



# THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE NEWS

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## PROGRESS IN SPAIN.

A FEW weeks ago a deputation from the Consejo Supremo Feminista of Spain, led by the President, Señora Doña Isabel O. de Palencia, waited upon the Military Director to ask for the vote for Spanish women. General Primo de Rivera received the deputation very graciously, listened with deep interest, and declared that it was his intention to grant the suffrage, with some restrictions, to women.

Since then a Bill has been introduced to reform municipal government, which, among other reforms, confers the municipal vote on women, and makes them eligible as candidates. If, as is believed, this Bill receives the Royal Assent, it is the first step towards full suffrage for Spanish women.



Isabel O. de Palencia.

The feminist movement in Spain has made great progress in the last few years. The Consejo Supremo alone numbers ten societies, and there are other big societies of women, notably the Acción Católica, all of which are unanimous in demanding political enfranchisement.

In Spain all professions are open to women, and there are already a great number of women doctors of medicine, philosophy, and law. Women may attend colleges and universities and take their degrees.

The President of the Consejo Supremo, Señora de Palencia, is a distinguished writer and lecturer. On a recent visit to London she lectured on Spain to big audiences, giving her lectures in English, which she speaks like a native. She represented Spain at the Rome Congress last May.

## LEAGUE OF NATIONS NEWS.

## The Question of Slavery.

THE Council of the League decided, during the December session, to ask States on whose territory or colonial possessions slavery previously existed to communicate to the Council information on the question of slavery, as, for instance, what legislative, administrative, or other measures have been adopted for the suppression of slavery, and what have been their results from both the social and economic points of view. This decision arose from the resolution adopted by the Fourth Assembly requesting the Council to entrust to a competent body the duty of continuing the investigation of the whole question of slavery.

The Council further decided to ask these States whether they see any objection to designating some institution or person able to supply further reliable and pertinent information on slavery, such information to be transmitted through the Secretariat.

The important question as to which organisation is to be entrusted with this inquiry will be settled by the Council during the March session. The Permanent Mandates Commission has been suggested as a suitable body to take up this inquiry. If the Council ultimately decides on this Commission, it is to be hoped that the number of members will be increased and that more women will be appointed to it. At present only one woman, Madame Wicksell, serves on the Permanent Mandates Commission.

## The Committee on Intellectual Co-operation.

The Council referred two resolutions passed by the Fourth Assembly to the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation—one on the calling of experts to do the preparatory work necessary in the case of a possible revision of the International Conventions on the exchange of all types of publications; the other on the proposals made by the Spanish Government with regard to the equivalence of university degrees and other questions relating to universities.

In accordance with another resolution passed by the Assembly, the Council decided to ask Governments to give their moral and financial support to the National Committees for Intellectual Co-operation. It was further noted by the Council that by the collaboration established between the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation on the one hand and the National Committees on the other, the recommendation of the Fourth Assembly regarding the appointment of additional members to the International Committee was already being carried out. Members of the National Committees will work with the International Committee in the capacity of foreign correspondents, and thus secure the desired representation of all forms of national culture.

This representation is also being promoted by the series of pamphlets issued by the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, dealing with intellectual life in various countries. The pamphlet on Natural Science in Norway is edited by Professor Kristine Bonnevie, Professor of Zoology at the University of Christiania, and member of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, the other woman member being Mme. Curie, upon whose suggestion a conference will be held in Brussels to consider the co-ordination of analytical bibliography on physics and physical chemistry.

Another way in which this important Committee is promoting friendly understanding between nations is by taking up with Governments and higher educational establishments the question of interchange of students, and of professors and young officials connected with museums, laboratories, and libraries.

## Four Years of the League.

The League of Nations Union has issued a statement surveying the four years of work achieved by the League since its foundation.

Its greatest achievement so far is the financial reconstruction of Austria. Austrian currency has been stabilised, and the attraction of foreign capital to Austria

has steadily increased. We are told that there is no precedent in history of international co-operation on so wide a scale. The same help which has saved Austria may be applied to other countries.

The possibilities latent in the Permanent Court of International Justice will be patent to any intelligent person. Already twenty-two nations have signed and ratified the protocol accepting the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court.

The social and humanitarian efforts of the League are unending. Its first great humanitarian task was the repatriation, through Dr. Nansen's organisation, of 350,000 prisoners of war, who otherwise would certainly have perished. The machinery of the League should prove also, in time, an effective check on the traffic in women and children.

All lovers of the League realise its imperfections, but they know, too, that its ultimate success depends, in the long run, on the support of men and women of goodwill of all nations.

L. DE ALBERTI.

## THE PRESIDENT'S TOUR.

THE President of the Alliance, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, hopes shortly to pay a visit to the German Auxiliary, the Allgemeiner Deutscher Frauenverein. She hopes to leave England early in March, and to spend a few days in Stuttgart and Munich, where she will have conferences with the leaders of the German movement.

Just before Christmas Mrs. Ashby went to attend the Annual Meeting of the Dutch Society, the Vereeniging van Staatsburgeressen, in connection with which several public meetings were arranged in different centres. France in turn is to be the venue of the next Board Meeting, which will give an opportunity for our President to address Paris audiences, to whom already she is no stranger.

These visits to different auxiliaries, short though they may often have to be, are a very valuable means of keeping alive the spirit of co-operation, which is the living principle of the work of the Alliance.

## WOMEN AND THE BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

PROBABLY most of our readers know that there is to be a big inter-Empire Exhibition to be held near London from April to October this year. The British Overseas Committee of the Alliance has secured a site in the grounds of the Exhibition, where it proposes to erect a small building to serve as a centre for women attending the Exhibition who may be glad to have information about international work, more especially about those aspects of its work which closely concern British women in different parts of the world. The Committee considers that this is a great opportunity for women to get to know each other, and to learn something of how the problems which are common to all are being met. Even though the people who come to the Exhibition are mostly drawn there by trade interests, or for the purposes of entertainment, it will no doubt attract many of those busy people who, alongside the business side of their lives, manage to take an active interest in the life of their community. For such people we hope to cater by having information available as to women's organisations, the different trades or professions in which women are engaged, etc.

A further important use for our Exhibition office is to make it a means of getting to know those to whom we can offer hospitality in various forms, letting them see something of British women at home and at work in the various organisations.

We hope that all those readers who may be coming to the Exhibition, or who have friends coming, will make a point of remembering to come to the Pavilion. It is to be in the Eastern Section, North, Site 30A.

## WOMAN SUFFRAGE AND POLITICS.

MANY of us may have been puzzled by the fact that America, with all its tradition of freedom—the land where the suffrage campaign was born,—was not the first country to emancipate its women, but was indeed outstripped by twenty-six other countries, including the more conservative Great Britain.

In their book, "Woman Suffrage and Politics" (Scribner, New York), Mrs. Chapman Catt and Mrs. N. R. Shuler have given us a plain answer to the problem. They have told us a thrilling story of the innumerable obstacles which rose in the path of the dauntless suffragists—obstacles of a nature dissimilar to those encountered in other countries.

But the root of opposition was the same the world over. The authors tell us that the American Revolution left untouched the theory of the Divine Right of man to rule over women. "Men and women believed it with equal sincerity; the Church taught it; customs were based upon it; the law endorsed it; and the causes which created the belief had been so long lost in obscurity that men claimed authority for it in the 'laws of God.'" All opposition to the enfranchisement of women emanated from that theory. From that theory we have all suffered; it has done as much harm to men, one may almost say, as it has to women. Is it really quite dead? But American suffragists had other forces to contend against. When within sight of victory the nation was plunged into civil war over the slavery question, woman suffrage became hopelessly involved in the politics of negro emancipation, and victory was postponed for many a weary year. "This is the negro's hour," was the answer hurled at women on every side. The negro was emancipated, and his help was enlisted in keeping American women in bondage.

In that dark hour "a tiny flickering star arose in the great mysterious west." Wyoming enfranchised her women; Wyoming appointed a woman, Mrs. Esther Morris, as Justice of the Peace; in Wyoming women as well as men served on juries. "For fifty years Wyoming served as the leaven which lightened the prejudices of the entire world. She pronounced false every prediction of anti-suffragists, and gave so much evidence of positive good to the community arising from the votes of women, that she became the direct cause of the establishment of woman suffrage in all the surrounding States. Amid the gibes and the jests, the ridicule and the ribaldry, Wyoming stood fast through the generations, until the nation acknowledged she was right and stood with her."

But while the light of Wyoming shone out to the world, American suffragists had still a weary way to go and a hard fight to wage. The liquor interests were alarmed, and the Brewers' Association determined to defeat woman suffrage at all costs. The brewers were among the bitterest enemies the women had to encounter, and they had no lack of funds to pay gangs of men to vote against suffrage amendments. In reading this account of the forces arrayed against American women, one can but agree with the authors that no other women had to work against such odds for their political liberty.

The last phase in this struggle for freedom is still fresh in our memories. How eagerly we watched on this side the battle of Tennessee, when American women's right to vote hung upon a thirty-sixth ratification, and that ratification hung upon a special session.

The authors of this most interesting book have clearly proved their case—it was American politics that defeated American principles of democracy; it was the "trading and trickery, the buying and selling of American politics," which for so long cheated the women of America of their birthright. But there were enough good men and true to redeem American principles, and to these the authors pay just tribute. "Looking back, however, it is not resentment at the long scroll of men's biological inhibitions and political blunders unrolled in the suffrage struggle that is, for suffragists, the final picture. The final picture fills with the men and the groups of men—Republican men, Democratic men—with a vision of real democracy lurking

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## EXTRACTS FROM DRAFT REPORT ON NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

## Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.

ANNA WICKSELL (Sweden) writes that the Governments of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark have agreed to introduce in their respective Parliaments this year royal propositions on the same lines. These will probably not go further than to permit a married woman to retain her nationality so long as she remains in her own country, but a foreign woman who marries a Swede will continue to be Swedish. Mrs. Wicksell is seeking to have incorporated in the Bill the proposal that a foreign woman who does not lose her nationality on marrying a Swede shall not acquire Swedish nationality. In the meantime the Dansk Kvindesamfund (our Danish Auxiliary) has presented a petition to their Government and is making an interpellation on the question at the elections next year. The Swedish Government has said to Mrs. Wicksell that when a number of Governments have introduced the question, and the difficulties become apparent, the matter might be introduced either through the League of Nations, or otherwise, before an international forum on a special case.

## Germany.

No further progress has been made in Germany, the Government having taken the view that the question can only be decided by international agreement. The Women Lawyers' Association has been interested in the question.

## British Empire.

The draft International Convention of the Alliance was brought before the Special Committee dealing with the Nationality of Married Women of the Imperial Conference, at which Newfoundland, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, South Africa, and India were represented. This Committee of the Conference passed the following resolution:—

"The Committee are of opinion that the principle of the existing law that the nationality of a married woman depends on that of her husband should be maintained. They, nevertheless, recommend that power should be taken to readmit a woman to British nationality in cases where the married state, though subsisting in law, has for all practical purposes come to an end."

It is important to note that the representatives of the different Governments who did vote on this Committee do not appear to have taken the opinion of their respective Parliaments on this important question of policy. It is, therefore, urgent, to prevent similar irresponsible voting in future, that the women in the Dominions and in Britain should ensure that the respective Parliaments pronounce by resolution, or otherwise, in favour of the married woman's right to her nationality.

## The International Law Association.

A special meeting of this Association was held in London on October 4, 1923, on the subject of "Nationality and Naturalisation," at which a paper was read by Dr. E. J. Schuster, K.C., LL.D., on the "Effect of Marriage on Nationality." The writer strongly supported the independent right of the married woman to her nationality. As chairman of this Committee, I had been invited to attend, and was given an opportunity of putting the draft International Convention before the meeting. The Convention was referred to the Special Committee on Nationality of the Association, and is being printed in their transactions, so that it will be available in legal libraries in most countries. The question is again to come up for discussion at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Association, in Stockholm, in September, 1924. Miss Rosa Manus also attended the above meeting as representing the Alliance.

CHRISTAL MACMILLAN, Chairman of Committee.

### THE WOMEN OF LITHUANIA.

THE women of Lithuania may be divided into three groups: the peasants, educated women of the people—that is, daughters of peasants,—and the nobility.

The first class of women look after their homes, spin and weave flax and wool for their own and their family's clothing. These women are in great need of the help of educated women who could teach them better house-keeping and some ideas of hygiene and pedagogy.

The young girls of the peasant class willingly join societies for the young, in which they can obtain some instruction—such as the society *Pavasaris* (Spring), for Catholic girls and boys, numbering 30,000 members.

Women and young girls have taken a very active part in parliamentary elections these last years. We may say that the success of the Christian Democratic Party, supported by the Society of Catholic Women, was due to women's votes. The Society of Catholic Women of Lithuania numbers over 20,000 members, and has 116 branches. The majority of the members are peasants. The executive committee of the Society is composed of two women members of parliament, two teachers, and two University students.

The other party of Lithuanian women is much less numerous, and is composed of educated women of the peasant class, who before the Russian Revolution studied in the Russian schools, and since the Proclamation of Independence, 1918, are educated in Lithuania in their mother tongue, or go abroad to Germany, Switzerland, or France.

Lithuania possesses one University only—that of Kaunas, recently established, the older university, which was very famous, is at Vilna—that is beyond the Polish frontier, and therefore not accessible to Lithuanian students.

The women of the nobility are, for the most part, "polonised"—that is, they consider themselves Polish, or are so; there are, however, a few who count themselves Lithuanians. In general, the women of the nobility take little part in the social life of the country, one reason being that they rarely speak Lithuanian, and another because agrarian reform has caused animosity between the two classes—that is, landed proprietors and workers with no land, or peasants, small landowners, and their descendants.

