



# THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE NEWS

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## FRAU MARIE STRITT.

ONLY after the February number had gone to press did we learn that February 18 would mark the seventieth birthday of our kind friend and contributor, Frau Marie Stritt. We hope it is not too late to offer our heartiest congratulations to Frau Stritt, and to wish her many years of happiness and good work for the woman's movement. She has been for long a member of the Alliance, and was a member of the Board from the Budapest Congress of 1913 till the Geneva Congress of 1920. To all our readers she is well known as one of our most faithful correspondents, and her articles form a most interesting commentary on activities of women in Germany. The following is a brief account of her long association with the woman's movement.

Frau Stritt was born in 1855, and started to work for the emancipation of women in 1890, with Louisa, Otto, and Augusta Schmidt. In 1894 she founded the first organisation for the legal protection of women (Rechtsschutz) in Dresden; in 1896 she was elected to the Board of the National Council of Women of Germany, of which she was President from 1899 to 1910, and in this capacity acted as president of the International Congress of Women, in Berlin, in 1904. She was also first vice-president of the International Council of Women from 1904 to 1909. From 1911 till 1919 (when



it disbanded) Frau Stritt was president of the National Association for Woman's Suffrage (Deutscher Reichsverband für Frauenstimmrecht), and was a member of the Board of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance from 1913 to 1920. As representative of the German Auxiliaries she has attended nearly all the international congresses and conferences which have taken place during the last twenty-five years, and has thus had an opportunity of getting to know the international women's movement and its leaders very thoroughly. She takes an interest in all women's questions, considering them as closely interrelated, but regards woman suffrage as the keystone.

When the women of Germany were enfranchised Frau Stritt was nominated as a candidate for the National Assembly, on the East Saxon democratic list, but failed to secure election. From 1920 to 1922 she was a member of the Dresden City Council (Stadtrat). Lately, most of her time outside her journalistic work has been given to the social problems of the women of the middle classes, who have been among the worst sufferers from recent economic conditions. Frau Stritt has

always been an ardent adherent of pacifism and internationalism, and believes that the solution of women's problems can only be achieved in that spirit.

## THE MONTH'S MISCELLANY.

WE have recently received the budget of the League of Nations for 1925, which includes the staff list of the secretariat. The system of initials to denote the rank held is a little confusing to the untrained eye, but if you grasp firmly the two symbols for Director and Chief of Service, and proceed to look through the list to see how many women have attained these positions, you get rather disheartened. No woman is named as a Director—but I must confess I do not quite know what is involved in this position—and going through the list in order we find that a woman is Chief of Section for the Pool of Typists, at a salary of 12,600 fr. suisses; for the Distribution Branch, salary 15,300; for the Duplicating Branch, salary 13,200. Dame Rachel Crowdy is, as we all know, Chief of Section of the organisation for Social Questions and Opium Traffic, with a salary of 30,000 fr. suisses; and Miss Wilson is Chief Librarian at a salary of £1,000, about 25,000 fr. suisses. In addition, women are employed at the London and Paris offices of the League, as Establishment officers, at what seem extraordinarily inadequate salaries. From the above it will be observed that Dame Rachel is the only woman employed as Chief of Section in any important office—that is, other than the less important and less well-paid Internal Services, and after careful comparison no male Chief of Section similarly employed receives such a low salary. It is true that there is no absolute basis of comparison, since each section is different, and with different needs, but nevertheless it is distressing that the only woman to be given this higher rank should hold it in the section carrying the least remuneration. By all means let the League appoint the most suitable person regardless of sex, and we must admit that it is often easier to find men suited to the higher positions than women, since men still have better opportunities for education and experience; but when all is admitted, the famous equality clause in the League's Covenant does not appear to be carried out in the Secretariat in the whole-hearted manner which would make it thoroughly convincing to its women supporters. I think we should all like to receive assurance that when appointments are made the claims of women receive equal consideration with those of men, and, further, that women already employed have, in fact, no less than in theory, equal opportunities of qualifying for promotion.

The place of women in the political parties is one which interests women in all countries, since events seem to have determined that for good or for ill it is within the existing parties that women will for the most part take their place in political life and it is therefore interesting to see that in the reorganisation scheme recently put before the Conference of the British Liberal Party, a recommendation was made that no Liberal Association in the constituencies should be eligible for affiliation to the central federations, unless it provided by its rules that not less than one-third of its officers and executive committees should be women. We understand that when this proposal was put before the Conference it was by no means favourably received, and was not adopted; still, it is a great step forward that it should have been suggested, and we wonder whether any other parties in other countries have as yet proposed a recommendation so drastic. How much of the drudgery of propaganda and organisation for any party is done by women, probably only the women themselves clearly recognise, and they are so used to giving time and enthusiasm in others' causes that they take—and allow others to take—their devotion for granted. Women have proved their value in political work, and now, though perhaps it can hardly be expected that they should "strike" outright for greater recognition, let them at least show that they realise that value and the fact that even in politics the labourer is worthy of his hire.

We publish elsewhere a brief note on the very unfair way in which the Dutch Government is treating its married women employées in the post and telegraph department. Having forced all married women employées to retire, it now finds that it cannot do without them, so under the threat of taking away their compensatory pensions, it proposes to compel them to take up work again, not in the positions which they had won by their past service, but at the minimum rates. When this compulsory retirement of married women was first introduced, I remember one of the Dutch members of the Alliance said to me: "Ah, before we got the vote we should have said that such a thing could not happen if women were enfranchised, and yet now we seem as powerless to prevent it as we were in the days before we had the vote." Perhaps that was not quite so. I do not know, but it is possible, that in unenfranchised days no compensatory pensions would have been granted. Be that as it may, however, this sort of thing is a reminder to women that the vote is not the final goal, but rather just one small weapon with which to fight the battle for the economic equality of women. The question of the economic position of the married woman, whether as a home worker or a wage earner, is the crux of this question, and as a set-off against the above, we may put the statement recently made in an English paper that married women in business are increasing in numbers, and are proving their worth. The statement points out that where they attain so highly paid positions they are able to have a comfortable home, and to pay for proper nurses and schools for their children; and is not this just exactly what the other women, those "in the home," are doing, too, just as soon as their husbands can afford it? Of all hypocrisies of which people are capable, I think there is none more ostrich-like than that which pretends that only an unnatural longing for work outside her home can ever induce a mother to allow other people to look after her children.

THE EDITOR.

## NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

## Great Britain and its Dominions.

AN important step in the direction of establishing this reform was taken last week in the British Imperial Parliament. A resolution in the following terms:

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

was carried unanimously without a division. As the British Government in matters of nationality acts in conjunction with the Dominions, it is necessary before further steps are taken that they should be consulted. It is understood that the British Government will submit the resolution to the Governments of Newfoundland, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and India. It is therefore of the utmost importance that resolutions on similar lines should be adopted in the Parliaments of these different countries, and the women's organisations are urged immediately to bring pressure on their Governments to this end.

A remarkable feature of the debate was that no single speaker opposed the proposal that a British woman should have the right to retain her nationality on marriage with an alien. The differences of opinion were merely on the question of how this should be given effect to. A splendid report was given for the reform by Lady Astor and the new Member, Miss Wilkinson.

CRYSTAL MACMILLAN,  
Chairman of the Nationality Committee.

## PROTECTION OF CHILDREN.

THE following letter, signed by our President among other representatives of international women's organisations, was published in the English *Times*, and is self-explanatory. The Alliance has already asked its affiliated societies to secure all the publicity possible in their national papers for the claim made, which we feel assured will meet with the full agreement of our readers.

TO THE EDITOR OF *The Times*.

Sir,—Representing as we do great international organisations of women, we beg to call your attention to the following urgent problem.

The League of Nations at its last Assembly agreed to take over the work of the Association Internationale pour la Protection de l'Enfance, and to set up a committee to deal with the protection of childhood. Presumably from motives of economy, it was decided to add these duties to those of the Committee on the Traffic in Women and Children, and to reappoint that Committee under the double name.

The women's organisations strongly object to this course, as persons eminently competent to deal with traffic questions are not necessarily the most competent to deal with the protection of children, which covers a much wider field. The Council of the League recognised this objection when they decided to nominate a second body of assessors to act with the Committee in dealing with the protection of childhood. The Council decided to have five new assessors, and has invited the following bodies to name them: The International Association for the Protection of Children, the International League of Red Cross Societies, the International Organisation of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, the Union Internationale de Secours aux Enfants, and Dr. Bascom Johnson.

On the Traffic Commission the women's international organisations were allowed to nominate an assessor, and we at once requested a similar privilege in regard to the protection of children, on the grounds that there seems a certain overweighing of representation by health and welfare organisations, which are not capable of dealing with all aspects of the question. The normal child is the most valuable member of the community, and whereas welfare work flourishes in most countries, and has everywhere aroused popular imagination and generosity, there remain the great questions of education and training, mental and moral, of the young; the legal position of the child in the family and the State; the treatment of the young offender, probation and Borstal work; training and protection in adolescence; child marriage; maintenance and separation laws; allowances and pensions. We want to protect and develop the normal child as well as the abnormal, weakly, or poverty-stricken. There is, too, the peculiar problem of the illegitimate child.

We realise the necessity of limiting the number of assessors, but we would nevertheless urge that a representative of our organisations should be included. The care of children must remain one of the principal interests of women, and, whatever new duties they may be called upon to discharge, the protection of children must remain peculiarly their concern. We feel convinced that the importance of the representation of organised women on a body dealing with children must instantly be conceded, and we therefore hope that the claim we now make will be sympathetically considered. We may point out that many women's organisations considered and passed in 1922 a children's charter setting forth the right of every child to have opportunities of full development, thus indicating their feeling of responsibility in this all-important matter.

We hope that public opinion among men and women of this and other countries may be widely expressed before the next meeting of the Committee on February 17, so that the necessary additional assessor may be appointed.—We remain, Sir, yours obediently,

ISHBEL ABERDEEN AND TEMAIR,  
President, International Council of Women.

MARGERY CORBETT ASHBY,  
President, International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

K. D. COURTNEY,  
Chairman, Women's International League, British Section.

CONSTANCE M. WALDEGRAVE,  
Acting President, World's Young Women's Christian Association.

WINIFRED C. CULLIS,  
Vice-President, International Federation of University Women.

London, January 31.

## BERMUDA.

We are very glad to announce that the Bermuda Woman Suffrage Society has applied for affiliation to the Alliance. The Society is drafting a Bill for woman suffrage which it is hoped will be presented to the Legislature during its present session.

## APPEAL FOR THE GAUNTLETT SEWING INSTITUTE.

356, Hyakunin-machi, Okubo, Tokyo-fu, Japan.

THERE are so many lines in social welfare work in Japan at the present time that need our attention, yet if any should be specially emphasised nobody would deny that it is the protection of girls and women that must be attended to first of all. It is more so in this city of Tokyo after that awful calamity of last autumn. When this work is fully organised so as to be able to meet its every kind of demand there will be small need left for rescue work.

To meet this demand the Gauntlett Sewing Institute was enlarged last January, and has been carried on ever since. Fifty girls have been sent out since January, out of which a fair number are filling positions by which they are able to support themselves as well as their children.

This institution stands to teach foreign sewing, drafting, cutting, embroidery and knitting; to provide work for workless girls; and to give them a chance to earn their own living.

In order to enlarge this work we are obliged to ask for financial help from friends who are interested in this kind of work.

Any contribution is welcome and will be gratefully received, but you are invited to be an honorary member by paying a minimum of fifty yen, or to become a promoting member by giving an annual subscription of ten yen.

It will be a great help to us also if you would make this institution known among your friends and recommending paying pupils or giving us orders.

(MRS.) C. T. GAUNTLETT, Principal.  
BARONESS I. MEGATA  
Mrs. Y. UCHIIKE  
Miss A. MORIYA } Advisers.  
Mr. R. FURUHASHI  
Dr. J. NISHIYAMA, Medical Adv.  
Mr. T. TAKAGI, Legal.

## THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN MEXICO.

THE *Christian Science Monitor* reports that the private secretary of the new President of Mexico, Plutarco Elias Calles, is a woman, Señorita Cholita Gonzalez, who guards the inner approach to the offices of President Calles, situated in the right wing of the massive national palace that faces the great central plaza of Mexico. Her position is probably unique. When still a young girl, "Cholita," as she is usually known, was adopted by Francisco Madero, who overthrew the mighty Diaz in 1911, and became President in turn. When Madero was assassinated in 1913, Cholita offered her services to Calles, and accompanied him through all his exciting campaigns in the north-west. Cholita's responsibilities as private secretary are very onerous, and she has even been known, on occasion, to issue military orders. The new President of Mexico trusts her implicitly with the most important affairs.

Cholita is not only the foremost woman in Mexico to-day, but also one of its foremost feminists. Her position is all the more remarkable because Mexicans are singularly averse to women in public life. The place of the Mexican woman is in the home, and, once married, she becomes virtually a slave. A few women, however, have stood out in Mexican history, in addition to Cholita. During the colonial days there was Juana Inez de la Cruz, whose writings are read wherever the Spanish tongue is spoken; a girl who clipped her hair and dressed up as a boy that she might attend the university, and whose learning outshone that of the wisest men of her day. The recent revolutions have brought a number of able women to the front. The head of the feminist movement in Mexico to-day is Elena Torres. Another progressive woman is Esperanza Bruegas, a writer and poet.

**WOMEN AND ELECTRICITY.**

WITH reference to the request for information published in our last number, we think it may interest our readers to see the following particulars of a Women's Electrical Association, which has recently been formed in London.

¶ The Association will work to promote the wider use of electricity in the service of women, to collect and distribute reliable information on modern electrical appliances, their cost, manner of use, and economic advantages.

