taken some steps to eliminate it, they have not seen fit to take the only hopeful steps, namely, to pass laws for the suppression of brothels, and severe punishment of those who traffic in women. The Colonial Office Advisory Committee, which dealt with Singapore in 1925, made recommendations on these lines, but they have not been carried into effect, and I should like to move a resolution that this Conference calls upon the British Government to take immediate steps for pressing forward the recommendations of the Advisory Committee's Report of 1925, so that the elimination of recognised brothels shall immediately be begun and further that the Government call together again the Colonial Office Advisory Committee and put before it all proposals dealing with the question of prostitution which are at present being made in the Federated Malay States and the Straits Settlements.

#### TRAFFIC IN WOMEN CONGRESS.

The Seventh International Congress for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children was held at the Caxton Hall, 28th June to 1st July. It was well attended by a representative audience, including many foreign delegates, but, as is usual with such congresses, it was not possible, owing to the time taken up by interpreting in three languages, to get very full discussion on any of the important subjects on the agenda. Owing to a sharp conflict of opinion as to the inclusion of certain words, definitely relating to the occupied areas in Germany, it looked as if it would be impossible to get any resolution passed condemning the system of licensed brothels, but, almost at the last moment of the Congress, a formula was agreed upon, and a strong resolution unanimously adopted calling for the abolition of licensed houses wherever they may exist under all circumstances and at all times. A resolution on the definition of the

word "traffic" in the International Conventions was much strengthened by an amendment suggested by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene and the National Council of Women to the effect that any procurement of women at whatever age should come under the definition of "traffic" and be punishable. This proposal was put as an amendment to the resolution and carried unanimously by the Congress. A number of other resolutions were adopted dealing with employment abroad, assistance for deported prostitutes, obscene publications, biological education, etc. The most interesting subject of these was, perhaps, that of methods of dealing with foreign prostitutes deported or repatriated to their own country of origin. The discussion went rather far from the subject under consideration but it brought out the extreme difficulty of effectively assisting and rehabilitating a woman after the whole machinery of the State has been used to push her into a special class as a "common prostitute." From a feminist point of view, it seems that caution is required to prevent the enthusiasm of those who wish to suppress the traffic in women resulting in administrative measures which may make it extremely difficult for young women to move at all freely about the Continent. Dame Rachel Crowdy emphasized this danger and the Abolitionist point of view was well put forward when a woman delegate said that the Conference might make regulations for the protection of women but until the system of licensed houses was abolished such regulations were totally ineffective and would only succeed in hampering the free movements of women generally. We hope the International Bureau for the suppression of the Traffic in Women will recognize the desirability of keeping in close touch with the Woman's Movement on all these points.

—The Woman's Leader.

### TENTH YEARBOOK OF THE GERMAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

This publication has been resumed after a period— from 1921-1926—when its publication was rendered impossible through the economic difficulties through which the country was passing. It is, therefore, a special issue which gives a short summary of the work done during those years, as well as particulars of the present programme, personnel, etc., of the Council. This summary covers the work done by women in many fields, as citizens, as fighters for legal reforms, against the drink evil, in social work, etc. It is an admirable survey of what German women have achieved, and is followed by a brief but interesting article on women's international work by Dr. Gertrud Bäumer, so well known to members of the Alliance.

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR WOMEN IN GERMANY.

The physical education of women has made great strides in Germany in the last few years. The German National Council of Women set up a special committee to deal with this question two years ago, of which Frau Dr. Matz has recently become Chairman, being Director of a Gymnastic Training School in Stettin. Two years ago the Committee held a Congress on the question, under the direction of the President of the Council, Frau Ender, which laid down the basis for study. A second Congress is now being organised to deal particularly with gymnastic systems. A special women's forum will be set up in the German Stadium in Charlottenburg; this will shortly be followed by the laying of the foundation stone of a Hostel for Students, to be called the "Anna" Home, the name being taken from the wife of the Berlin Chief Burgomeister, who has collected funds for the purpose. The ceremony of laying the stone will include addresses by the Chief Burgomeister, Dr. Boess, the President of the Stadium, Ex. Dr. Lewald and Dr. Matz, who will explain the importance of the foundation for the women of Germany.



## REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

## AUSTRALIA.

## "Australian Federation of Women Voters."

The Second Triennial Conference of our national organisation, held in Sydney, May 17 to 20, was an intensely interesting occasion, and one to be ever remembered by attending delegates. Women from Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales met together for four successive days, and dealt with an agenda paper most expressive of the Australian woman citizen and her highest ideals. Invaluable was the contact thus made with the representatives of fellow societies from different parts of our wide country. The Conference, which took place in the Chamber of Commerce Hall, George Street, was presided over by the Federation President, Mrs. B. M. Rischbieth, whose wonderful work in connection with the national organisation must be honored for all time. Great regret was experienced that the Secretary, Miss Ada Bromham, was prevented at the last moment from attending, but excellent secretarial assistance was rendered by Miss Nell Dungey, formerly of W.A.

The President held a delightful reception on Monday afternoon, May 16, at the Hotel Australia, and Conference opened on the Tuesday, continuing through morning and afternoon sessions till Friday night. Public lectures were arranged for each evening as well. The link with Empire and International organisations was emphasised by greetings and good wishes received from the International Women's Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, and from the British Commonwealth League.

## Constitution and Elections.

Much thought was given to recasting the Constitution, one of the chief amendments being the alteration of the name to "Australian Federation of Women Voters." A Federal Board was constituted, to consist of four representatives from each State. Other clauses of the Constitution were improved and several by-laws passed.

Mrs. Rischbieth was again elected, unanimously, President of the Federation, and the personnel of the Federal Board is as follows: N.S.W., Mesdames H. F. Bennett, A. V. Roberts, Jamieson Williams, Miss Ruby Rich; Victoria, Mesdames Britomarte James, John Jones, A. Rafferty, Warren Kerr; Tasmania, Mesdames Balfe, Giblin, Murdoch, Waterworth; S.A., Mesdames W. H. Lewis, Carlile McDonnell, Dr. Constance Davey, Miss Blanche Stephens; W.A., Mesdames Driver, Joyner, Le Souef, Miss Ada Bromham.

The following officers have been elected: Federal Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Carlile McDonnell and Miss Ruby Rich; State Vice-Presidents, Mesdames Bennett, Jones, Waterworth, Joyner, Miss Stephens; Secretary, Miss Bromham; Treasurer, Mrs. Driver.

## Reports: Federal, Empire and International.

The Triennial Report of the Federation was a most valuable document, showing how much had been accomplished and indicating lines of future development. Deeply interesting was the report on the work of the British Commonwealth League, as was also that on last year's International Congress in Paris, and the reports given by the Australian members of the International Standing Committees, as follows: Nationality of Married Women, Mrs. Jamieson Williams; Equal Moral Standard, Mrs. Emily Bennett; Like Conditions of Work for Men and Women, Mrs. Clapham (read by Mrs. Le Souef); The Unmarried Mother and Her Child, and Family Endowment, Mrs. Carlile McDonnell.

## Important Resolutions Passed.

Excellent resolutions arose out of all these reports, and there was, besides, a long list of motions on subjects of vital interest to the Federation and its affiliated societies. The discussions were extremely interesting

and most educative to delegates. Among the matters upon which resolutions were passed were Federal Grants to assist State activities re Health, Mothercraft, and Education; Efforts to decrease Maternal Mortality; Retention of Maternity Allowance; Improvement in Position of Widows and Deserted Wives; Training in Domestic Science; Censorship of Picture Films; Federal Marriage and Divorce Laws; Correlation of Social Economic Laws throughout Australia.

## Deputation to Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister being in Sydney, opportunity was taken to approach him by deputation on the subjects of the Film Commission, Censorship of Films and the part to be taken in these matters by women. Mr. Bruce explained the position and gave some useful advice, which the Board is prepared to carry out.

(Further notes on the Conference will be given next month.)

—The Non-Party News.

## AUSTRIA.

## A great loss to the Austrian Women's movement.

On the 14th of June died Frau Henriette Herzfelder, who was a co-founder and member of the board of the Association for Women's Political Interests. She was also for many years on the board of the National Council of Austrian Women. With her one of the best champions of women's progress has sunk to the grave, and at the same time a pioneer in the sphere of children's protection. She was a woman of superior intelligence, a woman whose strict logic knew how to clear all that is problematic and confused. This admirable mind was joined with a noble heart, with a motherly kindness which made the childless an eloquent advocate of children's needs and misery. Seeing how devotedly she worked at her life's task, the improvement of children's protection, how bravely she stood for all that she considered necessary to be done, how she, in advance of her time and her circumstances, took advantage of all practical possibilities of the present time in order to promote her work, and how she used these possibilities, one was deeply impressed by her original manner of working. Henriette Herzfelder was born in Brünn, and when she came to Vienna about 30 years ago, she was received by Frau Marianne Hainisch as a co-worker in the Council, whose organ she edited for many years. Later she was one of the founders of the suffrage organisation and she remained till her death an officer in this association. In the last decade she was mostly occupied with her work as secretary in the "Zentralstelle für Kinderschutz und Jugendfürsorge" and as editor of the monthly organ of this institution. Some years ago she published a leaflet on co-education which has added much to a clearer understanding of this question.

Her death is a great loss for the Austrian Women's movement. She will not be forgotten.

## A New Name.

The Association for Women's Political Interests has altered its name in its last annual meeting. It is now called: "Oesterreichischer Staatsbürgerinnenverband." This alteration was made in order to express more popularly the tasks of the association, namely, the political education of women and the strengthening of the political influence of women, and to make more clear the endeavour of an assimilation to German conditions, where the "Deutsche Staatsbürgerinnenverband" works on the same lines. Newly elected were: Frau Dr. Laube, Frau Dr. Carla Zaglits and Frau Schauler, the president of the Association of Women employees in the State. The functions were distributed as follows: President, Frau Ernestine Fürth, Vice-President, Frau Gisela Urban; Honorary Secretary, Frau Dr. Carla Zaglits; Treasurer, Frau Eugenie Palitschek.

## Women on the World Economic Conference.

After the annual meeting of the "Oesterreichischer Staatsbürgerinnenverband," the member of Parliament, Frau Emmy Freundlich, held a lecture on the World Economic Conference which has been called the first International Parliament, because it proved practically that the establishment of an International Parliament would be possible. Frau Freundlich stated with satisfaction that women succeeded in proving the value of their co-operation in this body. That this work is being recognised is to be seen in the fact that Frau Freundlich was elected Vice-President of the Conference, because the general opinion was that she, as the only Woman Government delegate, should be honoured with this function. Else this function would not have been bestowed on Austria. Frau Freundlich painted an interesting and clear picture of the Conference and was greatly appreciated.

## The Founder of the Austrian Women's movement appeals to women.

On the 24th of June a meeting was held in Vienna with Frau Marianne Hainisch, the founder of the Austrian women's movement and Honorary President of the National Council of Austrian Women, in the chair. In this meeting Frau Hainisch appealed to all women to found a political association. The intellectual liveliness and the energy of this pioneer of 88 is, indeed, admirable, likewise her unconquerable idealism, believing in the possibility of the co-operation of women's groups of all political parties in one association. The great masses of women who belong to the social democrat and Christian-socialist parties are, however, so much bound politically that it is a question if it will be possible for them to join an organisation not working only for their party matters. The National Council of Austrian Women and also the "Oesterreichische Staatsbürgerinnenverband" have always endeavoured to cause the women of the right and of the left to work in the same directions, if some struggle for general women's interests was necessary. The delegates of the great political parties have always recognised that the two non-party organisations are mediators between all women and nearly always work in co-operation, which has had the result of making the two non-party organisations the centre of the Austrian women's movement. Much as all women who have for decades honoured Frau Hainisch as their leader, are glad to see that this woman, so exceedingly blessed with extraordinary gifts, has undertaken such a bold enterprise in her strong trust in the unanimity of women, it is only possible to prognosticate the success of the new organisation if the groups of women of all political parties will really join in constant co-operation within an inclusive organisation. In this case Austria would set an example to the world.

## A Woman Scientist gives a sensational lecture at a Congress.

In June, a microbiological Congress was held in Vienna. This Congress was principally devoted to the discussion of the cancer problem. Frau Professor Dr. Rhoda Erdmann, the founder and leader of the Institute for Cell Research (Zellforschungsinstitut) in Berlin, a remarkable scientist in cancer research, developed on this occasion a comprehensive theory concerning the cancer problem which was received with the greatest appreciation. Gradually it is coming to be seen that women can work successfully in the scientific sphere, if they have full freedom in their studies and no hindrance to their activity.

## The title "Frau."

For the first time Austria awarded the title "Frau" officially to all women doctors in the certificate which they receive from the University. Already before the war the municipality of Vienna ordered that all

women teachers shall have the title of "Frau." The same order was given later on concerning the women relief officers working in schools. Now the women employees of the State demanded that they too should have the title of "Frau," especially when they work in office. The government promised to publish a decree in which this demand will be recognised. In future the women employees will have the titles "Frau Adjunkt" or "Frau Director", etc., according to their professional position.

## A Woman demands admission to the Exchange.

Frau Margit Biach, the widow of an industrialist, who after her husband's death is the head of a company producing lead-pencils and crayons, made a petition for admission to the Exchange. This petition has been already backed by the Association of Viennese industrialists. The decision depends on the vote of the Chamber of Exchange. If they agree, the Parliament would have to change the law in favour of women.

## A new Woman member of the Federal Council.

Frau Olga Rudel Zeynek, the former member of Parliament, belonging to the conservative party, but very active in progressive woman's work, is now a member of the Federal Council, the second Chamber of the Parliament. She was elected by the Diet of Styria and as her place was the first on the list, it is to be hoped that she will become Chairman of the Federal Council, when Styria is called upon for a representative to fill this office.

GISELA URBAN (Vienna).

