

JVS SVFFRAGII.

# THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE NEWS



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### MRS. ADELINE E. BROWNING, C.B.E.

MARRYING in 1894 a Newfoundlander of Scottish descent, the Honourable John Browning, member of the Legislative Council of Newfoundland, Mrs. Browning arrived in Newfoundland just before the tragedy known locally as the Bank Crash, when the only two banks there closed their doors. At once she was drawn into the work of seeking the needy and supplying their wants. She has always interested herself in encouraging anything that would bring interest and culture into life in Newfoundland. She was president of the Alliance Française of Newfoundland, receiving a French decoration medal in recognition of her work, and for several years was a vice-president of the Ladies' Club, now known as the Old Colony Club. She also gathered together a Ladies' Band, of which she was conductress for several years.



As lady superintendent of a Nursing Division of the St. John's Ambulance Association, she opened her beautiful home, "Vigornia," in October, 1914, for the making of hospital necessaries for the Red Cross. Here, from October, 1914, until the Armistice, all the year round, a group of ladies numbering from 20 to 50 and more worked for the hospitals abroad. She also formed a Soldiers' Reception Committee of five ladies, and was chairman of this committee as long as it lasted—from 1916 to 1919. Further, she was responsible for the provision and carrying on of a sanatorium for tubercular soldiers. She was presented with the Order of Commander of the British Empire in 1918. Her sympathies have always been with women's interests, and when a Suffrage Society was started in 1920 she became a member, and has done valuable work.

## THE MONTH'S MISCELLANY.

The Editor does not feel she has any varied information or ideas to produce; continuous rain has reduced her mental landscape to a similitude of a flat, misty plain. Also readers do not help by sending up suggestions or correspondence. In the last two issues several points have been mentioned on which information would be welcome, but not one reader has troubled to sit down and write us a letter. Such letters need not necessarily be written for publication—they will be equally useful if addressed to the Headquarters Secretary to be passed on to the correspondent who has asked us for the information. The collection and dissemination of information are bound to be the main work of an international body. Give that you may receive.

Some time ago we heard from our Auxiliary in Iceland that they were getting up an exhibition of labour-saving devices, because they felt that a greater freedom from domestic work was one of the first things needed for the emancipation of women. We see that a committee has been formed in England to encourage the use of electricity in the home, and that seems to us a truly feminist undertaking. The amount of time and labour taken up by doing housework and preparing food by the slow laborious methods of the past is really enormous. The greater part of such work is done by the woman all alone; there is no co-operation, no friendly emulation, no professional friendships to be made. If women are difficult to organise, does not the explanation to a large extent lie in this condition of things? The housewife works alone, by methods so unscientific that they take up the best part of her time and energy; her work is all to be done again almost as soon as it is completed, and that means that it tends to suppress rather than encourage her creative energy, so that she herself is often the last person to welcome reforms. Well, they must be thrust on her. Cleaning and cooking are necessary, and when approached scientifically and regarded as a skilled profession, may form a career full of interest for many women. If we give our minds to this problem, all this work that takes up the whole time of so many, and the poor little spare time of so many more, might be accomplished satisfactorily and to the great benefit of the health and comfort of the people by a race of enlightened domestic workers, working in co-operation, and assisted by intelligent house-planning and universal provision of electric power.

There is something very curious about the proposals to grant a form of constitutional government to the British Crown Colonies of Trinidad and Honduras, and that is that the vote is to be given to qualified men at 21 and to women only at 30—thus following the inglorious example of Great Britain. What makes it so curious is that in other Crown Colonies where such constitutions have already been given there is no such distinction in age, and men and women have equal rights to vote in Southern Rhodesia, Kenya, and Jamaica, though in the last case they have not eligibility, which is also to be withheld in the two cases now being considered. It would seem rather illogical, we should have thought, to make this age distinction in places where women tend to develop early, and where the argument to immaturity so freely used at home can surely not be advanced by the politicians responsible. Let us hope that even this small measure of enfranchisement—already concluded in Trinidad, though still under discussion in Honduras—will wake up the fighting spirit among the women citizens and cause them to clamour loudly for a full measure of justice.

Among the minor things that crop up in connection with the position of women there is that question of dress. Readers who study Mme. la Mazière's interesting symposium of views of well-known French men and women, in this issue, will note that Marcel Prevost speaks bitterly of woman's absorption in dress, and we are all familiar with adjurations made to the young to dress "modestly." In this connection we note the following remarks in an American contemporary: "Modesty is a state of mind, not an extra petticoat"; and "Flowing

garments indicate leisure. Bifurcated and abbreviated ones are absolutely essential to safety in the year 1924." This isn't, maybe, one of the "big" questions, but we hold that the amount of time, money, and importance given to dress is disproportionate, is a weapon in the hands of our opponents, and a drag on the energies of our sex. The question is seldom considered except by the "cranks," but we would really like to have letters from our readers about it, always remembering that grace and beauty are much needed, and that men don't help much in providing them as far as the human form is concerned.

We like to think that the women's vote and the power that it brings are being used for the protection of the helpless, and there is one class for whom protection is always needed—and that is the lunatic. This is not a "woman's question," but it does seem to be one of those things which should appeal to that passion of pity for the weak and oppressed which is one of the offshoots of the maternal instinct. The old cruel treatment of the insane has been superseded by a more humane system, but there is still a general idea that these unfortunates should be just shut away for the protection of society, adequately fed, clothed, and guarded, without, generally speaking, much chance of recovery, and with very little safeguard from a public opinion which prefers to forget them. Women should try to alter it; try to foster the idea of curative treatment, of very careful grading, and of better conditions both medical and physical. Above all they should be inquisitive about what happens in asylums, and show that they care what happens there. That is the first step in any reform. THE EDITOR.

## INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN.

Third Biennial Conference, Christiania, July 28 to August 1, 1924.

Report, August 4, 1924.