⊠ The work of the W.E.A. will bring home to women a better understanding of the service of electricity in private and public life.

Those whose main concern is in the home will be interested in electrical labour-saving appliances, their cost, proper use, and influence on home management.

The Association will have no trade interest, seeking only to benefit by spreading a wider knowledge of electrical methods amongst its women members.

Lectures and demonstrations arranged under its auspices will be free of any obligation "to buy," and devoted to simple instruction in the economics of electricity, its method of use and a study of new inventions of value to members in any walk of life.

Those who are able to take a share in local and national government will by the activities of the Association be better able to urge the need for electric service in every household and its value in saving smoke, dust and waste, giving us better homes and cleaner cities and enabling the population to be spread out over the countryside.

**OBJECTS.**

The objects for which the Association is established are:—

1. To collect and distribute information on the use of electricity, more particularly as affecting the interests of women:—

- (a) In the home.
- (b) In its application to hygiene and medicine.
- (c) In connection with public welfare and housing.
- (d) In industrial and commercial life.
- (e) In transport and communication.
- (f) In its application to agriculture and horticulture.
- (g) In connection with smoke abatement.
- (h) And such other fields of service as may from time to time be determined by the Association.

2. To provide lectures, addresses or demonstrations of the application of electricity as affecting the public or private interests of women.

To offer opportunities for the reading of papers, prizes for essays, demonstrations and suggestions for new electrical appliances or applications.

3. To encourage the study of electrical applications in the curricula or educational schemes of universities, colleges and schools, particularly in relation to the teaching of domestic science or other subjects of interest to women, and in association with handicraft work to afford facilities for practical instruction in the use, maintenance, and repair of mechanical appliances for such purposes.

4. To provide mutual help in connection with the objects of the Association, the exchanging of information and ideas and the promotion, centrally or locally, of joint action amongst women for the wider and better use of the service of electricity in the home, business, industrial or public life, and a practical knowledge of its methods and appliances.

5. To support or co-operate with other Associations or societies where that action may be mutually beneficial or capable of promoting the objects of the W.E.A.

6. To produce public bulletins, journals, or other literature dealing with the work or objects of the Association.

7. To institute a student or junior section, a summer school, and eventually a club house.

8. To promote the representation of women on local electricity committees and public bodies.

9. To do all such other lawful things incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

**BRITISH OVERSEAS COMMITTEE CONFERENCE.**

MRS. CORBETT ASHBY presided over a conference held by the British Overseas Committee of the Alliance, on February 9, to consider the question of a closer union among the women of the British Empire. Mrs. Ashby explained that the body they were hoping to form was to provide a link between the already existing women's societies in the different parts of the Empire; it would not be antagonistic to the international work of the Alliance, but would form a group of women with certain special common interests, in the same way as the Petite Entente des Femmes or the Scandinavian Women's Congress had done.

Miss M. Chave Collisson, of Australia, explained the need for a central organisation in London to represent efficiently and promptly the needs of Empire women. The women of the Empire had little knowledge of conditions and laws of other parts of the Empire, and the proposed body would collect and disseminate such knowledge; it would work for equal franchise and equal citizenship, and for the education of women citizens in the definite use of their vote; and further, it would be able to offer hospitality to women well known in the women's movement when coming to London, and would provide for those coming from overseas the opportunity of meeting those people they desired to meet.

Mrs. Rischbieth, also of Australia, gave instances of legislative work affecting women throughout the whole Empire, and the need to keep women in touch with each other, so that they could co-ordinate their action in such matters. She also referred to the fact that at the moment some method of putting the political co-operation between Great Britain and the Dominions on a sound basis was being investigated, and she emphasised the need for the women of the Empire to ensure that their interests and their point of view should be adequately represented in the scheme to be finally adopted.

Mrs. Winifred Giles emphasised the need for good organisation and adequate funds if the whole field were to be covered.

In the discussion which followed Dame Millicent Fawcett emphasised the need for constant and free exchange of opinions between the Mother Country and overseas; Mrs. Minden Cole, of Montreal, spoke of the deplorable position of the women of the province of Quebec; Dame Adelaide Anderson spoke of the need for real knowledge and study of conditions; Mrs. Carmalt Jones, of New Zealand, and Mrs. Levisseur, of South Africa, also spoke of the position in their respective countries.

The following resolution was finally carried by the meeting:—

That this Conference recognises the desirability of further organisation to link up the women of the British Empire in regard to all matters affecting their equal citizenship, and agrees:—

That (1) a further conference be held during this year to consider closer organisation and effectual action on the programme already outlined by the speakers; (2) a conference of Empire women should be held in London concurrently with the sitting of the Imperial Conference in order to review the conditions of Empire citizenship, and to further equal citizenship throughout the Empire; (3) immediate steps be taken to raise and/or guarantee a fund to meet the expenses of organisation and expansion.

**JERSEY.**

Jersey women have been released for the first time, from their bonds of mediæval serfdom. Hitherto they have legally been merely "chattels," but an Act similar to the English Married Women's Property Act has been passed by the Jersey States.

**WEST INDIES.**

The Orders in Council for the constitutions of Grenada and St. Vincent now published show that women are still excluded from sitting as members of the Legislative Councils.

**REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES. AUSTRALIA.****Dr. Jean Grieg's Appointment.**

THE inclusion of a woman doctor in the personnel of the Royal Commission on National Health, which was appointed by the Commonwealth Government last month, has given considerable satisfaction to women generally, as recognition of the desirability of their sex being represented on commissions of national importance. Dr. Jean Grieg, on whom the honour has fallen, is chief medical adviser to the Education Department of Victoria, and directs the whole work of the medical inspection of school children in the State. Her male colleagues on the Commission include some of the most distinguished members of her profession in the different States. The object of the Commission is to enquire into matters of public health generally in the Commonwealth, and to consider common action between the States in such matters as a common standard and control of foods and drugs, the pollution of surface waters in the great river basins, puerperal illness, tuberculosis, infectious diseases, and industrial hygiene.

**New South Wales.**

The Women's Christian Temperance Union of New South Wales is affiliated with the Australian Federation of Women's Societies for Equal Citizenship, for although its chief work is for the temperance cause, it is also interested in general social questions from the requisite point of view.

**Queensland.**

The Brisbane Women's Club forms a meeting ground for women interested in the various kinds of social reform. It does not, as a rule, undertake any definite civic work, except through its active municipal committee, which has achieved several improvements in the city. It was lately reported, however, that the club had held a deputation to the Government, asking that Queensland should adopt the law which holds in W.A., forbidding the employment for gain on the theatrical stage of children under sixteen.

There are no women police in Queensland.

**South Australia.**

The Children's Maintenance Bill was introduced so suddenly and belatedly into Parliament that it was impossible for us to discuss or express any opinion concerning it. As the Hon. J. Jelley was reported, however, as having stated in the Council that he had received a letter from our association in support of this Bill, it was necessary to write and ask him for an explanation, and it was then considered well to publish our letter with the true facts of the case. Mr. Jelley's reference had been to the letter sent to the last Government in support of pensions for widows with dependent children. This principle we heartily support, wherever it may be found, but the letter written in 1923 could not refer to the provisions of a different Bill introduced at the end of 1924, and containing some debatable points. We note that the Bill was thrown out by the Legislative Council.

The municipal elections, which took place on December 6, were again a disappointment to women. Our association was working for Mrs. A. K. Goode, the independent social welfare candidate for Grey Ward, and we regret that she was not successful in securing the seat.

**Tasmania.**

The Tasmanian Government recently announced that no successor was to be appointed to Dr. E. S. Morris, the Director of Public Health, who has resigned. This has roused strong feeling among social workers in the State. The Women's Non-Party League has discussed the matter, and is assured of the impossibility of the work being carried on by a part-time medical practitioner, and representatives from the league attended a meeting of protest called by the Child Welfare Association. As a result of this meeting the Government has

been asked to receive a deputation from women's organisations. The league itself has also written to the Chief Secretary on the subject.

**Victoria.**

In Victoria Mrs. John Jones is preparing to stand as a candidate for the Federal Parliament, representing the district of Faulkner. Mrs. Jones is the president of the Victorian Woman Citizen's Movement, which is organising her campaign and giving her enthusiastic support.

A tribute to the work of the four policewomen attached to the Victorian force has been paid in their appointment on the same basis as regular constables. They have served in the past solely as auxiliaries to the ordinary force, without any power of arrest, or other privileges enjoyed by the men. Now they have been given powers equal to those of a plainclothes constable.

**Western Australia.**

A deputation was recently arranged by the School Teachers' Union of Western Australia to present to the Government the need for (1) securing for indigent widows better facilities for the support of their children, and (2) establishing schools for the mentally deficient. The deputation, which included representatives from the Women's Service Guilds, was sympathetically received, but, as usual, finance was given as the stumbling block to action in these matters.

**AUSTRIA.****A New Demand.**

WOMEN'S papers abroad recently published the news that the Viennese women demand the establishment of a Ministry for Women's Affairs. The women members of Parliament, it was said, declare "that their parliamentary experience shows that men are not inclined to give women's affairs serious attention." This information seems to be based on a misunderstanding. In our Parliament there are eight women—seven Social Democrats and one Christian Socialist. So we see that in fact only one political party is represented by any considerable number of women. But it is just these women in their strict party discipline who have always stood first of all for their party interests—women's demands are treated from the standpoint of party politics, which in many cases, but not all, correspond with the tendencies of the women's movement—and as they always emphasise the fact that their party promotes women's interests, they have no reason to demand a Ministry for Women's Affairs.

The information that such a Ministry is desired may be traced to the fact that the author of these lines has endeavoured for some years to interest the public in the incorporation of the household in the State organism. This incorporation could, in her opinion, be accomplished only by the establishment of "Chambers of Housekeeping," which is an expression of the idea of Chambers of Consumers, first heard of in Germany, and now being discussed in Vienna, owing to her endeavours. The Chambers of Housekeeping would have to link up all households; they would have the task of promoting and dealing with all housekeeping affairs, such as all questions touching the working sphere of women, questions of the household consumption, its social and political interests, its educational and professional interests. The establishment of a Ministry for Housekeeping is desired—as we have heard here in Austria—by the Danish women, or the establishment of a ministry department for housekeeping could be aimed at as the climax of the whole organisation.

We see that throughout the whole world there is a movement to bring housekeeping, which is still isolated work, and which has not developed in harmony with the general social and economic progress, into line with the rest of the world. That something must be done to fit the household into modern life, and into the probable future development, is felt everywhere. Even countries

which have enjoyed for a long time important feminist success, such as Finland, Denmark, and the Scandinavian countries as a whole, with their greatly developed housewives' organisations, no less than Germany and Austria, turn now, after having acquired the elementary demands for women's rights, to questions of practical life, and first of all to the reform of the household. These endeavours are not solely owing to the pressure of economic difficulties. It is also generally realised that the majority of women have not been moved by the idea of the women's movement and its strivings for progress, because women are so absorbed by their house-keeping work that they have no time and strength left to care for the ethical values of family life and for their own culture, nor to be interested in social and public life.

The reform of the household, and with it a higher development of the majority of women, can only be accomplished if the household is given its rightful position and its full possibilities of evolution in the life of the State and the nation. It must, equally with other economic bodies, be represented by official elected bodies in the State. Now it is essential to find the best solution of this problem. It would be very pleasant if the *International Woman Suffrage News*, which is always endeavouring to discuss all women's demands, would initiate a discussion on this question, in order to bring about clear understanding and co-operation among the international women's organisations.

The Austrian Council of Women arranged, on February 6, a meeting, at which the writer spoke on "The Incorporation of the Household in the Organism of the State." This lecture met with great interest, so that further lectures and discussions are planned for the future. The writer has already worked out statutes of Chambers of Housekeeping, and the Austrian Council of Women intend to pursue this matter seriously, in order to be able to apply to the Government with concrete proposals as soon as possible.

#### An Exhibition, "The New Household" in Vienna.

How necessary the reform of housekeeping appears is proved by the fact that the leading women's organisations of Austria have joined to arrange an exhibition—"The New Household." This exhibition will be opened in the house of the Vienna Fair, together with the "International Hygienic Exhibition," on May 2. It will be, judging by the careful scheme and comprehensive preparations, an event that will be more instructive and more convincing than all endeavours for reform hitherto demonstrated to the mass of housekeeping women. All ideas for reforms relative to kitchen, food, housing, clothing, occupation of children, health, etc., will be embodied in lively object lessons. It goes without saying that this exhibition will be dealt with in this paper.

GISELA URBAN.

#### CUBA.

Our Cuban Auxiliary, the Partido Nacional Sufragista, has called into being a federation of women's associations to organise the second National Women's Congress, to be held in April.

#### FRANCE.

##### Au Groupe de Paris de l'U.F.S.F.

L'Assemblée générale du Groupe de Paris de l' "Union française pour le Suffrage des Femmes" a eu lieu dans la salle du Foyer de la rue Daunou, le samedi 7 février dernier.

Elle a attiré un public particulièrement nombreux et choisi.

La séance fut ouverte par une allocution de la Présidente, Mme. Malaterre-Sellier. Elle évoqua en termes émus la noble figure de Mme. de Witt-Schlumberger, et envoya un salut amical à Mme. Brunsvicg, Présidente de l' "Union," qu'une tournée de conférences en province empêchait d'assister à la réunion.

Lecture fut donnée du Rapport financier de la dévouée trésorière, Mme. Désavis.