## GERMANY.

## Advisory Boards on Marriage Questions.

Among the many measures and efforts for social and racial improvement, the foundation of public advisory boards for married and betrothed people (Eheberatungsstellen) is, at present, given special attention by state-governments and city-authorities, as well as by legislative and other official bodies. The first European institution of this kind was in connection with the renowned Hygiene Museum, established in Dresden, 1911. Since then the idea has spread out, and has already been put into practice in many places by the general welfare boards. Though this must, of course, be considered, also in the women's ranks, as a significant progress, and a most valuable acquisition in the interests of German wives and mothers—some pressing wishes and claims for further enlargement of these centres are still left open. As the development, hitherto, shows, attention is given mainly to the biological and hygienic side of the marriage question and the whole matter is regarded exclusively as the domain of medical doctors. This was clearly shown at the constituent meeting of the National Association of Advisory Boards which recently took place in Berlin. Now, it is obvious that the selection of the biologically fittest for propagation is a fundamental condition for racial improvement, as well as for personal and family welfare—but it is by no means the only condition. The sexual psychological, financial, domestic, social, legal circumstances, and, first of all, the burning question of birth control, are not less important, and ought to be just as carefully considered. With regard to the latter question, the report given by the director of the official advisory board in Vienna, was very interesting, stating that the majority of the 2500 cases they had handled during the last five years concerned birth control—while from his "population-political" point of view Professor Grotjahn, of the Berlin University, declared that it would be dangerous to lay special stress, or even to mention the matter in the working programme of the association.

The movement as such must be welcomed, to be sure, as a most significant beginning; but to become of real value, and a benefit for the community it will be



absolutely necessary to take into account the enormous *multifariousness* of the marriage problem, above all, to take care that *expert women* get their full share in the work. (In the reports on the Berlin meeting, for instance, no woman's name is mentioned, either in the proceedings, nor amongst the members of the new associations' executive board). It is to be hoped that in both directions the advisory bureau in Hamburg (Vertrauensstelle für Verlobte und Eheleute) established in autumn 1926, will, as a model organisation, take the lead. *Managed by a woman*, Dr. Isa Kech, it is put in continual connection with experts, and with public and private welfare institutions of all kinds and is thus enabled to give every case the individual and special treatment it needs. The fact that, as yet, the best practical results have been reported from Hamburg, is the best proof of the value of this system.

#### A Public-House Bill once more in the Reichstag.

In February 1925, when a bill against alcoholism was lost in the Reichstag—which, after most unpleasant discussions has repeatedly happened during the last five years, as readers of this paper will remember—a motion was carried, that the government be asked to prepare another bill for the protection of young people against the dangers of alcoholism. This bill, having undergone the judgment of an "experts" committee, formed of representatives of the alcohol interest only, passed its first reading, June 20th, in the Reichstag. As is stated by all friends and experts on public welfare, the draft means no increase, but rather the abolition of such protection as legislation, hitherto, has provided, and a most fatal step backwards in general. This is the case with regard to several facilities in the liquor trade, and especially to the *legal age* of young consumers in public houses which, instead of being raised is lowered from 16 to 14 years. The representatives of the nationalist parties, however, agreed with the bill, while those of the economic (Wirtschafts) and the Bavarian groups even protested against its "gagging" of personal freedom, making at the same time the well-known statements of the increasing criminality of the United States. The democratic speaker and, as always, women members of most diverging parties joined in the demand for more effective measures. The bill then was assigned by the majority to the economic committee, though in the opinion of the minority parties the committee on population questions only would be competent in the matter.

Dresden, July 17th.

MARIE STRITT.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

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

##### Equal Franchise.

Equal Franchise is still the chief note this summer. In spite of the Prime Minister's having reiterated his pledge to introduce legislation next session to give the franchise to women on the same terms as men, there has been a very definite press campaign against giving the vote to the younger women. In order to combat this, the N.U.S.E.C. has been organising deputations everywhere, and is doing all in its power to educate the press. The N.U.S.E.C. took part in the great demonstration in Trafalgar Square on July 16th, at which both Dame Millicent Fawcett, and Mrs. Despard were present. A considerable number of meetings on Equal Franchise have been arranged by our Societies all over the country.

##### Plans for Next Year.

The N.U.S.E.C. is already full of plans for next year. At the time of our Annual Council Meeting just after the opening of Parliament, a great Queen's Hall Meeting on Equal Franchise is already being arranged. In September, by which time it is hoped that Equal Franchise will have become a "fait accompli"

a big summer school for new voters will be held at Oxford.

The reform of the House of Lords has been considerably discussed during this month as a result of the proposals put forward by the Government, which, however, were received in so critical a spirit even in the Conservative Party, that it is probable that nothing will be heard of them again. In putting forward these proposals, the Lord Chancellor on behalf of the Government, referred to the position of Peeresses in their own right as one of the "details" to be settled later. On account of the disputes which were taking place in both Houses on the constitution of the House of Lords as a whole, Lord Astor withdrew his Parliament (Qualification of Peeresses) Bill, to enable Peeresses in their own right to sit in the House of Lords, which was coming up for its second reading on June 27th. The N.U.S.E.C. sent a letter to "The Times" signed by representative women, pointing out that in any second Chamber, women should be eligible on exactly the same terms as men.

#### Traffic in Women and Children in England.

An interesting article has appeared in the "Spectator" by a contributor who has examined Part II. of the League of Nations Report on Traffic in Women and Children with regard to the condition in Great Britain. The writer states:

"There are certain conditions in England that vastly alleviate an evil which assumes such tragic proportions in certain Continental, and still more in certain South American, countries. In the first place the laws against *souteneurs*—men who live on women's immoral earnings—are rigorous, and rigorously administered. As one of this class remarked frankly to the League investigators (who was passing as an accomplice in the traffic) in London "The police here don't like our sort." In the second place there are, of course, in this country no licensed houses of prostitution. That severely limits earnings. Again the report quotes the best of all testimony, that of a *souteneur* himself: "A woman here cannot earn enough to keep herself. Why she will walk the streets all night and bring back no more than a pound in her pocket." Thirdly, as regards the international traffic, Great Britain's insular position makes the supervision of migration both inwards and outwards far simpler than it can be in countries with land frontiers.

Broadly speaking, then, the investigators report that prostitution in England is a precarious business and in the main unremunerative. Partly for that reason a few girls were encountered who would have been glad to go abroad to lead the same life, but had not money to pay their fares. Dealing with actual "traffic" in the technical sense of the term, the investigators speak highly of the precautions taken, particularly in regard to children under sixteen going abroad for any kind of public entertainment performance, and state definitely that they have found no evidence of any traffic being organised in Great Britain. The best test, of course, is the number of foreign prostitutes found in Great Britain and the number of British prostitutes found abroad. Of the former class the investigators came on only one, a Roumanian, and in regard to Englishwomen abroad they speak of "a small number (1, 2 or 3)" being noted in Italy, Egypt, and France, and rather more in the United States."

#### Deputation on Age of Marriage.

The Home Secretary, while unable owing to lack of time to receive the deputation organised by the N.U.S.E.C. asking that the age of marriage should be raised, has intimated his interest and desire to hear the views of the Societies to be represented, and will doubtless receive the deputation in the autumn.

#### Dame Edith Lyttelton and the Assembly of the League of Nations.

The N.U. is delighted once again to welcome Dame Edith Lyttelton as substitute delegate for Great Britain at the forthcoming Assembly of the League of Nations. The one regret is that, having won a fine reputation for her work at previous Assemblies, she was not this year made a full delegate.

E.M.H.

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

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance was well represented at the Mass Demonstration in favour of Equal Franchise, held in Trafalgar Square on Saturday, July 16th, at 5 p.m. Miss K. Fitzgerald, the first Chairman of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, and Miss Butler-Bowdon, one of the younger members, spoke on behalf of the Alliance.

Over forty different women's organisations came together to plead in public the necessity of doing away with the present disqualifications to vote where women are concerned. To-day the age is not the only difference: women over thirty have no vote unless they are married or live in furnished rooms. The whole purpose of the Demonstration was to show that the public was behind the Prime Minister in his pledge that votes should be given to women at 21 and on the same terms as men. To quote from his own speech on May 27th last, "Sex is no longer a disqualification . . . I, for one, not only look with no apprehension at the enfranchisement of both sexes at the same age, I welcome it . . . I believe that a democracy is incomplete and lopsided until it is representative of the whole people. . . . The responsibility rests alike on men and women."

Numberless banners were displayed on the three sides of the great Nelson plinth. More than thirty speakers addressed the meeting and among the veteran suffrage leaders present were Dame Millicent Fawcett, Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.

The meeting was preceded by Community Singing. At the end of the Demonstration the following resolutions were carried with one dissentient: "That this Mass Demonstration, supported by over forty organisations, welcomes the Prime Minister's promise of a bill giving votes to women from 21 and on the same terms as men and calls upon the Government to introduce and pass without delay a simple Equal Franchise measure so as to ensure the inclusion of the new women voters in the 1928 Register in time to vote at the next General Election."

"That this Mass Demonstration demands for Peeresses in their own right a seat voice and vote in the House of Lords."

55, Berners Street, London, W.1.

#### WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Mrs. Despard's sixteenth Women's Freedom League Birthday was celebrated enthusiastically in the Caxton Hall, on July 5th. Members of the Women's Freedom League and many friends of the League assembled to do honour to their First President, apostle of freedom, Mrs. Despard.

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, President of the Women's Freedom League, was in the Chair, and welcomed Mrs. Despard as from the land of eternal youth, Ireland. She hoped that next year the Women's Freedom League would be able to present Mrs. Despard with a worthy birthday gift, the gift of Equal Franchise. She was sure that Mr. Baldwin gave his pledge with every intention of keeping it, but that he might yield to "force of circumstances," and it was up to the women to make the "force of circumstances" such that his pledge could be kept.

Mrs. Mustard spoke of the open-air campaign, and had noticed that, whereas in the old days suffragists were accused of being Labour, they are now accused of being Conservative. She felt that the main opposition to Equal Franchise lay in the Conservative Party, and it was in that direction that attack should be made.

Mrs. Stedman, our under-30 member of the National Executive Committee, then spoke for the younger women, saying it was difficult for the young, enjoying many things denied to an earlier generation, to appreciate the splendid work done by their predecessors. She joined the other speakers in a warm tribute to Mrs. Despard.

Dr. Knight, Treasurer of the League, then read out the list of givers to Mrs. Despard's birthday gift. She urged increased giving, because the more given now the greater chance of victory in 1928, so that to give freely now was an economy. She then handed the gift to Mrs. Despard with charming words of greeting, and it was returned by Mrs. Despard for the work of the League.

Mrs. Despard, who was enthusiastically received on rising, said that she greatly valued this gift of money, and thanked old friends and new friends from her heart. She then spoke very beautifully of that greater gift, the gift of love. She found the whole woman's movement linked together with the binding thread of love. One could not, she said, expect the old enthusiasm to reappear; that had been the enthusiasm of a beginning, not to be repeated. The enthusiasm of to-day, which she hoped for among the younger women, was a different, but none the less valuable, enthusiasm. Some day, she thought, the vote might go; Parliament, as we know it now, might go; but the great spiritual force of love, which was the women's movement, would go on from strength to strength. It would find its place in what she felt was the big struggle of the future, the economic struggle. She said it was a pleasure to recall old times, as she had done with old friends that evening; it was also a pleasure to look forward, to see the young also finding the joy of standing shoulder to shoulder in a fight for right and justice.

### HUNGARY.

#### The struggle for Women Jurors.

Happy citizens of perfectly consolidated countries are surprised still to find in Hungary remnants of "temporary" precautionary measures from the time of war. It is principally the progressive Press, which is severely handicapped and therefore the government is urged to re-establish the Juries, which with no legal right, were simply suppressed. The Society of Lawyers, defending criminal cases called an *enquête*, at which the question of the Juries was discussed. The *Feministák Egyesülete* availed itself of the opportunity to advocate Women's Right to serve on Juries and appointed a speaker to take part in the discussions. This delegate, referred to the fact that since the suppression of the Juries women had gained the vote in Hungary and, being enfranchised, claimed the right to serve on the Juries. She enumerated all the arguments which could support her case and appealed to the sympathy and begged for the help of the members of the Criminologists Society. The official reporters of the discussion as well as several orators supported the case for women jurors. Nevertheless the Criminologists' Society, fearing lest our present conservative government would produce a retrograde "reform," asked simply for the restoration of the last law of 1914 on Juries which does not include women. Therefore our Board addressed a memorandum to the Minister of Justice asking him for the extension of the right to serve as jurors to women. This application was countersigned and delivered by a staunch advocate of women's rights, Mr. Paul Hegymegi Kiss, M.P. As the Minister would not commit himself, we asked Mr. Hegymegi Kiss to urge for an answer.

The Minister's letter runs as follows: "My dear Friend, in response to your inquiry concerning the memorandum of the 'Feministák Egyesülete' on Juries, I beg to inform you that the amendment will be carefully deliberated upon. The decision on the proposed amendment will be taken on Codification of



the Press Reform-Bill, in connection with and in case of the re-establishment of the Juries.

Yours sincerely,  
DR. PAUL PESTHY, Minister.

This Dodonean declaration warns us to be constantly on guard not to miss the psychological moment at which to push on our cause. We shall report to our comrades on the further development of our case. The government intended to present the Press-Reform Bill before the vacation of Parliament and to whip it through, but this plan aroused such indignation in the ranks of the Opposition, that the discussions were delayed till the re-opening of Parliament.

#### Lecture on Colonial Politics.

Mme. Camille Drevet, Editor of "La Voix des Femmes," in Paris, who is appointed delegate of the W.I.L. to the Chinese Women, gave us a delightful and interesting lecture on the above subject. With this very instructive lecture we closed our season and mean to take up our work in autumn with renewed vigour. There is much work in store for us, a protest against the government's housing policy and a campaign on child labour.

EUGENIE MISKOLCZY MELLER.

### INDIA.

#### The Law of Inheritance and India Women.

By Mrs. KAMALABAI LAKSHMAN RAU.

