

WOMEN'S SERVICE-

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JVS SVFFRAGII.



# THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE NEWS

THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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## CONTENTS.

What is the Alliance? .. .. .	69	News in Brief .. .. .	75
The Amsterdam Conference .. .. .	70	Maude Royden Travelling Exhibition .. .. .	76
Review .. .. .	71	A Woman Honoured .. .. .	76
Reports from Auxiliaries:		One Woman Elected .. .. .	76
Germany .. .. .	72	Enfranchised Women's Committee .. .. .	78
Australia .. .. .	72	Section Francaise:	
Great Britain .. .. .	73	Chronique de la Société des Nations .. .. .	81
India .. .. .	74	Rapport Trimestiel du Bureau International	
South Africa .. .. .	74	Bibliographique .. .. .	82
Ireland .. .. .	74	Nouvelles Internationales .. .. .	82

## WHAT IS THE ALLIANCE?

The Alliance is a body of women who are united for the object of securing full equality with men in every conceivable respect and over every field of interest and work; and further to direct the energies of the new woman citizen in public life.

Of the 43 national auxiliaries composing the Alliance, there are 21 who are working as enthusiastically and doggedly as we ever did to secure the vote—the essential key to all else. The 22 organisations of enfranchised women watch with keenest sympathy and do all in their power to help by money and service, lecture tours, publicity material, pressure on statesmen, deputations and interviews. This work is inspired, directed and channelled by the Alliance. The unenfranchised countries have rightly or wrongly, maintained that the use made by enfranchised women of their vote and the example set is the chief help we can give them. They want to know how the status, freedom, responsibilities, education and pay of women are being improved towards the ideal equality. They are interested, too, in the social reforms initiated and secured by voting women. It is a fact which cannot be ignored that women are not only feminists in a perpetual state of protest against restrictions and disabilities, they are also to an increasing extent, keen citizens, peace workers, reformers and educators. The greatest freedom won by women is surely precisely this equal right with men to effective interest in the whole of life.

Feminism to me is much like love: a new love takes nothing from affection already given, it is an added enrichment of life. In the same way a feminist is no less a feminist because she has reached a point at which she dare develop every side of her human nature and natural interests.

Miss Boyle does us real service in reminding us that all our work must be done from the feminist angle and by feminist inspiration. Her facts are hardly accurate. We have a democratic organisation which declared at the Paris Congress that peace work should be undertaken. To safeguard our other work this was handed over to a special committee and a special donation was given by a keen pacifist so that good organisation might be provided without the Alliance spending any more on peace than on any other item of its work. We could not divert a special donation to any other purpose.

As regards Miss Gourd's signed article on the German Bill, we believe in our woman's paper presenting the views sent in whether we like them or not. There is a real difference of opinion among the national organisations inside the Alliance on the question of protective legislation for women, which our paper must record.

Paragraph two of Miss Boyle's letter is being answered from Greece. Paragraph three is really unintelligible. At Amsterdam we had at our service women in responsible positions in government departments, women members of Parliament and women Government delegates to the League. They strengthened our determination to get more and more women into these positions.

With regard to Paragraph 4, a glance at our Reports shows we stand squarely by our charter and are working for it year in and year out. Some success is recorded by our auxiliaries each month. As regards deported women, we have made representations to the League, we have tried to educate public opinion, and Miss Jeppe's work has been forwarded by all the publicity we could give to it. We have not adopted every idea



which Miss Boyle presented to us, but this work has been proceeding quietly and unremittingly long before we met in Paris. We worked through every national organisation against slavery, sending in resolutions and using the usual international means of pressure. Our Equal Moral Commission can claim much of the credit for the immense improvement in tone of the League of Nations Committee on Traffic and its revolt against licensed houses. We have secured investigation into the age of marriage and the age of consent by the Committee on the Protection of Children. Our organisations in every country are fighting exactly those evils which Miss Boyle mentions.

It is true that feminists are not necessarily pacifists, any more than pacifists are necessarily feminists, but fortunately we have elbow room in the Alliance for the feminists who are pacifists as well as for those who are anti-pacifists, and who may see, as Miss Boyle does, a certain moral value in war.

Our accounts are audited and published; our Reports are available to every enquirer. A telephone enquiry would have put Miss Boyle into possession of facts which might perhaps have deprived us of a brilliant letter which will put us on our mettle.

Finally may I make a brief reply to Miss Douglas Irvine? Each of our Committees is composed of enthusiasts who try to make their Committee the most active in the Alliance. If similar donations earmarked for a special purpose reached any one of them, they would make the same effective use of them. Meanwhile the Board has to allocate fairly the small margin of funds at our disposal.

MARGERY I. CORBETT A. HBY.

#### A PIECE OF HISTORY.

To the Editor, *JUS SUFFRAGII*.

Dear Madam,

Although it is exceedingly painful for me to recall a tragedy of my country the like of which has never been recorded at any time in any other country, I feel it is my duty to correct a certain point mentioned in Miss Boyle's letter published in the January number of *Jus*, concerning the fate of the population of Asia Minor in connection with the war. The war with the Angora insurgents was not "averted" at all. On the contrary it was continued for interior political reasons by Greece in defiance of the Allies who had withdrawn their support of a Government they no longer trusted. The breach between the two parties, royalists and liberals, dividing the whole nation, caused the same divisions in the army and naturally brought about the fatal catastrophe. Thus the terrible disaster, which caused a million and a half of peaceful people to seek refuge in the mother country, was not the result of "Peace-at-any-Price" but of "War-at-any risk."

Yours truly,

ATHENS.

AVRA S. THEODOROU.

#### A LECTURE FOR THE ALLIANCE.

Mr. Jaakoff Prelooker, one of the Alliance's most faithful friends and a founder of the Men's International Suffrage Alliance, has made a most generous offer to give a lecture on behalf of the funds of the Alliance, and especially on behalf of the circulation of its paper. The lecture is to deal with "The Woman of Russia in History, Religion and Politics," and will be followed by a recital of Russian songs by Mr. Prelooker's daughter. Dr. Octavia Lewin has most kindly lent her drawing-room at 25, Wimpole Street, London, W.1., for the occasion. Will all readers who will be in or near London on the date of February 20th, note that date and ask Headquarters to send them a ticket, which for them will only cost 2s. 6d. But they are more particularly asked not only to come themselves, but to urge their friends to come and take tickets at 6s., which tickets will mean a year's subscription to "*Jus*."

Is not this an ingenious way of securing new subscribers who will thus combine pleasure and profit? We hope this excellent idea will be followed up by subsequent lectures on other subjects, and we would urge all our friends all over the world to ponder on the possibility of using the idea in their own countries. We know that it is sometimes very difficult for Auxiliaries, busily engaged in running their national campaigns and pushing their own feminist papers, to undertake propaganda on behalf of the Alliance. But here is a scheme that does not need a great deal of organisation: the services of one kind friend to give an interesting address, and another to lend a drawing-room. Beyond that someone to take the 6s. tickets at the door and send them in a bunch to Headquarters, which will undertake, on due notification, to treat them as vouchers for a year's subscription. Headquarters will willingly supply some sample copies of the paper to be used as propaganda.

#### THE AMSTERDAM CONFERENCE.

By RUTH MORGAN, of New York City.

Chairman of the Alliance's Peace Committee

The Peace Conference held in Amsterdam, November 17, 18, and 19, under the Peace Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance was a revelation of many things to me. I had expected results because of my previous knowledge of the ability of the delegates likely to be there, but I was very far from dreaming of the talents, energy, and determination which would be found in the ninety odd delegates who assembled from twenty-two countries.

To an American the shock consisted in the fact that it would be difficult in this country or in Latin America to find women experienced in government, occupying high places, members of expert committees of the League of Nations, and above all, who in their personal lives had experienced the ravages of war and changes of ideas and situations so violent and extreme as to be unique in this history of Europe. The women who emerge triumphant from these experiences are really super-women. The members of the German Reichstag, the women of Austria, France, Poland, and even Switzerland and the North, spoke with the authority of those who have taken part in government action through days of storm and stress. This was my first impression of the delegates.

The other point, almost equally strange to happy, prosperous Americans, is the tremendous part which the Economic Conference of the League of Nations plus all of the economic factors and experiences which lie beneath it, have played in the minds of European women. One speaker said there was no child of twelve on that continent who had not some idea about exchange; that if the coin which bought a bushel of potatoes on Monday bought one potato on Friday something happened even in the minds of little children.

It is true that the delegates were quite certain that prosperity and peace were dependent upon free trade—a strange doctrine to prosperous, protected America—but the knowledge they brought to this decision was keen and hard to dispute as far as Europe was concerned.

The sun which shone over the picturesque city of Amsterdam, its quiet canals, hospitable homes, and its air of health and prosperity, brought into high relief the Tower of Babel which spoke so many languages so fluently and so enthusiastically on behalf of peace. The delegates gathered at a brilliant dinner party in the Maison Couturier to listen to Senor Madariaga, Mrs. Catt, Lord Astor, etc. Here it was gently put forward how long the Dutch had governed far away isles and colonies to their own prosperity and that of the East.

A means to peace and prosperity has been found even in Holland. One of the representatives of the Dutch Labour Party pointed out that old men workers were often so hale and strong at eighty and eighty-five that it was a real problem how to permit the aged to go on

with the jobs they filled so competently and still find work for young men too.

Under the leadership of Miss Rosa Manus, of Amsterdam, Dutch ladies gave the delegates such kindness as had rarely been experienced.

Two things helped the popularity of the little American delegation of three. Mrs. Catt, their leader, arrived on a Dutch boat at Rotterdam and disembarked like Lohengrin from the swan boat for four days in Amsterdam, at the close of which she motored to Rotterdam and re-embarked on the same boat which brought her. Mrs. Catt in this dramatic entree underscored two ideas. The first was that there were many other continents in the world besides Europe and it behoved those who wanted peace to look to South America and Asia before they made world plans.

They must embrace the aspirations and needs of other continents than their own. The second point she made, with infinite graciousness, what it meant to her to meet again the women with whom for fourteen years in Europe she had fought the suffrage fight, and their welcome of her showed they also renewed these old ties of faith and hope for feminism.

A brilliant feature of the conference was the English delegation, in which Lady Astor, and the Honorable Mrs. Edith Lytton were the most conspicuous members. The other English delegates were Mrs. Corbett-Fisher, Miss Bigland, and Miss Macadam. Together with Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the Alliance and now President of the women of the Liberal Party of England, they brought to the conference something different—different from the senators of Czechoslovakia and Germany, and different again from the slightly shamefaced prosperity of the American delegation. They candidly spoke of a sympathy and understanding and a desire to co-operate with America which perhaps appealed more to us than to the continentals. Lady Astor justified with profound patriotism and effect, both the efforts to help and the refusals to help peace which had lately distinguished the conservative leaders of England. Nevertheless, the Irish Free State, Egyptian and South African delegates smiled and said nothing.