Ensuite, la signataire de ces lignes, secrétaire générale, rappela, en son Rapport moral, la vie du Groupe de Paris pendant l'année écoulée, résuma son activité, énuméra ses principales manifestations, expliqua la situation parlementaire et, en terminant, annonça les prochaines conférences: notamment, celle du 18 février, à 20 h. 30, salle Mustel, avenue Wagram, qui sera enregistrée par la T.S.F., et celle du 27 février, salle Mayon, 15, rue du Mont-Dore, dans le 17<sup>e</sup> arrondissement, à 20 h. 30, où participeront des hommes politiques éminents.

\* \* \* \* \*

Lorsque Mme. Lippens, conseillère municipale de Belgique, prit la parole, il y eut un murmure d'admiration. Grande et belle, l'impression de force qu'elle dégage se tempère de grâce et de douceur.

Mme. Lippens conte les péripéties des luttes suffragistes de Belgique: ce pays voisin et ami a franchi une première étape, mais on ignore quand cette victoire sera complétée par l'obtention du suffrage intégral. En attendant, l'oratrice croit qu'avant ce succès définitif, les femmes belges ont eu tort de s'enrôler en si grand nombre dans les partis politiques: mais elles ont eu tort surtout de combattre avec une ardeur décriée au sein des associations féministes.

On aurait aimé que Mme. Lippens s'appesantît davantage sur sa propre expérience de conseillère municipale de Bruxelles—c'est seulement en passant, et pour répondre aux questions qui lui furent posées, qu'elle laissa entrevoir l'importance de son rôle dans les questions d'hygiène et d'assistance, et la relation qu'elle donna de ses interventions pour faire supprimer d'iniques mesures prises par la police des mœurs envers des femmes déçues, lui valut d'unanimes applaudissements.

Le Colonel Godchot la remplaça à la tribune. Témoin des souffrances des femmes kabyles—même sous la domination française—et du traitement barbare auquel on les soumet, il a accumulé les anecdotes pittoresques ou tragiques, qu'il a narrées avec lyrisme parfois, et précision, toujours. Il a conclu par un appel aux Françaises, leur demandant d'aider leurs sœurs de ce proche Orient à devenir libres.

La Présidente a tiré, de cette intéressante soirée, la leçon qu'elle comportait: il y a des pays où les femmes sont plus heureuses que nous, il faut, comme elles, conquérir des droits; il y en a d'autres où elles sont des victimes, il faut venir à leur secours et remplir envers elles, notre devoir.

Plus que jamais, il est donc nécessaire de s'unir pour combattre et pour vaincre.

MARCELLE KRAEMER-BACH.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

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

###### The New Session.

PARLIAMENT re-opened on February 10. In the nature of things, therefore, the political news, as far as women's questions are concerned, deals with hopes and fears rather than achievements, but there seems ground for believing that this session may prove an important one. The Government's Bill\* dealing with the Guardianship of Children has been introduced, but at the time of writing its contents have not been published. It is known, however, to be on the same lines as that put forward by the Labour Government, which was to be expected, since the last Bill was drafted by the departments concerned, and the official point of view is unchanged by the change of Government. We must, therefore, be prepared for something less than the women's societies were asking for. Equal rights to appoint guardians may be expected, and the principle of equality will probably be recognised in general terms in the preamble, but it is not likely to give the general application of the principle that the women hoped to get. The Legitimacy Bill may also be expected to go on much

\*This Bill is now printed and contains virtually the same provisions as last Session's Government Bill.

the same lines as that which was before the House last session, and the crucial question will again be the proviso excluding from the operation of the Bill illegitimate children born whilst one of the parents was already married. A Bill dealing with Separation and Maintenance Orders is also to be introduced by the Government, but little is known of its scope.

The question where the Government's attitude is least satisfactory is that of Equal Franchise. No mention was made of it in the King's Speech, and the N.U.S.E.C., supported by other organisations, asked the Prime Minister to receive a deputation on the subject. No answer has been received up to the time of writing, and it is to be presumed that Mr. Baldwin does not intend to agree to this request. The only consolation is that in the ballot for private members' Bills a high place was won by a Bill to be introduced by Mr. Whiteley, a Labour member, giving all women the right to vote at twenty-one years of age. It must be admitted, however, that a private member's Bill on so important a constitutional change has little chance of becoming law, especially as the Conservative Party for the most part are afraid of any large increase in the electorate. The debate, however, will serve the useful purpose of giving publicity to the question, and the women's societies are accordingly grateful to the introducer of the Bill, and the chance which favoured him in the ballot.

Other private Bills which have won a place, though a low one, are a Bastardy Bill, to improve the position of the unmarried mother, and a Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act Amendment Bill. A private motion† has also been tabled to the effect that a British woman shall not necessarily lose her nationality on marriage with an alien. The original motion assumes she shall retain her nationality unless she makes a declaration of alienage, whilst an amendment reverses the process and leaves her to take steps to retain her British nationality, if she wishes it.†

#### Married Women Doctors.

Outside Parliament much interest has been roused by the fight the medical women are putting up against the decision of the London County Council not to employ married women doctors. Until recently, although under a Standing Order all women employed by the Council were required to resign on marriage, women doctors were one of the classes excluded from this ruling. Now they have been brought under it, and they are demanding that the Standing Order should be entirely rescinded.

#### Women Police.

Much interest is also being shown in the question of women police. The Home Office report, published last year, recommended that the local police authorities should employ women, but left it to their discretion. It is becoming increasingly obvious that on these lines very little progress can be looked for. The local police authorities are satisfied with their own work, and one after another is denying that there is any need for the introduction of women into the Force. The women's societies, however, are putting up a stiff fight, and it is clear that the last word on the subject has not yet been said.

W. A. E.

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

On February 23, members and friends of the Alliance met at the Emerson Club to do honour to Miss Leonora de Alberti, in order to show their appreciation of her ten years devoted work as honorary editor of the *Catholic Citizen*.

The soirée was a great success in every way. Miss Harley Bacon, Viscountess Dupplin, and Mrs. Whately contributed musical items and Miss Eleanor FitzGerald some delightful stories.

Short speeches were made by Councillor Mrs. Crawford and Miss Whately, who reminded the audience that we were still first and foremost a suffrage society, and that

†This motion came before the House of Commons on Wednesday, February 18, and was passed in its original form, the amendment being withdrawn.

Equal Franchise had still to be won in this country, as well as many other reforms, before our aims were accomplished—viz., "to secure the political, social, and economic equality between men and women."

As a result of the soirée a good sum was raised towards placing the *Catholic Citizen* on a sound financial basis.

Members are helping some of the women candidates at the London County Council elections. One of our own members, Mrs. C. J. Mathew, J.P., is standing for the Limehouse division of Stepney.

F. A. B.

#### THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Since the General Election we have worked continuously for the equal enfranchisement of women and men. We have twice requested the Prime Minister to receive a deputation on this subject; we have urged members to bring in a private Bill, and since it was announced that Mr. Whiteley secured the first place in the ballot for such a Bill we have, from our head office, and through our branches, communicated with every member of the Labour and Liberal Parties, as well as our known friends in the Conservative and Unionist Party, urging them to be in their places on February 20, when this Bill is taken, to vote for it, and to give it every possible support.

We are strongly supporting Sir Robert Newman's Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill, the chief objects of which are: (1) to prevent the dismissal of women civil servants or employés of public authorities on marriage; (2) to secure the admission to the House of Lords of peeresses in their own right; (3) to provide that neither sex shall by order be excluded from any jury. We are, moreover, asking our friends also to urge that as, according to the present law, "a person shall not be exempted by sex from the liability to serve as a juror," provision shall be made that no person shall be excluded from a coroner's court or any Court of Justice on account of sex. We have vigorously protested recently, in Liverpool and Southport, against the exclusion of women from the courts, the first case being one of child murder and the second a case of sexual offences against two girls.

We are questioning candidates for the County Council elections as to whether they are prepared to vote and work against the practice of dismissal of women employés, or compelling them to resign, on marriage. If they are not prepared to do this, we are urging our members and friends not to vote for them.

We have warmly congratulated Major Harvey on his success in carrying a resolution in the House of Commons, without a division, that a British woman shall not automatically lose her nationality on marriage with an alien. We are keenly disappointed with the Government's Guardianship of Infants Bill, which is just as unsatisfactory, from our point of view, as the previous Government's Guardianship Bill, because it does not recognise that fathers and mothers should have equal rights and responsibilities over their children in the home.

Friday, March 13, we are having our annual spring sale and reunion of members and friends at 25, Wimpole Street, London, by the kind permission of Dr. Octavia Lewin, and on April 25 we shall have our eighteenth annual conference at Caxton Hall, Westminster, when the officials and Executive Committee will be elected to carry out the policy of the Women's Freedom League during the coming year.

FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

#### HOLLAND.

##### Election Work.

THE headquarters of the Verein van Staatsburgeressen has communicated to all the political parties the seven points mentioned in the article appearing in the February issue. These points have been fully explained, and the parties are asked to discuss them at their meetings during the forthcoming elections. It depends upon the nature of their reply whether their

candidates will be invited to discuss their political programme by the branches of the Verein.

#### A Scandalous Misuse of Authority.

The women employed in the Department of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones, who were pensioned last year on account of their being married, have received a communication informing them that owing to the shortage of workers in the Rotterdam telephone service they are to stand by for permanent or temporary appointments. The wages they will receive are not equal to those they were earning when they were compulsorily retired, but will be at the minimum rate for permanent appointments. If they refuse to accept the positions offered they will lose their pensions.

C. KEHRER STUART.

#### INDIA.

##### Proposal for an All-India Council for Women.

MANY women attended an "At Home" given by the Bombay Women's Council, in the Town Hall, Bombay, some time ago, when Mrs. Faridoonji, who was in England last year, spoke. An inaugural meeting of Indian women was held on the occasion to discuss the possibility of forming "a National Council for the women of India." Mrs. Faridoonji, who is a member of the International Council of Women, observed that their president, Lady Aberdeen, had recognised that the Council could not be considered truly international if India, with her huge population, was not represented on it. But before India could take part in the International Council, it was necessary that Women's Councils should be organised in the various provinces of India. Bombay had already a Women's Council, but the other provinces were not so fortunate. Requests were made that Miss Cornelia Sorabji should undertake the organisation in Bengal, Lady Ali Imam in Behar, Mrs. Cousins and Mrs. Jinarajadasa in Madras, and Lady Shafi and Mrs. Faridoonji in the U.P.

##### More Women Magistrates for the City of Madras.

The appointment of Lady Sadasiva Iyer, who has been made Hon. Presidency Magistrate for the city of Madras, will be hailed with satisfaction by the public of that province, for she is respected by all for her faithful service in all good causes, and her outstanding ability as an eloquent speaker and wise leader. The *Fort St. George Gazette* announces the same appointment for Mrs. V. Panduranga Rao, a native of Mangalore, that city noted for the advancement of its women; and for Mrs. Hume Stanford, recently of South Africa, where she had an extensive experience in the working of children's courts and vigilance work. Thus, Madras city has taken a longer step forward than Bombay, which gave only the more limited powers of Justice of the Peace to four women first, but the Madras Presidency Magistrates include this title with the first-class Bench powers. Lady Sadasiva Iyer is a member of the central committee of the Women's Indian Association, and president of the Indian Ladies' Samaj, and Mrs. Stanford is the Commissioner of the Women's Indian Association for work connected with the Children's Act. The other women magistrates of the Presidency, Mrs. M. E. Cousins, B.Mus., for Saidapet, and Mrs. Jayalakshmi Amma, B.A., for Madanapalle, are also members of the Women's Indian Association.

##### Children's Rights.

It is only a couple of months since the Association of Honorary Magistrates, and the Women's Indian Association, memorialised the law member that a Children's Court should be established in Madras, in which it was desirable that both men and women magistrates should work together, and therefore requested that more women magistrates should be appointed. It must be highly gratifying to both associations that their request has been granted so expeditiously.

##### The Bombay Legislative Council.

Mr. R. G. Pradhan has given notice of his intention to move the following resolutions at the next session of

the Bombay Legislative Council, which commences on February 19:—

"This Council recommends to the Governor-in-Council to take such steps as may be necessary for the amendment of the Bombay electoral rules, with a view to removing the sex disqualification for election or nomination to the Bombay Legislative Council."

A similar resolution has been on the agenda of the Madras Legislative Council for the past two sessions, but has not been fortunate enough to secure a favourable place in the ballot, and still awaits discussion.

#### ITALY.

THE Bill for the Women's Administrative Vote was discussed by the Office of the Chamber, and was turned down by a majority of 6-3. The Bill should now be taken for discussion by Parliament. The principal women's associations have held meetings, and passed resolutions of protest urgently calling on the head of the Government not to allow such discussion to be further delayed. Signor Mussolini is in favour of the Bill, but most of the majority deputies being against it, they can put back the debate with perfect calm. The danger that the discussion will be postponed is therefore very grave, because the Chamber has to discuss the budget, and the approaching end of the session may arrive before any decision has been taken.

There has been great activity among women's societies, and the Woman Suffrage Federation has held meetings in many towns and published articles on the matter in all the principal daily papers. Unfortunately, the Press is nearly all opposed to the measure, both official and opposition papers, and this is a really serious obstacle to overcome, and one which will have to be faced again in any new campaign.

#### NEWFOUNDLAND.

MR. MONROE, the Prime Minister, is in favour of woman suffrage, and an enfranchisement Bill is, we learn from the *Times*, to be submitted to the Legislature by the Government this month. We learn from our Auxiliary how hopeful they are about this measure, though working under the disadvantage of the absence



from Newfoundland of their president, Mrs. Gosling, whose photograph we publish herewith, together with a note as to her many activities.

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

Published by the World's Young Women's Christian Association  
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FRÄULEIN HULDA ZAENACK.