THE opening meeting was held in the Nye Aula of the University of Christiania, and welcomes were extended by the representatives of the four Northern federations (Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Sweden), of the University of Christiania, and by Dr. Nansen, the famous Norwegian explorer and High Commissioner of the League of Nations. He spoke of the need for international sympathy and for nobler aims in these times of confusion and reconstruction, and encouraged the members of the I.F.U.W. to go forward in their work of seeking for new ideals to safeguard the future of humanity.

Professor Caroline Spurgeon, president of the I.F.U.W., in responding, spoke of the appropriateness of such a welcome, for the International Federation was venturing into the unknown like an explorer, supported by its vision and its faith in what the future held. In this conference, in particular, it had two aims to work for: first, the extension and development of its original scheme for the endowing of a series of international fellowships; second, an investigation of the position of women in business, industry, and politics, and a consideration of the means by which their work in these fields might be extended.

Speaking later in the conference upon this subject, Lady Rhondda, director of the Cambrian collieries, said that she saw no inherent disqualifications in women which should prevent them from following commercial careers. What was against them was, rather, their own lack of confidence and the weight of tradition. The first could be remedied by pressing women forward into big positions in order that they might gain both experience and status. The second demanded the education of those business men who are the fathers of daughters, in order that they might allow their daughters to go into their own businesses in the same way as they do their sons. She considered that university women were the best qualified for such a career, which demanded width of mind, understanding, and imagination.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby, speaking upon the position of women in politics, agreed also that the university training was invaluable, for it should teach them to distinguish

between patriotism, which serves both its own country and the world, and a narrow provincialism, which does service to neither.

In the course of its session the Conference also discussed the extension of its original plans for the endowment of fellowships. A scheme for the raising of 1,000,000dols. was set on foot, and a beginning was made by the generous allotting of a Norwegian educational fund of 2,000 kroner to the I.F.U.W., and by the American delegates, who collected 1,000dols. for a Scandinavian fellowship.

The question of the international language was opened by Miss Tuke, principal of Bedford College, London University, and after some discussion a committee was formed to investigate the matter.

The Conference came to an end on July 31, shortly after the announcement of the election of Dean Gildersleeve as president of the I.F.U.W. for the next period of two years. Miss Virginia Gildersleeve, Ph.D., LL.D., is Dean of Barnard College, Columbia University, in the city of New York, was one of the original founders of the I.F.U.W., and has been one of its most active leaders ever since.

## THE NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

OUR readers have no doubt seen in the Press an account of the meeting of the International Law Association in Stockholm this month. The question of nationality and naturalisation was discussed among other important matters, and we rejoice that on the point of the nationality of the married woman the resolutions of the Congress were thoroughly in accordance with the policy of the Alliance. The right of a woman to choose on her marriage with a man of another nation either to retain her own nationality or to adopt his was conceded, and the recommendation made that, in order to avoid the long delay which would be caused in the latter case by the naturalisation laws with which a woman would have to comply, wives should have a special immediate claim to their new nationality. It will be remembered that some provision was made in the United States law passed in 1922 to meet this difficulty.

Miss Chrystal Macmillan, chairman of the Alliance Committee on the Nationality of the Married Woman, is now a member of the Association, and attended the Stockholm Congress. For some considerable time Miss Macmillan has been in touch with the work of the Association on this question, and we should like to congratulate her on this decision of an important body to which we cannot doubt that her work for so many years past has helped to contribute. Both nationally on behalf of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and internationally on behalf of the Alliance, Miss Macmillan has been closely identified with the progress of this reform, and those who were present at the Alliance Congress in Rome will remember that she received the congratulations of the president on the report and resolutions submitted by her committee, which were unanimously adopted by the Congress. The Alliance is well aware of its great good fortune in having as chairman of the Committee on Nationality a worker so able, so admirably qualified, and so indefatigable as Miss Macmillan. M. I. CORBETT ASHBY.

## "MA FERGUSON."

[We hope that our American contemporary *The Woman Citizen* will forgive us for borrowing the following little article, since the Alliance claims "equal rights" in Mrs. Catt.]

WHAT a splendid slogan "Me for Ma" would have been for a woman suffrage campaign! And what a good one "No Ma for Me" would have made for the anti! The first has been the war cry of Mrs. Ferguson for Governor of Texas in the Democratic primary, the second that of the opponents. A wise man from Mars would be justified in supposing that Texas was contesting a question of women's rights or privileges. Not so.

A careful search among the queer happenings of American politics for an odd case would reveal nothing half as strange as the turn of things in Texas.

It was the year 1916. The Democratic cohorts were met in St. Louis to nominate a president. The suffragists were there under yellow umbrellas lining the street from the Jefferson Hotel to the Convention Hall, lest the delegates forget that the crisis of the suffrage movement had come. The Resolutions Committee sat up a night or so spending some foolish wrangling hours over the suffrage plank. The bedraggled committee were at last ready to report, but a minority report was also announced. The Governor of Texas was to sponsor it. His name was Ferguson. He made an immortal speech. Abridged, it was this:

He opposed the proposed favourable plank, because God had determined the place in the world for women, and that was in the home, far removed from the limelight of politics. God had made women for obedience to men, and men to take care of politics. The Bible opposed woman suffrage, and he stood by God and the Bible.

Eight years have passed. Governor Ferguson was, meanwhile, nearly impeached on nine counts by the Legislature, the charge being the misappropriation of funds; that is, the process of impeachment was all complete except the final pronouncement. At that point, between the end of the trial and the pronouncement of guilty, Mr. Ferguson resigned, and there was no Governor. He never recovered from political ambition, however, and still wants to be Governor.