So long as the joint family system in India was intact, so long were the interests of the woman of the household cared for in India, her word was law and all was smooth sailing. Just as the four-fold division of caste naturally evolved a certain form and equitable division of labour, so too did the joint family system work a certain amount of good in the status of the Indian woman. But the breaking of the system, during the past fifty years and more, had pointedly shown how wretched the position of the Indian woman has become; here she is systematically crushed, and her rights to inheritance, property etc., reduced to a minimum.

In the joint family system, the father was the chief or the earning member. The sons or brothers helped him in his work and labour; and so whilst the wherewithal to live was looked after by the men, it was the women's part to feed the children, to look after the household and thus generally to complete what the husbands could not do. Everyone will agree that this division of labour and economics was all that could be desired. Alas! if that spirit had continued to live; if the village communities had continued to exert their moral influence; if the simple code of equity and common morality made each family respect its ties, and hence its organisation there would have been indeed no room for complaint. But things have changed; and changed greatly as well. The family broke up as a unit; and with it came disaster, the husband no longer cared for the family as a whole; each one began to look after himself and his right; who cared for the wife or the daughter in the bargain?

In the old order of things, namely, in a joint Hindu family, the chief person was of course the son who succeeded to all the property. The brothers, if he had any, were content to remain under his guidance and so long as they chose to remain together, the family also flourished; but with the various occupations which each person sought, leaving his old parental or ancestral calling, came also the necessity of breaking away from the family. Thus in a family, it was impossible for three brothers to live together in the same village, if they began to have three different callings. They were divided—then their families as well, with the result, instead of a single prosperous, contented household, one saw half a dozen starved, struggling families, scattered over the land, yea, struggling for very existence.

Agriculture and Farming, the chief stay of the joint family in India, was thus thrown to the winds; and everyone became a labourer—a veritable coolie.

Other causes too have contributed to the breaking of the joint family system. The existence of an unimaginative, crushing revenue system which made agriculture and living by it impossible; the decay of handicrafts, the migration of the artisans, all had their share.

But how have these affected the position of woman in India? We have already referred to the number of little, self-supporting families which were the result of the breaking up of the joint family system. These were the families which depended for their sustenance on the labour the man was capable of producing in the family. The woman so long as she had trusted her husband and his solicitous intentions, was well cared for: not for her the worries of an outside world: her husband was her god; his word her gospel. Excellent as it may seem, this kind of trustful dependence could not keep the position of the woman intact: her very dependence was her ruin. In the joint family, her position had at least been secure. A common sense of justice and fairplay, and a certain amount of dignity made her life tolerable and worth living; but with an independent family she became what she is now—a mere chattel. Her interest in the common family, remained to that extent which her husband allowed her; after his death, she became nothing; and entitled to a pittance. Her husband might have been the richest man alive; but his wife had no right to his property. She could neither sell it nor use it to her account without the permission of her son, grandson, or her kinsmen, or whoever her husband's nearest relatives might be. She could only depend upon the good-will of those who were around her.

Such in brief, dear good sisters, is the position of the woman in India to-day. How long shall we be classed as chattels? Shall we not have a voice in the management of our families? Shall our daughters remain miserable because once upon a time, a law ordained it so? These are some of the questions which face us to-day. How are we going to answer it? We want the vote, we want liberty, but shall we not want our legal emancipation as well? Laws were made for the convenience of men and women: not the people for the convenience of Law. Our laws as ordained and drawn up by the ancients were satisfactory enough for the men and women of the old days. But they do not satisfy us to-day. We must agitate and get them changed or get new laws introduced.

#### Education Compulsory.

It is understood that a Bill to amend the Primary Education Act will be introduced in the next session of the Central Provinces Legislative Council. The object of the Bill is to enforce compulsion in the introduction of the Primary Education Scheme.

The W.I.A. calls for the inclusion of girls in all compulsory primary education schemes. Mrs. Cousins spoke at a meeting of the Bhagini Mandir in Nagpur when a Resolution demanding the inclusion of the girls in the Central Provinces scheme was passed by the large number of ladies present. The authorities should grant the desire of the mothers for facilities for their girls' education.

#### Sex Bar Removed.

The Governor of the C. P. has given assent to the Resolution passed by the Central Provinces Legislative Council in its last Budget Session removing sex bar and making women eligible for election, nomination and voting.

STRI DHARMA.

### UNITED STATES.

#### SPECIAL LEGISLATION FOR WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

The League of Women Voters has just issued a new pamphlet, entitled "Special Legislation for Women in Industry." It was written by Miss Julia Margaret Hicks for the Legal Status of Women Committee of the

National League. The following extracts from a newspaper story by Frederick J. Haskin, of the Haskin News Service, summarize the main points in the pamphlet.

At the next session of Congress there will be a renewal of the fight over the proposed "Equal Rights Amendment," sometimes referred to as the "Woman's Rights Amendment," and there are indications that it will be waged more vigorously than ever before. That Congress will pass the resolution which would submit the amendment to the several States for ratification is a matter of doubt, but it is altogether certain that the national law-making body will hear or receive a great mass of evidence and arguments on both sides of the controversy.

Organizations of women are arrayed against each other in the fight already made and in prospect, which will probably make it easier for men legislators to avoid or defer the issue. The amendment is sponsored by the Woman's party, which was the militant organization in the battle for woman suffrage, but it is stated that up to the present time that is the only national organization of women supporting it.

#### Eleven Opposed

Eleven such organizations are said to be actively opposing the amendment, while several others have listed it among matters to be studied. Leading the opposition is the National League of Women Voters. This takes the form of a monograph on "Special Legislation for Women in Industry," prepared by Miss Julia M. Hicks.

It epitomizes the case of the opposition by declaring with emphasis that women should have equal rights with men, but even more forcibly that they should not be given identical rights. "The National League of Women Voters seeks equal opportunity for men and women to develop and exercise their abilities in every field. It believes that this equality of opportunity should be practical and real. It differs from the Woman's party as to what equality means and as to the method of obtaining it."

The League is not so much concerned about business women and professional women, holding that they are abundantly able to fend for themselves, but it actively champions special laws for women who work in industry, not only because this class of women workers cannot look out for themselves, but because such laws are necessary to give women real, practical equality with men in industry. And it has been advised by constitutional lawyers that should the proposed amendment be adopted all such special legislation would be automatically nullified.

#### Most States have Laws.

Every State in the Union except Florida now has special laws of this character, all enacted after hard fights, and the league does not want to see that work undone.

Moreover, as Miss Hicks points out, there is certain to be no little debate as to what are the equal rights that Congress is to enforce in event of the adoption of the amendment.

For example, if a State law requires a man to support his wife, what would be the effect of this proposed amendment? Would a wife have to support her husband or would neither of them get support from the other? Some States now give a husband a greater interest in his wife's property than she has in his. How would the amendment affect this situation? Would the husband get what the wife gets now, or would the wife have the present share of the husband, or, since the law is now unequal, would the amendment abolish it altogether so that neither husband nor wife would have any interest in the other's property? Again, how would the amendment affect the laws providing penalties for sex offences? Further if men and women have equal rights throughout the United States which State shall set the standard? No two States have the same laws.

#### Details too uncertain.

"Only the Supreme Court of the United States could answer these questions," says Miss Hicks. "Meanwhile we would have great confusion and uncertainty. It makes the whole matter of the legal status of men and women and their relation to each other too much a matter for determination by the courts, and as long as the amendment stands, limits the power which the people now have through their State legislation to make such adjustments as conditions suggest to them to be wise."

In supporting the amendment, the Woman's Party in effect takes the position that justice should be the fundamental consideration in determining the matter, that as all men are guaranteed equality before the law, so justice dictates that women should be accorded equality with men. An impressive array of instances is cited in which legislation places women at a disadvantage as compared with men, and it is contended that the only way to correct that and to prevent anything more of the sort in the future is by adopting the constitutional amendment guaranteeing men and women equal rights and then seeing that Congress enforces it.

Opponents of the amendments do not deny that there are many cases in which women do not enjoy equal rights with men under the law, and they assert they are anxious to have that condition corrected. But they want to accomplish that end through the repeal or amendment of those laws that work an injustice to their sex, rather than through a radical change in the organic law of the nation which would wipe out all the protective legislation which has been obtained for women in industry in forty-seven States.

#### A QUESTIONNAIRE.

The "Ask Me Another" vogue, which has met with popularity in many countries, has been applied by the National League of Women Voters to a stimulating course of questions on international affairs.

"Seven sets of questions and answers and instructions on how to conduct a quiz" is the official description given by Miss Ruth Morgan, of New York City, chairman of the League's department of international co-operation to prevent war, in sending the new material to the members of her department in the states. Miss Morgan is also chairman of the peace committee of the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship.

Here are a few typical questions that are expected to tantalize the less-informed at porch-parties and League discussion groups:

"How is the Boxer indemnity used by the United States?"

When and where was the last Pan-American Conference held?

What is the Open Door Policy?

Who is the present chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate?

How is Muscle Shoals of importance to national defense?

What country controls most of the world's supply of nitrate? Potash? Rubber?

What is Memel?

"The League of Women Voters wants to keep its members abreast of the times and believes this is a good way to discuss current developments in foreign affairs," Miss Morgan said.

#### A NEW SECRETARY.

The League has a new secretary in the person of Mrs. Arthur Ringland, a native of California, but for the last two years a resident of Washington, D.C. Mrs. Ringland brings to League work a keen understanding of service, gained in an enviable war record which began in Paris in 1917, and ended in Constantinople under the banner of the American Relief Administration. The Children's section of the American Fund for French



Wounded was the first war service organisation to carry Mrs. Ringland's name on its roster. After the armistice Mrs. Ringland joined the forces of the American Relief Administration and served for two years in Czechoslovakia. A winter of study in Vienna, a few months more of administrative work in London, and a "day-off" for her marriage to another "A.R.A." worker—Arthur Ringland—preceded a year of intensive Russian refugee work in Constantinople.

#### AT THE HONOLULU CONFERENCE.

The League was officially represented by a member of its national board at the Institute of Pacific Relations, in Honolulu in July. Mrs. William G. Hibbard, a director, was the League's delegate, and Miss Gertrude Ely, who directs the League's work in college units, was an observer at the Institute—Press department, National League of Women Voters.

### CONFERENCE OF THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

An interesting and very full programme lay before the delegates of the British Commonwealth League when they met on June 30th and July 1st to consider "The social and industrial position of women of other than British race governed under the British Flag," and "Some Problems of Government." The topics covered included industrialism in British Hong Kong, and in India, and an account of the condition of native women in South Africa, with social and political conditions for women in Bermuda, Barbados, Australia, and Tanganyika. Papua and New Guinea received brief attention, and a session was devoted to educational problems in Africa and in India. Special sessions were devoted to questions of the double moral standard, and an afternoon to urgency resolutions and discussions on the ever-pressing problems of suffrage in South Africa, Bermuda, Great Britain and Quebec, as well as one on regulation as it is or might be applied to areas under British control. A resolution was also passed calling upon the Government to appoint suitable women on all Commissions dealing with native women and children, and to apply tax money raised from native peoples for their benefit. The nationality of married women was under discussion, and a very moving speech was made by Mrs. Rigo de Righi, who lost her Australian citizenship on marriage with an Italian in India, thought she had regained it when he was naturalised, only to discover on his death that she was a British subject by courtesy only outside of India.

Three very clear considerations emerged from the Conference: one, the tremendous changes involved for peoples as yet hardly aware of them in the transition from a primitive culture to the more advanced stages brought about by the introduction of scientific methods of exploiting tropical resources. This carries with it the responsibility of the advanced and organised women for those other women whose eyes are as yet hardly open, and the need for watching with the greatest care the special implications of all new developments in relation to women.

Secondly, the serious implications of the double moral standard when applied to women of other than British race governed under the British Flag. The battle of the double moral standard has been fought, and is still being fought, in regard to our home communities, but the battle in relation to women who are exposed to peculiar difficulties and dangers because of their very colour and their backward development has hardly yet been begun. A sentence which has been quoted from the speech of Mr. John Harris may be added here: "No woman of any race is so degraded as to be beyond the demands of a white man."

The third consideration was that there is need everywhere to point to the use of the political weapon in the hands of women citizens. If the woman of Accra is capable of education, she is capable also of taking her

share when the time comes for her race to undertake its responsibilities. We must never forget that, as Miss Ho-Tung pointed out in regard to industrial development, there is no necessity to follow all the old slow, bad methods of the past, and, as Mrs. Ashby indicated in her opening address, the pace of change to-day is much more rapid than the pace of change yesterday. We need not be surprised to find our sisters of the Gold Coast or of Tanganyika moving forward some day with a rapidity that will startle us; they are moving now.

A reception given at the Lyceum was honoured not only by Miss Wilkinson, M.P., and Lady Astor, M.P., but also by Dr. Luders, of the German Reichstag, and Dr. Spohr, of the Prussian National Diet.

A public luncheon at the Criterion, with Lady Galway, Mrs. Warren Kerr (Australian Federation), and Miss Wilkinson, M.P., as speakers, was exceedingly pleasant. The last gathering of the Conference took place on the afternoon of July 1st, when private buses, hired to carry them down, conveyed some 70 guests to a delightful garden party at Wallingford arranged by our warm friend Mrs. Ibbotson Hutt.

—The Woman's Leader.

#### RESOLUTIONS.

##### Franchise. South Africa.

This Conference offers to the women of South Africa engaged in the struggle for the suffrage its heartiest sympathy; it urges the Government of South Africa to recognise their claim to full citizen rights as well as the loss of status imposed on enfranchised women when settling in South Africa, and asks it to take the earliest opportunity of remedying this situation by admitting women to the full franchise.

##### Great Britain.

This meeting of delegates from associations of women from all parts of the Commonwealth thanks the Prime Minister of Great Britain for his pledge to enfranchise women on the same terms and at the same age as men in time for them to exercise their rights at the next General Election. Experience has shown the Dominions the value of equal co-operation and the establishing of equality of voting rights in Great Britain will encourage the women of the Union of South Africa who are still without citizenship rights.