Whereas women of the nobility live in the country more often than not, the educated women of the people live in the towns, following the profession of teaching, or employed in the ministerial departments, etc. It is these women who have the most influence in the feminist movement.

Since the Constitution of 1918 men and women have equal political rights in Lithuania. The women M.P.s have succeeded in placing on the Statute Book equal civil rights for men and women in the laws concerning marriage, property, and inheritance. Parents have equal rights over their children born in wedlock. Widows are entitled to part of their husband's fortune. No restriction is placed on women either in industry or the professions. Equal pay is given for equal work; and women are not dismissed from employment on marriage, nor has a married woman any difficulty in finding work.

Five women sat in the Assembly which was set up in 1920-22, and four were elected to the Parliament which has been in power since the autumn of 1922, but one has since withdrawn.

The total number of members of Parliament is 78. Two of the women M.P.s are teachers and belong to the Christian Democratic Party, and the third is a Social Democrat, a lawyer by profession.

It is hoped that the more women go in for higher education the greater will be the number returned to Parliament. Those now in Parliament serve above all on the Commissions of Education and Public Health. They are not as yet strong enough to prove the necessity of the abolition of prostitution; State regulation finds supporters even among doctor M.P.s. Women doctors, of whom

there are a certain number in Lithuania, will not stand for Parliament, either because they prefer their professional career, or because none of the political parties please them.

This was the position of the feminist movement in Lithuania in 1923

JULIJA ZILEVYCAITE.

*Catholic Citizen.*

### WOMEN OF THE GOLD COAST.

We have received the following news from a correspondent on the Gold Coast:—

"... The women themselves are very independent characters and do not hesitate to make use of the justice, etc., of the country. They have the advantage of being of importance according to native custom, the ordering of family life being in the hands of the female, the children belonging absolutely to the mother; indeed, an educated father is often quite unable to get a sick child into hospital, an uneducated mother refusing.

"The women, even when educated, are often financially very independent, being expert traders. Some are very wealthy indeed, even according to our standards, their cocoa interests, etc., sometimes running up to 50 or 60 thousand pounds.

"In addition to their independence, those in the towns are benefiting by European customs—the girls go to the same schools as boys, receiving exactly the same education; they become telephone operators, teachers, nurses, in Government service, and I believe some are employed as typists in trading concerns. I have not yet ascertained, but I believe, the women Government employees are paid at the same rate as the men."

### GREEK WOMEN'S VOTE.

The Greek Women's Association is to bring before the National Assembly a memorandum demanding for women the right to vote. M. Venizelos had promised this right for municipal elections only.

### PRESIDENT WILSON AND THE SUFFRAGE.

In a letter to Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Husted Harper, in mourning the loss of President Wilson, recalls that the first delegation he received after his inauguration was one of eight suffragists, Mrs. Harper herself being among the eight. His assistance in gaining woman suffrage cannot, she says, be over-estimated, and woman cannot be too grateful.

Mr. Wilson was not always a suffragist, but once converted he was an active, not a lukewarm, supporter. The civilised world mourns the loss of a great idealist and a great democrat.

### BOARD MEETING.

There will be a meeting of the Board of the Alliance in Paris on March 17 to 19. Headquarters will be glad to receive any suggestions from members as to matters which they may wish to bring to the attention of the Board.

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their souls, who in the political arena fought the good fight for and with suffragists. Their faith in and loyalty to the suffrage cause, their Herculean efforts, their brilliant achievements, their personal sacrifices, leap out from the record compellingly, riding down all else."

Here, too, in Great Britain, such men fought with us, and the memory of our friends blots out the memory of our enemies.

L. DE ALBERTI.

## REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

### AUSTRALIA.

"DAWN" reports that on her return home Mrs. Rischbieth was welcomed by the Mayor and citizens of Perth at the Literary Institute, where a very enthusiastic meeting was held, at which Mrs. Rischbieth gave a vivid report of the I.W.S.A. Congress at Rome.

Mrs. Marguerita Dale, who was alternate delegate to the Third Assembly of the League in 1922, has addressed over one hundred meetings since her return home, doing much to popularise the work of the League throughout Australia. Mrs. Dale received a letter from Mr. Bruce, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, paying a high tribute to her work. He says: "I have been meaning to write to you for some little time to express my appreciation of the great efforts you have been making during the past twelve months to popularise the League of Nations in Australia. In my travels through the different States I have heard from many people of the valuable work you are doing. Personally, I believe it is imperative that those who understand the work of the League should take up the task of bringing its activities and its great possibilities under the notice of the people generally. The League can be a great force in the world, but it can only realise its own possibilities if it is supported by the peoples of the different nations which are members of the League. Nothing can do more to achieve this result than work of the character that you have been doing ever since you were Australia's delegate at Geneva."

As Mrs. Rischbieth says, "This is all to the good, and paves the way for 'full' representation at no distant date—a thing we all desire and have ever requested."

### AUSTRIA.

#### Visit of Mme. Avril de Saint Croix.

THOUGH after the new elections in October, 1923, there was no event calling for special action, still feminist activities have developed considerably during this winter. The Austrian Council of Women had much pleasure in welcoming Mme. Avril de Saint Croix in the beginning of October, who made use of her stay in Vienna to present to our Government three women's demands: First, the demand for the appointment of a woman delegate in the League of Nations' Commission on the Traffic in Women and Children; secondly, the demand for the appointment of a member of the Austrian Council of Women as delegate in the Austrian Emigration Office; and thirdly, the demand that the Austrian Government should study the question as to what international measures shall be taken for the protection of young girls and women travelling alone after the abolition of passports. Mme. Avril de Saint Croix was convinced that her intervention had been received with sympathy, and left with the hope that the demands will be fulfilled.

For the Austrian women it would, of course, be of great importance to have a delegate in the League of Nations. But probably it will not be possible for the Austrian Government, now in the critical period of reconstruction of the State and hampered in their financial operations, to bear the expenses of a delegate. As to the question of the appointment of a delegate of the Austrian Council of Women in the Austrian Emigration Office, the Council had already, before the coming of Mme. Avril de Saint Croix, presented the same demand to the Government. It continues to press for this appointment, but so far with no satisfactory result. The third question brought forward by the distinguished international leader is being studied seriously by the Austrian Government, and it is to be hoped that Austria, after the abolition of passports, will take part in the discussions on international measures in the interest of girls and women travelling alone.

#### Visit of Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, D.Sc.

In the beginning of January the Austrian Council of Women was very much pleased to welcome Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon before her departure for London. This

distinguished woman leader had spent several weeks exclusively in scientific studies in Vienna, but the Council would not be deprived of the honour of arranging a reception for her, during which the honoured guest had an opportunity to report upon the work of English women, and especially on the preparations for the Conference for Preventing the Causes of War. Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon recommended us to send a delegation to this conference, consequently the Council, as well as the Association for Women's Political Interests are endeavouring to raise funds for this purpose; but it cannot be said as yet if these endeavours will have success.

#### The Threatened Secondary Studies of Girls.

Once more the organised women have to devote their attention to the support of girls' secondary schools. The Government, under the pressure of reconstructive measures, has so considerably decreased the subsidies granted to these schools that the carrying on of them seems to be seriously endangered. Now it is a task of the Council to stand with the schools, the teachers, and the organisations of parents for the safe existence of the schools.

#### Reform of the Matrimonial Law.

The demand for a reform of the matrimonial law, especially for the introduction of a compulsory civic marriage, has been made for many years. After the revolution, when new political powers arose, it seemed as though this demand—for which not only the Social Democrats but also the National Germans stood for, while it was violently fought against by the Christian Socialists (our Conservatives)—was to be fulfilled. But the economic catastrophe of the State, which absorbed all political interests, forced the parties to mutual concessions, and thus the reform of the matrimonial law remained, together with other demands, untouched. The Diet of Lower Austria has, in order to help the many thousands of married couples living apart who wished to be married again, established a licence-marriage which can be obtained by consent of the authority of the country—a marriage which, of course, is not recognised by the State law. Now, with better economic conditions, one would suppose that the time had come for our Parliament to occupy itself also with social problems. The demand for the reform was renewed and brought forward by the Social Democrats. The Chancellor, Dr. Seipel—a man to whom Austria is greatly indebted, but who in consequence of his ecclesiastical position (he is a prelate) clings invariably to the traditions of the Catholic dogma—has declined the demand supported by a delegation representing all federal countries. But the public has seized the opportunity to discuss this problem again, and on the occasion of a debate on the Budget in the Parliamentary Financial Commission, the opinions of the parties clashed. Emmy Freundlich, the only woman member of this Commission, stood not only for the introduction of the civic marriage, but also for the total reform of the matrimonial law. She declared that the women, after having received political rights, must receive their full civic rights; that especially in the sphere of family rights a total equality between man and woman must be obtained. She also spoke in favour of birth-control. A Christian-Socialist member of Parliament stated in his reply "that while the man has a greater responsibility he must also have greater rights." A lively controversy ensued, which proved once more how much there is still to be done for the women's movement in order to destroy the traditional opinion of the inferiority and inferior rights of women.

As the question of birth control causes the most violent controversies, the Austrian Council of Women and the Association for Women's Political Interests intend to state their position in a meeting which will take place shortly. These two associations will examine the radical demands of the Left and the stubbornly defended traditions of the Right, balance them against each other, and enlighten women on this question.

**Scientific Women's Work.**

Lively interest was caused by the lecture of the Dozentin Dr. Charlotte Bühler shortly held in the Austrian Council of Women on "The Construction of the Will-power in Children and in Juveniles." The young German scholar, living in Vienna for about a year, has established herself at our University as "Privatdozent"—she is the third woman lecturer at our University,—and is working at the same time as an assistant in the Psychological Institute of the city of Vienna, which investigates the psychology of children in order to support pedagogical work. The books of Dr. Bühler on the psychological life and development of juveniles have made a sensation. In her speech in the Council she explained quite new points of view for judging the psychology of children, which will probably be considered and used by pedagogists. It is very pleasant to report on such a remarkable scientific work by a woman.

**New Demand for Reform of the Penal Laws.**

The Association for Women's Political Interests arranges nearly every month a meeting devoted to the discussion of up-to-date political questions. Mrs. Maria L. Klausberger, member of the Board, always gives an excellent introduction. Recently the writer of this report gave information on the latest results of the International Women's Movement, availing herself of the occasion to speak in detail of "Le Suffrage des Femmes en Pratique." As in the last weeks various cases of child assault have excited the public, the lecturer suggested in connection with her report on the work of English women that Austrian women should also make new proposals for the reform of penal laws and demand energetically such a reform. The Council has resolved to study this matter and to work out new proposals. It goes without saying that the women's organisations demand the recognition of their proposals.

**The First Woman Lawyer in Austria.**

In January for the first time a woman in Austria announced her intention to go in for the examination which must be passed by all who want to practise the law. After the passing of the examination, Dr. Marianne Beth, wife of a university professor, will be the first woman lawyer in Austria. Dr. Beth was already a graduated doctor of philosophy. When, after the revolution, the study of law, formerly closed to women, was opened to them, she began to study again, and after having finished her studies was the first woman to enter her name for the law, and now she is already so far advanced as to be able to go in for the final examination prescribed for admission to the law. Dr. Beth is a young woman, mother of little children, is interested in the women's movement, and especially active in the work for a world's peace. It is interesting to hear that she has applied, together with her brother, for admission to the examination, and that she will succeed her father in his lawyer's office.

Vienna, February 14, 1924. GISELA URBAN.

**NOTES FROM CANADA.**

SASKATCHEWAN has passed an Order in Council providing assistance up to 25<sup>00</sup> (about £5) to a necessitous expectant mother.

Registration of births is an important duty in all countries. Now that we have mothers' pensions it becomes even more necessary. Recently a case in Ontario was turned down where a widow was left with nine children under 15 years of age, because none of the children had been registered at birth.

A similar case of hardship was one in which a mother's pension was refused because the foreign-born father had never been naturalised, and so his wife was not a British subject.

A Toronto Court has ruled that the wife may be the head of the house, even though the husband is alive! It came about through a woman appealing against an assessment. Her income is 1500<sup>00</sup>, and the man's 800<sup>00</sup>. Here we have a rebate on income tax on 2000<sup>00</sup> if the person is the "head of the house." The chairman, in granting her claim, stated that it may be accepted as a fact that a wife may be the head of a house.

**GERMANY.****Meeting of the National Council of Women.**

CONSIDERING the immeasurable changes in our political and economic conditions, and in the whole structure and basis of social life in the last five years, the women's organisations also had to revise their objects and their programme of work in accordance. So the "Effect of the Social and Economic Transformation on Women and Family Life" will be the most actual and important general question which the German National Council of Women will discuss, from different points of view, at its next biennial meeting, in Munich, from March 13th to 15th. Two interesting papers will be read and discussed—on "The Mental Independence of the Housewife in the Present Time," and on "Family Protection in Article 119 of the Reich's Constitution"—"Marriage stands, as the foundation of family life and the nation's maintenance and increase, under the special care of the Constitution. It is based upon equal rights of the sexes. The purity, soundness, and social furtherance of the family is the duty of State and communities. Large families have a claim for compensating care, motherhood has a claim on the State's care and protection." Another paper will deal with "The Present Life Problems of Young Womanhood"; and Dr. Bäumer and the acting president of the National Council, Frau Ender, will speak on "Women in Parliaments and as Electors." A whole day will be devoted to the most burning of all woman questions—"The Professional Situation of Women in the Public Service." Special papers will be read by experts on the different questions of social workers, including factory inspectors; teachers; post, telegraph, and railroad officials; administrative officials; jurists.