Meanwhile, the Klan had been organised and had taken a stand for prohibition, and, consequently, against Mr. Ferguson, who was the friend of all things wet. The Klan beat the ex-Governor at the polls two years ago, and this year he again proposed to be a candidate and win vindication; but the courts gave the opinion that he was not eligible owing to his near impeachment. So, from the screened silences of his home he ruthlessly yanked forth his wife—Ma Ferguson, she is called—and, contrary to God and the Bible, set her up as a candidate for Governor. She remained, for the most part, in the place to which God, her husband, and her own inclinations had assigned her, while the impeached ex-Governor careered over the State, campaigning. He had been the recognised friend of the brewers in a long series of political struggles that outdistanced any in the entire country for intensity, vilification, and alleged dishonesty. The wet forces, therefore, came out for "Ma" because they have followed her liege lord through whisky, beer, and bootleg mixture to the present. All the male anti-suffragists in Texas have been out on the stump for that "godly, home-loving woman, Ma Ferguson."

As events shaped themselves politically, the Klan continued the chief Ferguson opponent. Those who were neither wet nor Klan had no other choice than a vote for one of them. So bitter has been the fight that the wets became eloquent defenders of religious liberty, and the Klan laid aside the slogan "Jew, jug, and Jesuit" and begged Jews and Jesuits to join in the war against the jug.

Out of this amazing muddle, in which an untrained woman is nominated for Governor by anti-suffragists and wets on a professed issue of religious liberty, one fact looms up clear and strong: God and the Bible were opposed to woman suffrage when the wets were united in the belief that women would mainly vote dry; but now that a woman has been found who can assist in serving in the cause of the wets, God and the Bible have removed their limitations on women's wits. Man, it is said, is a reasoning animal.

A Democratic nomination has hitherto equalled an election. The Republican candidate is said to have withdrawn in Mrs. Ferguson's favour. It is, therefore, expected that Mrs. Ferguson is at this moment as good as elected Governor. She may surprise Texas as much as Texas has surprised the country, for it now develops that during the period that she was the mistress of the Governor's household in Austin she never served liquor upon her table, and in the interview which immediately followed her election she is reported to have said:

"All I have to say about prohibition is that it is settled. It's the law, so why discuss it? However, I will tell you that I will veto any liquor Bills that come before me as Governor. . . . I know that I will be personally responsible for my official acts, and I shall accept that responsibility. . . . In reference to the administration of fiscal affairs of the Government, reduction of taxes, management of the penitentiary, and other business of the State, I feel sure that Mr. Ferguson's judgment is better than mine.

"But with reference to matters affecting education and social affairs, and particularly the interests of the home, the women and children, the efficient enforcement of the laws and maintenance of peace and order, I feel that my judgment is as good as and in many respects better than that of my husband, and with reference to such matters I shall be guided by my own judgment in the light of such knowledge of conditions as I shall be able to acquire."

Perhaps, after all, Texas has immortalised herself.

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT.

### BOOK REVIEWS.

WOMEN PEACE MAKERS. By Hebe Spaul. (Harrap.) 2s. 6d.

The issue of this little book is opportune, in view of the near approach of the League of Nations Assembly at Geneva, five out of the seven women described by Miss Spaul being more or less permanently connected with the League's activities. The names of Fröken Forchhammer, the Danish woman substitute delegate to the Assembly, who also sits on various League Committees; Dame Rachel Crowdy, Chief of the Social Section of the Secretariat at Geneva; Fröken Jeppe, of Near East fame; Fru Kjelsberg, the Norwegian factory inspector; Mme. Curie, the great scientist; Mrs. Coombe Tennant, J.P., who was included in the British delegation to the Assembly in 1922; and Dame Edith Lyttelton, who went in the same capacity last year, are probably already well known to our readers; but Miss Spaul adds some interesting particulars in connection with each one of the seven which hitherto, we believe, have remained unpublished.

We learn, for instance, that Miss Forchhammer headed a procession of some 20,000 women through the streets of Copenhagen to the Danish Parliament House in 1915 after woman suffrage had been granted, and was there invited to come up to the rostrum and address the Parliament—the first woman to do so. Her wonderful linguistic attainments enabled her all through the war to act as a kind of "clearing-house" for letters for belligerents on both sides. In this way she received letters from Germans, Austrians, French, Belgians, and English, and was able to give them news of each other. Fröken Forchhammer was also the first woman to speak in the Assembly of the League of Nations, which she has attended since 1920.

The life-work of Miss Karen Jeppe, a member of the League's Committee on Deported Women and Children of the Near East, reads like a romance; how, at 26 years of age, she first heard of the Armenian Massacres, and, sacrificing a teaching career in Denmark, went out to Urfa, in Mesopotamia, to take charge of the orphanage maintained by the German Orient Mission for some 300 Armenian Christians. How she planned school workshops, and started a farm settlement, and made friends indiscriminately with Kurds, Turks, and Arabs, so that her fame spread far and wide, and she was trusted and loved of every nation. Her later work is also described at Aleppo after the war, where she revived the ancient Armenian art of embroidery amongst destitute women refugees, and of her final work under the League of Nations of looking after women and children who had been deported from their homes.

The work of Fru Betzy Kjelsberg, the first woman elected to the Norwegian Legislature, and one of the world's pioneers in social reform, is vividly told. Of Scotch parentage on her mother's side, Betzy Boresen showed marked ability from an early age, and her marriage at nineteen with a young solicitor, Olaf Kjelsberg, and the rearing of five children, proved no handicap to

her subsequent career. Her first piece of public work was the organisation of a society called the Business Women's Union, the object of which was to improve the conditions under which the women employed in the offices of Drammen (where she was living) worked. Later she became a member of Drammen Town Council, and was several times called to serve on the special jury connected with the Chief Norwegian Criminal Court. She also served on several Royal Commissions. Norway was one of the first countries to pass factory laws to protect the workers, and in 1910 Fru Kjelsberg was appointed the first woman factory inspector. Since then, Fru Kjelsberg has visited many countries in order to study their factory conditions, and has been appointed by Norway as deputy Government delegate at the annual conferences of the International Labour Office of the League of Nations.

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

FALSE DAWN—THE OLD MAID—THE SPARK—NEW YEAR'S EVE. By Edith Wharton. (D. Appleton.) 4s. 6d. each; four in box, 18s.