This Conference trusts that a Bill giving effect to this pledge will be introduced and passed early in the autumn so as to avoid any danger of the new woman voters not being included on the register in time for the next General Election.

##### Quebec.

The Conference protests against the loss of status and rights of citizenship suffered by women from other parts of the Commonwealth on entering the Province of Quebec in Canada, and calls upon the Government of Quebec to follow the example of 28 countries of the civilised world and grant to women the full provincial suffrage.

##### Bermuda.

This Conference expresses its sympathy with the women of Bermuda on their failure yet to secure the franchise, and calls upon the Legislature to re-introduce and pass into law a bill conferring equal suffrage without delay.

##### Native Peoples.

1. This meeting of delegates from associations of women from all parts of the Commonwealth records its conviction that the treatment of natives throughout the Commonwealth should be based on equality before the law, that taxes paid by natives should be expended for their benefit especially on hygiene, education and training, that laws relating to miscegenation (where they exist) should be applied equally to all races and

to both sexes, and an adequate supply of land suited to the needs and traditions of the people should be ensured to them.

2. This Conference of women urges upon the Imperial Government the importance of arranging for the training of native women for maternity work in their own areas wherever this can possibly be done.

3. This Conference urges upon the Government the importance of appointing to all Commissions of Enquiry, which deal with native problems, suitable women.

4. This Conference, while recognising the good work done by administrators and officers of the British Crown in dealing with areas which are mainly populated by peoples of other races, urges upon the Government special attention to the problems of women with regard to:

1. The care and protection of children of mixed parentage.
2. The sums of money set aside for health and welfare purposes, especially for the provision of maternity welfare.
3. The choice, wherever possible, of competent women to act on Commissions and Committees which deal with local problems.
4. The appointment of women as protectors of native women and girls.
5. The provision of free primary and vocational education for girls as well as boys.

##### Nationality.

This meeting notes with satisfaction that at the Nationality Committee of the Imperial Conference held in London in 1926 a member made a proposal in the same terms as the following resolution adopted without a division by the Imperial House of Commons on February 18th, 1925, and by the Commonwealth of Australia Parliament on February 26th, 1926.

"That in the opinion of the House a British woman shall not lose or be deemed to lose her nationality by the mere act of marriage with an alien, but that it shall be open to her to make a declaration of alienage."

and that "Many of the Committee were in favour of a change in the law which would provide for the British woman an opportunity of retaining her British nationality."

It urges the women's organisations throughout the Empire to promote the adoption of the same resolution on these respective legislations so that the next Imperial Conference will have a mandate to recommend legislation on these lines."

This Conference notes that the League of Nations Report on the Traffic in Women repeatedly calls attention to the fact that the existence of licensed or officially recognised brothels is undoubtedly an incentive both to national and international traffic in women; this Conference therefore calls upon the British Government to take immediate steps for putting into operation, in the Straits Settlements, the recommendations of the Colonial Office Advisory Committee's Report of 1925 (C.M.D. 2501), so that the elimination of recognised brothels shall immediately be begun there.

The Conference further urges the Government to call together again the Colonial Office Advisory Committee and to put before it all proposals dealing with prostitution which are being, or may be made in the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States and in Hong-Kong.

### WOMEN IN VENEZUELA.

The legal status of women in Venezuela was outlined by Luis Churion, first secretary of the Legation of Venezuela, at the Second World Welfare Conference held in Washington recently by the Women's Universal Alliance.

Senor Churion thus defined the Status of women under the laws of his country:

"Women in Venezuela, who have attained their

majority and are unmarried enjoy equal civil rights with men, with the restriction that they cannot exercise the charge of guardianship, tutelage, and member of the guardianship council, unless widowed grandmother of the minor, or sister or aunt, widowed or single. Neither can she witness wills, except those drawn up in places where a contagious epidemic is raging.

"By virtue of marriage, a woman is placed under the tutelage of her husband. He is the head of the family, and she must obey him and follow him wherever he may fix his residence. From the latter duty she may be exempted by the judge of first instance, whenever a serious reason existing to the contrary has been fully proved. She requires her husband's permission to appear in court, to make contracts in general, to contract obligations and to carry on trade; but if her husband denied her such permission without good reason, or if there be a conflict of interests between the husband and wife, the judge of first instance is empowered to grant such permission, except to carry on trade. She may proceed without the authorization of the husband when he is a minor, or is under interdiction or absent; when she is defending herself in a criminal action; and when she brings suit against her husband or defends herself against him. She may also proceed without such authorization to accept bequests not subject to charges; to will or bequeath her property, and when her property is legally separate, she may administer, dispose of, or encumber it.

"Venezuelan legislation authorizes the man and woman who are about to contract a marriage freely to establish the agreement which is to govern them during their marital life. Such an agreement has the character of a contract between them, and is called *capitulaciones matrimoniales* (articles of marriage). These cannot be changed as long as the marriage lasts.

"Should husband and wife not execute such a contract, Venezuelan law provides that they shall be governed by the regulations of a partnership, the effect of which is to make common property that acquired by purchase during the marriage. And although it is true that the husband alone administers the conjugal partnership, the wife has power to administer and sell the property acquired by her in the exercise of a profession or employment or by means of literary, artistic, or scientific ability.

"In view of this liberal and equitable provision of our legislation in favour of woman's rights, it may be considered that in Venezuela, woman is advancing with swift, firm steps towards the attainments of her aspirations, on the basis of social justice and equality. She already shares with man the enjoyment of effective prerogative in the life of the home, where, on the death or incapacity of the husband, she assumes the exercise of parental authority, and she can also make herself heard by means of a divorce suit, if her dignity and welfare are impaired. She also enjoys a conquest in public activities, for she has been empowered to exercise the functions of *registrator*, an office which in the United States corresponds to the recorder of deeds and to the notary public."

As examples of Venezuelan women who have attained distinction in the arts, sciences, and professions, Senor Churion cited Isabel de Mauri, Ignacia de Fombona, Margarite Pimentel, Marie Teresa, Villalobos de Rojas, Antonia Esteller, Polita de Lima, Lucile de Perez Dias, Teresa Carreno, Virginia Pereira Alvarez, Clara Vivas Briceno, Louisa del Valle Silva, Teresa de la Parra, Nina Crespo, Enriqueta Arvelo Larriva, Luisa Martinez, and Concepcion de Taylhardat.

"Two of these splendid geniuses have triumphed in the United States: Teresa Carreno, who astounded the world with her marvellous genius at the piano; and Virginia Pereira Alvarez, who in contest with worthy opponents, won the privilege of her medical studies and took her high medical degree in Philadelphia," Senor Churion said.

"The poems of Luisa del Valle Silva have won continental fame; Lucila de Perez Diaz gained lasting



renown by her studies on the national annals; Nina Crespo gains even higher appreciation for her paintings from masters of this art; and Teresa de la Parra, with her recent novel 'Ingenia,' made the eminent French critic, Max Daireau, exclaim: 'Latin America has long had its women poets: Gabriela Mistral, Ibarbourou, Augustini, Storni; now it has its novelist as well, who is something more than a novelist—a great writer.'"  
*Equal Rights.*

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

The following paragraphs are largely taken from miscellaneous press sources and their accuracy is not vouched for by our National Auxiliaries.

## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM.

In September Miss Sheepshanks will take up her work as Secretary of the W.I.L.P.F. at Geneva, her appointment having been made at the International Executive in March at Liege.

Miss Sheepshanks has a distinguished international record. She was at one time Head of Morley College, and also Secretary of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance when she edited the Suffrage paper, *Jus Suffragii*. She has travelled a great deal, has visited South America, and knows Constantinople well. She did most valuable international work during the war, when she was Secretary of the Fight the Famine Council. Miss Sheepshanks is also an excellent linguist, speaking French and German fluently.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

## Woman Director of Studies.

For the first time a Director of Studies has been appointed by the University of London Joint Committee for the promotion of the higher education of working people.

The appointment has gone to Mrs. Barbara Wootton, one of the seven members of the Committee nominated by the Workers' Educational Association.

She is a Justice of the Peace and an M.A. of Cambridge, and since December, 1925, has been principal of Morley College.

Mrs. Wootton, who is 30, lost her husband in the war a few months after their marriage.

## Woman Police Surgeon.

The Manchester Watch Committee has appointed a sub-committee to examine applications for the appointment of two police surgeons.

In addition to a successor to Dr. Turner, a woman police surgeon will be appointed who will have her own special department of work among women prisoners.

Particular interest attaches to this appointment as, so far as is known, Manchester will be taking a pioneer step in appointing a woman police surgeon.

## HOLLAND.

Mrs. Rutgers-Hoitsema, a veteran suffrage worker and an old friend of the Alliance, recently celebrated her eightieth birthday. Working for the woman's movement is one of the best recipes for a long life.

## IRELAND.

On the 15th of July, Countess Markievitz died in Dublin. The Countess was actually the first woman to be elected to the British Parliament, though she never took her seat. She was also elected more than once to the Free State Parliament, but as a Republican, refused to take her seat there. She was a well-known suffrage worker in the earlier days, and later had a romantic and stormy career in the Sinn Fein movement in Ireland, having been many times in prison and under sentence of death on more than one occasion.

## U.S.A.

America has added another woman to her Foreign Service, increasing the number of women diplomats to

three. Miss Florence E. Willis, of Redlands, California, was one of the twenty-six successful candidates out of 150 who took the examinations for the foreign service. The other women members of the foreign service are Miss Pattie Field, Vice-Consul at Amsterdam, and Miss Lucile Atcherson, Second Secretary of the Legation at Panama.

Miss Willis is a graduate of Leland Stanford University where she received her Doctor's degree in 1923. She was at one time instructor in English at Goucher College, and later, assistant professor of political science at Vassar.

## FRANCE.

## Pour le vote des femmes.

Pendant la session du 3e Congrès International des Sciences Administratives, réuni à Paris, à la Faculté de Droit, les 21, 22 et 23 juin 1927, la deuxième section, présidée par M. Louis Dausset, a émis le vœu que dans les pays où le droit de vote n'existait pas encore pour la femme, le suffrage féminin fût introduit le plus tôt possible dans la législation pour les élections des assemblées locales et régionales, ainsi que l'éligibilité des femmes dans ces mêmes assemblées. Dans sa séance de clôture du 23 juin, l'assemblée plénière du Congrès où vingt-deux nations étaient représentées, a adopté ce vœu à l'unanimité.

## Le vote des femmes a la Chambre des Députés.

Le rapport de M. Pierre Marraud n'ayant plus aucune chance d'être discuté au Sénat, avant le réforme électorale, la Présidente de l'U.F.S.F. demanda à être reçue par M. Louis Proust, Président du nouveau groupe de Défense des Droits de la femme, pour lui demander "comment la question du vote des femmes pourrait être abordée à la Chambre des Députés sans se trouver mêlée à la discussion entre arrondissementiers et proportionnalistes." M. Louis Proust reçut le 5 juillet une délégation de l'U.F.S.F. et lui fit part de la décision qui venait d'être prise par son groupe, en accord même avec le vœu que l'U.F.S.F. avait exprimé. Le texte suivant que M. Proust nous communique pour la presse donne la note exacte de cette décision:

Chambre des députés,  
Paris, le 5 juillet 1927.

*Le Groupe parlementaire de Défense des Droits de la Femme, réuni sous la présidence de M. Louis Proust, Député d'Indre-et-Loire, a décidé de proposer un article additionnel au projet de réforme électorale investissant les femmes des mêmes droits de vote et d'éligibilité que les hommes.*

*Les membres du Groupe ont été unanimes, quelles que soient leurs opinions respectives sur la réforme électorale, arrondissementiers ou proportionnalistes, quels que soient es Groupes politiques auxquels ils appartiennent, pour inviter la Chambre à manifester sa volonté aux prochaines élections législatives.*

Le Groupe des Droits de la femme compte plus de cent membres; son Bureau est ainsi constitué: Président, Louis Proust; Vice-Présidents, Pierre E-Flandin et Roux-Fressinng; Secrétaire général, René Richard. Nous devons remercier très chaleureusement le nouveau Groupe d'avoir pris en main notre cause et d'avoir mis la question du vote des femmes en dehors de toute préoccupation de parti et d'intérêts de parti.

Si l'article additionnel proposé par le Groupe est, comme nous l'espérons, voté à la Chambre, le Sénat se trouvera donc en face d'une réforme électorale qui reconnaîtra les droits politiques des femmes.

Et si la Haute Assemblée le déplore, qu'elle n'en accuse que sa Commission du suffrage féminin qui depuis deux ans avait tout loisir pour hâter le rapport de M. Pierre Marraud.

Ce qu'il faut, maintenant, c'est que les Groupes féministes de la Chambre et du Sénat se rencontrent pour se mettre d'accord sur la tactique à suivre.

Quant à nous, continuons à agir.

C'est le moment. C. BRUNSCHVIG

## SECTION FRANCAISE.

## UN BUREAU TEMPORAIRE DE L'ALLIANCE A GENEVA.

29 août au 17 septembre 1927.

Nous avons annoncé dans le précédent numéro de JUS que l'Alliance ouvrirait à Genève pendant l'Assemblée de la S.d.N. un Bureau temporaire qui servirait de centre de ralliement à tous les féministes de passage dans cette ville. Nous sommes maintenant en mesure de donner quelques détails complémentaires sur ce Bureau, détails qui engageront, nous y comptons, tous les membres et tous les amis de l'Alliance qui se trouveront à Genève à la fin d'août ou au début de septembre, à saisir cette occasion pour resserrer les liens internationaux entre féministes.

Comme l'année dernière, on avait reproché à ce Bureau d'être situé trop loin de la S.d.N., nous avons pu louer pour cette année un local à moins de 3 minutes de la Salle de la Réformation, où se tiennent les Assemblées de la S.d.N., soit au Foyer du Travail féminin, 11 Cours de Rive (2e étage: téléphone: Stand 00-34). Il sera dès lors extrêmement facile à toutes celles qui vont à l'Assemblée d'y venir rapidement à l'issue d'une séance, ou même entre deux discours, pour y rencontrer d'autres féministes, y consulter des journaux, y prendre une tasse de thé, y demander des renseignements, etc. Nous espérons aussi pouvoir mettre, comme l'an dernier, des cartes d'entrée pour l'Assemblée à la disposition des membres de l'Alliance. Signalons encore le fait que deux restaurants se trouvant dans cette même maison, il sera commode d'y aller après déjeuner causer tranquillement ou lire les journaux.