Out of this variety of humanity did something emerge for peace? Indeed it did. The determination to know, to know more, to know more profoundly about disarmament, security, and above all, *arbitration*; a determination impressive to experts who had come to explain matters.

They were never permitted to lose sight of the fact that knowledge of these factors ought to result in peace policies and peace action.

Senor de Madariaga concluded on one of the highest notes of the conference when he told the delegates that Grotius, the great Sixteenth Century International lawyer of Holland believed in two authorities only: the Bible and the doctors of Salamanca, and that Brother Victorio, professor of the University of Salamanca, had taught that if a citizen of any country was asked by the majority to take part in an unpopular war, such a citizen was at liberty to refuse to co-operate, and that if even one individual citizen found in his heart and conscience a conviction that a war waged by his country was wrong and not right it was his duty to refuse to fight in that war.

Certainly, the old fathers of the church went a very long way with Christianity.

RUTH MORGAN.

#### AMSTERDAM PEACE STUDY CONFERENCE REPORT.

It was something of a feat to get the Report of the Amsterdam Conference in print in three languages within a month of the Conference, and it is an undoubted advantage to be able to put such a Report into people's hands while the matters discussed are still fresh in their minds. The plan adopted was to print the full report of each speech in the language in which it was delivered, either French English or German, and to follow it with

brief summaries in the other two languages. In this way the matter contained in the speeches is available to practically everyone. The report of the speeches is followed by the Resolutions adopted by the Conference, printed in full in the three languages.

There is no need in this paper to refer to the subjects discussed or to the Resolutions, which appeared in our issue of December. We would only urge all our readers to make haste to secure a copy of the Report, of which the edition is limited. Orders should be sent either to Miss Rosa Manus, 580 Keizersgracht, Amsterdam; or to the Alliance Headquarters, 190 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1., accompanied by a remittance of 1.50 Dutch gulden, or 2s. 6d. in English money.

#### REVIEW.

JOSEPHINE BUTLER: Her Work and Principles and their Meaning for the Twentieth Century. By Millicent G. Fawcett, G.B.E. and E. M. Turner. Published by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, Orchard House, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1.

In the last few months, our paper has contained many references to Josephine Butler, because 1928 marks the hundredth anniversary of her birth. The book now under review has been specially written to celebrate that anniversary. It is just a little difficult to find anything to say which will not be a repetition of what has been said to our readers before, and we feel that the fact that this work is that of Dame Millicent Fawcett is in itself all the recommendation that any of our readers will need.

And yet no one who was brought up in the English suffrage movement but welcomes any opportunity of expressing once again their reverence for, one might almost say their "faith" in Josephine Butler. For her memory—and in the reviewer's suffrage life, it was only a memory—enshrined "the inward spiritual grace" of the woman's movement. She was not one of the living leaders who inspired our youthful enthusiasm to action and hope; but she was an embodiment of that passionate revolt against injustice to women which lay at the back of the minds of all who felt, perhaps dimly at times, that that movement was a great and memorable revolution, and no mere attempt to win palpable gains and obvious advantages.

This book is not a life of Mrs. Butler; it is explained in the introduction, that she herself desired that no biography should appear other than those founded on her own published works. It is, as its sub-title states, an account of her work and of the principles of which she was the great exponent and defender. That work and those principles wrought a change in social ethics, not only in her own country, but in the whole world greater perhaps than that effected by any other single person in recent times. For this she is honoured by those who have come, even remotely, in touch with it. But beyond those circles, she is perhaps little known. In her own country one, and only one woman social reformer has received the honour due to her—Florence Nightingale. She also did a great work and fought a great fight, and women as well as men have much to be grateful to her for. But the work for which she received the Order of Merit was work for men—and for soldiers. Josephine Butler's work was also for men no less truly, but she fought under the banner of womanhood and those in authority did not delight to do her honour. It is, therefore, very specially for women to see that in their hearts she receives all her due.

This book helps to make clear once again, just what is her due. It tells again the story of her courage, her untiring activity, her clearness of vision and, above all, her inspired and inspiring faith. Here was a great personality, one of the greatest. Here is someone that our sex can treasure as one of the real great ones of the world, one of our proofs that the magnificence of the human soul is not concerned with sex.

K.B.



## REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

## GERMANY.

Several important matters which have aroused the attention of the public, the press and the political parties by ardent controversies, protest meetings and public demonstrations throughout the whole Reich, will shortly come before the Reichstag, some of them for final decision. Though not exactly special women's questions, they nevertheless claim the interest of women as citizens responsible for national welfare and culture. This is especially the case in regard to the bill for—

**The New Reichs School Law (Reichsschulgesetz).**

According to the provision of the Reichs constitution, the primary education of children which has hitherto, in common with all educational institutions, been regulated by the single States, will henceforth be unified throughout the Reich. The Government Bill drawn up with this end in view by the conservative Minister for Home Affairs, provided for various fatal restrictive measures, and met with sharp opposition from all progressive parties and circles. The main features of the bill are that: it would, by taking into account the different religious confessions of the children, split the schools, even in small places, into tiny and wholly insufficient classes, lowering in this way the standard of the whole institution; it would, further, give the ecclesiastical bodies a far-reaching power of inspection and control not only over the lessons in religion, but over the whole school system. Under the pretext of safeguarding the educational rights of the parents, the law would violate the sole and indispensable right of control by the State, as it is reserved explicitly in the constitution, and would besides limit the individual liberty of the teachers. The conflicts which have arisen over this Bill are nothing else than conflicts between general world views and religious convictions, i.e., the Catholic Party and orthodox protestantism on one side and the progressive people, in and out of the churches, on the other. When some time ago the Bill passed its first reading, we had the satisfaction that it was a woman member of the Reichstag, Dr. Bäumer, who in an admirable speech expressed the views of the latter groups, quite outweighing the men speakers for and against. The Bill at present under discussion has become, as the proceedings showed, the object of a fatal bargain between the Centrum (Catholics) and the People's Party and it seems as if the final result would at the best be a compromise instead of a rejection. As a matter of course the women members of the Reichstag in this case are not, as in other cultural questions, unanimous, but will vote in accordance with their parties or their personal religious views.

**Women in the Committee on the Penal Code.**

The same is to be said of the women members' position towards one of the most important points in the new penal code, the draft of which, having passed its first reading is at present also under discussion in committee. Being unanimous in various other questions, as for instance, the protection of children against immoral assault, and other sexual offences, culpability for drunkenness, etc., there is, according to the different standpoint of their parties, a great difference in principal on the question of *capital punishment*. Two women only are members of the said committee, one belonging to the German national, the other to the socialist party. While the latter voted for the abolition, the German national member declared herself in favour of the maintenance, and so, by her vote, secured a small majority for capital punishment, in the committee. As this very woman member is one of our most meritorious social workers, and a prominent leader in the women's movement, this case is another striking proof of the fatal prevalence which party views so often have over women's best and most genuine instincts. It is to

be hoped, however, that the committee's decision will not mean the last word in this most important question.

**Propaganda for Women Candidates in the Next Elections.**

Following the line of resolutions carried, as reported in the last issue, at the biennial in Eisenach, with regard to the coming elections, the board of the National Council of Women has sent out a questionnaire to its organisations, requesting them to nominate proper woman candidates for the Reichstag and the Prussian diet. As the elections to these bodies will take place in 1928, propaganda must be undertaken as soon as possible. The names of the women nominated, with their consent, and particulars about personality, public activity, party membership, etc., will then at once be sent to the respective party organizations, and favourable places on the lists claimed for them. It is hoped that the number of more than a million woman voters, represented by the National Council, backing these candidates, will give the propaganda the necessary weight within the parties, and secure it the success so much to be desired.

MARIE STRITT.

Dresden, Jan. 18th.



DR. GERTRUD BÄUMER,  
Member of the Reichstag.

## AUSTRALIA.

The Australian Federation of Women Voters has received an application for affiliation from the Women's section of the Country Party Association of New South Wales. The W.N.P.A. has endorsed the application. The Federation has recommended to constituent Societies that the basis of Municipal Franchise be studied with the object of gaining more representation for women.

**S. Australia.**

The Juries Bill: The interview with the Attorney-General has not yet eventuated, and it has been decided to postpone further action until next session, when the matter will again be taken up.

Child Endowment Commission: The sub-committee appointed to prepare evidence to place before this Commission is engaged upon its work, and is drawing up a statement to be forwarded, according to official instructions. Mrs. Carlile McDonnell, J.P., will give our evidence before the Commission when it comes to Adelaide.

**Victoria.**

To the Victorian Women Citizens' Movement has fallen the distinction of being the first women's organisation called on to send a representative to give evidence before the Royal Commission on the Revision of the Federal Constitution. Its President, Mrs. John Jones (who has recently been made a Justice of the Peace), gave the evidence. The Movement has appointed Mrs. Joan Rosanove, LL.B., and Miss E. Kelly, B.Sc., to give evidence on its behalf before the Child Endowment Commission.

A public meeting to discuss Necessitous Widows' Pensions was organised by the V.W.C.M. on October 25th, when the speaker was Mr. E. C. W. Kelley, L.L.M., well-known as the Chairman of the Royal Commission on the high cost of living. The following resolution was passed to be sent to the Prime Minister: "That, in the opinion of this meeting, any Federal scheme of National Insurance should include a provision for necessitous widows and orphans, and that in the future these pensions should be part of a contributory scheme."

**Queensland.**

The Women's Non-Party Association is working to secure the appointment of some women police in Brisbane. It was recently resolved that the President (Miss Ross Paterson) and Mrs. J. Williams should wait upon the Premier in connection with this question, and a letter was sent asking for an interview. The Premier replied that the Government did not intend to appoint Women Police in Queensland; but the Association has no intention of letting the matter end there. An afternoon meeting has since been devoted to discussing "The Necessity for Women Police in Brisbane," and it was decided that those present bring the matter forcefully before the different societies of which they were members, in order to secure the strong co-operation of all the women of the city in urging the need for Women Police.

**Tasmania.**

Pensions for Necessitous Widows with Dependent Children have been the subject of much attention by the Women's Non-Party League, and it has been agreed that the leaflet prepared by the League, setting out the case, should be sent to all Federal Members of Parliament, and that the Tasmanian members should be asked to introduce in the House of Representatives a Bill to provide such pensions.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

**Equal Franchise.**

The coming Parliamentary session, which opens on February 7th, promises to be one of the most eventful in our history. The Prime Minister has intimated his intention of introducing a bill for Equal Franchise, and it is reported that this will probably take precedence over other bills. With victory for the first point on our programme so very near, the need for redoubled effort is all the greater. Until it is on the Statute Book that women shall have the same rights as men to shoulder the responsibilities of government we must not slacken in our fight for the vote. It is ten years now since women over 30 were granted the vote under a number of restrictions which do not apply to men. While the anniversary of this half measure is being celebrated we hope that the chief aim of all who have fought in the cause will very shortly be an accomplished fact.