The theme of Old New York—in the 'forties, 'fifties, 'sixties, and 'seventies—is one which Mrs. Wharton evidently finds sympathetic, and which she has used with great success in *The Age of Innocence*. These four volumes are each of them shorter than the average novel, and slip the more readily into a holiday pocket. They have the qualities of crispness and good workmanship which we expect from their author, and she brings back to us in great detail a life which, though it lies in the memories of many living people, yet is as far off and long ago as the Middle Ages. Perhaps the first story is the best, of the young man who is sent to Europe with strict orders to bring back a Sassoferatto or a Carlo Dolce, who falls in with Ruskin and returns with a priceless collection of pre-Raphaelite pictures, only to be disinherited for his pains.

—*The Woman's Leader*.

### PAMPHLETS.

*The Rome Congress*.—We regret that we have not been able to notice sooner the very interesting and eminently readable account of our Rome Congress written by Mme. La Mazière, and published by the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes. The Congress already seems a long time ago, but, as a bait to catch the interest of those who do not yet know of the work of the Alliance, it would be difficult to find anything more effective than this little brochure. Mme. La Mazière has the art of making things interesting, and, alike to those who were present and to those to whom her account will be their first knowledge of the proceedings, her vivid phrases will call up a picture of that interesting gathering. The pamphlet can be obtained from the Union, 53, rue Scheffer, Paris XVI<sup>e</sup>.

*The National Council for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child*.—This British Association have sent us their Sixth Annual Report, accompanied by a very interesting little pamphlet giving an account of the legal position of the illegitimate child in Great Britain, and what is being done to ameliorate the position of both child and mother. The Report shows that, in addition to their important work in promoting legislation with this object in view (the passing of the Bastardy Act of 1923, which increased the amounts liable to be paid under affiliation orders, together with other improvements in this direction, was largely due to the work of the Council), the Council has done much to help individual cases and to promote co-operation amongst the various institutions dealing with this problem. The address of the Council is: Carnegie House, 117, Piccadilly, London, W. 1.

*Die Studentin*.—We have received for review the first copy of a new paper with this title, published by Hochschule und Ausland, Berlinerstrasse 137, Charlottenburg, Berlin. This little paper is intended especially for women students and teachers, and aims at providing an all-round view of the problems confronting women in education. It opens with a survey of the development of women's education at the present time by Dr. Franziska Tiburtius, has an article on Women's Clubs in Oxford, and is evidently anxious to forward the international spirit and to provide international news on the subjects with which it deals.

## REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

### AUSTRALIA.

#### Tasmania.

DURING the last few months the women's movement in Tasmania has made decided advances. Towards the end of 1923 a Labour Government came into office, and we at once began to feel more hopeful, as a party cannot put on its platform "Civil equality for men and women" without doing something concrete to carry out its professions, although even party platforms may be thrown to the winds when power comes to the individuals of the party. However, we were hopeful, and our hopes were justified.

Although women obtained the vote in Tasmania in 1905, eligibility came only in 1921, and for many years there was little or no demand for civil equality in other ways. During the last few years women have gone on deputation after deputation to various Governments asking for the appointment of women Justices of the Peace, for alterations in the Criminal Law, and for the appointment of women to public Boards. Early in this year the Attorney-General appointed the first women Justices of the Peace, on the same terms as men (the first suggestion was that they should only be appointed to the Children's Court). A woman was appointed to the Hobart Public Hospital Board (a Government hospital), a matter that had been urged again and again by several deputations, and just recently a woman has been appointed to a Board of Inquiry into State High Schools. Thus, at any rate, the principle of the appointment of women has been adopted, although there is so far no attempt as to equality of numbers as compared with men.

At the last meeting of the Women's Non-Party League it was decided that the time had arrived to work for the appointment of women jurors, and, judging by the experience of women jurors in other countries, to obtain a clause that would make it compulsory for another woman to take the place of a woman who was objected to by counsel.

We have one policewoman in Tasmania, which is quite an inadequate number; although I ought to say that Tasmania, the smallest State of the Commonwealth of Australia, is a very small place, with a population of roughly a quarter of a million. This policewoman has to travel all over the State, and it is quite impossible for her to carry out her work as it should be done, single-handed. We are up against the usual problems in regard to sex offences, the maintenance of deserted wives, and the treatment of widows. Widows' pensions, the segregation of sexual perverses, and the putting to productive work of deserting husbands who refuse to pay maintenance orders, are some of the reforms we want to bring about.

A very interesting situation has lately arisen owing to a vacancy which has occurred in the Legislative Assembly (our Lower House). According to our voting system (proportional representation), a vacancy that occurs between general elections is filled by the votes of the retiring member being cut up and distributed among the candidates who failed to obtain a seat. At the general election of 1922, Mrs. Waterworth, the first woman to stand for Parliament in Tasmania, just failed to obtain a seat. Now, Mrs. Waterworth is in England at the present time. She has cabled nominating for the vacancy, but must send written application within 17 days of the resignation of the member. She can probably get her application here in time, and it is just a toss-up whether she will gain the seat when the votes are recounted. But there are various difficulties that may block her—can she get her written application witnessed by a Tasmanian elector in London? Still, we may yet have a woman member of Parliament in Tasmania.

E. M. GIBLIN.

#### New South Wales.

At the August Council meeting of the League of N.S.W. the business dealt with was both interesting and important.

Mrs. A. V. Roberts presided, and the correspondence included letters from Mr. E. W. Knox, James Bell and Co., Women's Union of Service re launching of woman's paper, National Council of Women, New Settlers' League, Child Welfare Department, etc.

Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Liggins Elkin were appointed delegates to the N.C. of Women, while Mrs. Norton was elected delegate on the Child Welfare Committee.

The candidature of Mrs. Jamieson Williams for the North Sydney electorate in the coming State elections was announced. Members present expressed gratification at the announcement, and signified their willingness to support and help her after submitting questions and getting satisfactory replies.