Pour permettre à la secrétaire de représenter l'Alliance dans les nombreuses réunions, conférences, séances internationales de tout ordre, qui ont lieu à Genève durant cette période, il a été décidé, sur la base des expériences faites l'année dernière que le Bureau serait ouvert seulement l'après-midi, de 14 à 16 h. tous les jours, dimanche excepté du 29 août au 17 septembre, ces trois semaines étant celles où l'activité internationale est la plus intense à Genève. Nous espérons beaucoup que plusieurs des membres du "Board" pourront venir à Genève à ce moment-là; et en tout cas, notre Présidente, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, et notre Secrétaire générale, Mlle. Gourd, seront extrêmement heureuses de profiter de cette occasion pour rencontrer d'anciens et fidèles Membres de l'Alliance, et pour faire la connaissance de nouvelles amies.

Comme le désir nous en a été exprimé, l'Alliance recevra spécialement dans ce Bureau tous les lundis à 17 h. tous ceux qui voudront lui faire le plaisir d'accepter une tasse de thé, en sachant qu'en venant à ces réunions intimes, ils auront certainement la chance de rencontrer des personnalités féministes intéressantes. De plus, nous organiserons pendant ces trois semaines, soit le soir, soit à la fin de l'après-midi, des causeries, avec le concours de femmes distinguées de passage à Genève, sur des sujets d'intérêt féministe international.

Nous comptons bien, grâce à tous ces projets, faire de notre Bureau un centre actif et vivant de rencontres féministes à une époque et dans une ville où la vie internationale bat son plein. Mais nous avons besoin pour que ces projets réussissent du concours de toutes les membres de l'Alliance que nous prions instamment de faire connaître autour d'elles l'existence de ce Bureau, d'y venir elles-mêmes si elles se trouvent à Genève, d'engager leurs amies à s'y rendre, et de nous aider ainsi à faire apprécier dans tous les milieux l'Alliance et le travail qu'elle accomplit.

E.G.D.

## LA CONFERENCE DE LA PETITE ENTENTE DES FEMMES.

Du 1 au 3 juin a eu lieu à Prague la 4e Conférence de

la P.E.F. immédiatement après la fin des travaux du Bureau de l'Alliance. Toutes les sections nationales y étaient représentées: la Grèce était représentée par quatre déléguées, la Roumanie par trois sous la présidence de Mme. la Princesse Cantacuzene, la Yougoslavie par six, Présidente Mlle. Milena Atanatskovitch, Pologne par trois, Présidente Mme. Domska, remplaçante Mme. Dr. Tylicka, Tchécoslovaquie par Mme. F. Plaminkova, Sénateur, et Mme. Purkinova, représentant chacune une section indépendante. Mme. A. Theodoropoulo et Mme. Marie Svola, présidente et secrétaire de la section grecque, étaient en même temps présidente et secrétaire de la P.E.F. pour cette année.

Le travail était réparti entre quatre commissions: (1) Code matrimonial, rapporteuse, Dr. Tylicka; (2) Rapports économiques, Mme. Purkinova; (3) Paix, Mme. Theodoropoulo; (4) Education, Princesse Cantacuzene. Les travaux commencèrent avec le rapport sur la paix et un programme pacifiste présenté par Mme. Theodoropoulo au nom de la section grecque. Après de vives discussions, le programme fut accepté avec de légères modifications. Les commissions sur le code matrimonial et les relations économiques présentèrent aussi leurs rapports. Le résultat de la première fut exprimé dans le programme féministe de la P.E.F. basé en grande partie sur le programme de l'Alliance. La commission économique adopta des résolutions sur l'activité de la P.E.F. en faveur d'une union économique plus étroite entre les pays du Sud-Est Européen.

En ce qui concerne l'activité de la P.E.F. pour la paix, il fut unanimement accepté qu'il serait désirable de voir les associations féministes de la Bulgarie, de la Turquie et de l'Albanie entrer dans ce groupe. La Grèce propose en même temps le changement du nom de la P.E.F. qui, en rappelant un groupe politique, peut présenter un obstacle à l'entrée de ces pays. Comme ceci était une question de changement de statuts, il a été remis à la prochaine conférence qui aura lieu à Varsovie le printemps de 1928.

## PROGRAMME PACIFISTE.

La petite Entente des femmes désirant vivement voir s'établir dans le Sudest européen un régime de paix durable et croyant que de cette façon se préparerait le voie pour la paix de l'Europe et du monde entier, adopte le programme suivant:

- Considérant qu'on ne peut arriver à la paix que par la préparation pour la paix, s'oppose à toute politique qui encouragerait l'esprit militariste et impérialiste.
- S'oppose à toute alliance, entente secrète ou traité qui aurait pour but de créer des obstacles à une union politique et économique plus étroite entre nos pays.
- Croit fermement que les moyens les plus sûrs pour arriver à une pareille union politique et économique entre ces pays sont les suivants:

- L'union douanière et l'abolition des passeports.
- L'adoption d'une politique qui aurait pour but l'unification, la multiplication et l'amélioration des transports et des communications pour faciliter les échanges et resserrer les liens entre nos pays.
- L'organisation des ports maritimes de manière à servir les intérêts de tous ces pays.
- Que tous les pays, grands ou petits, doivent avoir les mêmes devoirs à l'égard des minorités. La protection effective des minorités de manière à assurer à chaque individu son développement culturel économique et social. D'autre part toute propagande officielle ou non, dans le but d'éveiller les sentiments nationalistes des minorités établies dans un autre pays, doit être strictement évitée.



- (5) Education sincèrement pacifiste de manière à cultiver dans la nouvelle génération des sentiments de sympathie et de solidarité pour tous les peuples; supprimer des livres d'enseignement tout ce qui pourrait développer le sentiment de haine ou de mépris.
- D. Envisageant la S.D.N. comme une institution qui pourrait réellement assurer la paix universelle le P.E.F. exprime le désir de voir réaliser les principes suivants: (1) l'abolition des privilèges des grands Etats, (2) la codification des droits et des devoirs des minorités nationales, (3) la représentation plus complète des peuples par leurs délégations nationales, (4) Adopte les principes d'arbitrage obligatoire et de désarmement général qu'elle considère comme un des moyens les plus sûrs pour arriver à la paix universelle.

### SOCIÉTÉ BELGE POUR L'AMÉLIORATION DU SORT DE LA FEMME.

"Les dames et jeunes filles qui font un séjour de vacances en Belgique pourront séjourner au Foyer 'de la Femme':

"A Bruxelles, au Home Edith Cavell, rue de Parme, 26, (St.-Gilles), ou à la Maison Yvonne Vieslet, 51, Chaussée d'Ixelles;

"A Gand, à la Maison Marie Prudence Preenen-Desmet, 327b, Chaussée de Courtrai.—Pension complète 25 francs 'belges.'"

### TURQUIE.

#### L'Union des Femmes a l'oeuvre

Nos hanoums vont de l'avant. Les droits politiques qu'elles réclament semblaient être jusqu'à hier encore du domaine du rêve; elles sont en train de devenir une réalité. Il nous revient en effet qu'au cours d'une réunion les hanoums ont décidé de faire des démarches pour obtenir l'autorisation de prendre part aux prochaines élections et de présenter une liste de "candidates." La présidente de l'Union des femmes Nézié Mouhieddine hanoum a dit à ce propos à l'un de nos rédacteurs.

—Eh bien! oui, pourquoi le cacher. Nous aussi nous allons prendre part aux élections. Etre électrices et éligibles comme les hommes n'est un souhait ni prématuré ni excessif. Nous savons cependant pertinemment que nos lois ne s'y prêtent pas et que nos droits ne seront pas reconnus. Mais nous marchons néanmoins de l'avant dussions nous aller au devant d'une défaite. Dans les luttes de ce genre il n'y a ni vainqueur, ni vaincu. Tout au plus dans un mois nous allons publier une brochure indiquant les bases sur lesquelles reposent nos revendications.

A défaut d'autre résultat ce sont des jalons que nous posons pour l'avenir. Quoi qu'il soit nous sommes fermement décidées à désigner nos candidates et à communiquer leurs noms au siège parti du peuple. Le moment est venu de démontrer qu'à l'instar des hommes nous avons nous aussi des droits, acquis dans ce pays. Nos dirigeants républicains conviennent d'ailleurs que la femme est dans le corps social un membre que l'on ne peut négliger. Nous puisons notre force dans les principes républicains et nous sommes convaincues que nous aurons un jour gain de cause.

#### Une démarche auprès de Gazi pacha.

Un confrère avait annoncé hier que l'Union des femmes avait désigné une délégation pour se rendre à Angora et présenter les hommages de l'association à Gazi pacha.

D'après nos renseignements il ne s'agit, en l'occurrence, que d'un projet. Il n'y a encore rien de décidé. Mais tout de même il y a un très fort courant en faveur de l'envoi de cette délégation qui soumettrait égale-

ment à notre grand Ghazi les revendications politiques de nos hanoums.

\* \* \*  
L'union des femmes turques qui a décidé de fonder des succursales en divers endroits, inaugurerait la première à Bakirkeuy.

### SUISSE.

Nos lecteurs se souviennent qu'au grand désappointement des féministes genevoises, le Consistoire de l'Eglise nationale protestante de Genève avait, au début du printemps, éludé toute décision sur la question du pastorat féminin, craignant, semblait-il, de prendre ses responsabilités à cet égard. La question vient d'être présentée à nouveau au Consistoire élu au début de mai par M. Charly Clerc, l'infatigable défenseur de l'accès des femmes au pastorat; et cette séance fut, contrairement à la tradition qui règne dans cette enceinte, quelque peu houleuse, une opposition indéclinable s'étant marquée derechef chez les membres les plus conservateurs du Consistoire. M. Clerc a cependant obtenu que la discussion fût remise à l'automne, et, d'autre part, un petit succès féministe a été remporté: la seule femme étudiante en dernière année de la Faculté de théologie a été autorisée par le Consistoire à prêcher durant l'été dans les paroisses de campagne qui lui en feraient la demande, étant ainsi placée sur le même plan exactement que ses camarades masculins. Plusieurs paroisses se sont déjà assurées son concours pour le mois d'août, ce qui est un signe réjouissant. . . . mais n'oublions pas qu'en périodes de vacances, les prédicateurs sont si difficiles à trouver.

A propos des droits de la femme dans l'Eglise, on nous fait remarquer que nous n'avons pas encore indiqué ici le résultat des élections de mai dernier dans l'Eglise nationale protestante de Genève, élections auxquelles les femmes ont participé comme électrices pour le Consistoire et les Conseils de paroisse, et comme candidates en ce qui concerne les Conseils de paroisse. Voici les chiffres officiels: 2218 votants se sont rendus "aux urnes," dont 1086 étaient des hommes et 1132 des femmes. Enfoncée donc une fois de plus la légende, d'après laquelle les femmes ne profitent pas des droits qu'elles possèdent!—*Le Mouvement Féministe.*

### NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

#### Un Don a l'Alliance.

M. J. Prelooker écrivait dernièrement que toute personne possédant des biens devrait en léguer une partie pour servir la cause qui l'intéresse le plus. Il terminait en citant l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage comme un des Sociétés humanitaires les mieux choisies. M. Prelooker vient de nous informer qu'il met sa théorie en pratique et qu'il lègue 300 livres st. à l'Alliance. Le Bureau de l'Alliance a accepté ce don avec reconnaissance et espère que l'exemple sera suivi. C'est une satisfaction de savoir que, même après votre mort, vous ferez vivre l'oeuvre que vous tient à coeur.

#### Grande Bretagne

*Union Nationale des Sociétés pour l'égalité civique.*—En dépit des promesses reiterées du premier ministre de présenter à la prochaine session le bill donnant le suffrage aux deux sexes à 21 ans, il y a eu une campagne de presse contre le vote des femmes. Pour arrêter ces attaques, l'Union Nationale a employé tous les moyens pour faire l'éducation de la presse et elle a envoyé partout des députations. Elle a pris part à la grande démonstration de Trafalgar Square où Dame Millicent Fawcett et Mrs. Despard étaient présentes. Un grand nombre de réunions ont été organisées dans tout le pays.

Pour l'année prochaine, l'Union Nationale prépare un grand meeting à Queen's Hall, juste après l'ouverture du Parlement. Comme on espère que la loi sera

votée avant Septembre, 1928, on organisera à Oxford un cours de vacances pour les jeunes électrices.

*Les femmes à la Chambre des Lords.*—La réforme de la Chambre des Lords a été fortement discutée, à la suite des propositions faites par le gouvernement, propositions qui furent si critiquées qu'on n'en entendra plus parler. En faisant ces propositions, le Lord Chancellor, au nom du gouvernement, a fait allusion à la position des paires par droit de naissance, comme un "détail" à régler plus tard. A la suite des disputes dans les deux chambres, Lord Astor a retiré son projet de loi sur le droit des paires, projet qui devait passer en seconde lecture le 27 juin. L'Union Nationale a envoyé une lettre au "Times," signée des déléguées des Sociétés féministes pour réclamer le droit d'élection pour les femmes dans les deux chambres.

*L'âge du Mariage.*—Le Ministre de l'Intérieur, ne pouvant recevoir, par manque de temps une députation de l'Union Nationale, qui vient demander que l'âge du mariage soit élevé de quelques années, a exprimé son désir de recevoir cette députation en automne pour connaître les vues des diverses Sociétés féministes sur cette question.

*Société des Nations.*—Dame Edith Lyttelton a été nommée déléguée suppléante pour la Grande Bretagne à la prochaine Assemblée de la S.d.N. (d'après E.M.H.)