To herald the coming of the vote the N.U., in co-operation with over fifty other organizations, is arranging a mass demonstration on the evening of March 8th. It will be held in the Queen's Hall, London, which has accommodation for about 2,500, and before Christmas over 1,000 tickets had already been sold. Since then we have received the consent of the Prime Minister to our request that he should address the meeting. It will be a stirring event, and we hope that visitors to London who are in sympathy with our object, will join us. We believe that it may be the last such meeting, and consequently, of special historic interest.

**Women's Successes.**

We are overjoyed at the success of Miss Elizabeth Scott, the young architect whose plan for the Stratford Memorial Theatre has been accepted as the best of 72 designs submitted in open competition. The new building will be erected at Stratford-on-Avon on the site of the old theatre which was burnt down in 1926. As visitors come from all over the world to do homage to the memory of Shakespeare in the town so closely associated with his name, the building of the theatre is of international interest, while the achievement of the artist is of world-wide importance to women in particular.

A stir was caused by the rejection by the House of Commons of the new Prayer Book measure. From our own point of view the discussion was of particular interest, because it was the occasion of the latest woman member of the House making her maiden speech. Lady Iveagh has maintained her already very high reputation: all reports of the delivery of her speech were most favourable.

**Age of Marriage.**

After a close examination of the legal technicalities, it has been decided to work for a one clause Bill raising the age of marriage to 16 for both boys and girls. At present the minimum age is 12 for girls and 14 for boys; although no marriages have taken place at those ages for very many years, it is felt that there should be no recognition of the possibility of such early marriages in this country.

**A Challenge.**

An important principle is being challenged by the introduction by the Edinburgh Corporation of a Bill which purposes to make legal in that town, in some cases, the compulsory notification of persons suffering from venereal disease. Several societies have joined us in giving support to the efforts of an energetic Committee working in Edinburgh to oppose the passage of the Bill.

**Rights of Wives and Children.**

At present, in England, a man may will away his whole estate from his wife and dependent children, who, in consequence, may be left entirely unprovided for. We are working now for the removal of this anomaly. We should be most grateful to any readers who could help us by sending information about the laws controlling testamentary provision for wives and children in their country.

**Annual Council Meeting of the N.U.S.E.C.**

The Annual Council Meeting of the N.U.S.E.C. will be held in London from March 8th till 11th. The business meetings will be held at King Georges' Hall, Caroline Street, Great Russell Street, W.C.1., and visitors to London at the time who would be interested to hear the discussions are welcome to attend. Tickets of admission, price 6d. for one session, or 2s. 6d. for all the sessions, may be obtained on application to Headquarters (15, Dean's Yard, London, S.W.1.) We have already mentioned the Demonstration to be held on Thursday evening, March 8th. A public luncheon will be held on Friday, March 10th, at the Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly, to which we should very much like to invite any readers of "Jus" who may be in London then, and we therefore ask them to let us know.

G.H.



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

St. Joan's Alliance has suffered a great loss in the death of the Rev. Father Philip Fletcher, well known to Catholics all over England as the Master of the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom.

He early associated himself with our work by joining the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society and on several occasions wrote us letters of encouragement in our work, besides helping us financially. R.I.P.

Two of our members are standing as candidates for the L.C.C. elections on March 8th: Mrs. C. J. Mathew, J.P., Labour candidate for re-election in Stepney, and Mrs. Loughton Mathews, M.B.E., as Liberal in South Hackney.

As soon as Parliament re-assembles all our energies will be once more concentrated on the Equal Franchise campaign, which we hope will shortly be brought to a successful conclusion. Meanwhile, in order to furnish us with funds, we shall have a New Year's Party on February 6th, at which we hope to see many Catholic young women who have not yet been brought in touch with our movement.

Among speakers at the party we hope to welcome his Lordship the Bishop of Pella, who himself is one of our Associate members.

**THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.**

We are looking forward with the keenest interest to the King's Speech in which it is expected there will be an announcement of the Government's intentions in regard to Equal Franchise. We are taking part in the King's Speech meeting which is being arranged by the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on February 8th, when the Viscountess Rhondda will take the Chair, and our President, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, will be one of the speakers. We are also arranging a King's Speech dinner at the Minerva Club, on Friday evening, February 10th, when members of our Committee from various parts of England, Scotland and Wales will be present.

After the issue of the New Year Honours List we wrote to the Prime Minister expressing our great disappointment that so few women's names appeared in that list and that the only Honours bestowed upon them were so insignificant. We pointed out that since women were taking their full share in all branches of our national life it is time that all our national Honours should be thrown open equally to the women and men who are deserving of honour.

Our Annual Conference will be held in London, Saturday, April 28th.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

**INDIA.****The Age of Marriage.**

The Baroda Legislative Council has fixed the marriageable age for boys and girls at 18 and 14 respectively.

The Maharajah of Kashmir has sanctioned a new law prohibiting the marriage of girls before 14 and boys before 18. The Indian States of Gondal, Kotah, Mysore and Indore have similar laws. The State of Rajkot leads all India as it has just this month made the legal age 15 for girls and 19 for boys. The legal age of marriage in China is 16 and in Japan 16 and 18.

Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram's Bill for Bombay Presidency lays down that any person who knowingly or wilfully performs the ceremony of or takes active part in, or gives his consent to the marriage of a Hindu male of 16 years or female of 13 years, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term that may extend to six months or fine up to Rs. 1000 or to both. The complaint must be made within a period of two years after the offence by any five male adult Hindus or by the Executive Committee of any registered Society for the

prevention of early marriages. We ask why only adult males may make the complaint? This is essentially a matter on which women have a primary right to prefer complaints. It is good policy to introduce these social reform Bills in the Provincial Legislative Councils.

**Elected to a University Senate.**

Miss S. B. Das has scored a notable victory by securing her election to the Syndicate of Patna University after open competition with three men candidates. She is also an Honorary Magistrate, a nominated Municipal Councillor, a non-official visitor of the Jail, and a Fellow of the Patna University. We offer her congratulations on her success and on her many opportunities for public service.

**Lady Assistant Registrar to High Court.**

The first lady who passed the B.L. examination of the Rangoon University has been given the distinction and honour of an appointment as Assistant Registrar on the Original Side of the Rangoon High Court. It is the first time such a post has been offered to a woman. We congratulate Miss Daw Me Me Khin, B.A., B.L., and Burma on the appointment.

Stri Dharma.

Stri Dharma also gives lists of women in India holding various public positions which is too long to give here. It shows that there are five women members of Legislative Councils; thirty-two women members of Municipal Councils; thirty-two women Magistrates and Justices of the Peace, as well as a fair number on other elected bodies.

**SOUTH AFRICA.**

The South African suffrage movement has sustained a great loss by the death of Mr. D. M. Brown, M.L.A., and a veteran supporter of woman suffrage. He introduced the latest Woman Suffrage Bill into Parliament, which passed its first reading, and is to come up again in the session shortly to be opened. Before his death he sent a request to General Byron to take charge of the second reading. Suffragists are of course living in hopes, though perhaps those hopes are not very bright knowing what has been the treatment accorded to all past suffrage measures.

The quarterly paper of the Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union gives an account of a suffrage speaking tour undertaken by Mrs. Abrahamson and Miss Jenner, the Treasurer and Honorary Secretary of the Association, which shows that interest in the question is growing. In many places new branches were formed.

We note that Pretoria has two women members of its Town Council.

We have also received an interesting account of the work of the Port Elizabeth Branch. This branch has now existed for twenty years, doing its own valuable work and sending out missionaries to other local centres in order to start further branches of the Association. Twenty years is not perhaps a very long campaign for any reform, but it is a very long time to keep enthusiasm going, and we hope that if not victory, at least a very substantial progress will come to South African women this year to cheer them on their way.

**IRELAND.****Stocktaking.**

Everywhere just now the shop windows are filled with placards, declaring the intention of the philanthropic firm owning aforesaid windows to clear the whole stock, at reductions which, far from allowing a moderate profit, will involve them in actual loss. The reason for this procedure is generally given as the need for

clearing out old goods before stocktaking commences.

Those responsible for conduct of women's organisations will perhaps gaze with a rather grim smile on these announcements. Like the business firms concerned, women's Committees started 1927 with a stock of goods, which if not always new, were at least said by their vendors to be of the first quality, and just exactly what the customers ought to want. Alas for that one little mono-syllable, and for the disastrous effect which it too often has on the business transacted in feminist offices. The community ought to want these things, but if it does so, it is remarkably content not to be given them. The advertisement slogan of a few years ago "he won't be happy till he gets it," does not apply in these cases. Take Northern Ireland. The Government there is never weary of proclaiming that its main anxiety is to keep step by step with Great Britain. A duplicate of the British Trades Disputes Act is carried in the face of opposition from Labour, Nationalists and Independents, and the only defence is that legislation must be kept on a level with that across the water. An influential deputation from almost every woman's organisation in Northern Ireland waited on the Ministry of Home Affairs in March last, to ask for legislation on the lines of the English Equal Guardianship and Maintenance and Separation Orders Acts. In reply, the Ministry stated that in his opinion these measures were not needed in Northern Ireland. "Cæsar locutus est, causa finita est." Apparently there is no hope that any reductions, however "alarming", will induce the customers to take these goods off our hands. But there must be a General Election in 1929.

**Equal Franchise.**

A Bill for establishing Equal Franchise was introduced into the Northern Parliament by Mr. Devlin, and was of course defeated. The one woman M.P. spoke and voted against the measure. There is safety in numbers and were there ten women M.P.'s in Northern Ireland, the probabilities are that women's measures would have a better chance. The defeat of Mr. Devlin's Bill is not as bad as it appears, since the Belfast Women's Advisory Council has a definite pledge from the Prime Minister that legislation in Great Britain on this matter will be followed at once by similar measures in Northern Ireland. Feminists in Northern Ireland are therefore watching with anxiety the result of the campaign in Great Britain. In fighting their own battle, British women are helping the women in Northern Ireland.

**Women Jurors.**

Meanwhile in the Irish Free State, the Irish Women Citizens' Association is working gallantly to safeguard jury service for women. The Act carried in Dail Eireann in 1927 excluded women from compulsory jury service, but, under pressure from the Women Citizens, allowed them to volunteer for this particularly disagreeable form of public service. It is useless to enquire how many or how few men would be found on juries, were their presence dependent on insertion of their names in a voluntary panel. The Women Citizens are endeavouring to collect lists for such a panel, and their courage in essaying this difficult piece of work deserves recognition. Meetings are being held in different neighbourhoods in support of the agitation, and Mrs. Rackham, P.L.G., J.P., has very kindly consented to speak at some large public demonstrations to be held in February. The method adopted by the Government is worth noting. In their first proposals, women were simply excluded en bloc from jury service. Energetic lobbying by the Women Citizens enlisted support from Independent members of Dail and Seanad, with the result that the Government was forced to adopt an amendment under which women, and men technically unqualified for jury service, are allowed to enter their names on a voluntary panel. Thus the famous Article III of the Constitution which guarantees equal citizenship to men and women, was said to be observed.