The following resolution was unanimously carried: "While fully recognising the good legislation already obtaining in N.S.W., the Council of the Women's League of N.S.W. urge the recognition of the principle of Equal Guardianship of Children, feeling that the moral effect of such a principle being placed on the Statute Book will be most beneficial not only in equalising and improving the status of women as mothers, but in making for harmony and good conditions in the home."

EMILY BENNETT, Hon. Org. Sec.

### AUSTRIA.

#### A Woman's Bill in the Austrian Parliament.

OLGA RUDEL-ZEYNEK, known as a brave champion in Parliament who knows social evils and is inspired by the best will to help, has lately brought in a Bill which aims at securing the payment of legally fixed maintenances. The Bill tries to attack the evil from two sides. Firstly, it imposes punishments of from one week to six months in the case of neglect of this duty, especially in cases where those who have a right to maintenance are exposed to dangers. Secondly, the Bill makes other persons responsible for the payment of maintenance if they help those originally responsible to lead a life without work so as to avoid payment, or who under cover of family relationship employ them ostensibly without wages.

It is a matter of course, especially among peasants, that the son of a farmer, being the father of one or more illegitimate children, works without payment on his father's farm, and thus refuses to pay. In this direction also the Bill tries to bring help. The claim to pay maintenance can also be brought against relations, parents, children, brothers or sisters, in whose household or business the person from whom it is due works. All these persons may be made responsible for the payment.

It is to be hoped that the Bill will soon become law. The writer of these lines profited by the opportunity given by the public discussion of the Bill to direct attention to the fact that the International Woman Suffrage Alliance resolved at the Congress in Rome to request the Governments to make international agreements with the purpose of making possible the recovery of maintenance from persons who live abroad. The Austrian women's movement will not slacken in their endeavours to obtain this also.

#### The First Woman to Act as Public Prosecutor.

While the question "Shall Women Be Judges?" is still violently discussed, and the opinion is predominant that women are not fitted for this profession, an event has quietly occurred which proves that women are capable of fulfilling the functions of a judge. A young lady lawyer, Dr. Maria Fischer, who has been practising in the juvenile courts in Vienna, has been acting as substitute for the Public Prosecutor during his holidays. Dr. Fischer fulfilled her task in different trials tactfully and well. Dr. Fischer was born in Vienna, and came to Innsbruck as a child with her parents. When, after the revolution, the study of law was opened to women, she began her studies in that city, the beautiful capital of Tyrol. As the first Doctor of Law at this university, she took her doctor's degree in 1923. After having finished her work in Vienna, she intends to go back to Innsbruck to prepare for the profession of an advocate. As Dr. Fischer is especially interested in juveniles' relief, it is to be expected that she will develop into a specialist in this sphere.

GISELA URBAN.

## FINLAND.

AS a small addition to Mrs. Corbett Ashby's lovely account of the third Northern Women's Congress in Helsingfors in June, we briefly mention one of the discussions which seems somewhat interesting from an international point of view. In discussing the future of the Joint Organisation of the Northern Feminist Associations, the originator of the congress in question, Mrs. Gyrithe Lemche, Denmark, proposed some small changes to its constitution. This gave rise to an interesting discussion of the to-be-or-not-to-be of the joint organisation. It was said by different delegates that a special body of this kind was not quite necessary. It was difficult to find people ready to take part in the work, because one always gets only the same people to do everything. Moreover, there is less need for this organisation, because all the important national associations belong to at least one, often to two, international organisations. In this way they find opportunities to form international contracts in those countries now joined in the present Northern Association.

Anyhow, this apparently was not the general opinion. It was strongly emphasised that conditions in the northern countries are in many respects similar to each other. Co-operation between them has been found helpful in many domains of work, and would prove so also in regard to women's interests. It was accordingly proposed and carried that, in addition to the regular congresses taking place at four years' interval, special "work conferences" should be arranged whenever some important question arises in any of the countries.

It was interesting to notice how the congress itself seemed to have revived and affirmed the belief in this type of co-operation between the women of the North.

ARMII HALLSTEN-KALLIA.

## GERMANY.

## The Reform of Divorce.

MORE than two years ago (see July *Jus Suffragii*, 1922) I reported on an amendment to our present divorce law which we then hoped would, after its first reading, pass the committee and the further stages in the Reichstag safely, and come into force soon. We were, so far, disappointed. Though a lively interest was shown in all progressive circles, and motions and petitions concerning the reform were brought in from many sides, the decision was postponed, and finally frustrated by the dissolution of the last Reichstag. Most probably, however, the matter will soon be taken up again, but, considering the change in the proportions of the parties, a favourable result seems by no means so certain as it did before. So there is good reason for the women's organisations to bring forward anew their old claims in this direction.

In an impressive memorandum, worked out by the first woman lawyer in Berlin, Dr. Marie Munk, in which stress is laid not only upon the facilitation of divorce but also upon the legal consequences regarding the parental power of the mother, the National Council of Women claims: That, generally, in cases of matrimonial discordance the evidence of a particular "guilt" of one or the other, or both partners (adultery, desertion, cruelty) shall not be necessary for a divorce; that not only in cases of incurable insanity divorce may be obtained, but also when for the next three years recovery cannot be expected in such degree that the matrimonial community may, according to its very nature, be taken up again; that, under certain conditions, the mutual consent of husband and wife shall be sufficient for a divorce; and finally, that it may be granted even on the motion of only one partner if it is based on his, or her, "invincible antipathy."

Concerning the legal consequences of divorce as regards the children, the National Council of Women also claims a fundamental reform—namely, that the parental power, in full extent, shall go with that spouse on whom the care of the child is conferred. This is by no means the case at present. According to our civil code the father only can exercise the "parental" power, and always will retain it, even if by reason of his "guilt" the divorce was obtained, and the child is left to the care of the mother. One exception only is provided for: if, by

reason of a sexual offence committed with his child, the father is sentenced and the matrimonial bond has been dissolved, upon this ground he will lose his parental power over this child, but will retain it over the others. The power, moreover, is not conferred upon the mother, but upon an officially appointed guardian, to spare the father's—even such a father's!—authority, under all circumstances. It is obvious that this disgraceful state cannot be maintained in an amended divorce law, and, further, that an alteration of these conditions involves a general reform of the law of parental power in cases of continued matrimonial union. It is therefore to be hoped that the other claim of the National Council of Women, pointed out in the memorandum, "Joint and Equal Parental Power" of father and mother, will meet with full understanding and consent. The removal of this one most fatal legal disability of women would be a breach in the whole system, and could be looked at as a significant precedent for the radical reform of our matrimonial law.