Treasurer - - COUNTESS OF PORTSMOUTH.

#### A WANDER IN U.S.A. AND CANADA.

By Mrs. E. LUXMOORE.\*

DURING a fifteen thousand mile wander recently made in the United States and Canada, often in places that were out of the beaten track, it was intensely interesting to note the position the Young Women's Christian Association holds in the community. We set out on our peregrination in May, after the World's Committee meeting in Washington, with no tour definitely planned—no speaking engagements—and free to go from one place to the next as the spirit moved us. This is the ideal way to travel and to learn about another country and its people from within. We knew that New York, Boston, Chicago and Washington did not constitute America, though too often these parts are all that visitors see and know of the great country of U.S.A. We therefore went to the less frequented parts, and in doing so came much more closely in contact with the people of America, and learned to know and greatly appreciate both themselves and their wonderful country.

We carried a Y.W.C.A. directory with us, and when we arrived at any place we looked at once to see if it had an Association. If it had, our first call was there. The chief thing that impresses one about the Association in U.S.A. is that it is essentially part of the community life, and has a foremost place in it. There is never any difficulty in finding the building or rooms (though most places have their own building). In the large towns the type of work is somewhat similar. We travelled all through the South in the hot season—and it was distinctly hot—and one realised what a boon the splendid swimming pools and gymnasias were to the hundreds of girls who took advantage of them, not to speak of the cool lofty cafeterias, where delicious tempting food was provided at a very moderate cost. We have to confess that we often bought more than we wanted, because it all looked and was so nice. These large, well-equipped city buildings show forth the spirit of friendship in a remarkable way. The Y.W.C.A. is out to serve the women who come to it in a more personal and kindly way than one finds anywhere else. We have travelled in many parts of the world, and have known many different kinds of organisations, and unhesitatingly can say that nowhere else does one get the help and interest and fellowship that one finds in this Association of Christian women.

Our invariable practice on entering an Association as an entire stranger was to say, "I am a member of the Young Women's Christian Association. Can I see the General Secretary?" The response was always courteous and friendly, and at once the various people in authority wanted to know how they could best help us to see their

\* Mrs. Luxmoore is a member of the Executive Committee of the World's Young Women's Christian Association.

town and the Association work, and to meet people who would be mutually interesting. There were girls everywhere in these big city Associations—teen age girls; young business girls, just beginning to realise that they had a place and value in the big economic structure of their city; professional girls who had a dignity and quiet efficiency that come from having been proved and not found wanting; all enjoying the multifarious Association activities that were provided—swimming, gymnasium, camps, hikes, vacations, outings, clubs, classes. Another outstanding feature of the Association in U.S.A. is the efficient team work done by its members. Everyone is conscious of the worth and dignity of labour, in whatsoever sphere, and there is a remarkable lack of apologetic shyness or self-consciousness in presenting the cause of the Association to the public for its support.

In a small mining town in Arizona we found the Association a real community centre for the folks for miles around. It had no big building—only two rented rooms in fact, a shop on a business street of the town. This was open all day, and women from the surrounding districts could come in there to rest, eat their lunch, leave their packages, and meet their friends. In the evenings the girls could use the rooms to cook their own suppers, or have club reunions. If the town authorities wished to call some small meeting of the townfolk, the room was handy and was used. There was no employed secretary, but various volunteer workers were responsible for the conduct of affairs, and because the Association was of real use to the community, it was always well served in this way. Some women in one little town in the mountains, where there was a small Association, said: "We have no industrial problem; we have very few business girls, and these live at home; we are far away from the busy world, and what we do need is to enlarge our hearts and minds and not to be self-centred or selfish. The Young Women's Christian Association, through its world-wide work, can help us and our girls as nothing else can"; and this small Association was working quietly on with this end in view.

Out on the Pacific coast, as well as elsewhere, we came across Associations that helped the various immigrants—Chinese, Japanese, and European. In many places there are International Institutes, where women of different nationalities are helped to learn English, to understand civic laws and regulations, health and hygiene, and are given the opportunity of finding those who become their friends in the new strange land.

We wandered on and on, away up into the northern parts of the immense and sparsely populated land of Canada. In any town of any size there was an Association serving the girls and women; generally speaking, the outstanding problem, as in all pioneer countries, was housing. The Association had tried to meet this need, and had attractive buildings where girls could live in

safety and comfort. As one travelled over these great stretches of country, seeing here and there a little homestead, or even only a shack, the nucleus of a homestead, one wondered what the women did in their loneliness. True, we knew that work, hard work, was the order of their days, but what else did they have? It was exceedingly interesting to discover that the National Association immediately gets in touch with all immigrant women and girls, finds out their destination, sends word about their coming, and some one connected with the Association calls on each woman as soon as she arrives, and becomes a tangible link for her with the new world she has entered.

In our wanderings we reached the far north land, where the raiders and trappers and Royal Canadian Mounted Police lead lonely isolated lives. It was encouraging and touching to find some among the few women we met who, if and when they could "get out" of that lonely land, for a yearly or occasional jaunt into the busy world, used the Young Women's Christian Association as their natural refuge and source of help.

A wander such as we have enjoyed, when we entered into the lives and hearts of people of other lands, whose conditions of living are different from ours, helps one to appreciate and understand them as no amount of reading or information at second hand could have done. It also creates a real bond of brotherhood, and removes sundry preconceived ideas that were erroneous. It would be well if more of us could travel in other lands and so come to understand our neighbours better, for such understanding is a step towards peace among the nations.



A corner of the Club Rooms, Sofia.

### A HOPE REALISED IN BULGARIA.

It is always an encouraging event when an Association acquires premises of its own for the first time. Such an event has been long looked forward to in Bulgaria, and became fact in November of last year. The autumn months were spent in house hunting, and finally part of a flat was rented, and all preparations were made to open it at the soonest possible moment. By dint of much hard work, in which many members joined with zest, the flat was opened on November 1. Already it is the centre of Association life. Being centrally situated the rooms are much used, even by members who have very little leisure time. They are open all day, and are particularly appreciated at the lunch hour by girls who want to rest, talk, read or write in their spare time. One room is used as a general reading and sitting room, while one which adjoins it is a class-room. Here regular classes are held in French, English and literature. The two rooms used together form a meeting hall, and all the available space is needed for the open meeting for women held weekly by the Y.W.C.A. A number of social gatherings, teas and group meetings have been held already, all of which spread knowledge of the work and purpose of the Association. Any who have respon-

sibility for the Y.W.C.A. in Sofia find it invaluable to have the use of rooms of this kind, and other women's organisations, too, are recognising that this venture is providing useful experience in the running of women's clubs, a rare institution in Bulgaria.

### THE Y.W.C.A. AND THE ANGLO-INDIAN.

By Miss G. M. MADGE, M.A.\*

IN thinking of the women of India, Burma, and Ceylon it is not always remembered that that phrase by no means stands merely for the natives of these lands, but to an extent far greater than in any other country of the East, for a community of mixed origin. Men and women of Western lands have for generations settled down among the people of the country and intermarried with them. Owing first of all in great measure to caste customs amongst Indians, and later, we must sadly confess, to colour prejudice amongst Europeans, these folk of mixed blood have practically been forced into a "caste" of their own. The old name for them was "Eurasians," as a convenient abbreviation of European and Asiatic, but it has lately become the custom to call them "Anglo-Indians," though, indeed, nearly as many of them are of Dutch and Portuguese as of British origin. There were, according to the last census, about 300,000 in this community, and their numbers increase steadily, both within the community itself and by increase from without. The Young Women's Christian Association of India, Burma, and Ceylon has a peculiar responsibility for the women and girls of this community, for it was amongst these, as well as amongst Europeans, that it had its origin. Devoted pioneers, British and American, planted little branches up and down the country in cities and up-country stations, while in the larger cities the work has grown and developed, as it has in all countries, to meet the changing needs of young women in business and the professions.

By a large number of people in the world the very existence of a community of mixed race is regarded as a thing in no way to be countenanced. But for those who are moving forward to the fuller grasp of St. Paul's great Christian charter, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, but one humanity in Christ Jesus," it is not the existence of the Anglo-Indian community that is the mistake, but rather the false standard of values and the persistent race prejudices which have denied to that community a rightful and noble place in the social structure of India. Besides this, the distinction between the ruler and the ruled that came inevitably with the British occupation naturally caused the Anglo-Indian to stress to his uttermost the Western side of his ancestry, and to despise, and if possible conceal, the Eastern side. Thus, it has come about that the Anglo-Indian too seldom feels that he is part of India, the country of his birth, and that he has a contribution to make to build up the India that is to be. This is the more pathetic, as the Indian of to-day is awakening rapidly to the sense of country, and "India for the Indians" is the catchword of the day. One may well ask what in the India of the future is to be the place of the Anglo-Indian unless he comes quickly to a realisation that India is his country, and his Indian no less than his British heritage a treasure to be prized. But while we ask it, we must remind ourselves that it is still largely the prejudice of Western peoples that is keeping him in his present false position, a prejudice met with not only in the official circles of the country, but only too often amongst the educationalists, who are doing devoted work among the mixed community. It is one of the most prized opportunities of the Y.W.C.A. that it can do something towards breaking down race prejudice, by drawing together members of different communities in its branches, hostels, and committees, and also through its national work may help to awaken in the Anglo-Indian women the sense of India as the country of their birth and devotion. This is a far better ambition for them than to awaken merely their community sense. At present, naturally, they have no such strong com-

\* Formerly on the national staff of the Y.W.C.A. of India, Burma, and Ceylon.

munity sense, for the only actual bond between them is one of resentment against the unfairness of their position. Besides, the social gradations among them are as strong as they are among all other communities, and it is not the least bitter part of the self-respecting better-class Anglo-Indian's fate that he is perpetually identified by the outside world with the lowest and most degraded of his community.

Let us then look at a few isolated pictures of Anglo-Indian life, especially as it affects the women and girls. Anglo-Indians are found in various positions all over India, Burma, and Ceylon, but by far the largest number are employed on the railways, in every rôle short of the highest and lowest, "Boss" or coolie. Imagine an up-country railway junction, at no particular "place," though there is probably a native village at a little distance from the station. The station proper consists of a small settlement of a few hundreds of English and Anglo-Indian employees, living in little red-brick houses, whose respective sizes mark clearly the differences in the social status of their occupants. The settlement is often a pretty, park-like enclosure. It will contain a reading-room, a school, a Church of England church, a Roman Catholic one (a very large proportion of the Anglo-Indians are Roman Catholics), possibly the chapel of some other denomination. Beyond it is simply the jungle or cultivated land, and the railway line coming from the last similar station, fifty or a hundred miles away, and going on to the next. It is a narrow and dull life that must be lived in such a place. Variety comes indeed only by way of incessant transfers to another station, where the conditions are practically the same, and the people are not very different. Some day there may be a transfer to a town which will yield new interests and more excitements.

It often happens that the majority of members of the Association in these small stations are married women, for whom the Y.W.C.A. may mean the one relief from monotony and routine, the one opportunity for social gathering, for spiritual help, for touch with the outside world. Bible classes, devotional or literary meetings, work parties, annual sales of work and concerts, these make up the tale of their activities. And as one visits some of these small up-country branches, one longs to make them mean more—to make them stronger centres of fellowship, of home education and Christian life, vital points of contact between God and the world. The need is for more travelling secretaries, who would have time constantly to visit these isolated branches, and bind them more closely together in the National Association. (To be concluded.)



Association Members in Ceylon.

### JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN INDIA.

During the course of 1925 the Y.W.C.A. in India will celebrate its Jubilee. The Central Preliminary Committee, which has the oversight of national arrangements, has been at work for some time. There are also sectional and local committees, for the celebrations will be an important feature of local work this year, and all the various activities—clubs, camps, Girl Guides, and the annual meetings in each centre—will observe the Jubilee in their own way. The Quadrennial Conference at Calcutta in March will mark the opening of the

Jubilee season. Celebrations will be held in the hill stations during the hot weather months, followed by those in the cities up to the end of the year. A pageant has been written for the occasion which will be performed at most branches. One of the secretaries, who has known the work in India since early days, has written "The Story of Fifty Years in the Y.W.C.A. of India, Burma, and Ceylon," a timely publication for a Jubilee year when Association members are giving thanks for the work of the past, as well as looking forward to development in the future.

### THE Y.W.C.A. AND INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS IN CHINA.

REFERENCE has been made at various times in these columns to the work of the Y.W.C.A. in China in the industrial sphere. For some years before the appointment of a National Industrial Secretary work had been done among factory women in the mills of Shanghai. The Association in China felt, however, that the problem was one which called for expert knowledge and for co-operation on a national scale. When Miss Agatha Harrison came to China as the first National Industrial Secretary for the Association this impression was confirmed. Her insight into the factory system, with the widespread misery it brought to homes and individuals, urged her to work for national reform, and international, especially Western, co-operation. It was decided to bend all energies towards the education of public opinion, and the development of a right public conscience, rather than to temporary measures of relief for the workers. The next step, therefore, in the history of industrial work in the Association was to ask the National Christian Council of China, a national body representing all the Christian forces of the country, to give industrial questions a foremost place in their programme. With the education of public opinion as its objective, the National Christian Council proceeded to do a definite piece of work. It chose Shanghai as its centre, and was instrumental in the appointment, on the part of the Municipal Council of Shanghai, of a commission whose work was to collect information and make recommendations on child labour in that city. Only after the facts were widely known and practical remedies suggested could progress be hoped for.