Meanwhile the official Commission appointed to report on the Poor Law has not only followed the lead of the women in demanding for the Irish Free State adoption of the method of Affiliation Orders in cases of illegitimacy, but has actually recommended that in the law courts for cases involving women and children, there should be women on the jury. This recommendation is a real support to the Women Citizens' campaign, and will help to bring home to the average woman that her services are needed in this especially unattractive direction.

DORA MELLONE,  
Hon. Press Sec., National Council of Women of Ireland.

**NEWS IN BRIEF.**

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

**CEYLON.**

Following on the Ceylon Commission on Constitutional Reform, the women have been stirred to form a Ceylon Women's Franchise Union, with a first demand that women over 25, knowing English and the vernacular, and with certain educational and property qualifications, shall be enfranchised.

**CUBA.**

Juana Arias Verdecia, the only woman who attained the rank of colonel in the Cuban War of Independence, died November 25 at the age of 116, at her home on the Uvero farm, near Bayamo, Oriente.

During the ten years of war Colonel Verdecia rendered valuable services in the field, leading her troops in person, and more than once engaging in hand-to-hand conflict with Spaniards. She joined the revolutionary forces with her husband, who was a brigadier. She took part in the invasion of Santa Clara and participated in most of the battles of that campaign.

**DENMARK.**

For the first time in the history of the University of Copenhagen a woman lawyer has been awarded the Gold Medal for the best legal thesis. The successful candidate was Frøken Karen Johnsen, whose work on the development of the laws of property in Denmark was preferred above that of a number of male candidates.

**FRANCE.**

'Le Droit des Femmes' reports that the Reformed Church at Mulhausen has appointed a young woman of 23 as curate of the parish Sainte-Etienne. This is the first time that such an appointment has been made in France.

This young curate passed out of the theological school at the Strassburg University with flying colours. She will give religious instruction, take part in the social work of the parish and preach in the big church of Sainte-Etienne.

**GERMANY.****Woman Judge.**

Gerichtsassessorin Fraulein Kuez is the first woman to act as a Criminal Judge in Berlin. In civil courts women have acted for some time.

**Employment of married women.**

Municipal statistics show that nearly three quarters of the married women of Berlin, apart from keeping their home in order, do professional work as stenographers, clerks, teachers and house servants.

**HUNGARY.**

Mme. Marguerite de Rez has been appointed Secretary of the Hungarian Legation in Paris. In 1922 she fulfilled similar functions in Sofia.



## GREAT BRITAIN.

## A Woman Minister.

Miss Dorothy Wilson, B. Litt., of Mansfield College, Oxford, has been appointed assistant Pastor of Carr's-lane Church, Birmingham, one of the largest and most influential churches of the Congregational body.

## Railway Women.

A unique record in woman stationmasters is claimed for Peebleshire. There are women in charge at Laman-cha, Macbie Hill, and Eddleston.

## IRELAND.

Belfast has appointed a woman (Mrs. McMordie) as High Sheriff. This is the first time that a woman has held the office in Belfast.

## SWEDEN.

Fröken Marguerite Traugott has recently been appointed Judge in Sweden. She has for some time been practising as a barrister in the High Courts.

MAUDE ROYDEN  
TRAVELLING EXHIBITION.

This Exhibition, awarded for the first time this year, is given by Madame Andre Rieder for the encouragement of women desiring to take up a business career and to get business experience in a foreign country. It is open in the first instance only to present or recent students of Lady Margaret Hall, which was Miss Royden's College.

Miss Phyllis Turner, B.A., of Lady Margaret Hall, who went down in the summer of 1927 after taking Final Honours in History was unanimously elected by the Council of Lady Margaret Hall last week to be the first holder of the Exhibition, having been nominated by a small Committee including the donor and Miss Maude Royden.

Miss Turner proposes to study in Berlin the Part played by the Municipalities in the Economic Recovery of Germany. She will also go to the textiles district in South Germany.

The Council of the Hall is grateful to Madame Rieder for giving such an opportunity to students of the Hall. She in her turn expresses a hope that other donors will be found to offer similar Exhibitions.

## A WOMAN HONOURED.

Citation accompanying awarding of honorary degree of Doctor of Laws upon President Ellen Fitz Pendleton of Wellesley College by the University of Toronto, Canada, at its recent Centenary Celebration, on October 7, 1926.

"Mr. Chancellor, Wellesley College is so well known as one of the greatest and most successful of all women's Universities that it is especially gratifying to us that we are honored to-day by a visit from its President, Miss Ellen Fitz Pendleton.

Miss Pendleton is herself a graduate of Wellesley. After her student days there and at Newnham College, Cambridge, she began her teaching career as tutor at Wellesley, filling in the years that followed many positions, including that of Dean, until, in 1911, she was elected President.

It is not too much to say that during President Pendleton's term of office, Wellesley has gone from strength to strength. Her wide knowledge of University affairs and her energy in securing the necessary support for her own institution have marked her out as one of the greatest College Presidents of America. Miss Pendleton has herself in the highest degree that "passion for excellence" which it is the function of a University to maintain.

Mr. Chancellor, I have the honour to present to you

President Ellen Fitz Pendleton for the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*."

Miss Pendleton has previously been awarded honorary degrees by Brown University,—LL.D.; Mt. Holyoke College,—LL.D.; Smith College,—LL.D.



MISS E. FITZ PENDLETON.

## ONE WOMAN ELECTED.

BY EMMA WOLD.

At the October elections in Norway, only one woman was a successful candidate for the Storting, Norway's parliament of 150 members. Helge Karlsen, candidate of the Labour Party in Oslo, was elected.

Somewhat satirically, leading women of Norway exclaim, "One woman elected! Well, it is good that 149 gentlemen of the Storting may hear one woman speaking for the homes!" They count themselves fortunate, however, that since there is only one woman representative for the next three years in the national legislative body, she is a "housewife" experienced in political activity through having participated in the city government of Norway's capital and in former sessions of the Storting.

Fru Karlsen, who is described as an unusually able speaker, quick and pointed in debate, announces that she will work for the programme of her political party the chief concerns of which are the questions of the tariff, the cost of food-stuffs, housing, mothers' pensions, old-age insurance, and access to land, all matters in which women are as vitally concerned as men.

There has been not a little forthright protest in the columns of *Norges Kvinder*, the outstanding woman's semi-weekly of Norway, against the shabby behaviour of every political party in placing women candidates so low on the party lists that they are defeated even before election day. Fru Karlsen had fourth place on the list of the Labour Party for Oslo, and was the only woman candidate of whose election any reasonable hope might be entertained.

An analysis of the lists of the four or five political parties shows that, however radically the parties may differ in principles and purposes, they were all of one

accord in giving women a place as low as fifth and usually below the seventh, unless the party had no hope of electing any candidate. Thus Betsy Kjelsberg, probably Norway's best-known woman, a member of the International Advisory Council of the National Woman's Party, was number 2 on the list of her party in Oslo, but it is long since that party has elected any representative to the Storting. Sixty-four women candidates were thus put up in hopeless places, sixty-four women among more than two thousand men, and, as can be seen from the lists, they were women well-known throughout Norway, well-trained by years of community and national work, but placed on the lists below the names of men wholly unknown, in places where they could not be elected. "Used as decoys! As showbread" are the bitter expressions of those women who feel that the situation has become intolerable.

This situation—a repetition of earlier experience—is not due to indifference or lack of activity on the part of women themselves. The women's organisations of Oslo, for instance, submitted a resolution to the governing committees of the two leading parties of that city earnestly urging that at the nominations they should place one woman so high on their lists that she could not fail of election to the Storting. This petition was ignored.

Women leaders were driven to the point of suggesting that women voters should organize a strike against

voting and against accepting any nomination to a place so low on the list that defeat was inevitable. Others have urged that women hereafter put a woman's list in the field. Fru Kjelsberg expressed this view with moderation in reply to a questionnaire sent to women candidates, when she said, "I have been against a separate woman's party for the reason that men and women should work together for the community welfare and advance. In these both sexes are necessarily interested. But I am no longer so convinced on this subject. When I see how the parties have treated women in the nomination of candidates for the Storting, the question unavoidably arises whether the time is not here for the formation of a separate woman's party."

Since women have had the vote in Norway for twenty years, during which time two political parties have given them two representatives in the Storting and the other parties none at all, they are wondering whether they can ever get anything through the regular parties.

—Equal Rights.

## BELGIQUE.

Le Sénat a voté le 13 décembre le projet de loi relatif à l'abandon de famille, que a été adoptée par la Chambre, à l'unanimité, dans sa séance du 30 juin dernier.

THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN FOR SUFFRAGE AND  
EQUAL CITIZENSHIP, LONDON.

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the year ended 31st December, 1927.

## GENERAL FUND.

RECEIPTS.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	PAYMENTS.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
Balances, 1st January, 1927:—				"Jus"—						
Deposit Account—Standard Bank of South Africa ..		200	0	0	Printing .. .. .	253	15	2		
Do. Barclay's Bank ..		547	3	1	Articles .. .. .	7	0	0		
Cash on Current Account ..		507	8	2	Postage .. .. .	11	9	1		
Cash in Hand—Mlle. Gourd ..		10	11	6	Rent .. .. .	113	10	11		
Petty Cash in Hand ..		5	8	11½	Salaries .. .. .	816	17	4		
Receipts during year:—			1270	11	8½	Light, Heat and Cleaning ..	48	13	7	
"Jus"—					Printing and Stationery ..	55	10	11½		
Subscriptions .. .. .		194	19	5	Telephone, Telegrams and Messenger ..	35	12	10½		
Cash Sales .. .. .		2	9	2	Postages .. .. .	43	4	5		
Y.W.C.A. Supplement ..		48	0	0	Insurance .. .. .	7	6	9½		
Donations .. .. .		27	8	5	Press Cuttings .. .. .	7	12	3		
Do. Leslie Commission ..		823	19	0	Audit Fee .. .. .	5	5	0		
					Travelling Expenses—					
			851	7	Mrs. Bompas .. .. .	51	12	2		
			142	13	8	Board Members .. .. .	40	10	0	
Members' Fees .. .. .			20	0	0					
Life Membership Fee ..			21	10	6	Office Equipment .. .. .	13	0	0	
Report Receipts .. .. .			89	18	11	Mlle. Gourd—Office Expenses ..	10	11	6	
Affiliation Fees .. .. .			179	8	10	Geneva Office .. .. .	22	2	9	
Paris Congress Pledges ..			26	7	7	Amsterdam Meeting .. .. .	15	16	8	
Interest on Deposit Accounts ..			4	3	5	Peace Committee .. .. .	10	15	3	
Sale of "Suffrage des Femmes" ..			8	2	4	Bibliographical Bureau .. .. .	36	2	7	
Advertisements .. .. .			1	16	0					
Women Police Committee ..			3	19	3	Removal Expenses .. .. .	46	17	10	
Miscellaneous Receipts ..						Miscellaneous, including cheque books and subscriptions ..	27	15	0	
								1386	7	0½
Balances, 31st December, 1927:—										
Deposit Account—Standard Bank of South Africa ..		200	0	0						
Do. Barclay's Bank ..		674	0	0						
Current Account .. .. .		307	4	11						
Peace Committee and Bibliographical Bureau ..		23	2	2						
Petty Cash in Hand .. .. .		2	9	10						
								1206	16	11
								£2,865	8	2½

We have examined the above Statement with the Books and Documents of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, London, and find it to be correct and in accordance therewith. The English Banks have certified to the correctness of the balances held by them.