## Honours for Ricarda Huch.

The sixtieth birthday of our greatest German poetess, Ricarda Huch,\* July 18, was a welcome opportunity for her admirers throughout the Reich, and wherever Germans live, to celebrate and pay tribute to her genius. Though not popular in the usual sense of the word—the high standard of her works forbidding this once for all,—her wonderful gifts and powers are valued the more by the intellectual and literary and scientific world. This was especially shown in the press, the papers of all parties and creeds vying with one another in high appreciation and praise of their great fellow-citizen. The University of Munich, where the poetess lives, conferred its honorary citizenship upon her; the municipality and Government representatives gave a solemn reception in her honour, and one of the Munich streets was named Ricarda Huch Street.

To add a little bit of fun to this earnest and enthusiastic homage, some naive critics believed they could bestow no greater honour upon Ricarda Huch than by stating that her works manifested "a masculine spirit." Her countrywomen, on the contrary—though well aware that genius is no matter of sex,—rejoice in the fact that this peerless German poet is, in life and spirit, a genuine woman.

MARIE STRITT.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

## Women Police.

GREAT interest has been roused by the publication in August of the report of the Departmental Committee on the Employment of Policewomen, set up by the Home Office to report on the work of women police. It is a brief document and far from sensational in its recommendations. It is a complete vindication of the use of women for police work, as any expert and disinterested inquiry is certain to be. It makes it clear, however, that there is still considerable opposition on the part of the local police authorities; the Police Committee of the Association of Municipal Corporations and the County Councils' Association consider the employment of women unnecessary and a matter for the local authorities to decide. On the other hand, some of the Chief Constables gave emphatic evidence as to the value of the work done by women. This latter view was of course upheld by the Committee, which have put it on record that the efficiency of the police service has been improved by the employment of policewomen. This statement was widely quoted in the press. So, too, was a letter from Sir Nevil Macready, late Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, who expressed the opinion that there ought to be some 200 women police in London. As there are only 110 women police in the whole country, this would mean a large step forward. The Committee was more cautious, and only recommended that there should be at least as many women police in London as there were before the reductions made in 1922. They also recommend, amongst other things, that every police authority should provide for the statement of women and children in con-

\* See article in the November issue, 1923.

nection with sexual crimes to be taken by women. There is at present no compulsion on the local authorities to follow out these recommendations; whether there is any real progress will therefore depend on the attitude of the Home Office and whether the recommendations are embodied in Statutory Regulations or not. In any case, the wider publicity given to the Report in the popular press must have had considerable value as propaganda.

## Reception to Mrs. Swanwick.

The N.U.S.E.C. is giving a reception to Mrs. Swanwick as a substitute delegate to the League of Nations at the Caxton Hall on October 24. This follows the precedent of previous years when similar receptions were given to Mrs. Swanwick's predecessors. Although Mrs. Swanwick is no longer connected with the Union, its members have not forgotten the work she did for it in the old days before women won the vote. In view of the vital importance of the subjects which have been discussed at this year's meeting of the League, Mrs. Swanwick's account should be of special interest.

## Parliamentary and Local Government Elections.

There promises to be a satisfactory number of women candidates for the next Parliamentary election. Up to the present, 11 Labour women, 6 Conservatives, and 5 Liberal women have announced their intention of standing. Among these are included all the sitting members, and Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who this time is seeking election in another constituency—i.e., Watford. This is not a bad beginning, as the number is certain to be largely increased when a general election is definitely in sight.

Meanwhile the dates for the elections of the local government authorities are approaching. The Town Council elections take place on November 1, the County Council elections next March, the elections for the District and Parish Councils and Boards of Guardians all take place before April. The Women's Local Government News have published an article showing how great is the need for women members on their bodies. Out of 62 County Councils in England and Wales only 37 have any women members; 700 out of the 803 Urban District Councils are composed solely of men, and 133 out of 324 Town Councils. There are more women on the Boards of Guardians, only 88 out of 640 being without one or more women members. Clearly there is much work between now and the spring which needs to be done.

## N.U.S.E.C. Broadcasting.

The effects of broadcasting are widespread. Its pioneers probably never thought of its value for propaganda purposes, but it obviously may have great influence in that way. The N.U.S.E.C. during the summer has broadcast information on Parliamentary matters from the London station during the Women's Hour. Addresses were given on Bills affecting women and children, on Parliamentary procedure, and on the work of a woman M.P.—the last by Mrs. Wintringham. These talks will be continued during the autumn. Their educative value is incalculable, since many women, perhaps the majority, they reach never read a feminist paper and are very unaware of what difficulties women have still to face. It is interesting to realise that the work carried on by the Women's Societies has come to be regarded by general opinion as right and necessary, since we may assume that the British Broadcasting Company would not give these facilities to the giving of information which could be regarded as unorthodox and likely to rouse the opposition of "the man in the street" or his women-folk. Broadcasting gives us the hall-mark of respectability as well as a most valuable opening!

W. A. E.

## THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

OUR chief work in the immediate future will be directed to secure the equal enfranchisement of women with men as early as possible during the coming Parliamentary session. In this connection we have arranged a Pass the Women's Bill Meeting, at Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, Friday evening, October 10, to demand that the Government itself shall take charge of the remaining stages of Mr. Adamson's Equal Franchise Bill and pass it into law in the early part of

the autumn session. Many other women's organisations are co-operating with us in this meeting, from which we hope to send an emphatic and widely supported resolution on this subject to the Prime Minister and the various heads of Government Departments.