It is to be hoped that an energetic protest of the National Council at this opportunity will at least help to remove some of the most obvious hardships and inequities in the application of the new Reich's and States' laws (see the article on "Dismissal of Women Officials" in the January issue), as has already been done by the many petitions and protests of the organisations concerned, and also the brave initiative of women members in various State Parliaments. For instance, the committee of the Prussian Landtag unanimously resolved to reject the article of the Reich's decree which provides for dismissal of married women without any claim of pension or compensation whatever, even if they have reached the necessary length of service. Women officials in Prussian State service will, therefore, not be treated otherwise than their dismissed men colleagues. An amendment to the same effect, moved by a woman member, has—with certain limitations—been carried in the Saxon Landtag when the law passed its second and third reading. Another slight improvement—that in cases where women are concerned the executive bodies shall be obliged to consult representatives of the women's organisations on the dismissals—was the result of another motion of the same woman member.

Notwithstanding all these efforts and occasional successes, the fatal reduction of the personnel in public service is already at work, entirely confirming the fears of the women officials that they would, in the first place, be the victims. We learn that directly after the publishing of the Reich's decree notice was given to all the married women in the post and telegraph service—about 2,500,—as they are Reich's officials, without any compensation; that, further, the first dismissal "wave" has washed away 8 per cent. of the men and 9.3 per cent. of the women in the post service, but that with the next wave the women's percentage will be much greater, the general tendency being to put more and more married men in the places of unmarried women, and so to do away with them gradually as much as possible. Young women shall be dismissed when living with their family, as so-called "house-daughters" (Haustöchter)—a criterion which, of course, never would be applied to "house-sons."

It seems as if in this department the dismissal law will be executed in the most anti-feminist way. Definite reports and statistics on States' or communal officials

cannot yet be given, but as a characteristic feature it may be mentioned that though the dismissal of teachers (both men and women) has been postponed in most States to the end of the current school year, several States and cities hastened to dismiss the married women teachers without notice—as, for instance, Baden, Berlin, Hamburg, etc. As the percentage of women teachers amounts in single States to from 4 to 45, and in the whole of Germany to, on the average, only about 25, it is obvious that women's influence, which is so indispensable for girls' education, will be greatly injured by this measure, as well as by the dismissal of the young women whose places also are to be filled with married men. The same danger is threatening in the social professions, where women, in many directions, have the lead, and can by no means be replaced by men's bureaucratic systems. The next weeks probably will bring definite decisions also on the latter important departments.

Dresden, Feb. 16.

MARIE STRITT.

**GREAT BRITAIN.****National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.****The New Government.**

NOTWITHSTANDING prophecies that the advent of a Labour Government would bring our activities to an end, the National Union finds itself once again forced to be content with Private Members' Bills or Motions on such subjects as equal guardianship of children, widows' pensions, and separation and maintenance orders. Even equal franchise for men and women, which was always considered a plank in the Labour platform, is to be introduced by a private member who won a high place in the ballot. Truly, "Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose"; and the need for a strictly non-party, or more correctly perhaps, all-party national organisation of societies which specialise on "Equality of liberties, status, and opportunities as between men and women," has once more been amply demonstrated. It may interest our readers in other countries if we deal briefly with the chances of each of the reforms which constitute our immediate programme for action.

**Equal Franchise.**

Mr. W. M. Adamson, Secretary for Scotland, will introduce a Bill, on February 29, which, it is understood, will be identical with the ill-fated measure which was done to death in its Committee stages after a triumphant second reading in 1921. Though we are bitterly disappointed that the Government has not promised a Government measure, we still cling to the hope that it may be entirely taken over as such, or have Government support throughout all its stages in both Houses. It is, however, unfortunate that it is weighted with other controversial electoral matters, and not a straight issue of votes for men and women on equal terms. We trust that the course adopted in 1921, of chopping all clauses except those directly relating to women's franchise, may be repeated, and that, with Government backing and the probability of the complete sympathy of the Liberal Party as well as very considerable support from the Conservatives, the present absurd inequalities with regard to the franchise will be removed for ever from the statute book.

**Equal Guardianship of Children.**

Mrs. Wintringham, who won a place in the ballot, will introduce a private member's Bill "to amend the law relating to guardianship, maintenance, and custody of infants," on April 4. The National Union is, naturally, much gratified that this important Bill—its own offspring—will make its next appearance in the House of Commons under the care of a woman member, and, moreover, a woman member for many years closely identified with the Union, and now a member of its executive committee.

In the meantime efforts are being made to improve the Bill and to meet such opposition as exists in legal and official circles, mainly based on administrative difficulties.

**Pensions for Civilian Widows.**

This long-deferred reform, with which the National Union has been intimately associated for many years, seemed suddenly to spring into prominence about the time of the last General Election. The record of the Labour Party on this subject, both inside and outside the House of Commons, has been so satisfactory that it has been a great surprise to find no indication of any Government Bill since they took office. Owing to the fact that measures involving finance are ruled out as private members' Bills, nothing can be done in that direction, and our hopes, which had risen high, are now somewhat dashed, and concentrated on the opportunity for a debate which will be provided when a private members' motion on the subject will be moved, on February 20, by Mr. C. Dukes, M.P.

**Our Women M.P.s.**

Many women of all political parties were disappointed that Margaret Bondfield did not receive Cabinet rank, but all the same it is a great advance to have, for the first time, women in the Government at all. Miss Bondfield was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour, and also the British Government Representative to the 21st Session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office at Geneva. Miss Susan Lawrence, who has an unequalled knowledge of our educational system, has also received a Government appointment as one of the Parliamentary private secretaries of the President of the Board of Education.

**Personal.**

Readers of many countries will join in congratulations to Miss Chrystal Macmillan, who, having passed her final Bar examinations, was one of four women called to the Bar in January.

Many will also be interested in the fact that Mrs. Oliver Strachey, another member of the executive committee of the National Union, has published a novel dealing with the events preceding the American Civil War, which has had a very encouraging reception in all quarters.

ELIZABETH MACADAM.

**The Women's Freedom League.**

Early in February we organised a mass meeting, in co-operation with other women's organisations, at Essex Hall, London, to celebrate the sixth anniversary of the passing of the Representation of the People Act, by which the majority of women in this country who were over thirty years of age secured political enfranchisement; to rejoice that we have now eight women members of the House of Commons; and to demand the extension of the Parliamentary vote to women at the same age and on the same terms as men. The following resolution, which was passed unanimously amid acclamation, was sent to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Home Secretary, the Minister of Education, and other members of the new Government:—

"That this meeting of representative women calls upon the new Government to introduce, and pass through all its stages into law, without delay, a Bill which will enfranchise women equally with men, at the same age, and on a short residential qualification."

We have also urged upon the new Minister of Labour the necessity of devising schemes of work for the quarter of a million unemployed women in this country as well as for unemployed men, and have brought to the attention of the new Home Secretary the advisability of increasing the membership of the Prison Commissioners, and appointing women as well as men to the Prison Commission; further, that women, instead of men, should be appointed governors, deputy-governors, and medical officers of all women's prisons and women's sections of prisons; and that women, as well as men, should be appointed inspectors of prisons.

With regard to the Children, Young Persons, etc., Bill, recently introduced in the House of Commons by

Mr. Ammon, which consists of 184 clauses and 149 pages relating to the protection of children and young people, we consider that some of its provisions are so important and far-reaching, and in a few cases so controversial, that we are urging that a conference of women's organisations be called immediately to consider the Bill and suggest necessary amendments. We are running public meetings in various parts of the country to bring before the electorate the need for more women members of Parliament; and at our seventeenth Annual Conference, which is to be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Saturday, April 5, this need will be further emphasised.

FLORENCE UNDERWOOD.

#### Six Point Group.

The committee of the Six Point Group resumed their fortnightly "At Homes," at 92, Victoria-street, S.W. 1, on Monday, February 4, at 5 p.m. There will be discussions on current topics connected with the protection of children and the legal position and status of women. All interested in these subjects are cordially invited.

The Six Point Group is organising a mass meeting in the Queen's Hall, at 8 p.m., on Tuesday, March 18, on the subjects of Widows' Pensions, Equal Guardianship of Infants, and the rectification of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act. Professor Winifred Cullis will take the chair. Mr. Henry Snell, M.P., will speak on Widows' Pensions; and other prominent speakers are being invited.

#### Guernsey's First Woman M.P.

We offer our hearty congratulations to Miss Marie Randall, the first woman to be elected to the Channel Islands Parliament.

#### National Baby Week.

In connection with National Baby Week, which will be taking place, as usual, the first week in July, the National Baby Week Council is holding competitions for Women's Institutes, Co-operative Guilds, and other women's organisations. Two prizes (value 2 guineas and 1 guinea) are offered for essays on "The Needs for Child Welfare Work in Your District: How these have been met, and what effects you can trace to it." The essays may be either the composite work of all or some of the members of the Institute or organisations, or of selected representatives. The prizes, however, will be awarded to the Institute or organisation competing. An open competition, which will attract those who have artistic interests, is for the best design for a Baby Week poster for use throughout the British Empire. Letterpress or design, or both, may be employed. The first prize is 10 guineas; second prize, 5 guineas. In addition to these there are competitions announced for school girls and boys, for Girl Guides, members of Girls' Life Brigades, the Junior Red Cross, and Junior V.A.D.s. Particulars of all the competitions may be obtained upon application to the National Baby Week Council, 117, Piccadilly, London, W. 1.

#### HUNGARY.

WE may record a real success in our work to-day. This afternoon the Minister of Interior withdrew from his Bill the paragraph which was to deprive women of their municipal eligibility to the City Parliament of Budapest. This means not only that women may be elected again in this city, but that in future they may be elected also in other towns of Hungary, not including small villages or County Assemblies. Thus, so far, this becomes from a retrograde a progressive measure. As we were active from the beginning when this in other ways most retrograde Bill was presented to the National Assembly until the present to avert this, from our point of view, most offensive measure, and no other women's organisation nor any political party helped us in our struggle, we may boast of a success due exclusively to the vigilance and energetic propaganda of our Feministák Egyesülete.

In the January issue of *Jus Suffragii* we reported the presentation of the Cabinet's Municipal and County Suffrage Bill to the National Assembly, of our protest which followed it immediately and was published in the Press, and of our resolution to arrange a protest meeting on the subject. We have endeavoured since to unite women of all parties in this meeting, but to our great regret failed in this attempt, and so we arranged it independently, as we always used to do.

In our Parliamentary order every Bill is discussed first in a standing or temporary committee, which reports back to the general Assembly the result of its discussion and decisions.

A week before this Bill was going to be discussed we had our protest meeting, with four prominent speakers: Mrs. Irma Szirmai, in the chair; His Excellency the former Minister of Education, Dr. George Lukács, M.P., President of the Men's League for Women Suffrage; our old friend and staunch comrade, the former M.P., Dr. Ernest Bródy, D.L.; and Mr. Paul Kiss de Hegyeg, M.P. The harmony of this meeting, in which the representatives of different parties spoke, was perfect, the speeches were on a high level, the public enthusiastic, and an energetic resolution was passed unanimously. This resolution was presented to the Minister of Interior with the appeal to have this offensive paragraph eliminated. For over a week our board members were busy in the reception room of the members of Parliament persuading every member of the committee which was to discuss this Bill to speak and vote against it, with the result that already in the general discussion nearly every member rejected the exclusion of women from eligibility. There were several M.P.s not members of the committee who availed themselves of their right, and came to the deliberations to help and speak for the women's cause.

The Minister, seeing the spirit of almost perfect unanimity, after the Bill had been discussed as a whole, but before it came to be discussed by paragraphs, dropped this offensive paragraph.

Optimism, courage, and perseverance *must* succeed! We were told even by great friends that our endeavour would be in vain, as the present party in power has a great majority and would vote for every Government Bill without accepting any change. We did not heed it, and since we heard that the Minister declared that he does not consider this paragraph as a party question we redoubled our zeal.

We are very pleased to-day, and warn our dear comrades abroad never to despair, however hopeless their cause may seem for a time. Woman suffrage is bound to be, and to remain, a success!

The Committee for Foreign Affairs of our Hungarian National Assembly, together with the Judicial Committee, is going to discuss the Bill of the Minister of Justice concerning the ratification of the Geneva Convention on the Traffic in Women and Children.

We received an answer, after many calls, from the Ministry of Justice, informing us that they are willing to hear our arguments and discuss with us the question of the married women's citizenship. We shall certainly avail ourselves of this offer, and report to you the result.

EUGENIE MISKOLCZY MELLER.

#### INDIA.

##### National Baby Week.

THROUGHOUT India the middle week of January is being dedicated to the interests of the Baby. This is a new step in Indian civics. It is one which has had success beyond expectation in other countries. It is one which deserves every success in India also, where infant mortality is so appallingly high. In India children are taken too casually; it is taken too much as a matter of course that baby after baby dies within its first year of life. It is only when a Calcutta or Municipal Commissioner or a Bombay doctor brings to publicity the fact that over 600 out of every 1000 babies die in these cities that the public is shocked. In Madras the rate of infantile mortality is 368 per 1000—one in every three

babies born. This used to be the rate in England twenty years ago. National Baby Weeks and Child Welfare schemes have reduced it now to 60 per 1000, and eventually the same may be the result in India. In some places the week is called Health Week, and its object is to focus public attention for at least one week in the year on matters of health, and to rouse that sense of personal responsibility for health without which all public work by the Health Department will fall far short of its aims and lose much of its effect for want of an adequate response on the part of those for whom it is done.