The publication of the Report of the Child Labour Commission marks a very definite step in the history of industry in China, and in particular of the part played by the National Christian Council. The next phase has now begun—the difficult task of making the report widely known, and seeing that the facts make their impression. In so far as industrial conditions in China are not her responsibility alone, nor entirely within her power to change, public opinion all over the world, but especially in the West, from which the factory system originally came, is being enlisted on this question. Already the work of the Child Labour Commission is well known to many people in England, and a further step was taken in this direction at a meeting held on February 3 at Morley Hall, George Street, Hanover Square, London.

This meeting was held under the auspices of the Industrial Law Bureau of the British Association and the World's Y.W.C.A. Industrial Advisory Committee. The chief speaker was Dame Adelaide Anderson. Among those individuals who gave generously of their time and energy to the National Christian Council of China in the task they undertook, was Dame Adelaide Anderson, formerly H.B.M. Principal Lady Inspector of Factories. While travelling to Australia she received a message from the Council asking her to go to China, and to this she responded by cutting short her visit in the south, and spending some months working as a member of the Child Labour Commission in Shanghai. A short time ago Dame Adelaide Anderson returned to this country, and a large gathering of people interested in social and economic affairs met together in Morley Hall to hear her report, and that of several other speakers, on conditions in China. The Countess of Portsmouth (Chairman of the Industrial Law Bureau of the British Association) was in the chair, and after describing shortly the part played by the Y.W.C.A. in industrial

work in China, the task of the National Christian Council and the responsibility of people in the home countries, she introduced the speaker of the evening.

Dame Adelaide Anderson gave a graphic account of her experiences in China. She visited many factories—silk filatures, where children, miserable both in mind and body, work for twelve hours at a stretch in steam-laden air; match factories, where too often children work with no protection against the white phosphorus poison. She described the intolerable hardships of little children whose ailments were often left untended because no one was responsible, who ran risks daily from unguarded machinery, and whose lives were often cut short through neglect and hard work. These facts and many others are incorporated in the report of the Child Labour Commission. Dame Adelaide Anderson, as a member of the Commission, expressed her gratitude to those whose co-operation had made its work possible; to the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A., particularly to Miss Agatha Harrison, who, in the months of preparation before the Commission sat, had focussed the attention of a great many people on the whole question; to Mr. Simms, who was at that time chairman of the Municipal Council of Shanghai; to Mr. Fessenden, his successor, who had done, and is doing, much to encourage the plans made to bring home to the ratepayers of Shanghai their responsibility for industrial conditions; to the leading manufacturers in Shanghai, many of whom were favourable to the work of the Commission, and who have agreed to take one great step forward, that of adopting an age limit for child workers. Dame Adelaide Anderson pointed out that political difficulties had certainly militated, and still militate, against any rapid forward movements in China, but in spite of that a great deal could be done in the matter of educating public and private opinion. Moreover, among individuals there was a great deal of willingness to improve conditions, and a great deal could be done by encouraging any efforts made in that direction.

Sir John Jordan, formerly British Minister in Peking, spoke of conditions as he had known them, and emphasised the need for improvement. He also pointed out how important it was that Shanghai had been chosen as the centre of influence. It was a great industrial centre, and what was done in Shanghai would be an example to other growing industrial cities.

Miss Agatha Harrison, after describing her first unforgettable experiences among the factories in China, showed clearly wherein lay the responsibility of the West. Industrialism had reached China from the West—it was the duty of Christians, both in the West and in China, to check the evils which had already resulted.

Mr. Simms expressed his interest in the report of the Child Labour Commission, and hoped that now that the facts were put before the ratepayers in Shanghai some definite steps would be taken to remedy the evils. Miss Constance Smith, H.M. Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories, and Chairman of the Industrial Advisory Committee of the World's Y.W.C.A., thanked the speakers for all they had said, drawing a parallel between the present struggle in China to achieve protective legislation, and the long-drawn-out period of industrial reform in Great Britain. Because of her own experience, and because the nations were closely bound together in all things, Great Britain could and must help China in the industrial issue.

#### "CHINESE TRIANGLES."

FOR the past few years the staff of the Association in China has compiled an annual handbook. One year it dealt with travel in China, on another occasion with various phases of Chinese life. The latest is called "Chinese Triangles," and is composed of a number of individual reports on some aspect of Association work in China, or in some cases with the background of social and religious life. They are vividly written, and take the reader a long way towards the understanding of Association work in China, the difficulties and encouragements it meets, and the daily social life around it. The book makes fascinating reading, besides being of great value to all who are interested in Christian work in

China. A few copies are obtainable, and should be ordered from the Publications Department, Y.W.C.A., 1, Young Allen Court, near Chapoo Road, Quinsan, Shanghai, China. Price 1s. 3d.

#### WINTER IN REVAL.

Possibly the people of middle and southern Europe have an idealistic picture of winter in the northern latitudes. They think of the beauty of ice and snow, of glorious sleighing over snow plains, of skiing and skating and winter sports in abundance. But life in winter time in Reval, Estonia, as described by one of the members of the Association there, is not at all enviable. First come endless weeks of rain, beginning in September and lasting till December or January, varied by occasional days of snow, storm or frost. The few playgrounds of Reval are turned into marshes, the country roads into lakes. The woods and meadows are to a great extent under water. To enjoy a country walk one must possess not only the spirit of adventure, but strong watertight boots and a waterproof coat. The two latter, however, are expensive commodities. Many a time when the Association tries to arrange excursions in autumn for the Girl Reserves, most of the girls have to stay at home because their thin coats and shoes are no protection against the weather, and they cannot afford stronger ones. As for the older wage-earning girls, they work in their offices till about six o'clock, and they have no Saturday half-holiday, so that at the end of the week, after six days of long hours in stuffy offices, they are too tired to make the effort of putting on heavy clothes and boots and going out of doors. Winter sports entail expense which few of the girls can afford. Salaries are small, unemployment is widespread, and most of the girls are earning money for members of their families dependent on them.



Estonia in summer; near the Reval camp site.

The health department of the Association in Reval is entering upon a strenuous campaign against the effects of this exhausting indoor life. In the autumn of 1924 this department sent out a call "to all working women and girls in Reval" showing how imperative it is to take steps to preserve the health of women and girls. Groups were formed for health exercises, and easy muscle-strengthening exercises such as do not require expensive apparatus. These groups meet immediately after office hours. It is further planned to have games and folk dances, followed by a rest hour, and it is also hoped to give the girls at these classes the refreshment of hearing good music. There are few halls in Reval suitable for such a purpose, but some of the principal groups of business men have responded to an appeal for help. Many people are already interested in the project, notably a number of the best-known medical men, who are helping the Association by giving lectures.

Over one hundred women and girls joined the classes during the first week. They are of all kinds, middle-aged and young, skilled and unskilled, employees in all kinds of business offices. A month after the classes were begun a request came from the girls of one of the largest factories in the city asking the Association to organise gymnastics and games for them. They had no one else to help them in such a scheme, and the Association took up the matter at once. The owner of the factory placed a large hall at the disposal of his workers and undertook to bear expenses himself, and now healthy recreation is provided for these girls in their leisure hours. The Association hopes to increase this very useful work throughout the city.

Mrs. Gosling was one of the founders of the Women's Enfranchisement League of Newfoundland, and also of the only woman's club, the Old Colony Club, whose chief aim is to foster women's interest in public affairs. She was for some years a member of the Higher Education Council, the only woman who ever served on that Board. She was one of the originators of the Newfoundland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, as also of the Child Welfare Association, of which she is the hon. president. Among her other activities are included the Girls' Guides' Association, the Church of England Orphanage, the Girls' Department of Dr. Grenfell's Seamen's Institute, and the Women's Patriotic Association, founded during the war, which still works for the education of the children of soldiers and sailors who served in the war.

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

SERIOUS-MINDED, fact-finding women are wending their way from one national convention to another. Right on the heels of the close of the Women's Conference for the Cause and Cure of War, leaders of the National League of Women Voters are making elaborate plans for the sixth annual convention in Richmond, Virginia, April 16 to 22, and hardly will the league gathering have adjourned before delegates to the Quinquennial Convention of the International Council of Women, in Washington, D.C., May 4 to 14, begin to arrive from all parts of the world.

Preliminary arrangements mapped out by the programme committee for the National League of Women Voters' convention indicate the presentation of notable national and international speakers. Every effort is being made to make this sixth annual gathering of the League—the first in the South—an unusual success. The programme now being drafted by a committee, of which Miss Marguerite M. Wells, of Minneapolis, is chairman, will cover a wide field of subjects, ranging from intimate problems of the League's work to discussion of world peace, governmental issues of the day, women in politics, child labour legislation, educational problems, social hygiene measures, efficiency in government, living costs, uniform laws, and women in industry.

Award of the silver loving cup, to be given to the League in the State showing the greatest percentage of voting increase in the last election, will be a feature of the convention. Award of the cup will be based on certified State figures. The committee of award consists of Mrs. Walter Peck, of Providence, R.I.; Mrs. Gifford Pinchot, of Harrisburg, Pa.; Mrs. Julian Salley, of Aiken, S.C.; Mrs. John Borden, of Chicago; Miss Gladys Pyle, of Huron, S.D.; Mrs. Charles H. Brooks, of Wichita, Kansas; and Miss Retta Martin, of Boise, Idaho.

Women who laboured night and day for years for the ratification of the suffrage and prohibition amendments to the Constitution are now in the midst of another ratification fight. Hardly a woman's organisation in the country has not rallied to the defence of ratification of the Child Labour Amendment. They are determined to win, and while recent temporary adverse actions by several State legislatures have given great courage to the opponents, the women standing solidly for ratification are not dismayed. Their suffrage and prohibition experiences were not in vain. They know the truth of the old adage, "Where there's a will there's a way."

Two-thirds of the States, or thirty-six in all, must approve of the Amendment to make it a part of the Constitution. Opponents declare adverse action by thirteen States kills the Amendment. On the other hand, proponents hold the opinion presented in the following statement, which was sent by the National League of Women Voters to the Literary Digest on the latter's request:—

"Adverse action by one or both Houses of thirteen States on the proposed Child Labour Amendment does not signify defeat. The vitality of the movement will survive all setbacks. Only the first chapter has been

written in the story of the Child Labour Amendment, which may, like the cause of the woman suffrage, suffer many preliminary defeats, but will ultimately succeed. Adverse action may at all times be reconsidered. A. H. Throckmorton, an authority on constitutional law and Professor of Law at Western Reserve University, says in *corpus juris*, 'Ratification of a proposed amendment, when once acceded to by a State legislature, would seem to exhaust its authority to act and preclude a reconsideration; but, on the other hand, a vote of rejection on the part of a State is no bar to a subsequent reconsideration and adoption of the amendment.' New Jersey and Ohio ratified the fourteenth amendment, then rejected it. In each case latter action was disregarded. North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia rejected fourteenth amendment, later ratified it, and in each instance ratification was treated as authoritative."

Promotion of interest in better citizenship among students in schools and colleges is the newest feature of the ever-expanding programme of the National League. As the first step in the development of this new work, Mrs. Maud Wood Park, a former president of the League, is making a ten-week speaking tour to colleges. Mrs. Park's first address took place late in January at Bates College, in Maine, and before she completes her tour she will have visited two score or more normal schools and colleges in twelve States.

Both women governors, Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross, of Wyoming, and Mrs. Miriam A. Ferguson, of Texas, have been directing State government affairs for several weeks now. The chief burden of Mrs. Ross's message to the Wyoming Legislature was the question of State expenditures. Mrs. Ferguson's message covered a broad field. One suggestion to the Legislature brought forth a volume of discussion. She recommended that a tax of two cents a package be placed on cigarettes, thereby obtaining an income of a million a year. This extra money could well be used, Mrs. Ferguson said, for the erection of more houses on the campus of the State University.

Women are coming in constantly increasing numbers into both elective and appointive positions in the public service, according to a survey made by the Bureau of Vocational Information. In appointive positions, for example, women are working in the Geological Survey, a woman has been appointed assistant director of the United States Mint, and several women are holding positions as United States attorneys and assistant attorneys. In the postal service alone 25,715 women are serving outside of the District of Columbia. The United States Civil Service Commission reports that there has been a gradual increase in the number of women appointed to technical, professional, and natural science positions. One woman, Miss Lucile Atchison, is in the diplomatic service, and two are serving as assistant United States trade commissioners.

The League played a very important part in the Cause and Cure of War Conference, which brought to Washington hundreds of delegates from nine participating women's organisations. Miss Belle Sherwin, president of the League, presided over two of the conference sessions; Miss Julia C. Lathrop, first vice-president, also presided over a session, and served on the committee on the Causes of War; and Miss Ruth Morgan, head of the League's Department of International Co-operation to Prevent War, serves on the Committee on the Causes of War, and also on the Programme Committee. Twenty-six States were represented in the League delegation.

The Conference, in which experts on every known subject relating to the cause and cure of war spoke, was brought to a fitting climax by a visit to the White House, where the President and Mrs. Coolidge received the guests. Delegates came away much heartened by the President's reaffirmation of his belief that the United States should enter the world court. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt's directing hand was evident on all sides, and her scholarly contribution to the discussions of each session was anticipated with much interest from day to day.

Marked interest is being displayed in the findings of the Conference, which have been placed in pamphlet form. The committees drafting the findings based their reports on the material presented by the speakers, and from discussions from the floor. The preamble of the report on "Cures of War" reads:—

"The aspiration of the people of our country to serve mankind functions through many channels—political, economic, social and educational.

"Nevertheless, the basis of peace is an intellectual and spiritual problem. The Conference on the Cause and Cure of War calls upon the people of the United States to unite to break down national and racial prejudices and fears, and to build up a spirit of friendship and trust among the peoples of the world.

"We find that the cure of war requires a permanent international organisation as its instrument.