*Conférence de la "British Commonwealth League."*—Les délégués se sont réunis le 20 juin et le 1er juillet pour étudier "la situation sociale et industrielle des femmes de race non-britannique, gouvernées sous le drapeau britannique," et "Quelques problèmes de gouvernement." Le programme était chargé: industrialisme dans Hong Kong britannique, et dans l'Inde, condition des femmes indigènes dans les Bermudes, Barbados, en Australie, à Tanganyika. La Papouasie et la Nouvelle-Guinée reçurent peu d'attention. Une séance fut consacrée aux problèmes d'éducation en Afrique et dans l'Inde, plusieurs aux questions de la double moralité pour les deux sexes, une après-midi à des résolutions et à des discussions urgentes sur les problèmes toujours pressants du suffrage dans l'Afrique du Sud, les Bermudes, la Grande-Bretagne et à Québec, un autre sur la régulation telle qu'elle est ou pourrait être appliquée aux pays sous le contrôle britannique. La nationalité des femmes mariées fut discutée, un discours très émouvant fut prononcé par Mrs. Rigo de Righi, qui perdit sa nationalité australienne en épousant un Italien dans l'Inde, crut l'avoir regagnée quand il se naturalisa, et découvrait, à sa mort, qu'elle n'était un sujet britannique que par courtoisie, en dehors de l'Inde.

Trois considérations parfaitement claires ressortirent de la discussion:

1. Les changements formidables apportés par l'emploi des méthodes scientifiques pour l'exploitation des ressources tropicales, dans la situation des indigènes qui passent sans bien s'en apercevoir d'une culture primitive à un stage plus avancé: ce qui implique le devoir des femmes avancées et organisées à l'égard de ces autres femmes, et la nécessité de surveiller avec le plus grand soin les changements impliqués dans toutes ces modifications en ce qui regarde les femmes.

2. La gravité de la question de la double moralité pour les femmes non-britanniques vivant sous le pavillon britannique: c'est à peine si cette question, si débattue chez nous, commence pour elles. Citons une phrase de Mr. J. Harris: "Nulle femme, de quelque race que ce soit, n'est si dégradée qu'elle soit à l'abri de la luxure des Blancs."

3. Il faut insister partout sur l'usage de l'arme politique dans les mains des femmes électrices. Il n'est pas nécessaire de suivre les mauvaises et lentes méthodes du passé (Miss Ho-Tung), le changement est bien plus rapide aujourd'hui que dans le passé (Mrs. Corbett Ashby). Nos soeurs de la Côte d'or ou de Tanganyika pourront un jour marcher de l'avant avec une rapidité qui nous surprendra.

Une réception a été donnée au Lyceum, qui fut honorée de la présence de Miss Wilkinson, de Lady Astor, et aussi de Dr. Lüders, du Reichstag allemand, et de Dr. Spohr, de la Diète nationale prussienne.

Un lunch public eut lieu au Criterion avec des speeches de Lady Galway, de Mrs. Warren Kerr (Fédération australienne) et de Miss Wilkinson, M.P.) puis un garden-party à Wallingford organisée par Mrs. Ibbotson-Hutt.

#### Resolutions passées à la conférence de la British Commonwealth League.

*Afrique du Sud.*—La conférence offre sa plus chaude sympathie aux femmes engagées dans la lutte pour l'égalité des droits politiques: elle presse le gouvernement de leur donner satisfaction et attire son attention sur la diminution politique subie par les femmes qui viennent se fixer dans l'Afrique du sud, en lui demandant d'y mettre fin le plus vite possible.

*Grande-Bretagne.*—Cette réunion de déléguées des associations féminines de toutes les parties de l'Empire remercie le Premier Ministre de sa promesse d'établir l'égalité entière des droits politiques, de manière que les femmes puissent en profiter aux prochaines élections. L'expérience a montré aux Dominions la valeur de cette égalité, et l'extension du droit des femmes de Grande-Bretagne encouragera les femmes de l'Afrique du Sud qui n'ont pas encore leurs droits politiques.

La conférence compte que la loi sera déposée en automne à temps pour que les femmes puissent être enregistrées en vue des élections prochaines.

*Québec.*—La conférence proteste contre la diminution des droits politiques subie par les femmes qui viennent des autres parties de l'Empire se fixer à Québec, et presse le gouvernement de Québec de suivre l'exemple de 28 pays du monde civilisé et d'accorder aux femmes le plein suffrage provincial.

*Bermudes.*—La conférence exprime sa sympathie aux femmes des Bermudes sur leur échec et invite la Législature à réintroduire et à voter un bill accordant la franchise aux femmes sans délai.

*Indigènes.*—La conférence affirme sa conviction que les indigènes doivent jouir de l'égalité devant la loi, que les taxes payées par eux doivent être employées à leur avantage, notamment pour l'hygiène, l'éducation et l'enseignement professionnel; que les lois relatives à la miscegenation (où elles existent) doivent être les mêmes pour toutes les races et pour les deux sexes, et qu'une quantité de terre appropriée à leurs besoins et traditions leur soit assurée.

3. La conférence insiste auprès du gouvernement sur l'importance d'élire des femmes bien choisies dans toutes les commissions d'enquête qui s'occupent des femmes indigènes.

4. La conférence, tout en rendant hommage aux efforts des administrateurs et officiers britanniques dans les aires habitées par des peuples de race non-britannique, appelle l'attention toute particulière du gouvernement sur les problèmes féminins qui suivent:

- Le soin et la protection des enfants de parents mixtes;
- les sommes d'argent mises de côté pour la santé et le bien-être, notamment en ce qui regarde la maternité;
- le choix, autant que possible, de femmes compétentes pour faire partie de comités et de commissions qui traitent de problèmes locaux;
- la nomination de femmes comme protectrices de femmes et de filles indigènes.
- l'établissement de l'enseignement primaire et professionnel gratuits pour les filles aussi bien que pour les garçons.

*Nationalité.*—Le meeting note avec satisfaction qu'au Comité de nationalité de la conférence impériale tenue à Londres en 1926, un membre a repris la proposition adoptée à mains levées par la chambre des Communes Imperial le 18 février 1925 et par la Parlement d'Australie le 26 février 1926, savoir:

Que dans l'opinion de la Chambre une femme britannique ne perdra pas ou ne sera pas censée perdre sa nationalité par le seul fait qu'elle épouse un étranger, mais qu'il lui appartiendra d'y renoncer par une déclaration d'aliénage.



Que "Beaucoup de membres du comité étaient en faveur d'un changement de loi de manière à permettre aux femmes britanniques de conserver leur nationalité.

Il presse les organisations féminines, à travers tout l'Empire, de faire adopter le même résolution par leurs législations respectives, de façon que la prochaine Conférence Impériale ait mandat de recommander une législation sur ces lignes.

Cette Conférence note que le rapport de la Ligue des Nations sur la traite des femmes appelle à maintes reprises l'attention sur le fait que l'existence de bordels officiellement reconnus pousse à cette traite: elle invite le gouvernement britannique à prendre des mesures immédiates pour mettre en pratique, dans les Straits Settlements, les recommandations du colonial office advisory committee Report de 1925.

La conférence invite en outre le gouvernement à réunir de nouveau ce comité et à le saisir de toutes les propositions relatives à la prostitution qui concernent ou peuvent concerner les Straits Settlements, les Etats malais fédérés et Hong Kong.

#### Australie.

*Fédération des Electriciennes.*—La seconde conférence triennale s'est tenue à Sydney, du 17 au 20 mai sous la présidence de Mme. Rischbieth. La constitution de la Fédération fut modifiée. Les sujets principaux qui furent l'objet de résolutions furent: Subventions fédérales à l'Etat en ce qui regarde la Santé publique, la mortalité maternelle, l'éducation; Lutte contre la mortalité maternelle; maintien de l'Aide aux mères; Amélioration de la situation des veuves et des épouses abandonnées; Enseignement de l'économie domestique; Censure du cinéma; Mariage et divorce selon les lois fédérales sur le mariage et le divorce; Corrélation des lois sociales économiques pour toute l'Australie; Une députation entretint le Premier ministre des questions relatives au Cinéma et de la part à laisser aux femmes en la matière.

#### Allemagne.

*Education physique des femmes.*—Un grand effort a été fait ces dernières années. Le Conseil National des femmes allemandes, après avoir réuni un congrès, a fondé, il y a deux ans, un Comité spécial pour le développement de cette œuvre, sous la Présidence de Frau Dr. Matz, directrice de l'Ecole Normale de gymnastique à Stettin. Un nouveau congrès est en préparation pour traiter des méthodes de gymnastique. Un forum féminin va être fondé à Charlottenburg, ainsi qu'un hôtel pour étudiantes.

*Annuaire du Conseil National des femmes.*—Cet annuaire, interrompu de 1921 à 1926 pour raisons économiques, vient d'être publié de nouveau. C'est le roème. Il résume l'œuvre accomplie par les femmes en politique, en Sociologie, dans la lutte contre l'alcoolisme, et dans les efforts pour obtenir des réformes législatives. Dr. G. Baumer y a écrit un article intéressant sur leur œuvre internationale.

#### Autriche.

Nous déplorons la mort de Frau H. Herzfelder, une des fondatrices de l'Association pour les intérêts politiques des femmes. Elle était aussi membre du Comité du Conseil National des femmes autrichiennes. Elle s'est aussi dévouée à la cause des l'Enfance.

L'Association pour les intérêts politiques des femmes a changé de nom depuis sa dernière réunion. Son nouveau titre est: "Union des citoyennes autrichiennes" qui indique mieux son œuvre d'éducation politique des femmes et ses efforts pour développer leur influence politique. Après l'assemblée annuelle, Frau E. Freundlich, membre du Parlement, a fait une causerie sur la conférence économique mondiale, dont elle est V. Présidente, pour prouver que l'existence d'un Parlement international est possible.

Le 24 Juin, Frau M. Hainisch, âgée de 88 ans fondatrice du Mouvement féministe autrichien et

Présidente honoraire du Conseil National des femmes, a fait, dans un meeting tenu à Vienne, un appel pressant aux femmes pour qu'elles fondent une association politique comprenant des groupes de tous les partis politiques.

Au dernier congrès de microbiologie tenu à Vienne, Frau Prof. Dr. Rhoda Erdmann, fondatrice et directrice de l'Institut de recherches histologiques de Berlin, a développé une théorie remarquable sur le cancer.

Le titre de Frau, déjà accordé à toutes les femmes universitaires de Vienne, vient d'être inscrit sur tous les diplômes universitaires. Le gouvernement a promis de donner ce titre à toutes les fonctionnaires.

Une pétition vient d'être faite par les chefs d'industrie en faveur de l'entrée des femmes à la bourse, sur la demande de Frau M. Biach, directrice d'une Société industrielle. Si la pétition est acceptée, le Parlement devra modifier la loi.

Frau Olga Rudel-Zeynek, ancienne députée conservatrice, a été élue par la diète de Styrie, membre du Conseil fédéral, la deuxième chambre du Parlement. (d'après G. Urban).

#### Hongrie.

L'association des hommes de loi (justice criminelle) a provoqué une enquête sur la question des jurys. Ces jurys ont été supprimés illégalement. Une oratrice, envoyée par l'association féministe, s'est jointe à la discussion. Elle a fait remarquer que, depuis la suppression des jurys, les femmes avaient obtenu le vote; donc, si les jurys sont rétablis, le droit de siéger doit s'étendre à elles. Les rapporteurs de la discussion et plusieurs orateurs le rangèrent à son point de vue. Cependant, l'association des criminologues, craignant que le gouvernement n'accepte qu'une réforme rétrograde, demanda simplement la restauration de la loi de 1914. L'association féministe a alors adressé un memorandum au Ministre de la Justice pour demander l'extension du droit aux femmes. Le Ministre a répondu que l'amendement serait examiné sérieusement au cas où le nouveau projet de réforme rétablira les jurys. (d'après E. M. Meller).

#### Indes.

*Les lois d'héritage.*—Tant que le système familial a été intact aux Indes, les intérêts de la femme ont été respectés. Mais les transformations de la famille ont écrasé la femme; ses droits à l'héritage ou à la propriété étant réduits au minimum. Dans l'ancien système, le père était le chef; ses fils et ses frères restaient autour de lui. A la mort du père, un seul des fils héritait, les frères restaient auprès de lui, Aujourd'hui chacun va chercher sa vie d'ailleurs, l'agriculture est délaissée, les revenus diminuent. Quant à la femme, toujours dépendante de l'homme, elle est traitée comme du simple bétail. A la mort de son mari, il ne lui reste personne pour la soutenir et elle n'a aucun droit à son héritage. Elle ne peut ni vendre, ni user des biens du défunt sans la permission de ses fils, petit-fils ou famille du mari; elle dépend entièrement de leur bon vouloir. Il est temps que cet état de choses soit modifié. Les femmes hindoues demandent la réforme des lois en conséquence de la transformation des moeurs.

*Enseignement.*—Un projet de loi rendant l'enseignement primaire obligatoire va être présenté.

*Disqualification supprimée dans les Provinces Centrales.*—Le gouverneur a donné son assentiment à la résolution passée au Conseil législatif qui supprime la disqualification de sexe et qui donne aux femmes les droits de vote et d'éligibilité. (d'après Stri Dharma).