Thousands of rupees are being spent to arouse public attention to prevent infantile mortality, and to impart information to the public during the week. It is essentially a woman's subject, and every reading and thinking woman will be eagerly taking a share in popularising the activities of the week in her locality. She can do this by attending the lectures and exhibition, by persuading the mothers to bring their babies to the Baby Show, or helping in the first-aid demonstrations of Scouts and Girl Guides, etc.

#### Wage-earning Mothers.

There are millions of women in India who work in factories, mines, and tea and coffee estates. The problem of what to do with their babies and very young children during their work hours is almost unsolvable by most of them. It is a sign of the times that *crèches* are springing up near large factories. Child Welfare Associations are organising these "cradle homes," where a qualified sick nurse and a couple of kindly, capable ayahs are paid to look after these working-women's babies during their factory hours. The underfed are given extra nourishment, the unhealthy are cured, all are kept happy in a large, clean place. Such are to be found in Bombay, Bangalore, Sholapur, and some other cities, but there need to be hundreds of such nurseries for between 50 and 70 little ones each. They are the evidence of the growing spirit of National Mothering.

#### Bombay Children's Bill.

The Bombay Government is to be congratulated on its resolve to pass a Bombay Children's Act, a measure which has been long due in its Province. The Bill, which has been published in the *Gazette*, follows the model of the similar Act which was passed in Madras in 1920, and is to some extent influenced also by the English Children's Act of 1908. The Bill is designed for the protection of children and for the custody of youthful offenders. Under the provisions of the Bill children who are homeless, or under the care of criminals, prostitutes, etc., are to be removed to industrial schools or committed to the charge of fit persons, preferably relatives; cruelty to children, causing or allowing them to beg, causing a girl under 16 in one's charge to be seduced or to resort to prostitution, are among the offences which are made punishable. Neglectful parents may be made to pay a fine for an offence committed by their children, and Juvenile Courts are to be established. We hope the Bill will be passed and quickly brought into force. In Bengal a similar Children's Bill passed by the Reformed Legislative Council has remained inoperative for alleged want of funds, but even more because of lack of voluntary workers who will carry out its provisions.

Stri-Dharma.

#### TOKYO FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S SOCIETIES.

THE formation of the Tokyo Federation of Women's Societies was the outcome of a desire on the part of several women's societies in Tokyo to render their united services more effectual for relief work after the terrible disaster caused by the earthquake and fire in September last.

A few days after the earthquake they simultaneously took up the work of distributing milk to invalids and infants, our Government having provided the milk.

The active matter of organisation grew so rapidly that now we have forty-two associations united, having specific departments and duties. The departments already at work are: Social, Educational, Political, Industrial, and Labour, each having its own constitution and officers.

We have the names and co-operation of some of the most prominent as well as efficient women of the day in all these different departments. Many new names are being added every week.

The Social Department, at present, lays special emphasis on relief work. It is carrying on survey work by the help of schoolgirls in paying house-to-house visits. They make inquiries of every family of sufferers, filling their cards with detailed questions and answers. Some of the members are now in Osaka, making great efforts to raise funds sufficient for the purchase of bedding for thirty or forty thousand families. The "One Week Sanatorium" for tired mothers and weakened babies is already planned, and will be in readiness in a few days.

In the Educational Department they are studying in what respect the present school system has been faulty, and what they should strive for in the future. Besides the school teachers, all who are interested in education are invited to join the department and attend their meetings.

The Department of Politics is starting with the work against licensed prostitution, which the National Women's Christian Temperance Union had zealously engaged in for many years. It has as its chief aim women's suffrage.

The Industrial Department has over fifteen societies federated, having for its object the encouragement of women for work in general. It plans to have a central fund to be placed at the disposal of every society in the department, provided they adhere to the conditions laid down in the constitution. Its aim is to yield a greater production of reliable goods, so that in time they meet the demand for export. It also aims at the betterment of the economic position of women.

The Labour Department has individual members as well as societies. They are united in the aim of improving the condition of working women and girls, physically, financially, and intellectually.

We are united to give proper attention to all matters concerning the civic and legal status of women. We aim at securing political, domestic, educational, economic, and moral rights for women. As a first step in this direction we are beginning to work to secure the municipal franchise. We are united for one cause—the betterment of our sex, and through it the betterment of the whole nation. We are organised to combine our forces, whose aim is only to create a happier and nobler life for us all. We are rising with unflinching faith and hope to reach our goal.

C. T. G.

#### SOUTH AFRICA.

THE Woman's Enfranchisement Bill passed its Second Reading in the House of Assembly, Cape Town, by 54 votes to 48. General Smuts supported the Bill and urged the need for establishing a single qualification for women in all the four Provinces.

#### Women's Enfranchisement League of Port Elizabeth.

The report of the 16th year in the life of this Women's Enfranchisement League shows that the usual work of the League has been carried on throughout the year with the one exception that the number of general meetings has been slightly curtailed.

At the Annual Conference of the W.E.A.U. held in Cape Town in the middle of January the League was represented by the President, Mrs. FitzSimons, and by Miss Dorman, who had just returned from Europe. Advantage was taken by the delegates of their visit to interview members of the Legislative Assembly, the opening of Parliament synchronising with the Conference week. The personal touch with members is doubtless helpful to our cause in many ways.

The Secretary, Miss A. L. P. Dorman, gives the following impressions of the feminist movement in the lands she visited:—

Having come in contact recently with various nations of which the women were either enfranchised or still unrecognised citizens, the following points struck us as worthy of note. First, the outstanding fact of the wonderful fellowship suffrage work creates among women of different nationalities and classes; of all shades of

political opinions; and of all religions. Wherever you may travel you are received with open arms and made to feel at home by fellow-workers for all women's interests. The enfranchised women helping their sisters from whom the franchise is still withheld, and all working for equality between men and women in rights, in opportunities, and in pay. There is little antagonism between the sexes, a healthy and reasonable aspect we note with pleasure. But at the same time, it is very evident that cause for fighting for our rights is not yet at an end, as "the old man" crops up in unexpected places, and we must not delude ourselves into the belief that all is won even in those enlightened countries which have enfranchised their women.

Lady Astor has succeeded in getting her Bill passed for the prevention of the sale of intoxicating liquor to young persons under 18 years of age, a matter for congratulation for the pioneer woman member of Parliament of England. It is with satisfaction we note her return for the third time to Parliament, and also that the names of five other women head the polls for the first time in their respective constituencies. We also note with satisfaction that they represent the three parties: Conservative, Labour, and Liberal; this fact disposing of the bogey that women will all follow one path—may our fellow citizens of the Union note this fact!

If we have one point on which to reproach ourselves I fear it is that in this country there is a tendency to what may be termed "parochialism"; this is markedly absent in Europe amongst women interested in politics. All work for the interests of all; and the enfranchised women do not make the mistake of thinking that all is won; they are attacking those many vital questions on which as yet women have not equal treatment with men. We at times give way to a feeling of depression caused by our reiterated disappointments, but to do so would be to play into the hands of our adversaries. Rather let us follow the example of the friend in the Gospels who by his persistent and probably annoying demands, made even at the most inopportune time—as in the night,—obtained the bread for which he asked—given, no doubt, with the unmeritorious object of being rid of a tiresome and clamouring beggar—but at any rate given! We would rather see our legislators take the more admirable way and yield to requests from the point of view of reason, but clamour we must and will at the risk of the loaf being hurled ungraciously at our heads.

*Port Elizabeth Advertiser.*

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

### National League of Women Voters.

#### Permanent Court of International Justice.

ON December 10 the Minnesota League of Women Voters ended its work of securing signatures to a petition asking for the entrance of the United States into the Permanent Court of International Justice, and a delegation of five set off that day for Washington bearing the signed petition in many sections, rolled and packed in large round hat boxes. The delegation was escorted to the railway station in Minneapolis by an impressive parade of women voters, preceded by a brass band. Banners and transparencies were carried by the marchers. At the head of the parade the banner bore the words, "Peace before Politics," and banners which followed displayed such sentiments as "If we discard law we invite war," "The American people can end war in our time if they get on the job," "The World Court an American ideal and policy," and, finally, "Enlist for Peace." The chimes in the tower of the court house played as the procession passed, and there were only cheers of approval from the crowds in the streets.

The delegation arrived at Washington headquarters of the National League of Women Voters on December 12, and reported that in round numbers, 254,000 men and women in Minnesota had signed the petition. The signatures were written each in a ruled space of half an inch, and made more than two miles of names, instead of the single mile aimed at. Many more signatures were received in Minneapolis after the petition left the city.

The coming of the delegation with the unique demonstration of Minnesota opinion aroused much interest, and the delegates were photographed by a crowd of Press photographers as they arrived and as they left League headquarters for their audience with the President. Mr. Coolidge examined the petition with much interest and asked several questions as to the method used in securing the signatures.

After the visit to the President the delegation was received by the Secretary of State. The petition was finally deposited with one of the two senators from Minnesota for presentation to the Senate in session.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio and the League of Women Voters in Illinois are securing signatures for other miles of petition.

#### Husband and Wife Not "One" in Business Contracts.

The executive secretary of the Tennessee League of Women Voters, Mrs. John Draughon, was lately successful in a suit at law which is of interest to women in other States in which laws governing women resemble those of Tennessee. Mrs. Draughon made a contract with her husband to revise forms used in the business enterprise he carried on, and to perform other services requiring technical knowledge and skill. Agreement was made that a salary of one hundred dollars a month should be paid her, and for thirteen months she performed the services stipulated, never, however, actually drawing the salary to which she was entitled. At the death of her husband thirteen hundred dollars were due to her from his estate, and she brought suit against the executor for that amount in the County Court of Davidson County, in which Nashville, her home, is situated. The executor pleaded that under the Tennessee law man and wife are one and that no contract between them is therefore possible. He did not attempt to dispute the evidence that Mrs. Draughon had done the work of a technically trained person as she had contracted to do. He merely pointed out that a married woman is not free to make contracts with her husband. The judge, who is said to have given the matter much thought and study, awarded Mrs. Draughon the amount claimed as due, deciding that the law contemplates only such domestic services as are ordinarily to be expected of a wife in the home. In effect he said that a man is not entitled to obtain the services of an expert free, merely by marrying her, and that in business matters a wife is wholly competent to make contracts with her husband and to receive stated compensation as if she were a stranger. The case has awakened wide interest and marks a great advance in the woman movement in the Southern States.

#### Annual Convention.

In its arrangement for its annual convention in Buffalo, April 24-29, the National League of Women Voters guards, as usual, against insufficiently considered action and eliminates the possibility of control by the minority. Before the first of the year, the chairmen of the six standing committees—child welfare, education, living costs, social hygiene, uniform laws concerning women, and women in industry—sent out to the chairmen of their committees in the State units, the proposed programme of each committee for the coming year, asking for criticisms, suggestions, and amendments. The heads of the several National League departments—federal legislation efficiency in government, State legislation and law, international co-operation to prevent war, finance, and publicity—prepared tentative programmes and sent them out in a similar way.

During the month of January the returns of all such reports will be collated and summarised, and the results made into the tentative plan of work, under the direction of Miss Belle Sherwin, first vice-president. This tentative plan, in turn, will be sent to presidents of State leagues three months before the convention, and by them distributed to local leagues for study, criticism, and suggestion. The final plan of work will be presented to the convention for adoption, and it is a league rule that no new business of any kind can be dealt with until twenty-four hours have elapsed after its introduction.

#### Committee on Social Hygiene.

The proposed programme of the Committee on Social Hygiene emphasises the prevention of delinquency through the work of visiting teachers, who shall report on conditions in homes; the appointing of volunteer court-visiting committee preferably of women who have had no experience in social work and will be the more impressed by court conditions and discriminations against women in the matter of punishment for sex offences; the amendment of laws when necessary to include both sexes in liability for prostitution, and the setting of the age of consent at eighteen years, applying to boys and girls alike. The stand of the league taken two years ago against compulsory examination of persons suspected of sex offences is reiterated.

#### The Committee on Living Costs.

The Committee on Living Costs places co-operative associations as the first item in its list of subjects to be studied, with the results of Governmental investigations of the coal and food industries following it. A new subject for study is the relation between tariff legislation and living costs, and this is likely to prove of exceptional interest. A new item in the committee's programme of Federal legislation is opposition to efforts in the Congress to abolish the Federal Trade Commission or to transfer its powers to any other agency. Leagues throughout the country will be called upon to secure information regarding their State laws dealing with co-operative associations, with markets, with food regulation, and with unfair trade practices. It is suggested that neighbourhood surveys of co-operative associations, public or farmers' markets, food crops near towns or cities, and forms of trading between producers and consumers, be made. The need for proposing and supporting proper regulating laws is stressed.

#### Committee on Child Welfare.

The proposed programme of the Committee on Child Welfare covers administration of the Maternity and Infancy Act (Sheppard-Towner), raising the age of compulsory school attendance, widows' pensions, economic and social provision for illegitimate children, and better protection for defective and delinquent children. After the pending child-labour amendment shall have been adopted, the committee urges a programme of nation-wide adoption of Federal minimum standards of child labour, and full appropriations for the Sheppard-Towner Law and the Children's Bureau.

The suggested programmes of other standing committees are equally interesting, and in order that all of them may have proper discussion before they are finally adopted the first afternoon of the convention at Buffalo will be given up to simultaneous open meetings of all the committees. The entire plan of work will be presented to the convention the next day, Friday, April 25, and will not be finally acted upon until the convention session of the following Monday.

It is planned to have more informal conferences and fewer set speeches than are usual at conventions. The mass meeting, which is a never-omitted feature of a League convention, is set for Sunday afternoon, April 27, and the subject will be "International Co-operation to Prevent War." Miss Ruth Morgan, head of the department which is devoted to this subject, will preside. The atmosphere of an old-time American Sunday evening will be preserved at the supper which is to follow. It is announced to be an "old-fashioned Sunday night supper."