106, St. Clement's House,  
Clement's Lane,  
Lombard Street, E.C.4.  
13th January, 1928.

HOMERSHAM & CO.,  
Incorporated Accountants.



## ENFRANCHISED WOMEN'S COMMITTEE.

### ANSWER FROM GREAT BRITAIN

All the Acts referred to can be obtained from:

H.M. Stationery Office,  
Astrakal House,  
Kingsway,  
London.

Bills can be obtained from the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, 15, Dean's Yard, London, S.W.1.

1. Which of your existing laws are of the greatest importance for women?

*Representation of the People Act, 1918.* (8. Geo. 5. Ch. 64).

This Act gave the franchise to a woman of over thirty years of age provided she is:—

1. (a) The occupier as tenant or owner of a house or flat of any value. (Only two women may receive votes as joint occupiers of a dwelling house'.
  - or
  - (b) A lodger in a room or rooms of any value which were let to her unfurnished.
  - or
  - (c) An occupier of premises, by virtue of her service, office, or employment (care-taker, schoolmistress, gardener, etc.) in which her employer does not reside.
  - or
  - (d) An occupier, as tenant or owner, of land or business premises (e.g., shop, office, warehouse, etc.) of a yearly value of not less than £5.
  - or
  - (e) A Graduate of any University in the United Kingdom or has passed the final degree examination at Cambridge University.
2. The wife of a man possessing any of the first qualifications provided she is over 30.

*Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act, 1918.* (8 & 9 Geo. 5. Ch. 47).

This Act makes it possible for women to be elected to the House of Commons.

*Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act 1919.* (9 & 10. Geo. 5. Ch. 71.)

This Act opened the legal profession to women, enabled women to sit on juries and to act as magistrates and provided that "a person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to or holding any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering or assuming or carrying on any civil profession or vocation."

*Matrimonial Causes Act, 1923.* (13 & 14. Geo. 5. Ch. 19).

This Act provides that a woman may divorce her husband on the same grounds as a husband his wife, viz.: adultery.

*Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance), 1925.* (15 & 16 Geo. 5. Ch. 51).

This Act enables a woman to obtain separation from her husband on the grounds of his ill-treatment of her or of her children.

*Guardianship of Infants Act, 1925.* (15 & 16 Geo. 5. Ch. 45).

This Act provides that in any dispute affecting the child, decision shall be given solely in accordance with what is for its welfare, and that parents shall have equal rights with regard to the appointment of guardians.

*Widows, Orphans and Old Age Contributory Pension Act, 1925.* (15 & 16 Geo. 5. Ch. 70).

This provides pensions for widows and orphans under 14 of insured men, and pensions of 10s. a week for insured persons, e.g., workers, over 65 and also the wives over 65 of men over 65.

*Varior's Bastard Acts* for the care of the illegitimate child. The latest in 1923 (13 & 14 Geo. 5. Ch. 23) raised the amount which can be paid under an affiliation order to 20s.

*Married Women's Property Acts, 1870-1908* provide that a married woman shall have the right to her own property or earnings.

*Law of Property Act, 1922.* (12 & 13 Geo. 5. Ch. 16).

This Act provides equality as regards inheritance in cases of intestacy.

*Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1922.* This Act:

- (a) Raises the age of consent in cases of indecent assault from 13 to 16.
  - (b) Takes away the plea of reasonable cause to believe that a girl is under the age of 16 except in the case of young men of 23 and under on the occasion of the first offence.
  - (c) Extends the time-limit during which proceedings can be taken in a case of criminal assault from six to nine months after the offence.
2. What laws of importance to women are now before Parliament?

The laws of chief importance to women before Parliament this year or which will shortly be coming before Parliament are:

- (a) *A Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1918*, so that women shall vote on the same terms as men and from the age of 21. This is to be introduced next year by the Government, and when it reaches the Statute Book it will enfranchise 5½ million more women.
- (b) *A Factories Bill* will be introduced by the Government. A considerable section of this Bill dealing with sanitation, ventilation, etc., will apply to men and women equally. Certain sections, such as those relating to hours of employment, prohibition of night work, refusal to enter certain dangerous trades, provision of seats, prohibition of cleaning machinery in motion, apply to women and young persons only.
- (c) *A Bill to amend the Unemployment Insurance and National Health Insurance Acts* will be introduced by the Government. It is proposed that differentiation of benefits and contributions between men and women, boys and girls should be retained.
- (d) *A Private Member's Bill to amend the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act of 1926, the Lead Paint (Employment of Women) Bill*, so as no longer to exclude women, was introduced on behalf of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and supported by other women's organisations, the Women's Freedom League and St. John's Social and Political Alliance, this year, but was defeated.
- (e) *The Parliament (Qualification of Peers) Bill* would have been before the House of Lords this year, but was withdrawn owing to the discussion on the reform of the House of Lords. Introduced as a private Member's Bill by Lord Astor.
- (f) *The Public Places (Order) Bill* was introduced into the House of Lords on behalf of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, in order to make the law with regard to law and order in the streets apply to men and women alike, and to abolish special legisla-

tion for prostitutes. It was supported by the feminist organisations.

*Note.* A Committee of Enquiry has been set up as a result of this Bill.

- (g) Next year Bills to place married women in the same legal position as men in certain minor matters which still remain, will be introduced into the House of Lords on behalf of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship under the title of the Coverture Disabilities Removal Bill.

### ANSWER FROM DENMARK

- I. (a) "The Fundamental Law for the Danish Country"—Law No. 161—June 15th, 1915—giving women full Parliamentary Franchise on the same terms as men (all other franchise rights were previously gained).
- (b) (1) The Law about the Municipal and States employees—Law No. 489—September 12th, 1919—concerning the principle of equal salary for men and women.
- (2) The Law of equal admission of men and women to State employment—except the Army, the Navy and the Church. Law No. 100—March 4th, 1921.
- (c) Civil Rights in Marriage—Property Rights—Law No. 56, March 18th, 1925.

As these laws are only printed in Danish and thus not understood outside Scandinavia, we refer you instead to The International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, Report of Tenth Congress, Paris, France, May 30th to June 6th, 1926. Page 205.

II. None.

Copenhagen.

MARIE ILLUM.

13th June, 1927.

### ANSWER FROM CUBA

The National Woman Suffrage Party of Cuba has obtained the passing of several laws since 1900. In July, 1917, our Congress approved a bill by which all married women are able to administer their personal property and marriage dowry, because our ancient Spanish law gave this right to wives, not subject to the consent of their husbands.

Another Bill obtained by the National Woman Suffrage Party is the law known as "The Chair Law"; that is to say, a law that gives women the right to be seated during free intervals in working hours. All the owners of stores, factories and commercial houses are obliged to comply with this law.

On June 18th, 1925, the Cuban Congress passed a bill by which every owner of a store, factory or commercial and industrial concern was obliged to give employment to Cuban women to the extent of at least 50% of their employees. This law has not yet been completed in all its particulars.

During last June, the Congress passed a law reforming several articles of our Constitution, among others the suppression of a clause denying to women the right of suffrage. This reform is pending a referendum. We hope to obtain this law now, since for fifteen years the National Woman Suffrage Party has been appealing for it and demonstrating its advantages at the opening of every new session of Congress.

The President of the Republic of Cuba has sent a message to Congress asking for the discussion of a woman franchise bill. He has put it on his Government platform and has promised that he will not complete his presidential period without giving votes to women. We are not sure whether the President will make good his word on this matter.

AMALIA E. MALLEN DE OSTOLAZA,

Presidenta del Partido Nacional Sufragista de Cuba.

Havana, Cuba.

July 5th, 1927.

### ANTWORT DER SCHWEIZ.

1. *Gesetze, die in Kraft getreten sind.*

*Schweizerisches Zivilgesetzbuch* v. 1. Jan. 1912 (Preis br. 2. Fr.) Gleichstellung der Geschlechter im Personenrecht. Die Frau ist rechtsund handlungsfähig, sie ist prozessfähig, sie kann Vormund sein, auch Vormund ihres Ehemannes.

Bei jedem Güterstande steht der Erwerb der Ehefrau aus selbständiger Arbeit unter den Regeln der Gütertrennung.

Beim Tode des Vaters geht die elterliche Gewalt auf die Mutter allein über, ohne Bestellung eines Vormundes.

Wenn der Ehemann die Sorge für Weib und Kind vernachlässigt, so kann der Richter seinen Arbeitgeber veranlassen, den Lohn ganz oder teilweise der Ehefrau auszuzahlen.

Die Ehescheidungsgründe sind für beide Geschlechter dieselben.

Die Vaterschaftsklage ist gestattet. Die Mutter erhält Ersatz für die Entbindungskosten und den Unterhalt für je vier Wochen vor und nach der Geburt das Kind ein Unterhaltsgeld bis zum vollendeten 18. ten Altersjahr.

*Bundesgesetz über Kranken- und Unfallversicherung*, v. 13. Juni 1911. Preis 1.30 Fr.

Das Wochenbett ist einer versicherten Krankheit gleichzustellen. Die Mutter erhält ein Stillgeld, wenn sie ihr Kind 10 Wochen lang stillt.

*Bundesgesetz über die Bekämpfung von Frauen- und Kinderhandel* vom 30. Sept. 1925. Preis Fr. 0.30.

Der Frauenhandel wird als Delikt an sich bestraft, bei jedem Alter des Opfers. Strafverschärfung bei Minderjährigen. Das Gesetz ist nachahmenswert.

2. *Gesetzesentwurf.*

*Schweizerisches Strafgesetzbuch*. Preis Fr. 3.00. Botschaft vom 23. Juli 1918.

Regierungsentwurf.

Bemerkenswert die erzieherischen Massnahmen für jugendliche Delinquenten. Schutzalter für Mädchen 16 Jahr. Die Frauenverbände kämpfen um Verschärfung der Kuppeleartikel.