#### Etats Unis.

*Législation spéciale pour les femmes dans l'industrie.*—A la prochaine session du Congrès il y aura une nouvelle bataille autour de l'amendement sur l'égalité des droits, désigné quelquefois sous le nom "d'amendement sur les droits de la femme." Il n'est pas sûr que le Congrès passe une résolution pour soumettre l'amendement à la ratification des différents états; mais il recevra,

de divers côtés, des demandes pour et contre. Les sociétés féminines sont divisées sur ce sujet. Au fait, "le parti des femmes" est la seule société qui soutienne l'amendement; onze autres, dont la Ligue des Electriciennes, lui sont opposées; le reste des Sociétés doit mettre la question en discussion. Les membres de l'opposition déclarent que les femmes doivent avoir les mêmes droits que les hommes mais non pas des droits indéniables. La Ligue des Electriciennes demande que les hommes et les femmes aient, chacun dans leur sphère, les plus grandes facilités pour développer leurs facultés propres. La Ligue diffère du "Parti" sur la signification du mot égalité et sur les méthodes à suivre. Dans ces matières la Ligue s'occupe moins des femmes commerçantes ou de professions libérales que des femmes dans l'industrie, pour lesquelles elle demande des lois spéciales. Les légistes sont d'accord pour affirmer que, si l'amendement est adopté, cette législation spéciale sera rendue nulle. Tous les Etats de l'Union excepté la Floride ont des lois spéciales de ce genre et la Ligue travaille à les maintenir.

*La Ligue a une nouvelle secrétaire.*—Mrs. A. Ringland qui possède une longue expérience des œuvres sociales. Elle a travaillé aux œuvres d'assistance pendant et après la guerre à Paris, Constantinople, en Tchécoslovaquie, à Vienne, à Londres, etc.

La Ligue est représentée officiellement à l'Institut des relations pacifique à Honolulu en juillet par Mme. Hibbard.

#### Vénézuéla.

Le statut légal des femmes au Vénézuéla a été esquissé par M. Luis Churion, premier Secrétaire de la Légation du V. à la conférence récemment tenue à Washington par l'Alliance féminine universelle. Les femmes majeures et non mariées ont les mêmes droits que les hommes, sauf qu'elles ne peuvent figurer dans les conseils de tutelle à moins d'être grand mères des mineurs soeurs ou tantes et veuves ou célibataires. Elles ne peuvent servir de témoins pour les testaments, sauf en cas d'épidémie. La femme mariée est sous la tutelle du mari. Cependant le juge de première instance peut la dispenser de suivre son mari pour de bonnes raisons. Il lui faut l'autorisation maritale pour ester en justice, contracter, commercer; mais si la défense du mari est mal fondée, ou s'il y entre lui et sa femme un conflit d'intérêts, le juge peut l'autoriser à passer outre. Elle n'a pas besoin de l'autorisation du mari quand il est mineur, interdit ou absent, quand elle se défend dans une action criminelle, quand elle poursuit son mari ou se défend contre lui. Elle peut aussi, sans autorisation, accepter des legs non soumis à de charges; léguer son bien, et quand elle est légalement séparée de biens, elle peut l'administrer, en disposer ou l'hypothéquer.—Les fiancés ont le droit d'établir librement le contrat qui réglera leur vie: ce contrat a force légale et ne peut être changé leur vie durant. En cas de non-exécution de ce contrat, la loi soumet les époux aux règlements des associations (partnership); la propriété acquise pendant le mariage est commune. Le mari en a l'administration, mais la femme est maîtresse de ses gains professionnels ou de ce que lui rapporte son habileté littéraire, artistique ou scientifique. Sous cette législation plus libérale la femme avance rapidement vers l'égalité et la justice. En cas de mort ou d'incapacité du mari, elle exerce l'autorité paternelle; elle peut divorcer. Elle a une part de l'autorité publique, elle peut être nommée notaire. Nombre de femmes se sont distinguées dans les arts et les sciences, et leur réputation a passé les frontières du pays.

#### Société des Nations.

La 45e Session du Conseil n'a rien fait de très frappant; la plupart des questions ont été remises à la session de septembre. Les résolutions de la conférence économique ont été chaudement recommandées aux gouvernements le Conseil étudiera les moyens de fortifier l'organisation économique de la Ligue. Dans l'intervalle, le Comité économique tiendra une session

spéciale pour aviser aux moyens de mettre en pratique les résolutions de la Conférence sur les tarifs. Le Conseil convoque une conférence diplomatique en octobre pour dresser un accord sur l'abolition des prohibitions et restrictions relatives aux importations et exportations.

La dispute entre la Hongrie et la Roumanie sur l'expropriation des propriétaires hongrois a été remise à la prochaine session. La question de Memel a été discutée et un compromis officieux a été réglé entre les délégués de l'Allemagne et de la Lithuanie en dehors de la S. des N.

*Dîner international à Genève.*—Le 15 Juin, le Conseil international des femmes a organisé un dîner de 200 convits pour les membres du Conseil de la S. des N., sous la Présidence de la Marquise d'Aberdeen et Temair. Dans son discours, Lady Aberdeen a fait ressortir l'influence des femmes dans toutes les discussions de la Ligue et montre que le Conseil international des femmes avait été lui-même, dès 1888, une Ligue des Nations anticipée.

#### La Traite des femmes.

Le rapport de la Société des Nations sur la traite des femmes ne s'occupe pas de l'Extrême Orient. On demande qu'une enquête y soit faite par la S. des N. Le Rapport condamne à l'Unanimité, et dans les termes les plus nets, les maisons de tolérance comme étant le facteur principal de la traite des femmes. La Grande Bretagne doit être félicitée de ne pas figurer dans ce rapport. Grâce aux lois sévères contre les entremetteurs et contre les relations avec les mineurs de moins de 16 ans, la traite ne peut pas s'exercer.

Mais, examinons ce qui se passe aux colonies et dans les Protectorats.

*Indes et Calcutta,* la police compte 38,000 prostituées, beaucoup d'entre elles vivent dans des parties spéciales de la ville, reconnues, et tolérées par les autorités. La police estime que plus d'un millier de jeunes filles au dessus de 14 ans vivent dans les maisons de tolérance et que, chaque année, 1200 mineurs sont amenés dans la ville en vue de la prostitution.

*A Bombay,* la police estime qu'il y a environ 900 maisons de tolérance dans des quartiers spéciaux, et, là aussi, des mineurs sont vendues aux tenanciers.

*A Rangoom,* dans le Burma et à *Colombo* de Ceylan, où les quartiers mal famés ont été supprimés, la traite a presque disparu.

*A Hong-Kong,* il y a 300 maisons de tolérance officiellement reconnues.

*A Singapour,* il y en a 350 et nous savons, par les papiers officiels, que la traite des femmes existe, surtout la traite des Chinoises. Pourtant, le Comité consultatif de l'office colonial, qui s'est occupé de Singapour en 1925, a recommandé la suppression des maisons de tolérance et demandé une répression sévère de la traite des femmes; mais ces rapports n'ont pas eu de suite et l'association pour l'hygiène morale et Sociale demande que le gouvernement britannique prenne des mesures immédiates dans le sens des avis du Comité Consultatif de 1925, en faisant supprimer peu à peu les maisons de tolérance et que la question de la prostitution soit traitée dans ces pays comme elle l'est en Malaisie. (d'après A. Neilans).

#### Conférence économique.

Très intéressant discours de Mlle. Barbara Wootton au Caxton Hall, le 27 juin, à une réunion organisée par le Comité permanent des Organisations féminines internationales, sous la présidence de Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Les Etats Membres y étaient représentés. De plus, l'Egypte, la Turquie, les Etats-Unis, la Russie avaient envoyé des délégations. C'est le premier effort tenté depuis la guerre pour envisager les conditions économiques dans leur ensemble. Ces conditions, dit Mrs. Wootton, sont malheureuses. Le mal n'est pas dans la production, mais dans le manque d'organisation. La production s'est élevée par tête, la population du monde et de l'Europe s'est accrue, mais



L'Europe a 10,000,000 de chômeurs. Des industries fondées à grands frais sont sorties d'Europe, laissant derrière elles le capital et la main d'œuvre entraînée; par exemple, la consommation européenne du coton a diminué de 2,000 balles, celle des Etats-Unis et du Japon a monté. L'Australie tend à manufacturer sa laine. La guerre a engagé les industries dans une mauvaise voie: avec 50% de plus d'aciéries, l'Angleterre produit moins; elle a plus de bateaux, de bassins et de constructeurs qu'avant la guerre. L'immigration des ouvriers pendant la guerre a accru le chômage. L'isolement et le nationalisme, fruits de la guerre, ont rendu le commerce difficile, par l'interdiction des importations, par l'élévation des tarifs, par la création d'états nouveaux: il y a 11000 kilomètres de barrières douanières de plus, qu'avant la guerre.

La conférence s'est divisée en 3 commissions: Agriculture, Industrie, Commerce. Aucune femme n'a siégé à la première. La seconde a surtout émis des vœux: ne pas rationaliser l'industrie sans entente avec les travailleurs; dresser des statistiques industrielles; favoriser ou combattre (la Commission ne s'est pas mise d'accord) les combines et cartels internationaux. La troisième sera sans doute plus féconde en résultats immédiats: elle a recommandé de simplifier et de stabiliser les tarifs, d'unifier la nomenclature des produits, d'ouvrir les marchés et de supprimer les législations prohibitrices. Entre autres résolutions, on demanda le renforcement du côté économique de la Ligue, dominée par la diplomatie et la politique.

(d'après le *Woman's Leader*)  
MADELEINE RUDLER.

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# NEWS OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



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## SPECIAL GIRLS' WORK NUMBER.

Five years ago a special Commission on Girls' Work was held by the World's Young Women's Christian Association at S. Wolfgang in Austria, when the following findings were drawn up:

I.—Arising out of our growing understanding of the adolescent period of life and of its vital importance, we recognise the responsibility and special fitness of the Y.W.C.A. for the fuller development of girls' work.

Furthermore we believe that the adolescent girl has an indispensable contribution to make to the Association through her vision, enthusiasm and youth, through her demand for a joyous and living Christianity and for an unyielding standard of sincerity, her open-mindedness, her readiness in applying principles, her potential leadership and her democratic spirit.

II.—We believe that the objective of the girls' work programme of the Y.W.C.A. should be to strengthen the life of the adolescent, and within a Christian atmosphere to afford her:—

1. A preparation for life which shall emphasize the essential oneness, of body, mind and spirit, and give opportunity for its expression in her home relationships, community service and church life.

2. Outlet for the group instinct, the spirit of play, the creative impulse and leadership.

3. Activities which teach the joy of labour and its essential dignity.

4. Nurture of her growing religious consciousness, and help in realising the claims of Jesus Christ and in the shaping of her life's purpose.

5. Guidance towards ideals of fellowship between nations and of world peace, for the extension of the Kingdom of God.

In several countries the Association was already devoting considerable thought to Girls' Movements, an account of some of which appear below, and since that time more and more importance has been laid on the necessity of special programmes for adolescents. The first international conference of leaders of Christian movements among both boys and girls still at school was held this summer, a full report of which follows.

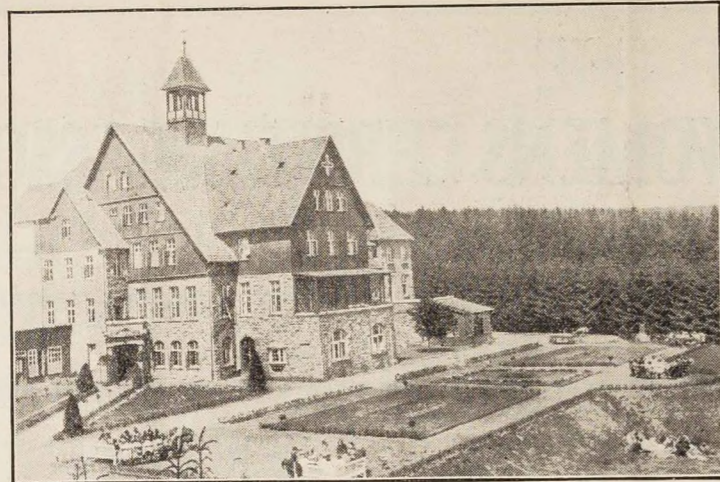
## THE LEADERS' CONFERENCE FOR WORK AMONG HIGH-SCHOOL YOUTH AT DASSEL.

In the history of the world it has been noted that there sometimes occur periods in which one central dominating idea seems to pervade humanity. It is as if it were in the atmosphere, and as if in consequence no-one could avoid breathing it in and getting influenced by it. It is the influence of the "Zeitgeist," as it is called in the German language, and no-one can escape it. Such a period has set in during the last two or three years in the ranks of some of the international Christian organisations doing work among young people, and the dominating idea upon which the efforts of the leaders of these movements has been centred is the idea of co-operation.

Thus it is that the spirit of the times caused the leaders of the three great Christian world organisations, the World's Y.M.C.A., the World's Y.W.C.A., and the World's Student Christian Federation, to plan for and carry out one of the most interesting and helpful conferences that I have attended in recent years. For years past, but particularly since the end of the Great War special emphasis has been laid within every one of these three young people's movements in trying out various ways of getting hold of youth of secondary school age, and helping them to build up their lives on the ideals these movements stand for. The adolescent age being not only the period of the maturing of body and

mind but also the time when the foundations of character are laid for good or for ill, these efforts have in many countries met with considerable success. With the advent of the idea of co-operation it was felt, however, that it would be a very valuable thing if leaders from those three organisations could at some time meet together in conference and discuss together the various methods of work used in different countries among boys and girls, sharing the experience for general gain and co-ordinating their efforts into channels that would prove yet more useful to the youth of the world. So it happened that the Leaders' Conference at Dassel in Germany was called and took place from June 15—24th of this year. Dassel is a small village lying on a side track of the main railway line Hanover—Cassel. About three miles away from the village the national Y.M.C.A. of Germany possess a beautiful holiday home. The building has been erected in such a way that many large groups can use it simultaneously without in the least interfering with one another. Thus during the time of our conference, which was attended by 112 delegates of both sexes representing twenty-four nations and made up of members of the three above-named world organisations and a number of representatives of independent movements doing similar work, there was another smaller conference going on, while again over 100 small





DISCUSSION GROUPS AT THE DASSEL CONFERENCE.

city boys and girls from slums were enjoying a holiday away from their sordid home conditions. It was marvellous how smoothly the machinery that provided for the housing and feeding of about 300 people worked.