## AMERICA'S TWELVE GREATEST WOMEN.

THE twelve greatest American women, selected last May after a year's canvass and study, will be the guests of honour of the National League of Women Voters at a dinner on Monday night, April 28, in Buffalo,

during the League's fifth annual convention. Invitations already have been extended by Mrs. Maud Wood Park, president, on behalf of the board of directors.

It will be the first time that these distinguished women, representing specific fields of endeavour in which women have contributed to the betterment of the world, have been assembled. More than 1,200 women, including the delegates from 43 States and Buffalo members of the League, are expected at the dinner. Miss Katharine Ludington, of Lyme, Conn., National Treasurer, will be toastmistress.

The twelve famous women, and the endeavours in which they are pre-eminent, are: Jane Addams, philanthropy; Cecelia Beaux, painting; Annie Jump Cannon, astronomy; Carrie Chapman Catt, politics; Anna Botsford Comstock, natural history; Minne Maddern Fiske, stage; Louise Homer, music; Julia Lathrop, child welfare; Florence Rena Sabin, anatomy; M. Carey Thomas, education; Martha Van Rensselaer, home economics; Edith Wharton, literature.

In May, 1922, Señorita Graciela Mandujano, official delegate from Chile to the Pan-American Conference of Women in Baltimore, asked the National League of Women Voters for a list of the twelve greatest living American women. There was no such list, but immediate steps were taken to compile one. Leagues in the various States submitted selections and directed a general canvass. A special committee appointed by Mrs. Maud Wood Park, and comprising representatives of leading women's organisations in the Women's Joint Congressional Committee, picked the twelve.

In brief summary, the careers of the women listed by the League embrace these outstanding facts:—

Jane Addams, native of Illinois; settlement worker, also noted as a peace advocate; one of the founders of Hull House, Chicago, and head resident there.

Cecelia Beaux, native of Pennsylvania; artist who has won distinction in the United States and abroad; resident of New York and Massachusetts.

Annie Jump Cannon, native of Delaware; astronomer at the Harvard Observatory for a quarter of a century, and author of important astronomical works; resident of Cambridge, Mass.

Carrie Chapman Catt, native of Wisconsin; suffrage leader, president of American Woman Suffrage Association, and for many years president of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance; resident of New York.

Anna Botsford Comstock, native of New York; natural history artist and wood engraver; professor of nature study at Cornell; resident of Ithaca, N.Y.

Minne Maddern Fiske, native of Louisiana; actress of special fame in "Tess of the D'Urbervilles," "Becky Sharp," and Ibsen drama; resident of New York.

Louise Homer, native of Pennsylvania; grand opera singer, noted in contralto roles; resident of New York.

Julia Lathrop, native of Illinois; volunteer resident at Hull House, Chicago; specialist in research as to care of insane, better education of children, and juvenile court laws; ex-chief of the children's bureau, U.S. Department of Labor; resident of Rockford, Ill.

Florence Rena Sabin, native of Colorado; associate professor of anatomy at John Hopkins until 1917, and since then professor of histology; author; resident of Baltimore.

M. Carey Thomas, native of Maryland; president of Bryn Mawr from 1892 to 1922; first woman trustee of Cornell, author as well as educator; resident of Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Martha Van Rensselaer, native of New York; professor of home economics and head of the department, Cornell; resident of Ithaca, N.Y.

Edith Wharton, native of New York; author of many notable books, among which are "The House of Mirth," "The Hermit and the Wild Woman," "Tales of Men and Ghosts," "Fighting France," "The Marne," and "Summer"; present address, Paris.

## WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

20, Talbot House, St. Martin's Lane,  
February 16.

To the Editor.

Dear Editor,

For years, among feminists in this country, I have been endeavouring to raise protests against the insulting and insufferable inclusion of women with children in all allusions to social-reform legislation, and have almost come to the conclusion that so-called "social reform" is as deadly to the freedom of women as reactionary-ism—if I may coin an expression. I welcome most heartily the protest from Anna Westergaard, and hasten to support it. But it should not have been left to us; it should have come from our Alliance first and foremost.

For what has our movement signified? Surely, that we revolt against being treated as belonging to categories of the helpless and irresponsible, and that we demand our rights as responsible adult human beings! Every time we allow ourselves to be categorized with children we are denying and stultifying all we have fought for and won. I protest, in the name of all the independent women who have helped the women's movement, against this new conspiracy to keep us in fetters.

I am amazed at this apparent determination, on the part of women who consider themselves feminists, to keep us in the category of "infants, lunatics, and criminals"; and to welcome, in industry and elsewhere, humiliating restrictions and prohibitions—under the vile old cloak of "protection"—which are not put in operation against men. The danger is particularly acute in the United States; American women seem positively to revel in restrictions; and so far as I can see, women have only escaped the old tyrannies of home and marriage to find themselves in thrall to the new bogies of "the child" and "the race."

The function of the I.W.S.A. is not to secure peace. It is not to promote infant welfare. It is not to achieve industrial harmony. It is to secure the full and free citizenship of women on the same terms as men. This was what we fought for; not to be classed with children, to be under world restrictions and the Labour tyranny in industry; not to be discriminated against by eugenic cranks and sloppy sentimentalists. Will not the I.W.S.A. take up this protest and re-assert fearlessly the principle of freedom and full adult responsibility in the State?

I wish also to take this opportunity of calling the attention of women throughout the Alliance to an item of Press news. I read that the eight British women members of Parliament have issued a message to "the women of the world." This message is not conveyed via the I.W.S.A. It is not conveyed through the International Council of Women. It is not even conveyed through the League of Nations Union. It is through the *Labour organisation* of the League of Nations! This organisation—composed largely of elements dangerous to the freedom of women, which has already riveted new bonds on our wrists, and which is viewed by many of us as one of the most disastrous results of the peace—is apparently hailed by these ladies as the outstanding triumph for women. No word is said of the victories won and the paths opened to us by our hard fight; nothing but congratulations on having our liberty curtailed, under the strange guise of "benefits" to "women and children"! If our Alliance is not going to launch a spirited protest, I for one cannot see what we have to expect from it. I sincerely hope that

both the I.W.S.A. and the National Society in this country will take the matter up warmly.

Forgive my troubling your space at such length, but I feel that these are vital matters, and that perhaps we have come to the parting of the ways.—Very faithfully yours,  
C. NINA BOYLE.

## EGYPT.

In a recent interview with a representative of L'Egypte Nouvelle, Madame Charaoui, one of the Egyptian delegates to the Rome Congress, lays down the programme of Egyptian feminism: The higher education of women; her social and political equality with man; the reform of laws and customs relating to marriage; the raising of the age of marriage; the fight against immorality. The path of the feminist is much the same the world over. And the movement in Egypt progresses—the Government has recently passed a Bill raising the age of marriage to 16 for girls and 18 for boys. Having seen the wisdom of Egyptian feminists in this matter, doubtless they will listen to them in others.

## THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

The W.I.L. is holding a congress at Washington, May 1—8, for a New International Order. The agenda contains a discussion on the Reconstruction of Europe and the part America can play in it; on the World Situation as regarding politics and regarding economics.

The call to the Congress says: "Europe needs America; America needs Europe; Europe, America, and all the continents have need of one another's gifts and of one another's powers."

## NOUVELLES FÉMINISTES.

## Espagne

Il y a quelque temps, une délégation du Conseil suprême féministe d'Espagne, conduite par la présidente, Señora Doña Isabel O. de Palencia, a rendu visite au Directeur militaire pour lui demander d'accorder le droit de vote aux femmes espagnoles. Le Général a reçu gracieusement la députation, a écouté avec un profond intérêt et a déclaré que son intention était de l'accorder avec quelques restrictions.

Depuis lors, un projet de loi a été déposé pour introduire dans la réforme du gouvernement municipal le vote et l'éligibilité des femmes. Si le projet reçoit l'assentiment royal, ce sera un premier pas vers l'obtention complète des droits politiques. Le mouvement féministe a fait de grand progrès ces dernières années. Le Conseil suprême compte dix sociétés, et il y a d'autres sociétés féminines, notamment l'Acción Católica, qui demandent l'affranchissement politique. En Espagne, toutes les professions sont ouvertes aux femmes et il y a déjà un grand nombre de femmes docteurs en médecine, en philosophie, en droit. Les femmes peuvent s'inscrire dans les facultés et prendre leurs grades universitaires.

Señora de Palencia est une femme de lettres et une conférencière distinguée. A Londres, récemment, elle a fait devant un auditoire nombreux des conférences en anglais sur l'Espagne. Elle a représenté l'Espagne au congrès de Rome en mai dernier.

## Afrique de l'Ouest.

*D'un correspondant de la Côte d'Or.*—Les femmes sont très indépendantes, les lois mettant la direction de la famille entre leurs mains; les enfants appartiennent absolument à la mère. Un père ne peut même pas mettre son enfant à l'hôpital, si sa femme refuse. Les femmes sont aussi indépendantes pécuniairement, étant expertes au commerce. Quelques-unes sont très riches; le commerce du cacao leur rapporte jusqu'à 50 ou 60,000 livres sterling.

## SECTION FRANÇAISE.

## LE PATRONAGE EN FRANCE ET LA RÉÉDUCATION DES FILLES MINEURES.

SI j'en juge par les journaux féministes anglais comme *The Woman's Leader*, qui nous tient au courant des questions sociales, une partie de l'opinion publique féminine semble vivement préoccupée actuellement par les questions pénitentiaires et par les organisations diverses ayant pour but de réprimer la criminalité juvénile, mais surtout de travailler au relèvement des jeunes délinquants.

Pour obtenir les progrès désirables dans tous les domaines il est nécessaire avant tout de connaître ce qui se passe dans les différents pays et les efforts qui y sont tentés vers un même but. C'est pourquoi j'ai pensé intéresser les lecteurs de *Jus Suffragii* qui s'occupent d'œuvres de relèvement, en leur parlant d'une œuvre française rattachée à l'Administration pénitentiaire et s'occupant du relèvement des femmes et des jeunes filles mineures. J'expliquerai son fonctionnement ce qui m'amènera à faire connaître sommairement tout au moins les lois qui régissent en France les Patronages fondés par l'initiative individuelle, mais qui dépendent cependant de l'Administration pénitentiaire et qui sont subventionnés par l'Etat. Nous n'avons aucune prétention de nous donner comme modèle, nous racontons seulement ce que nous faisons et dont nous reconnaissons nous mêmes les nombreuses lacunes.

Le Patronage des Détenues, des Libérées et des Pupilles de l'Administration pénitentiaire a été fondé à Paris vers 1890 par ma mère Mme. de Witt Guizot et par quelques unes de ses amies qui rendaient depuis longtemps visite aux femmes dans leurs prisons pour leur apporter un peu d'aide et de sympathie. Le mouvement de l'intérêt humanitaire dû aux prisonnières coupables était venu d'Elizabeth Fry qui après avoir réformé les prisons anglaises était venue à Paris pour parler de son miséricordieux travail et tâcher d'inspirer à d'autres son enthousiasme.

C'est à l'instigation des prisonnières elles mêmes qu'est due la création du Patronage et l'érection de notre maison de refuge du 2 avenue Michel Bizot. Une prisonnière avait percé le cœur de ma mère en lui disant: "Nous sommes reconnaissantes des visites que vous nous faites à la prison, mais ensuite . . . à notre sortie? Comment voulez-vous que je ne retombe pas dans le mal, puisque personne ne veut recevoir une femme sortant de prison?"

Ma mère décida avec ses amies: "On ne nous fera plus ce reproche! Nous aurons une maison pour recevoir les détenues libérées," et l'asile temporaire pour femme, fut bâti avenue Michel Bizot. L'une des dames du Comité avait, avant de préparer les plans de la nouvelle maison, visité tout ce qui existait en Europe d'établissements analogues. Depuis lors bien des pays sont venus emprunter les plans très bien conçus de l'Asile Michel Bizot.

Dans cette maison sont reçues toutes les femmes majeures ou mineures qui sortent libres de prison et qui désirent trouver un abri temporaire. En les visitant dans les prisons de femmes on leur distribue des cartes portant l'adresse de l'Asile, mais rien ne les oblige à y venir si elles n'en n'ont pas envie. Nous recevons aussi les prévenues que le tribunal nous confie, mais elles ne doivent pas sortir de notre grande cour et elles se tiennent à la disposition du Tribunal lorsqu'il les fait appeler.

Les libérées passent à Michel Bizot 15 jours, 3 semaines ou plusieurs mois quand il y a assez de place. La maison ne contient que 30 à 35 lits. Pendant que les libérées sont chez nous on s'efforce par la bonté et par les soins de les remonter physiquement et moralement pour leur faciliter la rentrée dans une vie honnête. Les majeures libres sortent à certaines heures pour chercher à se placer; l'œuvre ne se charge pas de les placer ne pouvant en prendre la responsabilité.

Quant aux filles mineures de 18 ans, elles nous sont confiées par les Tribunaux d'enfants jusqu'à l'âge 21 ans en exécution de la loi de 1912, il s'agit pour elles non seulement d'une œuvre de miséricorde mais surtout d'une œuvre de rééducation.

Les créatrices du Patronage s'étaient bien vite aperçu qu'il fallait à tout prix séparer les majeures des mineures qui sont contaminées moralement par les libérées plus âgées et plus expérimentées dans la vie.