Verabreichung geistiger Getränke an Kinder unter 16 Jahr ist strafbar, wenn sie die Gesundheit des Kindes schädigen od. gefährden. Der Wirt wird gestraft, der einem Kinde unter 14 Jahr geistige Getränke verabreicht, wenn es nicht von Erwachsenen begleitet ist.

1. Für die Schweizerfrauen sind am wichtigsten:

*Das Schweizerische Zivilgesetzbuch* vom 1. Jan. 1912.

Für ein Land, das den Frauen keinerlei politische Rechte zubilligt, ist die staats- und familienrechtliche Stellung der Frau verhältnismässig gut.

Die Frau ist rechts- und handlungsfähig. Sie ist prozessfähig. Sie kann Vormund sein, auch Vormund ihres Ehemannes. Beim Tode des Vaters geht die elterliche Gewalt ohne weiteres auf die Mutter der Kinder über.

In jedem Güterstande ist der Erwerb der Ehefrau aus selbständiger Arbeit ihr Sondergut, und steht damit unter den Regeln der Gütertrennung.

Für die Ehescheidungsklage besteht vollständige Gleichstellung der Geschlechter. Die Ehe kann geschieden werden ohne Schuldigerklärung eines Ehegatten. (Art. 137-158).

*Das Bundesgesetz zur Bekämpfung des Frauen- und Kinderhandels* vom 1. Febr. 1926. Gesetzessammlung 42. 9.

Das Gesetz bestraft den Frauenhandel als Delikt an sich, bei jedem Alter des Opfers. Es bestraft auch denjenigen, der Veranstaltungen zu Frauenhandel trifft.



2. In Vorbereitung:

''Entwurf zu einem schweizerischen Strafgesetzbuch''.  
Botschaft des Bundesrates vom 23 Juli 1918.

(a) Regierungsentwurf.  
Empfehlenswert: Die Behandlung jugendlicher Delinquenten. Art. 80—96 Wichtig für die Frauen:

Das Sittlichkeitskapitel. Art. 162—176.  
Schutzalter 16 Jahr.

Die Gesetze und Gesetzesentwürfe sind deutsch, französisch und italienisch veröffentlicht und sind zu beziehen bei der *Dr. cksachenverwaltu g.* Bundeshaus, BERN. (Schweiz).

DR. ANNIE LEUCH.

Lausanne, den 1. Juli, 1927.

ANTWORT VON NORWEGEN.

Die Stellung der norwegischen Frauen, persönlich und rechtlich, ist gut. Die Entwicklung ist rasch gewesen, der Reformen waren viele und diese waren tiefgehend.

ad 1. Die für die Frauen Norwegens am meisten bedeutenden Gesetzes-Aenderungen sind natürlich die des Stimmrechts:

- 1901: kommunales eingeschränktes (auf Census) aber mit Wahlbarkeit) Stimmrecht der Frauen.
- 1910: allgemeines kommunales . . . . .
- 1913: allgemeines politisches. . . . .

ganz unter denselben Bedingungen, unter denen die Männer schon 1898 Stimmrecht bekommen hatten: Alter 25 Jahre, muss norwegischer Staatsbürger sein, 5 Jahre im Lande gelebt haben.

Von den älteren Gesetzes-Reformen für die persönliche Rechtslage der Frauen muss man nennen: das Gesetz vom 27. März 1869, das den Frauen dieselbe Volljährigkeit wie den Männern gab.

Schon seit 1854 erben Bruder und Schwester zu gleichen Teilen, einige spezielle Allodial-Erbrechtsbestimmungen ausgenommen.

Im Jahre 1888 wurde die Reglementierung der Prostituierten aufgehoben, nachdem 1884 die Bordelle bereits verboten waren. Beides geschah wesentlich als Folge einer kräftigen Agitation der Frauen.

Das wichtigste Gesetz, was die Arbeitsstellung der Frauen anbetrifft, ist das Gesetz vom 14. Juni 1886, das den Frauen den vollen Zutritt zu unserer Universität gewährt.

Im Jahre 1912 bekamen die Frauen Zutritt zu allen Aemtern, ausgenommen zu denjenigen der Minister und der Geistlichen in der Staatskirche.

Seit 1916 können Frauen Mitglieder des ''Rates des Königs'' (Statsrad) werden.

Die Arbeitsfreiheit der Frauen ist in Ordnung. Man hat doch auch bei uns versucht, bei den sogenannten ''Schutzgesetzen für Frauen'' die Arbeitsfreiheit der Frauen in der Industrie einzuschränken, bis jetzt jedoch ohne Erfolg.—Unser modernes Arbeitsschutzgesetz hat eine sehr gute ''Geburtspause'' und das Verbot gegen die Anwendung der Frauen zur Reinigung der Maschinen. Sonst ist von den vielen Frauenschutzvorschlägen, die wir seit 1901 gehabt haben, keiner angenommen worden.

Im Jahre 1909 hatten wir eine sehr bewegte Verhandlung im ''Storting'' betr. das Verbot der Nachtarbeit für Frauen in der Industrie. Das Resultat dieser Verhandlung war aber negativ, Dank sei den Feministen und den praktischen erfahrenen Arbeiterinnen.

Die sogenannten ''Kindergesetze'' von 1915 sind ein grosser Fortschritt für die unverheirateten Mütter und ihre Kinder. Frauen haben gearbeitet dafür und dagegen. Die Gesetze wirken sehr gut, keine von den vielen schwarzen Profezeiungen ist in Erfüllung gegangen.

Zu den wichtigsten neuesten Errungenschaften zählen wir das Recht der verheirateten Frauen zur Beibehaltung ihrer Nationalität, sowie das soeben erreichte

Recht der Witwe, im Besitze der ungeteilten Nachlassenschaft zu leben.

Dass dieses und ähnliches erreicht werden konnte, ist die Folge der veränderten sozialen Stellung der Frau in Norwegen.

Die neuen Aenderungen unseres Ehegesetzes sind auch ein Ausdruck dafür; speziell ist die Tatsache, dass so viele verheiratete Frauen können, wollen und müssen ausserhalb ihres Heimes arbeiten, als sehr kräftiges Ursache-Moment zu nennen. Gewiss versucht man auch bei uns die Arbeitsfreiheit der verheirateten Frau zu beschränken, jedoch bis jetzt mit sehr wenig Erfolg, selbst in dieser Zeit der grossen Arbeitslosigkeit.

Das neue Gesetz vom 20. Mai 1927, betr. die Vermögensverhältnisse der Eheleute, gibt bestimmte Regeln für den Unterhalt. Diese Regeln sind ganz gleich für Mann und Frau, als gleiche Repräsentanten des gemeinschaftlichen Haushaltes. Das Gesetz sichert den Gatten resp. die Gattin gegen Missbrauch des Gemeinguts, es gibt Gelegenheit für ''Særeie'' (Sondergut) für beide Parteien, aber setzt die *Gemeinschaftlichkeit* als Norm der ökonomischen Ordnung zwischen Eheleuten fest.

Unser Ehescheidungs-Gesetz ist womöglich von allgemeinem Interesse. Im Jahre 1909 wurden Bestimmungen eingeführt, die die Ehescheidung viel leichter machten, und 1918 erhielten wir noch weitere Erleichterungen. Die Ehe kann gelöst werden, wenn der eine Part das verlangt, nach einer Separations-Zeit von 1—2 Jahren.

Eine interessante Neuigkeit und Folge der Agitation der Frauen Norwegens ist die Aenderung unseres Strafgesetzes, wonach höhere Strafen gegen die *Ve. brechen der Sittlichkeit* jetzt eingeführt sind. Ein departementaler Ausschuss ''Strafgesetz-Kommission'' wurde 1922 gebildet. Von den 9 Mitgliedern waren 2 Frauen (Aerztinnen). Der folgende, von einer eingehenden Arbeit dieses Ausschusses zeugende Vorschlag geht sehr in der von norwegischen Frauen gewünschten Richtung und ist als ein stolzer Sieg für uns anzusehen: Der Vorschlag der Minorität, der die zwei Frauen angehörten, wurde Gesetz: ''Bedeutend höhere *Minimumsstrafen* gegen die Verbrechen der Sittlichkeit, auch ''anormalen'' Individuen gegenüber.'' Dagegen wurde die andere, mit dieser parallel gehende Forderung der Minorität: ''Individuen, die unter Ausübung des Verbrechens berauscht waren, müssen voll gestraft werden,'' vom Storting vorläufig aufgehoben.

Wir Frauen in Norwegen haben nunmehr so viele Gesetze, dass nicht sehr viele juristische Forderungen übrigbleiben. Die wichtigste Frage, die als Vorschlag unserer grössten Frauen-Organisation schon lange dem Storting vorgelegt war, ist unsere Forderung, auch geistliche Aemter bekleiden zu können. Damit ist es bis jetzt schlecht gegangen. Die Gemeinderäte (Menighetsraad) haben in grosser Mehrzahl sich dagegen ausgesprochen—was wir im voraus wohl wussten, dass sie wollten. Vielleicht wird diese unbegreiflich dumme Einschränkung in unserer Arbeitsfreiheit noch einige Jahre bestehen bleiben, aber fallen muss sie doch.

DR DAGNY BANG,  
Oslo. St. Olavsgate 26.

6.7.27.

WOMEN AND THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

The London Stock Exchange does not admit women members, but Miss Hilda McKean and a few other women are associated with stockbroking firms in London. It is stated that the majority of provincial English Exchanges admit women, and we hear of a woman member elected to the Leeds Exchange in 1917. The Provincial Brokers' Stock Exchange has two women members. The Dublin Exchange elected a woman, Miss Oonah Keogh in 1925.

In Belgium, Melle. Helène Louise Oboussier is an ''Agent de Change'' in the Bourse at Antwerp, carrying on a family business which dates from 1802.

We hope that other readers will now follow the example set by two kind correspondents.

SECTION FRANCAISE.

CHRONIQUE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

Les nominations au Comité Economique Consultatif. La IIe partie du Rapport des experts sur la traite des femmes. L'activité de l'Organisation d'Hygiène.

A la liste des travaux du Conseil de la S.d.N. que nous avons énumérés dans notre dernière chronique (voir JU de janvier), il faut encore ajouter la nomination des membres du Comité Economique Consultatif Ce nouveau Comité, dont la création a été décidée par la VIIIe Assemblée, doit être composé de 35 membres (il a été décidé plus tard de porter ce chiffre à 56) de telle façon que les différents éléments économiques soient équilibrés entre eux, c'est à dire, par conséquent, qu'il doit comprendre des personnes représentant l'industrie, le commerce, l'agriculture, les finances, les transports, le travail, et les consommateurs. Le but de ce Comité doit être de suivre l'application des recommandations de la Conférence Economique: toutes celles de mes lectrices qui ont eu le privilège d'entendre à Amsterdam des exposés détaillés sur les résultats de cette Conférence peuvent donc se rendre compte de la très grande importance pour la paix économique qu'acquiert de la sorte le travail de ce Comité.