At the annual meeting of the National Council of Women, to be held at Brighton early in October, our delegate, Dr. Octavia Lewin, will move the following resolution on behalf of our League: "That this Council urges the Government to establish the principle of equal pay for equal work—which already operates among members of Parliament—for all employees in the service of the State, irrespective of sex." We are also supporting the mass meeting organised by the National Union of Women Teachers, in London, on October 3, to demand equal pay for men and women teachers of the same professional status.

In November we shall, as usual, hold our "Green White and Gold" Fair at the Central Hall, Westminster, which will be opened Friday, November 28, by Mrs. Philipson, M.P., and Saturday, November 29, by Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P.. Should a general election be imminent, we shall hope to confer with our members and friends then in London—many of them from a distance—as to the help we can give to suitable women Parliamentary candidates, irrespective of the political party to which they belong, women candidates being defined by us as "suitable" if they are prepared to work inside and outside Parliament for the equality of the sexes.

FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

## INDIA.

## Cochin Council and Women Members.

WHEN the Rules were first published by which the Reformed Legislative Council of Cochin State was established, it was a matter for congratulation that it was the first State which swept aside all sex disqualification and allowed women not only to vote, but to be eligible for election or nomination to membership of the Council. The electoral lists have recently been published, and it is found that for the general electorate there are about 18,000 voters, of whom over 1,500 are women. In view of such a wide difference between the men and women voters, there would be barely a chance of a woman being elected if she stood for election. Other special interests, such as planters, commerce, industry, the Jews and the Muhammadans, all have special communal representation, but as it is it will work out that women will get no elected representatives. This makes it imperative that the Government should allocate at least four of its fifteen nominated seats to women of the State. There are many subjects connected with the lives of women and children on which women representatives are really necessary when laws are being made about them. The Cochin women are awake to the critical position of affairs, and at a meeting in Kunnankulam, where over 400 were present, they asked their Government to see that some women were nominated to the Council. The Women's Indian Association has written to the State authorities pressing the urgency of such nominations. It will be a scandal if these requests are not granted. The Cochin women are the best educated in India; the percentage of female literacy is highest in Cochin; the matriarchal system holds good in the State, so that women hold most of the property; and, finally, Her Highness the Maharanee of Cochin is a most enlightened leader of her people, and has been honoured with the Kaiser-i-Hind medal for distinguished services to the Empire. Cochin is fully ripe for the honour of being the first Council to invite women to its Council. If the claims of women are not listened to at once, then the women there will have to agitate and agitate till they get justice and direct representation.

## The Legislative Assembly.

Women have good champions in the Legislative Assembly. There is the untiring Dr. H. S. Gour, Mr. Devaki Prasad Sinha of Patna, Mr. Allen, Mr. Joshi, and Mr. Bhubananda Das. The last-named has given notice of the following resolutions to be moved in this session of the Legislative Assembly: 1. This Assembly recommends to the Governor-General in Council that immediate steps may be taken to (a) amend the Government of India Act so as to remove the disqualification of

sex of women in India and to grant them franchise on the same terms as men; (b) to nominate an Indian lady to the Assembly for the next vacancy amongst non-official members of the Assembly."

We trust he may be successful in passing this resolution. The removal of the sex disqualification for the franchise is nominally in the power of Indian men themselves through their majority in the various Provincial Councils, but in reality at present the widening of the franchise to women is definitely held up by the obstructionist tactics of the Swarajists in the Central Provinces, Bengal, and the Punjab. In the circumstances, it is the duty of the Government to do justice to women now that it has been demonstrated to them in Madras, Bombay, the United Provinces, and Burma that such a reform is both popular and practicable.

#### Stop Child Motherhood.

The Bill introduced by Dr. Gour to raise the age of consent from 12 to 14 in the case of married girls was last session referred to a Select Committee for a careful examination. Its provisions have been recommended by 12 of the 16 members of the committee. It will come again, we hope successfully, before the Legislative Assembly this month, and the following letter has been sent to the secretary by the Women's Indian Association and printed in the press, as the Government had asked the public to express its opinions on the Bill:—

"The Women's Indian Association, consisting of over 50 branches and 2,500 members, has on a number of occasions, both in its individual branches and at its general annual meetings, called on the Government of India to raise the age of consent for both married and unmarried girls. On behalf of the Association, we write to express again our unqualified support of Dr. Gour's Bill for raising the age of consent for married girls, which is to come before the Assembly this session. Thinking women would wish that the age should be raised even higher than fourteen, but in the meantime they press for the immediate passing into law of this measure, both in the interests of their immature and only half-educated little daughters and in the interest of the physique of the next generation.

"Our members consider that sexual relations at the age of 12 and 13 are a crime against nature and the coming race, and it is imperative that the child-wives be protected from what has disclosed itself from the findings of the minority of the Select Committee, as legalised marital licence without consideration of the health, the mental development, or the physically fit progeny of the young girl.

"Public opinion has been invited on this question, and as it is a matter which directly affects women, we trust that the greatest importance may be paid to the strongly felt opinions of women's organisations, such as the Women Graduates' Union, the Seva Sadans, our own Association, etc., all of which are unanimous in supporting Dr. Gour's Bill for raising the age from 12 to 14, and for inflicting ample punishment on the offender, whether the husband or otherwise."

#### NEWFOUNDLAND.

Letter from the Hon. Sec. of the Newfoundland Women's Franchise League.

Dear Mrs. Bompas,

To-day the July issue of the "International Woman Suffrage News" arrived, and I was not surprised at your expressed regret (contained in your editorial) that you fail to receive official news from auxiliaries in reply to personal letters written in the hope of securing such news. Political affairs in Newfoundland have been more than usually exciting for the past six months, though our League has found no opportunity of doing anything effective.

We have had meetings, and addressed some of the organisations of women in St. John's, but have been heavily handicapped through the absence of our president, Mrs. Gosling, and other members of our committee.