Une deuxième maison (baptisée Ecole Ménagère de Mont-souris pour lui éviter tout titre infamant) fut donc bâtie 234 rue de Tolbiac en 1912. Nous y recevons toutes les mineures qui nous sont confiées par les Tribunaux d'enfants, et qui ne passent que peu de temps rue Michel Bizot. C'est à l'Ecole ménagère que commence la véritable rééducation morale et physique qui peut porter des fruits. Les mineures sont partagées en 3 Sections, chaque Section ayant à sa tête une Surveillante qui dépend de la Directrice générale—Section de Couture, Section de Blanchissage, Section de Cuisine. Nous avons 57 jeunes filles et ne désirons pas en prendre plus à la fois, l'influence d'une Directrice ne pouvant s'exercer sur un plus grand nombre.

La Directrice et une dame bénévole font aussi aux jeunes filles quelques cours d'instruction élémentaire, lecture, écriture, calcul, leçons de morale, car un grand nombre de nos petites mineures sont d'une ignorance lamentable!

Le travail est le grand moralisateur, et j'estime qu'il est indispensable à une œuvre de rééducation. Notre but est d'abord de modifier la mentalité de nos mineures, de leur apprendre qu'il existe une différence entre le bien et le mal, ce que beaucoup semblent ignorer, n'ayant reçu aucune éducation première. En second lieu nous voulons que nos petites, ayant appris bien à fond la couture et la blanchissage, soient à même de pouvoir se faire une vie nouvelle et gagner leur vie honnêtement. Nous les plaçons à leur sortie et la Directrice reste en rapport avec chacune d'elle. Nous cherchons en général à les placer comme femmes de chambre dans des maisons modestes où la maîtresse n'a pas d'autres domestiques. Un grand nombre se marient et fondent des foyers.

Nous sommes responsables de nos filles jusqu'à 21 ans envers les Tribunaux, mais nous avons le droit de les placer plus tôt si nous les en jugeons capables, et ayant acquis une force suffisante pour se bien conduire.

Comme je l'ai dit certaines de nos dames visitent les femmes et les mineures à la prison, elles jugent ainsi des jeunes filles qui paraissent présenter quelque espoir de relèvement, et nous les réclamons au moment du jugement. En outre, notre Agente, et parfois une dame du Comité assistent toujours aux séances du Tribunal. L'Administration réclame en plus à notre Secrétaire tous les trois mois une statistique signée de la Présidente et indiquant le nom de chaque jeune mineure confiée à l'œuvre, l'endroit où elle est placée l'adresse de ses maîtres et ce qu'elle gagne.

Le Gouvernement nous remet 2 francs 50 par jour et par mineure ce qui naturellement ne suffit pas à l'entretien complet d'une de nos petites, mais leur travail de couture et de blanchissage, quoique bien imparfait pendant longtemps, crée pourtant des recettes. Nous faisons annuellement une quête parmi les amis de l'œuvre et nous organisons une Vente de charité. Notre Section de blanchissage suffit à peine à tout le travail qu'on nous offre et il en est de même de la Section de couture qui arrive à confectionner une lingerie parfaitement soignée. Notre Section de cuisine produit en outre des compotes de fruits des confitures excellentes, des sirops et des purées de tomates que nous vendons aux amis du Patronage.

Pour indiquer encore les règlements vraiment excellents imposés par l'Administration ajoutons que lorsque nous plaçons une enfant qui n'a pas atteint sa majorité, ses maîtres doivent remettre son salaire au Patronage et la Directrice décide de la part que l'on doit laisser à la mineure pour son entretien, etc. . . . Le reste est

considéré par les autorités pénitentiaires comme le pécule de la mineure et nous devons le placer sur un carnet de caisse d'épargne qu'elle ne pourra toucher qu'à sa majorité ou si elle se marie auparavant.

Voici dans les grandes lignes la marche et l'organisation d'un Patronage français de rééducation de mineurs. Je m'excuse d'avoir parlé de l'œuvre que je préside, il existe à Paris plusieurs autres Patronages, mais si j'ai cité le nôtre c'est que c'est celui dont je connais à fond le fonctionnement. Il faut assurément pour diriger nos deux maisons des Directrices d'un grand dévouement, d'une immense bonté, de beaucoup de patience et d'un cœur maternel doué d'un profond esprit de justice. Nous avons le bonheur en ce moment de posséder de telles directrices.

L'œuvre est profondément noble et belle et attachante, elle est non confessionnelle mais la morale chrétienne est à la base de tout le relèvement et de la rééducation auxquels nous travaillons de tout notre cœur.

M. DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER,  
Présidente du Patronage des Détenues des Libérées  
et des Pupilles de l'Administration Pénitentiaire.

### LES FEMMES DE LITHUANIE.

Les femmes de Lithuanie peuvent être divisées en trois groupes: (1) Les paysannes; (2) les femmes instruites sorties du peuple, c'est à dire les filles des paysans; et (3) les femmes de la noblesse.

Les premières sont celles qui ont soin de leurs ménages, qui préparent la nourriture, qui filent et tissent de la laine et du lin pour s'habiller et habiller leurs familles. Ces femmes ont un grand besoin d'être secourues par les femmes instruites, qui pourraient leur apprendre mieux faire leur ménage, donner des notions d'hygiène et de pédagogie. Les jeunes filles paysannes d'aujourd'hui s'inscrivent volontiers dans les sociétés destinées à la jeunesse ou elles peuvent entendre des choses instructives.\* Les femmes et les jeunes filles prenaient un part énergique aux élections parlementaires des dernières années. On peut affirmer que le succès du parti chrétien démocrate recommandé par la Société des Femmes Catholiques, est dû aux votes féminins.

La Société des Femmes Lithuanienes Catholiques compte plus que 20,000 membres avec 116 branches. La plupart de ces membres sont des paysannes. L'administration de la société se compose de deux femmes membres du parlement, deux institutrices, et deux étudiantes à l'université.

L'autre partie des femmes lithuanienes, beaucoup moins nombreuse, forment les femmes instruites, filles des paysans qui, avant la révolution russe faisaient leurs études dans les écoles russes et après la proclamation de l'indépendance du pays (en 1918) les font en Lithuanie dans leur langue maternelle ou à l'étranger: en Allemagne, Suisse, France. La Lithuanie possède une seule université, celle de Kaunas, instituée récemment; l'université plus ancienne, qui autrefois était très renommée, est à Vilna derrière la ligne de l'occupation polonaise, c'est à dire qu'elle n'est pas accessible aux étudiants lithuaniens.

Enfin les femmes de la noblesse sont pour la plupart des cas polonaises; c'est à dire qu'elles se considèrent comme polonaises ou sont polonaises de fait; malgré qu'il y en a des exceptions peu nombreuses qui sont et se considèrent être lithuanienes. En général les femmes de la noblesse prennent peu de part à la vie sociale du pays; une des causes est qu'elles savent rarement bien la langue lithuanienne et aussi parceque la réforme agraire a causé de l'animosité entre deux classes: celle de propriétaires foncières et des ouvriers sans terre ou paysans petits propriétaires et leur descendantes—la jeune classe des femmes instruites sorties du peuple. Les femmes de la noblesse habitent le plus souvent la campagne dans leurs domaines, tandis que les femmes instruites du peuple habitent les villes exerçant les fonctions des institutrices dans les écoles, des employées aux ministères, etc. Ce sont les femmes sorties du peuple qui ont le plus d'influence dans ce qu'on appelle le mouvement féminin. Les femmes de la noblesse reçoivent

très rarement une instruction universitaire ou professionnelle; leurs frères au contraire sont plus souvent envoyés aux gymnases et universités.

Après la proclamation de l'indépendance de la Lithuanie en 1918 une grande quantité des écoles primaires et moyennes furent fondées en différentes parties du pays, dont le nombre augmente toutes les années suivantes. Pour la plupart des cas les fillettes et jeunes filles fréquentent les mêmes classes que les garçons, car le pays ne possède pas encore assez de forces pédagogiques pour pourvoir aux besoins des écoles des filles et des garçons à part, excepté plusieurs pensionnats tenues par les religieuses.

Parce que, comme il est dit plus haut, les fillettes de la noblesse pour la plupart des cas reçoivent leur instruction à la maison ou à l'étranger (ce qui pour les causes économiques est maintenant très rare) presque toutes les écolières fréquentant les écoles moyennes dans des conditions décrites se recrutent de la classe paysanne. Les paysans mènent leurs enfants en villes et les placent dans les écoles en leur louant quelque logis; la victuaille est envoyé de la maison.

Les femmes de Lithuanie avaient cinq représentantes à l'Assemblée Constituante qui siègeait depuis 1920-22, dont quatre étaient du parti chrétien-démocrate et une socialiste; pas une seule d'elles n'avait de grade universitaire.

Au Parlement qui siège depuis l'automne de 1922, les femmes comptent 3 députées dans le nombre général de 78 membres du Parlement; deux d'entre elles sont des institutrices des écoles moyennes et appartiennent au parti chrétien-démocrate; la troisième est social démocrate, avocate de profession ayant fait ses études dans une université de Russie avant la guerre.

On espère qu'ayant plus des femmes instruites on aura plus de femmes au Parlement. Celles qui y siègent à présent travaillent surtout dans les Commissions de l'Instruction et de la Santé Publique. Elles ne sont pas assez fortes pour prouver la nécessité de l'abolition de la prostitution, qui a ses défenseurs même parmi les médecins-députés. Les femmes docteurs en médecine, dont on compte plusieurs en Lithuanie, se refusent à poser leur candidature au Parlement soit parce qu'elles préfèrent exercer leurs fonctions professionnelles, soit parce qu'aucun des partis politiques qui concurrent pour parvenir au Parlement ne leur plaisent pas.

C'est ainsi que le mouvement féminin se présente en Lithuanie en 1923. JULIA ZILEVYCAITE.

\* Une telle société est "Pavasaris" (de Printemps) pour la jeunesse catholique des deux sexes, comptant 50,000 de membres.

### NOUVELLES FÉMINISTES.

#### La Tournée de la Présidente.

LA PRÉSIDENTE DE L'ALLIANCE, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, quittera l'Angleterre au commencement de mars pour faire une tournée en Allemagne; elle passera quelques jours à Stuttgart et à Munich, où elle confèrera avec les chefs du gouvernement. Avant Noël, elle a assisté à l'assemblée annuelle de la Société hollandaise la Vereeninging van Staatsburgeressen—La France à son tour sera le siège de la prochaine réunion du Board. Ces visites, si courtes qu'elles soient, établissent un lien précieux entre les sociétés auxiliaires de l'Alliance et maintiennent vivant l'esprit de coopération.

#### Société des Nations.

Sur l'esclavage.—Le Conseil de la S.D.N. a décidé à sa session de décembre de faire une enquête auprès des nations pour savoir sur quels territoires ou possessions coloniales l'esclavage existait autrefois, quelles mesures ont été prises pour le supprimer et quels ont été les résultats sociaux et économiques de cette suppression.

A la session de mars, le Conseil décidera de choisir la Commission à laquelle sera confiée cette enquête. La Commission permanente des Mandats serait la plus indiquée; si elle est choisie, il faudra la rendre plus nombreuse et y adjoindre des femmes. Une seule en fait partie actuellement, Mme. Wicksell.

Le Comité de coopération intellectuelle.—Le Conseil a transmis deux questions à ce Comité: (1) Sur la nomina-

tion d'experts pour faire le travail préparatoire nécessaire au cas d'une révision des conventions internationales sur l'échange des publications; (2) sur les propositions faites par l'Espagne en vue d'une équivalence des grades universitaires et autres questions d'enseignement.

Le Conseil a demandé l'appui moral et financier des gouvernements pour ce Comité de coopération intellectuelle; les comités nationaux agiront comme correspondants étrangers vis à vis du Comité international.

Les quatre ans de la Ligue.—Le plus beau résultat a été la reconstruction financière de l'Autriche. Il n'y a pas d'exemple dans l'histoire d'une aussi vaste coopération. Les mêmes procédés pourront être employés pour d'autres pays.

Les possibilités latentes de la Cour permanente de justice internationale sont énormes. 22 nations ont déjà signé le protocole acceptant la juridiction obligatoire de cette Cour. Un autre résultat a été le rapatriement de 350,000 prisonniers de guerre. On espère qu'elle agira efficacement contre la traite des femmes et des enfants.

#### La Ligue Internationale des Femmes.

Congrès.—La Ligue organise un Congrès à Washington du 1 au 8 mai pour un nouvel ordre international. Le programme comportera une discussion: sur la reconstruction de l'Europe, et la part que l'Amérique doit y prendre; sur la situation mondiale au point de vue politique et économique.

Le mot d'ordre du Congrès est: Tous les continents ont besoin les uns des autres, et en particulier l'Amérique et l'Europe.

#### La Suffrage des Femmes et la Politique.

Dans leur histoire du suffragisme en Amérique, "Woman Suffrage and Politics," Mrs. Chapman Catt et Mrs. N. R. Shuler rappellent quels obstacles les femmes d'Amérique ont rencontrés quand elles ont lutté pour leur émancipation. La Révolution américaine avait laissé intacte la théorie du droit divin de l'homme sur le femme. Les deux sexes y croyaient avec le même sincérité, elle dominait les habitudes. D'autres obstacles surgirent: au seul de la victoire suffragiste, la nation était plongée dans la guerre civile sur la question de l'esclavage. Ce fut "l'heure des nègres," et quand ils furent émancipés, ils apportèrent une force nouvelle à l'antiféminisme. A ce moment cependant, Wyoming affranchit les femmes et donna l'exemple aux autres Etats; les Etats environnants suivirent. Mais bientôt le suffragisme eut un nouvel ennemi et le plus féroce: le commerce des liqueurs. La dernière phase de la lutte est encore présente à la mémoire, quand les droits des femmes américaines furent tenus en suspens le jour du vote de la 36<sup>e</sup> ratification. En Amérique une politique de tricherie annula les principes de la démocratie. Heureusement, les vrais républicains combattirent avec les suffragistes, et c'est à leur foi, à leur loyauté, à leur dévouement qu'elles doivent la victoire. Il en a été de même en Grand-Bretagne.