"While realising that the final cure of war lies with the spiritual healing of the nations, the Conference also recognises the necessity for ameliorating agencies and activities of immediate service."

Under "Political Forces" the Conference favoured United States entrance into the Permanent Court of International Justice, and also recommended working for the outlawry of war, with the understanding that this involves two definite steps:—

"1. The enactment, through an adequate agency, of an international law, declaring that war is a crime, in which an aggressor nation should be dealt with as a criminal.

"2. The use of international machinery through which such a law can become operative among all nations. This involves and actually compels permanent world organisation, which shall be continuously operative."

The report contained the following reference to the League of Nations:—

"The Conference recognises the immense service rendered by the League of Nations to the ideals that are dominant in the United States of America. It is the only functioning world organisation providing for the realisation of those ideals. The Conference, therefore, believes that, whether our Government enters the League or not, it should, as far as possible, enlarge our responsibilities in League plans and co-operate with its activities. Inasmuch as the Protocol of Geneva is the most advanced proposal ever made for the outlawry of war, the Conference believes that the United States should hold itself ready to take sympathetic and co-operative action in the furtherance of the success of the Protocol."

ANNE WILLIAMS.

#### URUGUAY.

AFTER consideration of the measures put forward by the Minister of the Interior for the reform of legislation regarding prostitution, the Chamber of Deputies has drafted a Bill for the suppression of maisons de tolérance. This big step forward in the direction of abolition is a triumph for the woman's movement, since the Press recognises that it is a direct consequence of the long campaign waged by the President of the Uruguay Woman Suffrage Alliance, Dr. Paulina Luisi.

#### NEWS OF DIVERS WOMEN.

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

#### ARGENTINE.

The appointment of policewomen, which would not be considered a novelty in the United States, is in the nature of an innovation in Latin American countries. The city of Buenos Ayres has taken the lead in this matter. Fifty women have been appointed to the police force, and have been assigned to duty in the parks.

#### DENMARK.

A Bill authorising ordination of women to the priesthood is to be introduced in the Danish Parliament, according to an article in the *Berlinske Tidend*.

#### FRANCE.

The municipal elections in France have been made the occasion of a widespread protest on the part of French women, who still possess no vote of any kind. Ignoring the law, they presented themselves in the different *mairies* and demanded that they should be inscribed on the electoral lists. Obviously the authorities could only refuse, but the various localities telephoned to Paris for instructions, and a good deal of commotion was created by the general request.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

##### Peersesses' Bill.

Viscount Astor introduced the Parliament (Qualification of Peersesses) Bill, a measure to enable peersesses in their own right to sit in the House of Lords. The Bill was read a first time.

##### Woman Watchmaker.

The *Daily News* reports that a woman shopkeeper, of Farnborough, Hants., whose windows were broken and goods abstracted recently, described herself as a watchmaker, at Aldershot police court. "You mean a watch-seller," said a magistrate. "I do not," retorted the lady indignantly. "I make and repair watches myself. I've been at the bench twenty years."

##### Woman Steeplejack.

Miss Freear, of Lincoln, has acted as steeplejack to Mr. J. W. Smith, of Gaunt Street, Lincoln, for five years. During that period she has climbed hundreds of chimneys and church towers in various parts of the country. Once she climbed to the summit of the 150ft. chimney at Messrs. Robey & Co.'s works at Lincoln, and recently she replaced the gilt weathercock which the gale had disturbed from the top of St. Andrew's Church tower, a height of 80ft.

#### IRAQ.

Readers of the "Arabian Nights," who think of the city of Bagdad mainly in terms of that classic, will be startled to learn that a women's club has been organised and opened there. What is more, a majority of its members are Mohammedan women, although apparently a non-sectarian organisation, and its establishment follows a vigorous agitation in the Moslem Press for abolition of the veil. The president of the club is Mme. Isma Zehawi.

#### JAPAN.

Japanese women will soon be representing constituencies in municipal councils if a Bill becomes law introduced in the national Diet by Representative Higuchi, which makes women eligible to seats in city and village assemblies. Women's organisations and other liberal workers are backing the measure. An organisation for full suffrage rights is actively at work throughout the nation.

#### NEW ZEALAND.

For the first time in the history of the Church in New Zealand a woman is sitting in the Synod. Mrs. Piri Munroe, who is a Maori, has a seat in the Waiapu Diocesan Synod. As Miss Hera Stirling she was well known as a mission worker of some years' standing.

#### NORWAY.

The end is at last in sight of the disability of Norway's married women in property matters. A measure to be introduced in the new Storting by the Minister of Justice accords with what the leading women of the nation have for years been demanding. The measure gives an independent status in property affairs to both husband and wife. Each party retains individually whatever property he or she held before marriage, but anything that comes later, either through inheritance or gift, is to be common property. There are some restrictions placed, however, on individual ownership of pre-marriage property. When there is a common interest in its use, as, for instance, a home or furniture, neither may sell without the approval of the other.

Another provision makes both parties equally responsible for support of the family and home. Activity in

the home, and granting of money, are both to be considered as means of meeting this responsibility. Negligence on either side may be met by an appeal to the county governor, who may then compel the negligent one to make fixed contributions to the other.

In case of death the survivor inherits the undivided estate of the other.

#### RUSSIA.

At recent municipal elections in the city of Kiev, Russia, and in surrounding territory, one-fourth of the offices in the city and village soviets were filled with women. This is the result of a campaign throughout the Soviet Republic urging the election of more women to local positions.

#### UNITED STATES.

##### Women in Civil Service Positions.

Of executive civil service employes in the District of Columbia, 41 per cent. are women. Elsewhere throughout the country only 11 per cent. are women. In the service as a whole 15 per cent. are women.

##### Housewives and Wireless.

The State bureau of markets, of the town of Harrisburgh, Philadelphia (U.S.A.), is co-operating with the Federal bureau in broadcasting marketing hints to housewives for ten minutes every Tuesday. The object is to acquaint the housewife with market conditions, such as when the wholesale market is overstocked with certain commodities, etc., as a knowledge of this helps her to buy economically.

#### BOOK REVIEW.

THE CHURCH AND WOMAN. By A. Maude Royden. With a chapter on the Evangelical and Free Churches, by Constance M. Coltman, M.A., B.D. (James Clarke and Co.) 6s.

This book contains a comprehensive survey of Women in the Early Church, the Middle Ages, the post-Reformation period, and the present position with respect to Women in the Ministry in the Church of England. In her opening chapter on "The universal subordination of women," Miss Royden will have none of that contention of certain enthusiasts that in many of the ancient civilisations women held an equal place with men, and asserts that when all exceptions, such as matriarchates, etc., have been allowed their full weight, the outstanding fact in the history of women has been their universal subordination to men. She will not even make excuses for St. Paul, as many feminists do, pleading faulty translation for many of his "hard sayings," but asserts boldly that St. Paul, in spite of his high calling, was unable to rise above the average masculine Jewish regard for women. Her statement regarding the position of women in the Early Church, except "as martyrs and as deaconesses," is equally depressing, and will no doubt give great satisfaction to the clergy as a whole. Miss Royden, however, deals very skilfully with the alleged "reasons" which are constantly being advanced *ad nauseam* against opening the Ministry to women, and which feminists know too well to want to hear them repeated in these pages. And she raises our hopes by drawing attention to the fact that of the three great prophecies of St. Paul, of the disappearance, in Christ, of racial barriers between Jew and Gentile, class barriers between slave and freeman, and sex barriers between men and women, two have already come to pass, and the third—the sex barrier—is slowly yielding.

The chapter on Women in the Evangelist and Free Churches, contributed by the Rev. Constance Coltman, is both scholarly and illuminating, and if it serves no other purpose, amply proves women's contention that they have a special contribution to give in furtherance of the things of the Spirit. Though regretting many of the excesses committed by the authors of the Reformation, Mrs. Coltman pays Protestantism the tribute of having claimed an independent value for the soul of woman, apart from her human functions. The martyrdom of Catholic women, and women in various post-Reformation sects, is noted, and certain leaders cited, such as Joan of Kent, the most famous of the Anabaptist

martyrs, and a theologian of no mean repute, who was burnt at Smithfield in 1550, Anne Askew, and the Holy Maid of Kent, a nun who courageously protested against Henry the Eighth's scandalous divorce of Katherine of Aragon. The list of women preachers is surprisingly full. Of these the most noted were the Quaker women, who crossed continents, challenged princes and governors, and endured floggings, imprisonment, and death itself, in the service of the Gospel.

In the section on the present position of women among the Free Churches, Mrs. Coltman maintains that the ministry of women is becoming more articulate every year, and it is only a question of time before every one of the Free Churches will have women as well as men in their ministry. At present in this country there are two women on the official list of Congregational ministers, Mrs. Coltman herself, and the Rev. Mary G. Collins, of North Bow Church, London; two women Baptist ministers, Rev. Mrs. Living-Taylor, co-partner with her husband of Zion Jubilee Baptist Church, Bradford, and Miss Gates, pastor of Tew and Cleveley, Oxfordshire; and no fewer than seven Unitarian women ministers. The full acceptance of the spiritual equality of men and women, however, Mrs. Coltman thinks is only really held by the Friends and the Salvation Army, but she forgets the Christian Scientists, who not only make no difference at all between the sexes, but who frequently appoint a woman as leader before a man.

D. M. N. (From *The Vote*.)

#### THE NEW WOMAN IN CHINA.

By MRS. THOMPSON SETON.

WHILE a bloody revolution, complicated by a Chinese puzzle of conflicting claims, makes the Republic of China the most unsettled spot on the globe, one observer, at least, finds a good portent for the future in the rise of the Chinese woman. China, it has lately been discovered, is conducting a "modern war," with all the misery and bloodshed and general horror produced by warfare in the most enlightened nations. Her womanhood is equally modern, and the modern woman of China, whose existence may surprise the Western nations as much as the modern frightfulness of Chinese warfare is surprising them now, will have a hand in reforming the nation after wars have run their course.

The New Woman of China has emerged from the Inner Chamber. In contrast to the past, she is walking the streets, going into strange and public places, conversing with men, other than her near relatives, even accepting their embraces in the lively steps of the latest jazz, without running undue risk of incurring the Penalties of the Ancient Rites, which prescribe death and torture for all kinds of breaches of modesty and good faith.

The wave of self-determination, both for nations and individuals, which has been creeping around the world, received its major impetus during and after the Great War, and has broken upon the mental shore of China with spectacular results. It has left there Western thoughts and Western ideals which, taken to the Chinese home, have nourished a sense of independence and power already strong in the women of the Celestial Kingdom.

The late Empress Dowager Tzu Hsi is the most striking example of a powerful personality breaking through the conventions. She owed the change in her status in the first place to an unusual combination of circumstances, the early death of Sakota, the Empress without male issue, and her good fortune in being the first of the Emperor's Consorts to supply the Emperor with an heir to the throne. This raised her to the rank of Imperial Mother, an advantage her ambition and wits and personal charm was able to cement into an impregnable position, even in a country which had seldom tolerated women rulers. Another imperial link between the old and the new order is the present Empress of China. Education in Western thought influenced the boy Emperor in his choice of a wife. Only one secondary wife, and of the highest rank, "Fei," has been selected to share his favour.

To generalise upon such widely divergent cities as Peking in the north, Shanghai in the middle, and Canton



in the south is not like stating conditions in Boston, Philadelphia and Jacksonville, but rather like discussing Montreal, New York, and Mexico City. The self-interest and isolation is almost as complete, and patriotism, as we understand it, is about analogous to our American international spirit. Ancestor worship has made the Family and not the State all-important, and the lack of quick inter-provincial communication, either physically or mentally—there are few railroads, postal or telegraphic services—has left the local isolation undisturbed by anything that the mysterious "grapevine telegraph" has not deemed important. Therefore, when one can find similar cases in the three great Chinese cities mentioned, it is fair to assume that the condition is national.

The educated women are not hiding their lights under bushels. A great part of the work of all of them consists in the propagation of liberal ideas.

The educated women have entered three fields of endeavour—the professions, business, and philanthropy. There are women bankers and lawyers and dentists and druggists, as well as shining lights who are educationalists and philanthropists. But the most interesting group, to my mind, are the doctors. Chinese medicine, the accomplishment of surprising cures, is ridden by superstition and unscientific practices, and the foreign trained woman doctor has had a hard road to travel while establishing her practice. She rarely is called in until the patient is *in extremis*, and if she fails "foreign devil's medicine" is blamed.

Women educators are particularly prominent throughout the Chinese Republic, and it is in the realm of education that the revolutionary ideas of the "Western barbarians" have taken greatest hold.

China already has a woman suffrage party. Among the suffragists may be found most of the women lawyers, writers and business women.

In 1912 some women lawyers returning from Paris established a school of law and politics in Peking, which has since lapsed. But another opportunity for young women to train for law has been given recently in the opening of a new law school for women in Shanghai, for which Mrs. George C. Hsu is largely responsible. Mrs. Hsu is one of the best known and most substantial progressives in Shanghai. She is the president of the Women's Rights Association, vice-president of the Women's Club, and president of the Women's Law School.

Various missionary organisations are credited with much of the responsibility for the improved and improving status of education in China. The missionaries are everywhere, and like a web their mission schools, hospitals, and welfare centres have spread to the farthest outposts, and have caught the mind, and perhaps some of the heart, of a people who revered learning long before Europe was out of its swaddling clothes. In the mission schools the percentage of girl students, as compared with the boys, is much higher than in the Government schools. In the lower primary (elementary) schools there were 169,146 pupils in 6,012 schools, under 6,062 teachers, and about 30 per cent. were girls. In the higher primary (elementary) schools the percentage remained about the same.—*Stri Dharma.*

#### PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION FOR WOMEN.

THIS subject is one which has given rise, and will doubtless continue to give rise, to so much controversy among women, that the following racy little article has been republished from the American paper, *Equal Rights*, in the hope that it will both amuse our readers and also that it will draw forth a reply from some one who is convinced of the usefulness of such legislation.