Malheureusement nous n'avons pas du tout lieu, nous femmes, d'être satisfaites des décisions du Conseil quant à la composition de ce Comité. Les organisations féminines internationales avaient cependant fait à plusieurs reprises toutes les démarches nécessaires pour assurer dans le Comité Economique Consultatif la présence de femmes, dont les intérêts en matière économique ne sont pas, quoi que l'on ait pu dire, uniquement ceux des cosmétrices, mais aussi, dans bien des cas, ceux des productrices, et avaient présenté plusieurs candidates extrêmement bien qualifiées. Le Conseil de la S.d.N., qui, en mai dernier, avait bien admis la représentation féminine à la Conférence Economique en procédant à trois nominations de femmes, est revenu en arrière maintenant sur son attitude féministe et n'a nommé qu'une seule femme pour faire partie du Comité Economique Consultatif: Mme. Emmy Freundlich, députée au Parlement autrichien, et présidente de la Ligue internationale des femmes coopératrices. Ce choix est excellent, nous sommes toutes d'accord, mais une seule femme dans ce Comité c'est notoirement insuffisant et le mécontentement est général dans les milieux féminins. Il est peut-être intéressant de signaler ici que, lors de la discussion du Conseil à ce propos sur la représentation féminine dans les Comités de la S.d.N., le point de vue féministe, —qui est tout simplement celui de l'équité— a été soutenu avec beaucoup de chaleur par les représentants du Canada et de Colombie, auxquels vont tous nos remerciements, alors que le représentant de l'Allemagne a manifesté une tout autre opinion, estimant que l'activité des femmes à la S.d.N. doit être limitée au domaine philanthropique.

Le Conseil ayant décidé d'autoriser la publication de la partie II du rapport des experts sur la traite des femmes, ce rapport est sorti de presse les derniers jours de l'année. Nous engageons vivement nos lectrices à se le procurer, car c'est un document que toutes les organisations féminines doivent posséder et étudier. (Le demander au Service des publications de la S.d.N. à Genève, ou chez les dépositaires de ces publications dans différents pays).

Sans doute, celles qui ont déjà eu en main la partie I de ce rapport, qui a paru le printemps dernier, et dont il a été question ici même (voir JU d'Avril 1927) ne trouveront-elles pas un grand nombre de faits nouveaux dans cette IIe partie. Toutefois, alors que la première contenait essentiellement les commentaires des experts et les conclusions auxquelles ils étaient arrivés, la

deuxième partie permet surtout d'avoir une vue d'ensemble de la situation par rapport à la traite dans chacun des 28 pays dans lesquels a été menée l'enquête, et c'est pourquoi il nous paraît indispensable que chacune de nos Sociétés affiliées consulte ce rapport pour se rendre compte des efforts qu'il reste encore à accomplir contre cet odieux trafic. Chaque chapitre contient en première ligne des indications relatives à l'attitude du pays en question vis à vis des arrangements et conventions d'ordre international contre la traite de 1904, 1910 et 1921; puis la situation intérieure, en rapport avec la traite (réglementation de la prostitution, législation spéciale, règlements de police, etc., les textes étant publiés en appendices); puis encore des renseignements sur la traite ''à l'importation'', sur la traite ''en transit'', et sur la traite ''à l'exportation.'' Rien mieux que ces termes ne peut faire toucher du doigt à quel point les malheureuses victimes de cet infâme système sont vraiment assimilées à des marchandises! Enfin, quelques statistiques terminent chacun de ces exposés présentés de façon très claire, différents tableaux, documents, textes de Conventions internationales, etc., figurant encore à la fin de ce volume.

A côté des renseignements officiels fournis par les gouvernements, soit en réponse à un questionnaire spécial, soit dans leurs rapports annuels sur ce sujet à la Commission consultative contre la traite, une enquête spéciale a été menée par un personnel, qui a pris contact non seulement avec les fonctionnaires de la police, avec ceux des services d'émigration, etc., mais aussi avec certains milieux interlopes où l'on a pu recueillir des renseignements fort utiles sur la façon de procurer de faux papiers à des femmes achetées, à faire entrer ces dernières en fraude par des frontières non surveillées, etc. Il n'est pas nécessaire d'insister sur l'amas écoeurant de boue qui a été révélé ainsi, dans lequel vit et s'agit tout un monde de trafiquants de souteneurs, de prostituées, d'entrepreneurs de spectacles de bas étage! Tous les renseignements de cet ordre ont été utilisés avec une grande prudence sans qu'il leur ait été accordé trop grande créance: ceci pour répondre aux objections qui ont été soulevées sur la valeur documentaire de cette partie de l'enquête. Enfin, avant d'être imprimé et livré au public, chacun de ces rapports a été soumis au gouvernement du pays qu'il concerne, et la session du mois de novembre du Comité des experts (Comité dans lequel siègent, on le sait, deux femmes: notre collègue, Dr. Paulina Luisi (Uruguay) présidente de notre Commission de l'Unité de la Morale, et Donna Cristina Bandini (Italie) a été entièrement consacrée à l'examen des observations de ces gouvernements. Celles-ci ont été également imprimées à la fin de cette partie II du rapport, et il est intéressant d'en prendre connaissance pour se rendre compte des points sur lesquels ont porté ces observations, et l'usage qui en a été fait par le Comité d'experts. Il est évident que la tâche de celui-ci était délicate, aucun gouvernement n'étant naturellement disposé à admettre volontiers que la traite des femmes et des enfants fleurit sur son territoire! et il n'est pas étonnant qu'il ait fallu plus de trois semaines au Comité pour amender et modifier son rapport de façon à tenir compte de ces observations là où il a estimé qu'elles étaient justifiées.

L'Organisation d'Hygiène de la S.d.N. vient de mettre à jour un rapport très intéressant sur son activité au cours de ces deux dernières années (1926—1927). C'est durant ces deux années en effet que cette activité est devenue universelle, non seulement parce que maintenant des pays qui ne sont pas encore membres de la S.d.N., tels que les Etats-Unis et, dans une certaine mesure, la Russie, participent à ces travaux, mais aussi parce que toutes les manifestations de cette activité ont lieu sur une base de plus en plus étendue. L'Office international d'Hygiène publique, dont le siège est à Paris, a continué à fonctionner comme Con-



seil consultatif de l'Organisation d'Hygiène, qui est d'autre part dirigé par un Comité composé de 20 membres et de 3 assesseurs (parmi lesquels ne se trouve, hélas, qu'une seule femme: Dr. Alice Hamilton (Etats-Unis). La place dont je dispose ne me permet de signaler ici que quelques-unes des activités de l'Organisation d'Hygiène, notamment en matière d'épidémiologie, le Service central de renseignements épidémiologiques, dont le siège est à Singapore, fournissant actuellement des indications sur les 3/4 de la population du monde, alors que l'on projette de créer des Bureaux analogues pour le Pacifique austral et pour l'Afrique du Nord; puis ses services d'échanges de médecins et d'ingénieurs sanitaires, les cours internationaux d'hygiène publique, qui ont été organisés sur divers points du globe, l'attribution de bourses et de missions individuelles. Dans le domaine purement scientifique, l'Organisation d'Hygiène s'est aussi occupée, par l'intermédiaire de ses Commissions spéciales, de recherches sur différents sérums, d'études sur la variole et la vaccination, sur le cancer, la maladie du sommeil, le paludisme; elle a également étudié certains nouveaux produits dérivés de la morphine, arrivant à la conclusion qu'ils doivent eux aussi tomber sous le coup des Conventions sur les drogues nuisibles. Enfin, elle s'est livrée, à la demande du gouvernement tchécoslovaque, à une étude sur les rapports entre les organisations d'assurance-maladie et la prévention des maladies, et à la demande du gouvernement des Pays-Bas, à une autre enquête sur la mortalité infantile. Il vaudrait la peine de s'arrêter avec plus de détails sur ces deux sujets, qui intéressent très directement l'activité de nombreuses Sociétés féminines: ce sera pour une prochaine chronique, si l'actualité, toujours exigeante, le permet!

E.G.D.

### RAPPORT TRIMESTRIEL DU BUREAU INTERNATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIQUE.

A l'occasion du passage à Paris de Mme. la Marquise Del Ter une réunion du Comité d'Administration du Bureau eut lieu chez Mme. Grinberg, à laquelle Mme. Puech ne put prendre part.

Mlle. Saharoff, secrétaire, fit le rapport de son travail pendant le trimestre écoulé qui fut approuvé. (Voir annexe).

Mme. Puech prit, postérieurement à la réunion, connaissance de ce rapport, auquel elle donna également son approbation.

Le Comité souhaite très vivement que dans chaque numéro de "Jus Suffragii" paraisse une petite note, rappelant l'existence du Bureau de façon que les efforts entrepris à Paris, puissent servir utilement ceux qui s'intéressent au mouvement féministe.

S. GRINBERG.

#### RAPPORT.

Durant la moitié de Novembre et le mois de Décembre 1927 le Répertoire Bibliographique du Bureau International Bibliographique s'est augmenté de 1012 fiches.

Ainsi le répertoire comprend actuellement: 2066 fiches.

Il a été créé le Catalogue de sources d'informations qui représente un Répertoire sur fiches des Associations Féminines avec indication de leurs buts et leurs adresses; le catalogue comprend jusqu'à présent les rubriques suivantes:

#### ASSOCIATIONS:

Athlétiques,  
Internationales,  
Pédagogiques et d'Enseignement,  
Politiques,  
Professionnelles,

Religieuses,  
Scientifiques,  
Sociales.

Le catalogue des documents en double du Bureau s'est formé des publications provenant de: "The Washington League of Women Voters."

Il a été établi en outre une liste des rubriques pour le catalogue des matières qui comprend actuellement 212 mot-souches.

Durant cette période le Bureau a reçu de la part de:

"The Washington League of Women Voters" .. .. .	224	ouvrages,
"International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship," London .. .. .	23	..
"Joint Committee of Shanghai Women's Organizations" .. .. .	2	..
et d'Amsterdam .. .. .	3	..

Total ..252 ouvrages.

Sauf les périodiques que le Bureau a reçu dès sa fondation, il a reçu dernièrement:

"The Police Woman's Review," London, et  
"The Woman's Leader," London.

Trois demandes de renseignements bibliographiques provenant de Londres, de Paris et de Shanghai ont été adressées au Bureau au cours du mois de Décembre.

Les recherches bibliographiques pour le Bureau ont été faites à la Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris et à la Bibliothèque de l'Ecole Américaine de Bibliothécaires qui possède un catalogue à peu-près complet de "The Library of Congress."

Paris, le 24 déc., 1927.

### NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES

#### Grande Bretagne.

*Franchise égale.* La prochaine session, qui s'ouvre le 7 Février, sera une des plus importantes de notre histoire. Le Premier Ministre a affirmé son intention d'introduire un bill pour l'égalité de Franchise et on dit que ce bill aura la préséance sur tous les autres. Il y a dix ans que les femmes au-dessus de trente ans ont obtenu le Vote avec un certain nombre de réserves qui ne s'appliquent pas aux hommes. L'Union Nationale des Sociétés pour l'égalité civique, en coopération avec d'autres sociétés, organise une vaste démonstration le soir du 8 Mars, au Queen's Hall de Londres qui contient 2500 personnes; il y avait déjà 1000 billets de vendus avant Noël. Depuis, le Premier Ministre a promis d'y assister et d'y faire un discours.

*Age du mariage.* Après examen des formalités légales, les sociétés féministes vont demander que l'âge du mariage soit élevé à 16 ans pour les deux sexes. Il est actuellement de 14 pour les garçons et de 12 pour les filles.

*Succès féministes.* Miss E. Scott est la jeune architecte dont le plan a été choisi pour le nouveau théâtre de Shakespeare, à Stratford-on-Avon, parmi les plans de 72 candidats.

A la discussion de la chambre des communes sur le nouveau livre de prières, Lady Iveagh a fait son premier discours.

Miss Dorothy Wilson, de Mansfield Collège, Oxford, a été nommée Pasteur assistant dans une église importante de Birmingham.

*Droits des Femmes et des Enfants.* En Angleterre, un homme peut toujours exclure de sa succession entière sa femme et ses enfants. L'union Nationale mène une campagne contre cette injustice et demande aux lectrices étrangères de lui fournir des renseignements sur les lois testamentaires de leurs pays.

(d'après le rapport de l'Union nationale).

*Ligue de la Liberté des femmes.* La Ligue organise, avec d'autres Sociétés, un meeting au Caxton Hall, le 8 Février, pour l'obtention de l'égalité de Franchise; la Vicomtesse Rhondda y fera un discours, ainsi que Mrs. Pethick Lawrence. Un dîner aura lieu au Club Minerva le 10 Février. La "Ligue" s'est plainte au

Premier Ministre de ce qu'un trop petit nombre de femmes avaient été comprises dans la liste d'honneurs. L'Assemblée annuelle aura lieu à Londres le 28 Avril. (d'après F. A. UNDERWOOD).

#### Irlande.

*Irlande du Nord.* Une délégation de presque toutes les Sociétés féministes s'est présentée au Ministère de l'Intérieur pour demander que la législation féminine soit réformée à l'imitation de la législation anglaise, pour l'égalité de Tutelle, la Pension alimentaire et la Séparation. Le Ministère a répondu que cette réforme n'était pas nécessaire pour l'Irlande du Nord. Mais il y aura une élection générale en 1929.

Un bill pour l'égalité de Franchise a été introduit au Parlement par M. Devlin et a été repoussé. La défaite n'est qu'apparente, car le Premier Ministre a promis que, sur ce point, la législation suivrait immédiatement la réforme anglaise.

Pour la première fois, à Belfast, une femme, Mrs McMordie, a été nommée High Sheriff.

*Irlande du Sud.* Dans l'Etat libre d'Irlande, l'Association des citoyennes irlandaises travaille à sauvegarder le droit des Femmes à siéger dans les Jurys. L'Acte de 1927 les en excluait, mais, sous la pression des Citoyennes, il leur a permis de servir comme volontaires.

La Commission d'enquête officielle pour les lois en faveur des pauvres, sous l'influence des Sociétés féministes, a demandé l'adoption de la méthode des ordres d'affiliation en cas d'illegitimité et a demandé qu'il y ait des femmes dans les jurys pour les cas concernant les femmes et les enfants. (d'après DORA MELLONE).

#### Allemagne.

*La nouvelle loi sur les Ecoles.* D'après le dispositif de la constitution du Reich, les lois sur l'Instruction primaire, qui variaient avec les Etats, seront désormais unifiées. Le projet de loi présenté dans ce sens par le Ministre conservateur de l'Intérieur, comprenait des mesures restrictives fâcheuses et a rencontré une forte opposition de la part des partis progressistes! Le but général de ce projet de loi est de diviser les écoles, si petites soient-elles, en autant de classes qu'il y a de confessions religieuses, ce qui rendrait ces classes insuffisantes et abaisserait le niveau général de l'enseignement. Cela donnerait, en revanche, tout pouvoir aux églises constituées avec tous les droits d'inspection et de contrôle. Sous prétexte de respecter les droits des parents, on viole ainsi le droit de direction et de contrôle de l'Etat et on limite la liberté de l'enseignement. Un conflit s'est élevé, à ce sujet, entre le parti catholique et protestant orthodoxe et les partis progressistes. Quand le projet a passé en première lecture, c'est une femme, Dr. Baumer, qui a élevé la voix au nom de ces derniers. Ce projet de loi est maintenant l'objet d'un marchandage entre le centre catholique et le parti du peuple et il est probable que le vote se fera sur un compromis. Les femmes du Reichstag sont divisées sur la question comme les partis qu'elles représentent.

*Les femmes dans le comité du Code pénal.* Deux femmes font partie du Comité: 1 nationaliste, 1 socialiste. Le nouveau projet de Code pénal qui a passé en première lecture est aussi l'objet d'une discussion. Les deux femmes sont d'accord sur toutes les lois pour la protection de l'enfance, mais non sur la question de la peine capitale: la Nationaliste est en faveur, la Socialiste, non.

*Propagande féministe pour les prochaines élections.* Le Conseil national des Femmes a envoyé à toutes ses sociétés locales une circulaire, leur recommandant de nommer leurs candidates pour le Reichstag et la Diète prussienne, les élections ayant lieu en 1928, la propagande doit commencer aussitôt que possible: Les noms et qualités des candidates seront envoyés aux divers partis et on réclamera de bonnes places sur les listes. Le Conseil national qui dispose de plus d'un million d'électrices, soutiendra leur candidature. (d'après MARIE STRITT).

*Succès féministes.* Fraulein Kuez est la première femme nommée juge à la Cour criminelle de Berlin. Il y a des femmes juges dans les tribunaux civils. Les statistiques municipales montrent que près des 3/4 des femmes mariées à Berlin, ont un métier.

#### Danemark.

Pour la première fois, une femme de loi, F. Karin Johnsen, a reçu la médaille d'or pour la meilleure thèse de droit: Sur le développement des lois de propriété en Danemark.

#### Hongrie.

Mme. Marguerite de Rez a été nommée secrétaire de la Légation hongroise à Paris. En 1922, elle occupait les mêmes fonctions à Sofia.

#### Suede.

F. Marguerite Traugott a été nommée juge en Suède. Elle a été quelque temps avocate à la Haute Cour.

#### Norvege.

Aux élections d'octobre, une seule femme: Helge Karlsen, socialiste, a été élue au Storting (Parlement de 150 membres), pour Oslo. Elle a déclaré qu'elle travaillera pour son parti et s'occupera spécialement de la question des tarifs. Le Journal féministe Norges Kvinder se plaint des procédés méprisants des partis politiques qui ont placé les femmes candidates en queue de liste; c'est ainsi que 64 candidates ont été placées dans des conditions impossibles, et cela, malgré la protestation des Sociétés féministes. Aussi, les Présidentes de ces Sociétés ont-elles envisagé plusieurs mesures: grèves d'électrices et de candidates, création de listes féminines, etc.

#### Cuba.

Juana Arras Verdecia, la seule femme qui ait obtenu le grade de Colonel dans la guerre d'indépendance, est morte le 25 Novembre, à l'âge de 116 ans. Pendant la guerre de 10 ans, elle commanda ses troupes en personne et fut souvent mêlée à des engagements corps à corps contre les Espagnols. Elle a pris part à l'invasion de Santa Clara.

#### Australie.

La Fédération australienne des Electrices a recommandé à ses branches locales d'étudier les bases de la Franchise municipale pour faire élire plus de candidates. *Victoria.* La Société des citoyennes de Victoria est la première société féminine qui ait une déléguée devant la Commission royale pour la révision de la Constitution fédérale, c'est la Présidente, Mrs. John Jones (Juge de Paix).

Une réunion publique a eu lieu pour discuter la question des Pensions aux veuves. La résolution suivante a été envoyée au Premier Ministre: Que tout projet d'Assurances nationales doit comprendre une clause pour les femmes nécessiteuses et les orphelins.

*Queensland.* La Ligue des Femmes sans Parti travaille à assurer la nomination de femmes dans la Police, à Brisbane.

*Tasmanie.* La Ligue des Femmes sans Parti a décidé d'envoyer une circulaire à tous les membres du Parlement pour obtenir une loi assurant une pension aux veuves et aux orphelins.

#### Indes.

*L'âge du mariage.* Le Conseil législatif de Barodie, le Maharaja de Cachemire, ainsi que les Etats de Gondal, Kotah, Mysore et Indore, ont fixé l'âge du mariage à 18 ans pour les garçons et 14 pour les filles! L'Etat de Rajkot fixe l'âge à 19 et 15 ans. L'âge légal du mariage en Chine est 16; au Japon, 18 et 16.

*Succès féministes.* Mlle. S. B. Das a été élue au syndicat de l'Université de Patna, dont elle est déjà Fellow, contre 3 candidats. Elle est aussi Magistrate honoraire, conseillère municipale et visiteuse des prisons. Mlle. Daw Me Me Khin a été nommée assistante registrar à la Haute Cour de Rangoon.

D'après la liste donnée par Stri Dharma, il y a dans les Indes 5 femmes membres des conseils législatifs, 32 conseillères municipales, 32 femmes magistrats et



juges de paix et beaucoup d'autres femmes dans les postes officiels.

(D'après Stri Dharma).

#### Ceylan.

A la suite de la Commission de Ceylan sur la réforme constitutionnelle, les femmes ont fondé une Union pour le suffrage des femmes à Ceylan, et demandent que toutes les femmes de 25 ans sachant l'anglais et la langue indigène et remplissant certaines conditions de fortune et d'instruction soient affranchies.

#### Afrique du Sud.

Le féminisme fait des progrès dans l'Afrique du Sud:

l'Association pour l'affranchissement des Femmes envoie des déléguées dans tous les centres locaux pour fonder de nouvelles branches.—Pretoria a deux femmes conseillères municipales.

#### La Conférence D'Amsterdam.

Le rapport de la Conférence d'Amsterdam, avec la reproduction des discours est publiée. Pour obtenir des exemplaires, s'adresser à Miss Rosa Manus, 580 Keizersgracht, Amsterdam, ou au siège social de l'Alliance Internationale, 190, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1., Prix: 1.50 dutch gulden, ou 2 sh. 6d. anglais, ou 15frs. 50.

MADELEINE RUDLER.

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