Le Président Wilson et le Suffrage.—Dans une lettre à Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Husted Harper rappelle que la première délégation reçue par le Président après son élection fut celle de 8 suffragistes. C'est grâce à son appui que les Américaines ont obtenu le vote.

### INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE, LONDON.

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the Six Months ended December 31, 1923.

RECEIPTS.		DISBURSEMENTS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Transfer from General Fund, being loss on "Jus" for the six months ended December 31, 1923, per contra	208 14 3	Printing	234 13 8
Subscriptions	55 13 7	*Salaries	105 10 0
Y.W.C.A. Supplement	108 0 0	*Rent	12 10 0
Cash Sales	4 12 10	Miscellaneous Expenses	24 7 0
Total	£377 0 8	Total	£377 0 8

\* NOTE.—Of these items £67 10s. would probably be incurred by Headquarters in any case, and is therefore only technically chargeable to the "Jus" Account.—K. BOMPAS.

RECEIPTS.		DISBURSEMENTS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance, July 1, 1923—		Transfer to "Jus," per contra	208 14 3
Cash at Barclays Bank, Ltd.	161 9 7	Salaries	299 3 4
Cash in hand	0 12 7	Light, Heat, and Cleaning	17 2 4
	162 2 2	Rent	25 0 0
General Donations	446 7 11	Printing and Stationery	21 6 3
Members' Fees	16 14 8	Telephone, Telegrams, and Messengers	16 15 1½
Report Receipts	13 2 0	Postage	25 5 8
Affiliation Fees	5 9 9	Repairs	3 5 0
Woman Suffrage in Practice—		Insurance	3 13 6
Donation: Mrs. McCormick	99 0 3	Miscellaneous Expenses	56 6 3½
Miscellaneous Sales	8 0 8	Balance, December 31, 1923—	
Total	£107 0 11	Cash at Barclays Bank, Ltd.	267 12 6
Less Expenses—Printing and Postage	106 2 5		
	0 18 6	Total	£944 4 3
Rome Congress Pledges	136 7 3		
Balance Transferred from Congress Fund 2	162 9 6		
Miscellaneous Receipts	0 12 6		
Total	£944 4 3		

#### CERTIFICATE.

We have audited the records of cash receipts and disbursements of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance for the six months ended December 31, 1923, and certify that the above is a correct statement thereof.

HASKINS & SELLS,

LONDON, January 17, 1924.

Certified Public Accountants.



## Grande-Bretagne.

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

*Le nouveau Gouvernement.*—Quoique les féministes aient beaucoup espéré du gouvernement socialiste, elles en sont encore réduites à des motions présentées par des députés sur des sujets comme: tutelle des enfants, pension des veuves, lois sur la séparation et pension alimentaire. Même l'égalité politique des sexes qui était un article du socialisme devra être présentée par un député. "Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose," et le besoin d'une organisation "sans parti," qui se spécialisera dans "l'égalité des libertés, statuts et droits des deux sexes," se fait de plus en plus sentir.

*Egalité politique.*—Mr. Adamson, Secrétaire pour l'Écosse, présentera, le 29 février, un projet de loi qui sera identique au malheureux projet tué après une seconde lecture en 1921. Nous regrettons qu'il soit alourdi par d'autres controverses électorales et nous craignons que la tactique de 1921 ne se répète.

*Tutelle des enfants.*—Mrs. Wintringham présentera le 4 avril un projet d'amendement à la loi sur la tutelle égale et la garde des enfants.

*Pensions pour les veuves de fonctionnaires civils.*—Les socialistes avaient fait des rapports si satisfaisants sur le sujet, qu'on est surpris de leur silence depuis qu'ils sont au pouvoir. Nous espérons que la motion de Mr. Dukes, le 20 février, amènera un débat sur le sujet.

*Personnel.*—Miss Chrystal Macmillan, ayant terminé ses études de droit, a été une des 4 femmes appelées au barreau en janvier. Mrs. Olivier Strachey a publié un

roman sur les événements qui ont précédé la guerre civile d'Amérique.

*Nos femmes députés.*—Miss Bondfield qui est secrétaire parlementaire au Ministère du Travail et aussi déléguée du gouvernement à la 2 session de l'Office international du Travail à Genève aurait dû avoir un poste dans le nouveau ministère. Miss Susan Lawrence a été nommée secrétaire privé parlementaire du Ministre de l'Instruction publique.

## Les Femmes et l'exposition Britannique.

Il y aura une exposition britannique près de Londres d'avril à Octobre, 1924. L'Alliance a retenu un espace où elle aura un "Pavillon"; ce sera une sorte de club et un centre féministe de renseignements, spécialement sur ce qui concerne l'activité sociale et professionnelle des femmes britanniques dans le monde. Le Pavillon sera dans la "Eastern Section, North, Site 30A."

## Egypte.

Le mouvement féministe progresse en Egypte. Le gouvernement a déposé un projet de loi élevant l'âge du mariage à 16 ans pour les filles et 18 pour les garçons. Le programme féministe est le même que partout: développement de l'enseignement féminin, égalité sociale et politique des sexes, réforme des lois sur le mariage, lutte contre l'immoralité.

## Grèce.

L'Association des femmes grecques va présenter à l'Assemblée nationale un memorandum réclamant le droit de vote. M. Venizelos leur a promis seulement le droit de vote municipal.

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

*President:* MRS. CORBETT ASHBY, 33, Upper Richmond Road, London, S.W. 15, England.  
*Hon. President:* MRS. CHAPMAN CATT, 404, Riverside Drive, New York, U.S.A.  
*First Vice-President:* MME. DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER, 14, Rue Pierre de Serbie, Paris, France.  
*Second Vice-President:* FRAU A. LINDEMANN, Köln, Marienburg, Wolfgang Müllerstr., 20, Germany.  
*Third Vice-President:* DR. M. ANCONA, S. Via Morigi, Milano 8, Italy.  
*Fourth Vice-President:* MRS. GIFFORD PINCHOT, Executive Mansion, Harrisburg, Pa., U.S.A.  
**AFFILIATED COUNTRIES.**—Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, China, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain and British Dominions Overseas—viz., Australia, Canada, Ireland, India, Jamaica, Newfoundland, New Zealand, South Africa—Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United States of America, Uruguay.

## By-law of the I.W.S.A. Constitution.

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

Headquarters and EDITORIAL OFFICES of the I.W.S. NEWS: 11, ADAM STREET, ADELPHI, LONDON, W.C. Telegrams: "Vocorajto." Telephone: Regent 4255.

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

Published by the World's Young Women's Christian Association  
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*President* - - THE HON. MRS. WALDEGRAVE. *General Secretary* - Miss CHARLOTTE T. NIVEN.

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 THE LADY PARMOUR.  
 MRS. JAMES A. WEBB, JNR.  
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## RELIEF WORK IN JAPAN.

THE first week in October there was a memorable meeting in Tokyo of the Y.W.C.A. general secretaries from Kobe, Kyoto, Osaka, Tokyo, and Yokohama. The trip from the south usually takes twelve hours, but on this occasion it took twenty-six, half of the time standing on one foot, and seventy tunnels were used, round one of which the passengers had to walk, since the train could not get through. Usually such meetings are held to consider some forward step in this growing women's organisation. This time it was to face the destruction of the National Office with its records; of the big Tokyo



Two fire-places, much ash, scattered typewriter keys, a heap of rubble, were all that were left of the Y.W.C.A. National Office.

building and gymnasium; of the Residence for non-Japanese women, the local offices and new home, and the temporary holiday house on the beach at Yokohama. The meeting had also to face gaps in the membership, in the committees, and two deaths among the foreign members of the staff. On the other hand, it had the encouragement of active relief work already in full swing in Tokyo and Yokohama, backed by the Y.W.C.A.s in the untouched cities.

This relief work has a deeply interesting feature. It is co-operative. In the past one of the difficulties of women's work in Japan has been that it has been difficult to get different societies to work together, but even



What was once the Yokohama Central Y.W.C.A.

though in this case it was Christian societies that took the lead, the joint efforts in Tokyo and Yokohama are the work of a Federation of Women's Societies.

In Yokohama the Y.W.C.A. called together the Christian women's organisations, and a division of relief work was planned in co-operation with the city and other organisations. The Y.W.C.A. opened a small emergency hostel for homeless business girls, and superintended the making of padded quilts and kimonos in a barrack furnished by the city authorities. It also was charged with the distribution of some forms of relief. A tent at Otomachi (Rokuchomo) houses the organisation, and is the centre for activities kept as normal as possible, classes, clubs, and meetings. A large proportion of the officers and original members left the ruined city, but the Y.W.C.A. found that there were many girls who needed what it can offer, and who did not before know that it existed.

In Tokyo the Women's Christian Temperance Union called together thirty-two women's societies, which formed themselves into a Women's Federation for Relief. In consultation with the Government and Municipal Social Service Bureaux the Women's Federation first undertook a survey of the devastated districts for the distribution of condensed milk to children under five and old people. The finished survey was not the simple matter it sounds. In the district allotted to the Y.W.C.A. maps were prepared for the different groups of girls who carried out the work, one group to a small section. Streets are not named in Tokyo, but districts. Then former landmarks were destroyed, and means of transport there were none. It was necessary to hire motor trucks, and between them two hundred and fifty women and girls visited five thousand families. This part of the survey was among the first to be given in, and as a result the Y.W.C.A. received an early supply of quilts for the district. The destitution was so great that the quilts supplied by the city to the Federation were not enough for even the very poorest, and they were glad to receive a shipment from women's groups in other parts of Japan.

The survey and the milk distribution organised, the Federation next undertook to help with the clothing problem. The swift fires left many people without even a single garment, while life in four-foot high cement drain pipes, in corrugated-iron shacks or large hastily run-up communal barracks, could not be faced without some form of bedding, especially with winter approaching. Free material was handed over to the Federation by the Government, which numbers of the unemployed women from destroyed factories and business houses made up in workrooms. In one week the Federation pledged itself, and redeemed the pledge, to turn out 160,000 futons (quilts). These were sold to the refugees at a nominal price, and only given away in cases of proved need. At the barracks given to the Y.W.C.A. by the

city, situated in the district reclaimed from Tokyo Bay (Tsukishima), literally mobs assembled for the first two sales, and the second time it was necessary to limit the numbers by issuing tickets, and even then no one could be allowed to buy more than about five shillings' worth. All the money so gained was used for the workroom wages and for buying material for kimonos or supplies of wool to knit for the children, etc. Japan has become a second Holland of indefatigable knitters. One of the Y.W.C.A. secretaries writes of a private house spared by the earthquake and fires, where the dining-room was full, chairs and floor, of people knitting wool of every colour into babies' clothes; where the drawing-room and drive were taken by secretaries trying to reconstruct burnt records, and issuing reports, appeals, circulars, etc.; in the first-floor bedrooms were girls cutting out winter kimonos, and the second floor was given over to people sorting gifts of old and new clothes and tying up bundles for the distribution centres. In other parts of Japan, Y.W.C.A. members, in addition to direct relief collecting, sewing, and knitting, dressed dolls to sell to the winter tourists, or helped to stock the depleted shops, so earning money for more materials or to pay the salary of a sewing teacher for a relief workroom.

The Tokyo Federation next added to its responsibilities the creation of welfare and relief centres for women and children throughout the city, providing such things as medical help, day nurseries, recreation, and work. Twenty beds in St. Luke's Hospital (pluckily reopened under canvas) were allotted to the Federation, while reserve Red Cross nurses were called out. One of the



The site of the Tokyo Local Y.W.C.A., showing temporary shelters for refugees, now occupied by wooden barracks where classes and clubs are meeting. The old building was one of the first women's buildings in Japan.

big problems these Federation centres are called upon to face is the unemployment among women and girls. Japan is the only country in the world where more women than men are employed in industry, and the destruction of such large numbers of silk and cotton mills, to say nothing of other factories, leaves thousands of girls not merely out of work, but homeless into the bargain, the factory dormitories having gone with the factories. The Government has opened employment bureaux, and attempts are being made to get some of the girls back to the country, but the Federation realises that this can hardly be a wholesale measure, poverty at home being one of the reasons why girls enter the factories. The Y.W.C.A. is in entire charge of the centre at Tsukishima, where the dense working population is living in every kind of temporary building.

In addition to its share of relief work the Tokyo Y.W.C.A. has been urged to carry on as much as possible of its usual activities, not only for the sake of its own members, but of other girls who need the stabilising influence of study and recreation and the feeling of being part of a group. A baraku (barrack) has gone up on the site of the former building, and in spite of still imperfect communications, girls are flocking there and finding a source of fresh courage, life, and growth.

#### MORE EXPERIMENTS IN WEAVING.

TWO advanced trainees of the hostel maintained by the Y.W.C.A. at the weaving school at Serampore have now gone back to the societies which sent them to learn under the semi-purdah conditions provided there. They have learned to warp and weave towels, dusters,

bedsheets, saris, coatings, and sheetings, and now are to be employed in passing on their knowledge to other women. The poverty of the vast majority of Indians is a real problem as self-governing India develops, and the Y.W.C.A., with other societies, is experimenting in fitting women for skilled employment which can be carried on in their own villages. Different mission and other societies have sent pupils to the Serampore hostel, and a recent report speaks of an Englishwoman, head of an industrial mission, spending a fortnight there studying the supervision of weaving, computation of costs, wages, sales, and general administration. The head of the hostel is also interested in weaving experiments begun in the women's ward of a big jail through the initiative of the chairman of her committee. Cotton and jute weaving have been introduced, two women from the penal colony on the Andaman Islands having been brought as teachers.