##### The Opinion of An Expert.

Amy Wren, Brooklyn attorney, who had just been sworn in as Deputy Attorney-General of the State of New York, in a newspaper interview immediately

following her induction into office, pointed out vividly the hardships wrought on working women by legislation designed to "protect" them.

"Uplift gets lovely jobs for the uplifters. That's about all I can see to it. \* \* \* If they only knew what they were doing! But they never do. I ought to love them. They get me jobs. I am counsel for the Brooklyn-Manhattan Transit Women's League. It was formed when the welfare legislation that these kind-hearted uplifters worked for was put through. When so much was done for the poor, hard-working sister in industry, she almost lost her job. It cost the B.-M. T. women \$3,000 to undo the good that was done for them, and to have part of that beneficent legislation repealed!

"If the Bill the uplifters worked for had been kept it would have been impossible for the railroads to hire women. As conditions are now, they can't be conductors. Oh, no! That's unwomanly, and one gets around \$40 a week for it; but they can be ticket agents—that's very lady-like, and, besides, it only brings a salary in the twenties. That certainly would not wreck anyone's health! \* \* \*

"As far as I can see, if a debutante can dance all night without injuring the chances of the future generations for health and all that, there's no reason why they shouldn't be allowed to work all night if they wish.

"A waitress can't wait on table after ten at night, but there's nothing to hinder a woman from scrubbing office floors into the wee sma' hours if she desires. She has perfect liberty to do that. In fact, she has liberty to do almost all the dirty jobs. But when she gets into pleasant work—then the uplifters get busy. And the big-hearted men's labour unions, too.

"They can't bear to see sister working too hard, or holding down jobs they would like to have. As the B.-M.T. women said: 'When we were working twelve hours a day for about twelve cents an hour, no one cared a darn, but when we get to the point where we have some equality with men, the reformers get together and disqualify us.'

"And that is the truth of the matter. They act as disqualifiers of women. If men were protected by welfare legislation, too, the women would not object, but until both men and women are equally protected, it is stupid to think one is permanently helping the race."

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Editor,—It was with great pleasure that I read in the columns of last month's *Jus* some slight information as to the position and status of women in Soviet Russia. There seems good reason to believe that women—as such—suffer from no inequality under the law or in industry at the present time in Russia. The divorce laws, the legal status of the child, and of the woman, whether as mother or worker, seem to be thoroughly satisfactory.

I regret that the women's societies in Great Britain, whose aims are equality for their sex under the law, in professions and in industry, seem to have deliberately ignored the achievement of the women citizens of that vast area. It is in no provocative spirit that I urge that we, feminists and suffragists of Great Britain, should have fullest information on the question of the status and progress of women in Russia, no less than in any other country. If we are unable to place confidence in those of our many friends of all shades of political opinion who have reported favourably to us on their return from that country, I venture to suggest that some one should be specially appointed to go and get the information for us.

It is impossible, unless we alter the name and scope of our organisation, to ignore, either out of carelessness or deliberate political bias, any section of women in the world. It is not acting up to our best traditions, and it is not worthy of those pioneer women who built up our movement. These women have been of all political parties and in all countries.—Yours, etc.,

WINIFRED GILES.

1917 Club, London, February 20, 1925.

## SECTION FRANÇAISE.

### NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

#### Grande Bretagne.

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

Le Parlement est rentré le 10 février. La Session sera importante; le bill du gouvernement sur la tutelle des enfants a été présenté, mais le résultat n'est pas encore connu. Le bill sur la légitimation, ainsi que sur la séparation et la pension alimentaire seront aussi présentés. Sur la question de la franchise égale, M. Whiteley, socialiste, a présenté un bill donnant le droit de vote à toutes les femmes à partir de 21 ans; ce bill a été rejeté jusqu'à la fin de la session, parceque, dit Sir William Joynson Hicks, cette loi donnerait une majorité de 2 millions aux électrices. D'autres bills sur la situation des mères non mariées, sur la suppression de la "Sex Disqualification," ont été pris en considération. Sur la nationalité de la femme mariée, la motion qui a passé sans amendement est celle-ci: La femme britannique mariée à un étranger gardera sa nationalité à moins qu'elle ne fasse une déclaration contraire.

*Les doctresses mariées.*—Le County Council de Londres a décidé de ne plus employer de doctresses mariées. Jusque maintenant cette restriction s'appliquait à toutes les fonctionnaires, excepté à celles-ci. Elles se sont réunies pour demander la suppression de cette clause.

*Les femmes dans la police.*—Le rapport du Ministre de l'Intérieur avait recommandé que les polices locales emploient les femmes, en laissant la question à leur initiative, mais le nombre de ces fonctionnaires n'a guère augmenté.

#### Ligue de la Liberté des Femmes.

La Ligue a fait une démarche auprès de tous les membres du Parlement pour qu'ils soutiennent le bill de M. Whiteley, présenté le 20 février. La Ligue a donné tout son appui au bill de Sir Robert Newman contre la "Sex Disqualification"; ce bill permettra:—

(1) D'empêcher la révocation des fonctionnaires mariées.

(2) Il assurera l'admission des Paires à la Chambre des Lords.

(3) Il empêchera l'exclusion des femmes des jurys, des cours de "coroners" ou des cours de justice.

La Ligue a fait une enquête auprès des candidats au "County Council" de Londres pour soutenir à l'avenir tous ceux qui sont prêts à s'opposer au renvoi des fonctionnaires mariées.

Une vente au profit de la Ligue aura lieu le 13 mars à 25 Wimpole Street, Londres, et le 25 avril, la conférence annuelle aura lieu au Caxton Hall.

#### La Science Menagère et l'Electricité.

Une association féminine, "Women's Electrical Association," vient de se fonder à Londres. Son objet est de répandre les connaissances relatives à l'emploi de l'électricité dans le ménage, dans les applications à l'hygiène et à la médecine, dans la vie industrielle et commerciale, dans les transports, dans l'agriculture, et l'horticulture. L'association organise dans ce but des conférences avec démonstrations, des échanges d'informations; elle publiera des bulletins, journaux, revues, etc.

#### Comité des Dominions Britanniques.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby a présidé le 9 février la conférence du Comité en vue d'établir une union plus étroite entre les femmes de tout l'Empire britannique.

#### Les Femmes à la Chambre des Lords.

Le Vicomte Astor a présenté au Parlement un bill donnant aux paires par droit de naissance le droit de siéger à la Chambre des Lords. Le bill a passé en première lecture.

#### Autriche.

Les Viennoises demandent l'établissement d'un Ministère des affaires féminines. L'expérience parle-

mentaire des membres féminins du Parlement leur a montré que les hommes n'accordent aucune attention aux intérêts des femmes, de la maison, et des enfants. Il y a, dans le monde entier, un mouvement en faveur de l'économie domestique, qui a été jusqu'ici une science négligée, isolée, sans harmonie avec le progrès général et économique. Madame Gisela Urban a fait en février une conférence au Conseil National des Femmes sur "L'incorporation de la science ménagère dans l'organisme de l'Etat." Une exposition: "Le Ménage Nouveau" s'ouvrira à la foire de Vienne avec l'exposition d'hygiène internationale le 2 mai.

#### Norvège.

Un projet de loi va être présenté au nouveau Parlement par le Ministre de la justice pour accorder aux femmes comme aux maris un statut indépendant en matière de propriété. Chacun gardera sa propriété individuelle, la communauté sera réduite aux acquêts. Les deux conjoints seront responsables de l'entretien de la famille et de la maison.

#### Italie.

Le projet de loi pour le vote administratif des femmes a été discuté par les Uffici de la Chambre et rejeté par six voix contre trois. Les associations féministes recommencent leur campagne.

#### Etats-Unis.

*Ligue nationale des Electrices.*—La conférence sur les causes et les remèdes de la guerre est terminée. Des centaines de déléguées représentant les sociétés féministes des 26 Etats se sont réunies à Washington pour entendre les discours d'orateurs éminents et experts. Le Président des Etats-Unis et Mrs. Coolidge ont ensuite reçu la délégation et le Président a réaffirmé ses sympathies pour la Cour Internationale et son espoir d'y voir entrer bientôt les Etats-Unis.

La conclusion de la Conférence peut se résumer ainsi: L'aspiration du peuple des Etats-Unis est de servir l'humanité par tous les moyens: politiques, économiques, sociaux et pédagogiques. Néanmoins, le problème de la paix est un problème intellectuel et spirituel. Les peuples doivent s'unir pour briser les préjugés et les méfiances de races et créer entre eux un esprit de concorde et de confiance. La suppression des guerres nécessite une organisation permanente internationale. La Cour Internationale de Justice en est une et les Etats-Unis doivent en faire partie. Il faudra que la guerre soit désormais considérée comme un moyen illégal de traiter les différends internationaux et que les pays agresseurs soient poursuivis comme criminels. La Conférence reconnaît les immenses services rendus par la Société des Nations et espère que le gouvernement des Etats-Unis coopérera à son activité et à son succès.

*La 6e Convention annuelle,* se tiendra à Richmond (Virginie) du 16 au 22 avril sous la Présidence de Miss M. Wells. Le programme comprendra, outre les travaux de la Ligue, une discussion sur la paix mondiale, les questions politiques du jour, le féminisme dans la politique, la législation sur le travail des enfants, l'enseignement, l'hygiène sociale, le coût de la vie, les femmes dans l'industrie, etc. La Ligue travaille aussi à développer le sens des devoirs civiques parmi les écoliers et les étudiants. Mrs. Maud Wood Park a commencé, dans ce but, une tournée de propagande de dix semaines.

Les deux femmes gouverneurs, Mrs. Taylor Ross, du Wyoming, et Mrs. A. Ferguson, du Texas, ont dirigé les affaires de leurs gouvernements depuis plusieurs semaines. Le principal souci de Mrs. Ross a été la question des dépenses de l'Etat. Mrs. Ferguson a demandé une taxe de 2 cents par paquet de tabac, ce qui rapportera un million par an à consacrer à la constructions de nouvelles maisons.

#### Nouvelle-Zélande.

Pour la première fois, dans l'histoire de l'Eglise en Nouvelle Zélande, une femme, Mrs. P. Munroe, qui est une Maori, est admise à siéger dans un synode.

## FRANCE.

## Communication de l'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes.

Les conférences de propagande continuent en province et autour de Paris.

Mme. Suzanne Grunberg revient d'Ancey et de Chambéry, où deux importantes réunions ont eu lieu.

Mlle. Odette Simon va ces jours-ci à Cherbourg. Elle doit faire ensuite une conférence suffragiste au groupe radical de Marly.

Mme. Jézéquel a parlé à Nîmes et à Valence.

Mmes. Puech, Schwab et Kraemer-Bach ont participé au meeting organisé par la Ligue des Droits de l'homme à Chaville. Cette réunion suscita des contradictions, mais le public très nombreux se rallia à notre cause.

Mme. Rebours a fait deux conférences et fondé deux groupes au Havre et à Neuchâtel-en-Bray.

Mme. Germaine Seillier part à Cholet en constituant un.

Mme. Casevitz a été à Argenteuil faire une conférence suffragiste sous le auspices de la Loge franc-maçonnique. Elle va le 31 à Auxerre.

Mme. Malaterre-Sellier part le 30 pour Reims, Charleville et Sedan. Elle ira ensuite à Amiens, Abbeville et Boulogne-sur-Mer, puis dans le Midi.

Mme. Brunschvicg va partir pour Limoges, Brive, Tulle, Saint-Céré, Sarlat, Périgueux, Mussidan, Nontron, Angoulême. Elle ira avec Mme. Vogé d'Avasse à Libourne.

Mme. de la Seiglière doit aller dans le Gers.

Et plusieurs autres conférences sont en voie d'organisation.

La série des cours organisés par le groupe de l'U.F.S.F. pour l'éducation politique des femmes est terminée. Elle a remporté un grand succès. Ces cours très remarquables ont été sténographiés. Nous serions désireuses que tous les groupes et nos amis s'inscrivent pour quelques exemplaires afin de nous en faciliter la publication. Ecrire à l'U.F.S.F., 53, rue Scheffer.

## Comité d'action pour le Suffrage Immédiat.

La réunion du Parthéon "Dimanche Suffragiste," qui a eu lieu le 25 Janvier, a eu tout le succès désiré. M. Gouttes, de la Commission des Régions Libérées, délégué par M. Philippoteaux, rappelé d'urgence dans les Ardennes, a dit, en termes excellents, la situation de la question du Suffrage des Femmes en France, considérant l'union de tous les efforts des féministes comme désirable pour soutenir l'action parlementaire.

Miss Alice Paul, d'Amérique, de passage à Paris, est venu apporter à la tribune le salut des Féministes américaines, et Mlle. Jeanne Mélin, confiante dans l'appui moral des suffragistes du monde entier apporté aux Femmes du pays des Droits de l'Homme et du citoyen, la remerciant chaleureusement.

## Pour le Vote Municipal en 1925.

Cent six députés ont déposé mardi, 20 janvier, une proposition de loi en faveur de l'électorat et de l'éligibilité à donner aux femmes en vue des prochaines élections aux Conseils municipaux.

Dans l'exposé des motifs, M. Louis Martin explique que l'électorat féminin existe dans la grande majorité des peuples civilisés, et il fait ressortir quelle heureuse influence auraient les femmes sur la gestion des affaires municipales.