The success of an international gathering like the one at Dassel, whose primary aim is the sharing of experiences and the discussing of new ways of approach to various problems, depends very much on the arrangements for making that personal interchange as easy as possible. A method that has proved most helpful, both from the point of view of the language difficulty and of the subject under discussion, was adopted at Dassel. It consists in dividing the whole conference into self-contained groups of about fifteen to twenty people under one or two well prepared leaders, to whom the work of discussing special subjects is assigned. The groups at Dassel were made as representative as possible as far as nationality and experience went, and only two languages were used in each group, so as not to spend too much time with interpretation. These groups spent several solid hours working on their subject every morning and sometimes in the afternoons too, and at the close of the conference the reports of the group discussions were presented to the whole conference by the leaders. Thus it was felt that every member had a real chance of giving his or her contribution in an intimate circle of friends,—for one makes friends very soon when discussing such vital life problems—yet at the same time it was possible through the reports to know about the main work that had been done by the other groups.

The subjects discussed in that way by different groups, bearing in mind that one had in view adolescents of both sexes between the ages of fourteen and eighteen, were the following:

- (1) Cultivating the spiritual life
- (2) Relationships with the church, the home and the school
- (3) Relationships between boys and girls
- (4) Vocational guidance and social service
- (5) Possibilities of international co-operation and the literature programme
- (6) Starting new work and the choice of leaders
- (7) The programme of the group.

The group reports will be printed in full in the three official languages, French, German and English, and will serve as most valuable leaders' manuals for the work of the future.

The afternoons were given to discussions on various subjects attended by the whole conference, or to sectional meetings of each organisation, while the evenings were spent in listening to some eminent speaker on such subjects as "The Challenge of India," "The Need for Psychology in our Work," "Relations between Boys and Girls," "The Self-Determination of Youth, and The Authority of Christ," etc.

My impression is that this conference was a particularly rich one for several reasons. First, because of the many movements and nationalities represented, which while having the same aim, namely that of leading the world's youth to Christ, yet have their special ways of approach, and generally special emphasis laid on one or two sides of the work. Secondly because of the two sexes represented so that the discussions seemed to be on a more broadly human basis than in a conference of representatives of only one sex. Third, because it was a really young conference, mostly as to age and always as to spirit—as it naturally would have to be for workers with such very young people. Play and recreation also had their part in spite of the heavy work which filled the days, and all will remember with pleasure the keen games of volley ball which filled every spare minute and culminated in a match between the leaders and the rank and file of the conference,—a match in which the leaders were defeated—an apt illustration of what the Dassel conference stood for, namely the coming forward of youth in the attainment of a firm ground on which to build their life, and a standing back of the old generation in a spirit of gladness and acquiescence after having done their best and shared their best with those who will lead the world of to-morrow.

OLGA MEYENDORFF.

### THE Y.W.C.A. GUIDES IN DENMARK.

In the autumn of 1918, some young girls sent a letter to the secretary of the Y.M.C.A. in Copenhagen, asking if it were possible that the Y.W.C.A. could take up guiding, as the Y.M.C.A. had done some years before. Of course the letter was sent to the Y.W.C.A., and from that moment the question was discussed and Norway and Sweden were asked what the Y.W.C.A. in these countries thought about the Girl Guide movement as a part of the work in the Y.W.C.A.

In February 1919 the president of the Y.W.C.A. in Copenhagen said at a committee meeting that she was convinced that the Guide movement held great possibilities and that the time had come for the Y.W.C.A. to take it up. The Committee agreed and the first Guide meeting took place soon afterwards. For a couple of weeks previously, some young girls, prospective patrol leaders, had been trained in the different practical tests, a Guide uniform had been chosen (green blouse, the same colour as the Y.M.C.A. scouts, and dark blue skirt), and a leaflet printed:—*Laws and Rules for the Y.W.C.A. Guides in Copenhagen*. One of the committee members one day said, when the laws were discussed, that we ought to consider the possibility of the movement spreading to other towns throughout the country. Sooner than we had expected this took place, and when five years had gone, there were Y.W.C.A. Guide companies in 20 towns with a total number of



THE YEARLY PARADE AT COPENHAGEN.

1500 Guides. One result of the work of those five years was shown at a three days' exhibition in the biggest exhibition hall in Copenhagen. Without words, it made clear the value of the Guide movement, as the entire exhibition and programme of entertainments and concerts, was in the hands of Y.W.C.A. Guides. This exhibition was visited by 8-9000 people, and gained a wide publicity through the different newspapers, and from that time on the press has taken great interest in our work, and is now always willing to write about our camps, festivals, meetings, parades, etc., publishing many illustrated articles about our movement. In those three days we earned about £900—a very welcome sum, as we had started five years earlier quite without any money.

The part of the exhibition which interested most was obviously the work shops. Here Guides could be seen engaged in competitions and working for different badges and tests, weaving, bookbinding, nursing, cooking and so on. Every evening a cantata (the words written by one of our guiders, the music by one of our committee members) was sung, and both solo and choir-singing was carried out by Guides.

The next summer a national camp took place on a little island. To it came about 700 Guides from the whole country. For the first time we used tents, military tents hired from the army. On other occasions the use of tents has not been allowed, as we fear it is not a wise plan for our Guides to be under canvas. We usually camp in special camp buildings, barns, schools, etc. But if only in the future we shall be able to afford fixed camping places in different parts of the country, we should prefer to be under canvas, as a more Guide-like procedure.

In the summer of 1926 the Danish Girl Guides (organised 1910; uniform blue, like the English Guide uniform) and the Y.W.C.A. Guides together arranged a Scandinavian camp for Guides. It took place at Brahe Trolleborg, an old castle, and about 500 Guiders were present. We are looking forward to the next Scandinavian camp which will probably be in Finland. With regard to the two Guide movements in Denmark, I must explain that each has its own committee, but a joint committee with three members from each movement and a president, belonging to neither party, meets three or four times in the year to talk over whatever may be of interest to both parties. This joint committee represents the Guide movement in Denmark in all matters concerning foreign countries.

In June and July 1926 six secretaries from the Y.W.C.A. of Germany visited the Y.W.C.A. in Copenhagen to study the Y.W.C.A. Guide movement in Denmark. They have now organised companies in different parts of Germany.

Every year we have had a camp where all the different questions concerning our movement have been discussed. Looking back over the eight years and the development of the movement, we know that those camps have been a great help to many young guiders and to the whole movement, many questions have been answered and together we have tried to find the right way for the future.

We think that the Guide movement has given us what



BRINGING IN THE MILK.

for many years we have desired in the Y.W.C.A., especially in the work amongst children and the quite young girls; the whole membership active; real comradeship between girls of different ages and from homes of different social standing; it has brought us into contact with a quite new group of girls, from the higher and from the lower classes of the population; and we know that many of the young Guides and Guiders through the Guide movement and its Christian comradeship have formed their own way to God and—educated through work and responsibilities—will be perhaps some of our best leaders in the Y.W.C.A. in the future.

ANNA PETERSEN LANGER

Note.—Y.W.C.A. Guides are organized in Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Iceland, India, Jamaica, Malaya, Norway, Palestine, South Africa, Sweden and Syria —EDITOR.)

### GIRL RESERVES OF THE U.S.A.

The Girl Reserve movement is the particular expression of the Young Women's Christian Association among 'teen age girls. Within the Girl Reserve movement there are grade and junior high school girls, senior high school girls and younger girls in business or industry. The ages of the junior high school girls, who attend the seventh to ninth grades, are approximately twelve to fifteen; and the ages of the senior high school girls, who attend the tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades, are approximately fifteen to eighteen. The ages of younger girls in business or industry vary from fifteen to eighteen.

The name "Girl Reserves" came into being in 1918, when the desire to unify all the younger girls' work of the Association and to bring it under the direction of one national department began to materialize. Before this time the Student Department had assumed major responsibility for work among senior school girls. Therefore the process of relating senior high school work to a younger girls' movement, rather than to an older student movement, could not be done entirely at once. It had to be a gradual evolution over a period of several years.

In 1922 at the National Convention of the Young Women's Christian Association at Hot Springs, Arkansas, the final step was taken in making all senior high school work the full responsibility of the Girl Reserve Department. To-day there is no standardization of programme content or plan of organization, both varying widely.

#### Purpose and Spirit.

There is, however, a real unity of spirit and purpose among these Girl Reserves, which is developing into a national, and in many cases, an international consciousness of Christian girl fellowship. This unity has been largely achieved through the following:

1. National summer conferences of Girl Reserves held annually in ten sections of the United States.
2. Regional councils or conferences of adult girls' workers, both professional and volunteer. Approximately thirty of these Adult Guidance Councils are held during the year, and they are distributed throughout the United States. They are a joint project of the



headquarters Girl Reserve Department and the Girl Reserve Section, which consists of local employed secretaries. These councils are held for the purpose of education and inspiration.

3. Printed material which contains resources for programme planning by local groups and interpretations of educational methods and trades.

4. An almost universal use of ceremonials for the initiation of members into the Association fellowship and for the installation of club officers into positions of leadership. Informal ceremonies are created and used for many other occasions. These ceremonies have in large part been developed around the symbolism of the "Blue Triangle" and "Light" as interpreted in the various uses of candles.

5. The existence of a national Girl Reserve code, slogan and purpose; the use of a uniform; and other devices which have aided a growing national consciousness.

The national code, slogan and purpose, the Girl Reserve uniform and symbolism of the Blue Triangle, are devices through which attitudes are created which build loyalty and deepen character. Such a use of devices has been questioned by a great many of our workers in the light of educational trends to-day, but when attention is focussed on attitudes rather than devices, their value is clearly seen. At this time we are making a thorough study of this whole question of the use of codes, symbolism and devices, in order to attain the best possible educational values.

#### Programme Planning.

There is a rapidly growing tendency in senior high school work away from a more formal organisation, with a somewhat stereotyped programme, to a more informal organisation, oftentimes with a smaller membership and greater freedom in programme planning. In programme content there is particular emphasis on using the growing and expanding interests of girls as the basis for developing activities. This is important, as it means that the starting point in the activity of a group is with the actual interests and life situations of the girls, rather than with what adults may conceive to be desirable.

The aim of this procedure in programme planning is to ensure the "purposive participation" of each member of the group, and gradually lead students "to want to do what they ought to do." To quote Dr. William H. Kirkpatrick, "To wish what one does may be miles different from merely doing what one wishes."

#### Methods of Work with High School Girls.

One manifestation of growth at present is the increase in the use of methods, other than lecture. *Discussion* is becoming the most widely used method in senior high school girls' work, along with a more frequent use of laboratory methods, through the development of both group and individual projects. Demonstrations and dramatizations are also used as effective ways of stimulating interest and building up ideas.

The use of the discussion method has been found most satisfactory as a way to help girls to think out clearly their own life situations, to make wise choices for action, and to evaluate their experiences.

#### The Interest Group Plan.

The Young Women's Christian Association has always stood for the principle of democratic, open membership, and in the Girl Reserve movement any girl who is willing to *try* to live up to its purpose may become a member. As a result of this policy, memberships in senior high school clubs have often reached as high as two hundred and fifty to three hundred members. There have been clubs, of course, ranging from fifteen to twenty members and up. The average membership for the country, as compiled from a census taken in 1925, seems to be approximately sixty in each club.

Girl Reserve clubs for senior high school girls are still largely *public school centred*, although the use of these clubs in churches has been increasing during the last four years. This *church centred* activity is at the present

time one of the most interesting developments of the Association's work with younger girls.

Our present plan is not to do away with the larger club memberships but to create from within the club membership as many centres of interest as are required to meet the needs and interests of all. This is commonly called the *interest group plan*. The newer type of senior high school organization operates on the principle that interest participation and growth in character are more likely to result, when a group is small enough to permit freedom of discussion, individual participation and the pursuit of real interests.

Girl Reserve Department, National Board of the Y.W.C.A. in the U.S.A.

(Note.—The Girl Reserve Movement is founded as part of Y.W.C.A. work in Belgium, Estonia, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Portugal, Roumania, South America, Syria, Turkey.—EDITOR.)

### GIRL CITIZENS OF AUSTRALIA.

A specialized movement for girls in Australia and New Zealand was initiated by the Young Women's Christian Association, and has to some extent been taken over by other bodies also. The object of the Movement is to give through normal, natural activities the habits, insights and ideals which will make them responsible girls and women, capable and ready to help build up the best type of citizen; hence the name. The uniform is a white middie, navy blue skirt and tie. Conferences are held annually and the programme is constantly developing. "This is the Code to which Girl Citizens strive to be loyal, that through Beauty and Truth they may help to build the spirit of their country:

The Law of Health  
The Law of Self-Control  
The Law of Self-Respect  
The Law of Knowledge  
The Law of Honour  
The Law of Co-operation  
The Law of Courage  
The Law of Duty  
Love is the fulfilling of the Law."

So runs the Citizen code in New Zealand. That in Australia is slightly different.

The girls are under the leadership of a Counsellor, and it is a democratic movement, the governing body for the whole Commonwealth of Girl Citizens (the national movement) allowing the girls' Council to send representatives to their meetings, and the girls' councils have power to recommend to the governing body.

### CANADIAN GIRLS IN TRAINING.

In Canada a special movement for girls from twelve to seventeen years of age has been planned by the Y.W.C.A. in co-operation with other bodies, and is defined as a programme of religious education. This programme is promoted and is being continually improved by the National Girls' Work Board, a sub-committee of the Religious Education Council of Canada, which represents the biggest Church groups, and the Y.W.C.A. The girls' movement is intended primarily for the organized Sunday School class, and is based on the belief that this class should extend its activities so as to include a mid-week as well as a Sunday session, but independent groups are also formed. The programme recognises the development of girls and their changing needs and interests and aims at bringing the home, the school, the church and the community into closer co-operation to meet these needs. There is a parallel movement for boys, thus affording common interests, habits and ideals to the boys and girls of any church or community.

Conferences are held for leaders and girls together, and also Training Courses for leaders only. Camps are a feature of the summer's programme.

The normal work of a C.G.I.T. group is planned under four headings—physical, intellectual, spiritual and social, and an admirable handbook has been issued, and continually revised, for the use of leaders.