#### INDIAN MEN PROVIDE HOSTEL FOR INDIAN GIRLS.

YOUNG men of Kunnankulam are responsible for the hostel for Indian girls there, for it was their initiative that secured the site and some of the money. Kunnankulam is a large town in Cochin, inhabited entirely by Christians, and stands in the heart of a progressive district. Girls from the villages round come in to attend the high school, and, being in their teens, are considered young women. Convention makes it difficult for many of them to live with families, hence this Y.W.C.A. hostel, where they can enjoy home life under proper supervision. The growing work in Travancore and Cochin is under Indian leadership, one Australian secretary being the only paid foreign worker.

#### A SOUTH INDIAN GIRLS' CAMP.

WITH March the South Indian thermometer goes up, and preparations for holidays in the hills begin. The Y.W.C.A. in South India for some years has run a summer school at Ootacamund for women of different nationalities, and has held camps in other spots, usually later (or earlier!) in the year.

One such camp took place by the sea, when various schools and colleges sent sixty-five delegates, schoolgirls, students, and teachers. Mandapam is a pleasant place. There is a small village behind the station, and a few big bungalows on the shore and along the railway line, which runs down a narrow strip of land with sea on both sides—Palk Strait to the east and the Gulf of Manar to the west. A mile and a half along the line stood the bungalow, but no kind of cart was available, so a long procession of coolies wound single file along the track with luggage, bags of rice and potatoes, waterpots, saucepans, bedding, a harmonium, and a miscellany of small objects. All this at night, in a tearing gale. The bungalow stood in a cocconut plantation, reputed to be full of snakes, though five days of conference only produced one. It did, however, produce goats and thorns, the latter thick in the sand, and an unexpected part of the camp programme was the daily time given to getting thorns out of feet and iodine in the resulting holes.

Most conferences and camps seem to find in some one thought the thread of their meetings or the background of their memories, and this group of girls, with the great pilgrim route from Puri and Madura to Rameswaram passing their very door, thought of the greater pilgrimage of life—a difficult pilgrimage for many an Indian woman of education. But their Bible studies and discussions did not begin and end with their own interests and problems, but went out to the social needs of modern India and to the students of other lands. It is touching to think how much international movements owe to unknown women of many nationalities who will never be able to see the people and the countries which they serve with their thoughts, their sympathy, and in a variety of practical ways. These young pilgrims of Mandapam are only a few of the many Indian schoolgirls and teachers who deny themselves month by month of small luxuries in order to send money to the needy students of Europe.

#### THE HOUSE WITH THE YELLOW CURTAINS, SHANGHAI.\*

TWO kinds of rooms, each effective in its own way, come instantly to mind when one suggests girls' clubs, and with both types I am familiar. The first is an up-to-date building with large rooms for the many interests of the city club, where women congregate to discuss matters of civic improvement or listen to lectures by world-wide celebrities or distinguished authors—where certainly no less a personage than a grand opera star would be asked to sing. Over such a room one is apt to exclaim upon entering, to be impressed with the importance of the club, to be intrigued with the period knowledge evident in the furnishings, to compliment the board of directors on the selection of their decorator; but afterwards come away feeling a trifle chilled.

The other club is quite a different story. Maybe it has not the imposing distinction of the first, and the periods may be blended—knowledge of what combines happily is more essential than an interior clinging to one era. It is sure to have a restful colour combination, something that lifts it out of the ordinary and gives it that personal touch which makes for individuality. It is almost invariably tucked away in some quaint street with a background history, and its old-fashioned high ceilings strongly reminiscent of other days and manners. Something of the quiet of the past lingers in its shadowy corners or clings to the balustrade of the stairway. One comes to have a sort of feeling of ownership in a club like this, and in many lands I know there are quiet corners into which I could slip and forget the years had intervened.

When I came to Shanghai three years ago this was one of the things which I missed most. Here was a great city—but I was alone and a stranger, and had no single point of contact. Since that time two women's organisations have acquired at least temporary quarters, but in those days one was thrown absolutely on one's self. I think in all my wanderings it was the time when I learned the bitter meaning of loneliness. I had my Y.W.C.A. membership card, which formerly had been "Open Sesame" to camaraderie, but there was no such organisation for foreign girls, and I was still too new and too puzzled to understand that I was the "foreigner" in the case. Now, however, a girl coming to Shanghai is welcomed and placed and given a chance to know girls from all over the world, all because on the short little street which used to be the heart of the city is a house with yellow curtains at the windows!

If it was not for those friendly curtains one might pass it by—the street is so brief and the rickshaws so swift, but the curtains are irresistible. When one has rung the bell, of course the door opens on just the kind of hall to be expected, with a half-turned stairway and a single table with its soft-coloured vase of flowers—exactly the right colour. It is like the clasp of a friendly hand—and it is the new Foreign Y.W.C.A. club rooms, 19, Yuen Ming Yuen Road. Small need now to be lonely, for there is always waiting a welcome and two hostesses to make one feel that already there is a place for a stranger. Miss Mary Frances Crosse, Executive Secretary, and Miss Fanny Pomeroy Brown, will see that a girl is made to feel at home.† It is a very comforting sensation.

The rooms wherein hang the yellow curtains are furnished simply, but with a happy colour combination that is Miss Brown's idea, and she has browsed around the Chinese city until she has found the right bit of porcelain to give the proper colour note. On the buff-coloured walls hang one or two good Chinese paintings, and in the winter a bright fire is sure to be burning in the open grate. In the tea room, which is by no means the least part of the club's attraction, one can get tea and toast and Miss Brown's justly famed chocolate cake. Upstairs there is the reading room with wide comfy chairs, in colours sage green and gold, and often this room is commandeered for outside committee meetings.

During the winter on each alternate Friday afternoon the rooms were thrown open to the members and their

\* Courtesy of the Shanghai Times.

† Miss Brown left China recently, and Miss Crosse now carries on the Club single-handed.

friends for a musical tea, and programmes were arranged by different clubs. These teas proved tremendously popular, and it is hoped to continue them next winter. Many plans are on foot for the next season's activities, including a large gymnasium for the members, which will fill a much-needed want. Another feature that will go far toward making this club a centre of things is that supper can be had there if previously ordered, and one troop of Girl Guides have already signified their intention of meeting at the rooms at least once a week. During the summer a tennis club is going strong, and whenever the weather permits, the courts on the Recreation Grounds are filled.

It is not to be inferred that the aim of the Y.W.C.A. is only to give pleasure to the girls, but to help them in other ways. One of the most important branches of the Foreign Y.W.C.A. in Shanghai is the Employment Bureau under Miss Brown. Already there have been nearly a thousand applicants through this office, and it bids fair to become a clearing house for business opportunities, and it will be well for firms in need of an employee to consult with Miss Brown. Not only does this apply to seekers of office positions, but specialists in a number of professions. This is something new in the world of Shanghai, and it will be of lasting benefit—so it is not only comfort that one finds in the house with the yellow curtains, but help as well, and sympathetic understanding.

LUCILLE DOUGLASS.

#### A FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

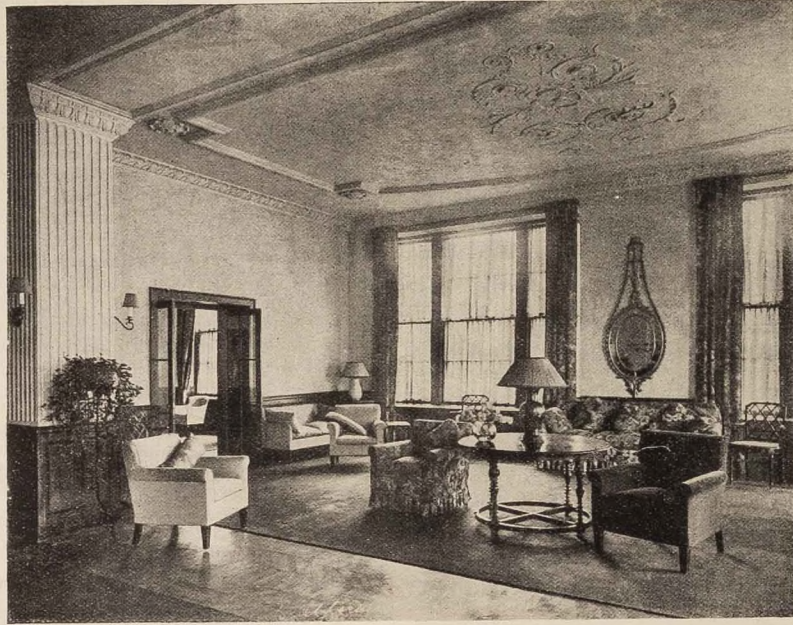


Left to right: Miss Fan, President of the Conference; Miss Cheng, Vice-president and Interpreter; Miss Ting, Executive Secretary.

OUR illustration shows the three executive officers of the first national conference held by the Young Women's Christian Association of China: Miss Fan, its president, a secretary of the Chinese Church Council, once a student work secretary of the Chinese Y.W.C.A.; Miss Cheng, one of the vice-presidents and interpreter, a member of the faculty of a woman's college; and Miss Ting, conference secretary, formerly general secretary of the Peking Y.W.C.A., and now acting national general secretary of the Chinese Y.W.C.A. The big conference group, not reproduced here, shows a very international party, predominantly Chinese, but with visitors from Japan, the United States, Australia, and Canada, and foreign secretaries on the Chinese national staff drawn from the last three countries and from Great Britain, Norway, and Sweden into the bargain.

Delegates came from all over China, speaking four or five different dialects, and yet they were truly one body. A national constitution was adopted, the fruit of many years of work and much thought, and the conference looked ahead to see how the Association could make the most of its opportunity as a Christian women's organisation to meet the tremendous needs of China. One of the striking things of the conference was the unanimous feeling that on every side of the Association programme nothing should be undertaken in isolation, but that in meeting the problems of the day the Association should co-operate with the Chinese Church and with all other organisations willing for co-operative effort.

## MEETING OF THE WORLD'S Y.W.C.A. COMMITTEE AT WASHINGTON, MAY 9-16, 1924.



One end of a room in the Grace Dodge Hotel for women (operated by the National Board, Y.W.C.A.'s of the United States) where the World's Y.W.C.A. will hold its Biennial Meeting this May.

### HEALTH EDUCATION IN CHINA.

AN interesting example of co-operative effort in China is the Council on Health Education. The supporting societies are the National Medical Association, the China Medical Missionary Association, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Young Women's Christian Association, the China Christian Education Association, and the Nurses' Association of China. The earlier policy of the Council was chiefly to prepare material for spreading scientific knowledge in a popular way, and to give popular lectures and run popular campaigns. In the last two years this policy has been modified to one of organising, or rather helping people to organise, permanent health work along definite lines. This has involved the departmentalising of the work to a certain degree, so that one finds under the Council a Community Hygiene Department, a Child and School Hygiene Department, a Literature Department, and so forth.

The Chinese Y.W.C.A. shares in the Council's work by having a member on the Executive Committee of six, by helping with the finances, and by supplying the woman doctor who is head of the department for child and school hygiene work. This is the work of a specialist, and in the person of Dr. V. B. Appleton the Chinese Y.W.C.A. has secured a specialist, with experience in the United States, London, Paris, and Berlin. Before Dr. Appleton joined the Y.W.C.A. staff she was Instructor in Pediatrics in the Medical School of the University of California and on the visiting staff of the Children's Hospital in San Francisco. During the war Dr. Appleton worked in France on the children's side of the American Red Cross, and one winter was given to investigating nutritional conditions in Labrador. Dr. Appleton has, therefore, the all-round experience needed by the pioneer.

On her arrival in China the child welfare work was in the preliminary stages, being a popular rather than a medical movement, dealing with mothers' clubs and better baby weeks. It has now developed along more permanent lines such as school health supervision, the teaching of hygiene, and health centres to which mothers and children can come for periodic examination and advice. A fascinating set of health habit pictures and record books have been prepared to interest school children in good unconscious habits, and the smaller

versions of the pictures are also used by Bible women visiting individual homes. Dr. Appleton has also written a textbook for teaching hygiene in elementary schools, and she is preparing an outline with instructions for the teacher. A further book on infant care has been prepared for parents, and a new edition of an old book on pre-natal care is on the way. Summer schools on physical and health education have been held for the past two years, and during the month's course teachers were helped to understand and use modern methods in this type of work.

Dr. Appleton has held Children's Health Conferences in different parts of China with the object of interesting parents and mission and social workers sufficiently to make a Health Centre possible, to popularise physical examinations of school children, improve school sanitation, promote the adequate teaching of hygiene, and so forth. With the other doctors of the Council she helps in the circulation of health films for cinematographs, lantern-slides, bulletins, charts, posters, and all the other means of getting through the eye to the mind. The whole organisation presents an example of the economy and efficiency of co-operation between experts.

### DEVELOPMENTS IN MALAYA.

THE plans made by the Malayan committee for expansion and the building of more adequate headquarters, have resulted in the opening of two very fine new premises in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. The hostel at Kuala Lumpur, opened by Lady Guillemard, marks a new era in the life of the Association there; for this building, with its spacious hall and hostel above, is well fitted both as a friendly centre for travellers and as a home and meeting place for the increasing number of young girls who are earning their living there. The committee are to be congratulated on the result of their efforts, and also on its swift accomplishment, for the erection of the hostel has involved the transformation of what was, a very short time ago, a rather unapproachable site. About two months before the Kuala Lumpur ceremony, the new headquarters of the Malayan committee were opened at Singapore. In both the above schemes the Association has had hearty support from the residents.