## LA SUISSE.

Une première victoire, qui sera, on peut l'espérer, le début d'une série, vient d'être remportée à Genève cette semaine même. Sur la demande officielle de l'Association genevoise pour le Suffrage féminin et de l'Union des Femmes, le Conseil d'Etat a nommé—pour la première fois—trois femmes membres de Commissions officielles : à la Commission administrative de l'Hôpital et de la Maternité, Mlle. Maystre, Dr. en médecine ; à la Commission administrative de l'Asile d'aliénés de Bel-Air, Mlle. Mariette Schaezel, Dr. en médecine ; et à la Commission de Protection des Mineurs, Mlle. Jeanne Guibert, secrétaire de l'Office central des apprentissages.

C'est avec une très profonde satisfaction que nous enregistrons ces nominations. D'abord parce qu'elles couronnent des efforts qui remontent loin : c'est en effet en janvier 1916, il y a donc exactement 9 ans, que, pour la première fois, l'Association pour le Suffrage présenta des candidates à la Commission de l'Hôpital et de la Maternité, dont la nomination échoua devant le Grand Conseil, vu l'impossibilité pour les partis politiques de s'entendre à cet égard, mais qui fut cependant recommandée au Conseil d'Etat par 15 députés—sans le moindre succès. Depuis lors, tous les trois ans, à l'époque du renouvellement de la Commission, les suffragistes revenaient régulièrement à la charge et étaient non moins régulièrement battues. Il a fallu l'élection, en novembre dernier, d'un Conseil d'Etat enfin progressiste et sympathique à l'idée de la collaboration féminine pour arriver à faire la brèche dans le rempart de préjugés et d'égoïsme entourant ces chasses gardées que sont pour les partis politiques ces Commissions officielles, et nous tenons à lui exprimer ici nos vifs remerciements.

Et d'autre part, nous sommes très heureuses de ces nominations parce que ces trois femmes sont des personnalités capables de remplir les fonctions qui leur sont confiées, consciencieuses et courageuses, et qui nous feront honneur. Deux d'entre elles d'ailleurs sont bien connues de nos lecteurs : Mlle. Schaezel, par ses articles sur des questions de lutte antivénéérienne et sur l'organisation des femmes universitaires en Suisse et à l'étranger, et Mlle. Guibert par ses comptes-rendus divers sur des sujets d'ordre professionnel comme pour sa collaboration de près de quinze années au travail féministe genevois. A toutes deux, comme à Mlle. Maystre, dont la réputation de médecin n'est plus à faire, nos chaudes félicitations.

E. GOURD.

(Mouvement Féministe).

## URUGUAY.

LA Chambre des Députés ayant étudié le projet du Ministre de l'Intérieur sur la réforme des dispositions relatives à la prostitution a rédigé un projet de loi supprimant les maisons de tolérance. Ce grand pas fait dans le sens abolitionniste est un triomphe au point de vue de la collaboration des femmes—car la presse a reconnu que ce projet est une conséquence de la tenace campagne menée depuis des années par la Présidente de l'Alliance Uruguayenne pour le Suffrage des Femmes, Dr. Paulina Luisi.

## BELGIQUE.

## La Mise à l'ordre du jour de la loi Électorale Provinciale.

La Chambre a enfin voté hier 28 janvier la mise à l'ordre du jour de la loi électorale provinciale. La proposition de M. Pussemier sera discutée immédiatement après la péréquation des traitements.

Mais que de palabres et de cris pour franchir ce premier pas vers la réalisation d'une réforme que l'on croyait virtuellement réalisée depuis déjà quatre ans !

Les porte-paroles des 50 socialistes non-signataires ce l'engagement de 1921 ont lancé des protestations véhémentes contre les "manœuvres politiques de la droite."

Quant à M. Camille Huysmans, qui est parmi les signataires, il s'est attiré par son attitude singulière cette riposte de M. Seghers :—

"Je ne crois pas sortir de la correction parlementaire en disant que M. Huysmans joue parfois le Machiavel. Comme le lui a justement fait remarquer M. Van Cauwelaert on ne peut trahir ni en un acte ni en deux. Après avoir réclamé deux fois la mise à l'ordre du jour, M. Huysmans déclare aujourd'hui s'en désintéresser. Il ne peut pas cependant s'opposer à la discussion actuelle du projet, ce serait manquer à la correction élémentaire !"

— Que M. Huysmans et ses disciples méditent la parole de M. Jaspar : "Il n'y a pas de plus grave péril

pour la moralité politique que l'infidélité à la parole donnée."

M. Franck a expliqué longuement que le Parlement ne disposait plus du temps matériel nécessaire pour résoudre avant les élections une question qui divise profondément l'assemblée.

"Eh ! bien, a répliqué M. Carton de Wiart, discutons immédiatement, sans perdre plus de temps !"

Mais ce sage conseil ne plait pas aux gauches. M. Franck prétend que les libéraux peuvent ignorer un pacte "auquel ils ne sont pas partie."

Cependant, si les libéraux ont déclaré réserver leur pleine liberté quant au vote de l'électorat féminin, il est de fait que la participation de M. Speyer à la proposition transactionnelle de M. Ligy, en octobre 1921, implique du moins l'engagement, de la part des libéraux, de ne pas empêcher la discussion loyale du projet. C'est la seule signification que l'on puisse raisonnablement attribuer à la signature libérale du pacte de 1921.

— Plusieurs membres de la droite ont insisté sur la nécessité inéluctable et pressante de doter le pays d'une loi électorale provinciale. M. Franck n'est pas embarrassé pour si peu ; il a un tour tout prêt dans son sac : "Une loi électorale provinciale, dit-il, n'est nécessaire que pour le 9 juin.\* Elle pourra être votée par les Chambres élues au prochain scrutin. Et, pour le surplus, une simple prorogation de la loi actuelle est possible."

Et voilà. Après le prochain scrutin législatif, M. Franck découvrirait qu'on ne peut pas, en moins de 15 jours, examiner le projet, et qu'il faut bien proroger la loi actuelle. La droite serait dupe une fois de plus de ses conceptions antérieures—et les suffragistes verraient s'éfrayer peu à peu la majorité que le pacte de 1921 leur assurait pour l'obtention de l'électorat provincial !

La clôture de la discussion étant réclamée de toutes parts, la Chambre a passé au vote, et a adopté par 96 voix contre 68 et 8 abstentions la proposition de M. Seghers : discussion immédiate du projet relatif à la péréquation ; discussion ensuite de l'électorat féminin.

Etant donné que la Chambre a encore plusieurs projets urgents à voter avant les élections, M. Tschoffen a demandé qu'elle siège le matin pour discuter sans retard la pension des employés. Cette proposition, si rationnelle qu'elle fût, a provoqué une nouvelle tempête, et M. Tschoffen a accepté son ajournement. Mais cet incident a donné à M. Pécher l'occasion d'insinuer, malgré le vote qui venait d'être acquis, que l'on pourrait introduire la discussion de cette question entre celle de la péréquation et celle de l'électorat féminin. . . . Faut-il que le vote des femmes effraie M. Pécher pour lui faire oublier ainsi sa correction habituelle !

Quelles seront les conséquences du vote d'hier ?

M. Joseph Demarteau publie ses prévisions sous le titre suggestif : "Cela vaut bien une crise !"†

"Au cas où le ministère Theunis résisterait à l'orage de la péréquation, l'électorat féminin sera-t-il l'occasion de la crise définitive ?

"Messieurs les ministres libéraux sont décidés, paraît-il, à s'en aller au cas où les dames seraient admises au scrutin provincial.

"Attitude certes peu galante et tout aussi peu raisonnable, qu'ils cherchent à couvrir de vains prétextes, mais qui n'en apparaît pas moins, pour l'instant, comme une manœuvre de chantage : dernier moyen d'arrêter une réforme en faveur de laquelle une indiscutable majorité existe à la Chambre !

"La question se pose dès lors : l'électorat provincial féminin vaut-il bien les risques d'une crise ministérielle ?

"La réponse, à nos yeux, n'est pas douteuse. Faut-il préciser encore notre façon d'envisager cette réforme ? Le suffrage universel ne nous sourit point, mais puisqu'il est introduit dans nos lois, aussi longtemps qu'il y restera fixé, nous entendons qu'il soit appliqué sincèrement.

"Illogisme, nous objecte-t-on. Nullement. L'illogisme est chez ceux qui, défendant le principe du droit

\* Jour fixé pour les élections provinciales.

† "Gazette de Liège," 29 janvier.

de suffrage, s'appliquent à en truquer l'application et prétendent en priver la grosse moitié de l'humanité, parce qu'ils s'en méfient.

"Et cette brouille complète avec la logique, qu'indiquet-elle, sinon un manque de sincérité, confirmé d'ailleurs par le fait que plusieurs journaux combattant aujourd'hui l'extension de l'électorat féminin s'en déclaraient partisans au lendemain des dernières élections communales !

"La menace de démission formulée par les ministres libéraux n'appuie donc pas une conviction, mais une comédie. Nous serions bien naïfs de nous y laisser prendre !"

Plus loin M. Demarteau ajoute :—

"Il y a là aussi, pour nous, une question de dignité. Le souci de conserver sa stabilité à la combinaison ministérielle actuelle ne peut nous entraîner à une annihilation complète."

Et il conclut :—

"Après tout, s'ils y tiennent, qu'ils s'en aillent !"

Les ministres libéraux ne tireront sans doute leur révérence qu'après la discussion et le vote de l'électorat féminin par la Chambre.

Nous attendons avec curiosité les torrents d'éloquence sous lesquels les adversaires du vote provincial des femmes essaieront de masquer la pauvreté de leurs arguments et la mesquinerie de leur attitude.

LOUISE VAN DEN PLAS.

## LES FEMINISTES ANGLAISES ET LA SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

Gracieusement invitée par la Secrétaire du Conseil pour la Représentation des Femmes à la Société des Nations, j'ai assisté, le 16 courant, à la réunion annuelle du Conseil.

La salle arrangée en hâte pour la circonstance, avait cet air de pauvreté soignée et parfois même élégante caractéristique à toutes les associations féministes que j'ai visitées. En première file circonquant la tribune siège la commission. Devant une des extrémités du semicercle, un peu à gauche, une jeune fille, la tête cachée par un feutre aux poils soyeux et hérissés, le buste couvert par un veston presque masculin qui laissait voir le col d'une blouse-chemise "girl-scout" ornée d'une coquette cravate, sténographiait lestement. Parmi le public, presque exclusivement féminin, je découvre des dames respectables des "ladies" dont la légendaire fierté est corrigée par un je ne sais quoi de digne et d'attrayant, des jeunes filles aux lèvres fraîches et souriantes, aux fronts rayés par des lignes presque imperceptibles ; leurs pupilles me font penser aux braises voilées de cendres illuminées à intermittences. Réflexives précoces ? Peut être.

Dans la tribune présidée par Madame Gordon, Présidente du Conseil, pris la parole Madame Swanwick déléguée remplaçante de la Grande Bretagne à la dernière Assemblée de la Société des Nations.

"Actuellement, dit-elle, l'Angleterre envoie à Genève trois délégués. Il est nécessaire que le premier délégué soit membre du Gouvernement, les deux autres devraient être au moins membres du Parlement. Ils ont une responsabilité directe, et, à leur retour, ils doivent être en conditions d'expliquer et de rendre compte de leur action devant le Parlement. Les femmes doivent prendre part dans la délégation, leur influence sera bienfaisante, leur présence est nécessaire. Il est temps que l'on discute la question de la nationalité de la femme mariée dans une assemblée internationale. Cette question ne peut être résolue d'une façon satisfaisante sans la collaboration des femmes. Mais gardons-nous bien de nous enclencher dans une sphère exclusivement féministe. Tout ce qui se discute aux Assemblées de la Société des Nations nous intéresse en tant que femmes, en tant que citoyennes. Nous devons donc travailler pour augmenter le nombre des femmes du Parlement et du Gouvernement : nous devons y apporter des femmes compétentes dans les affaires internationales afin que l'on n'oppose pas de difficultés à la nomination d'une

déléguée permanente à la prochaine Assemblée de Genève."

La conférencière, après avoir mis en évidence les brillants travaux effectués par les déléguées des autres pays au sein de la commission contre la traite des femmes et des enfants, souligna la nécessité d'envoyer une deuxième déléguée du gouvernement anglais à la dite commission.

Quelques minutes après, Mr. Harris, directeur du "Headway," monta à la tribune. Il appuya chaleureusement le point de vue de Madame Swanwick.

Dans la séance privée du matin l'on acclama les paroles de Mme. Corbett-Ashby, présidente de l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage Féminin: "Nous demandons, dit-elle, une extension de l'ingérence féminine en ce que concerne la suvegarde du bien être et de la santé enfantines. La motion de demander au

Gouvernement la nomination d'une deuxième déléguée à la commission contre la traite des femmes et de enfant fût approuvée à l'unanimité.

Il est cinq heures et demie. Je longe en hâte la file de reverbères de Victoria Street. Pensive je me demande: Ces volontés enthousiastes réussiront-elles à vaincre la résistance passive des hommes? Devant moi les mille aiguilles de l'Abbaye de Westminster s'élancent vers le ciel en dueil, la fine silhouette moyennageuse se dresse impassible, indifférente. Le murmure févrieux des véhicules interrompt mes divagations. Autour du passé petrifié le présent se meut. Instinctivement je remâche dans moi-même: L'évolution... l'évolution vitale... nous marchons vers l'avenir.

SARA REY ALVAREZ,  
de l'Alliance des Femmes Uruguayennes.  
Londres, Janvier de 1925.

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