On April 15 we interviewed the Hon. W. R. Warren, who, on account of his insecure position as Prime Minister, could give us little satisfaction. In May a whirlwind election campaign resulted in surprising changes in the Government and Opposition parties.

Mr. Walter Monroe, a business man of marked integrity, is now Prime Minister, and on July 7, by appointment, a deputation of our executive was granted an interview. Mr. Monroe expressed himself as favourable to woman suffrage, but advised us to postpone presenting our Bill until next January, as this is to be a short session of the House, merely for the passing of Supplies, and some amendment to our Prohibition Law. Recognising, under the circumstances, that to force our measure upon the notice of the House would antagonise even our friends there at such a time, we agreed to hold our Bill over until the next session of the House; and this we agreed to all the more readily, as Mr. Monroe promised to give then what support he could to our Bill.

In the meantime we shall have to work on steadily, and this is not easy for us, as we are all women who cannot leave our homes to tour the island. However, there is one thing that would be of untold help to us, and that is a woman lecturer. We did get in touch with two who would like to have come to our assistance, Miss Christitch and Miss Helen Fraser respectively. Miss Christitch was obliged to return to London direct from the States on account of the illness of her mother, and Miss Fraser, to contest her district. We are unfortunate! We need an eloquent and attractive speaker more than anything else, and if we could only have one come out before Mrs. Gosling goes to Bermuda again in October, we might accomplish wonders. Mrs. Gosling has offered to welcome anyone who will come to us, as her guest while here.

Our summer is now with us. It is usually very hot for about six weeks, and during this time all sorts of outdoor recreations and garden parties are held in the cause of innumerable charitable objects. So much so, that the son of one of our women presidents one holiday, after watching his mother for a long time, said: "Mother, how is it that when a holiday comes the women are all working harder than on other days?"

At a meeting of our executive we appointed Mrs. Browning to be our representative in London, where she now intends to reside. She can explain the conditions under which we live and work out here; our needs and prospects. Mrs. Browning is an indefatigable worker, and has great organising ability. She is hoping to devote her life now to work which will include progress in the best interests of womankind.

Later I hope to send photographs and items of interest concerning other women of whom Newfoundland should be proud. I might have written much more, but perhaps have already written too much.

Cordially and sincerely,

FANNIE MCNEIL,  
Hon. Sec.

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

POLITICS is in its ripening stage on the eve of a great national election. Candidates and issues are the topics of the hour. Women are giving their time and energy to campaign work in a larger measure than heretofore. While Republican women are working for their party success, Democratic women are rallying to the support of their candidates, and women allied with the Conference for Progressive Political Action are working night and day to win cohorts for the so-called progressive movement; the National League of Women Voters, an organisation which delves into politics but not in a partisan way, is having a campaign of its own. It is marshalling forces for a campaign to get out the vote, having set for its goal an increase of 25 per cent. over the vote cast in the 1920 Presidential election. Early in 1922, League officials brought out the fact that less than one-half of the eligible voters went to the polls in 1920, a situation which makes for minority rule. Under the direction of the president, Miss Belle Sherwin, and Mrs. Minnie Fisher Cunningham, second vice-president, designated to direct the get-out-the-vote campaign, nearly every State in the Union is organised for an intensive drive to get a majority of the electorate to the polls. Although the League initiated the idea, it is not alone in the movement, for other national associations are co-operating, including the American Association of University Women, American Federation of Labour, American Home Economics Association, Federal Council of Churches, General

Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, General Federation of Women's Clubs, Girls' Friendly Societies in America, National Board Young Women's Christian Association, National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, National Council of Jewish Women, National Council of Women, National Education Association, National Farmers' Union, National Grange, National Municipal League, National Pan-Hellenic Conference, National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, National Woman's Trade Union League, Service Star Legion.

There is unusual interest being manifested in the launching of a third political body into the national election contest. Formally it is known as the Conference for Progressive Political Action; more familiarly designated as the La Follette party. Women have joined the movement, and had a large share in the deliberations of the convention designating Senator Robert M. La Follette, of Wisconsin, as the Presidential candidate. Working women are largely represented in the councils of the party. Miss Elizabeth J. Hauser, secretary of the National League of Women Voters, exercising her personal right and not as an officer of the National League, was especially active in convention doings. History was made at the convention, when Mrs. Edward P. Costigan delivered the first keynote speech ever given by a woman in a national political gathering. Mrs. Costigan is former chairman of the Living Costs Committee of the National League.

A few of Mrs. Costigan's outstanding thoughts were:

"The fundamental righteousness of equal suffrage having been conceded, millions of women are dedicating themselves to the new tasks implied in good citizenship. They are no longer asking favours, but are seeking the place where they can most effectively work side by side with men.

"Untrammelled by party traditions, not yet bound to party regularity, women stand free to choose the party obligations which must be justified by progressive public service. Their aims are less selfishness in business and more humanity in government."

Women everywhere are coming to the fore as candidates for public office. In Boston, Miss Mary V. King is running for Mayor on an independent ticket. Her slogan is: "Let the women run the government, and the men industry." Mrs. Wilma Sinclair Lavan, of Steubenville, Ohio, is making the race for Lieutenant-Governor of Ohio on the Republican ticket. She is said to be the first woman to seek the second highest place in State politics in the country. She has been head of the women's Coolidge Club in her native State.

For the first time two women will represent Chicago in the Illinois State Legislature, their victory in the recent primaries being an assurance of their election this fall. They are Mrs. Katherine H. Goode and Mrs. Rena Elrod. In Nebraska and Pennsylvania eight or ten women are running for the State legislative bodies.

Much interest was recently manifested in a forum dinner conducted at the national club of the American Association of University Women in Washington, D.C. Reports of the political conventions and the part women played in the achievements were given by Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt, Assistant U.S. Attorney-General, and an active Republican; Mrs. Rose Yates Forrester, a Democrat who is active in working women's organisations; and Mrs. Costigan, as head of the women's group working for the new Progressive movement.

ANNE WILLIAMS.

#### NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY IN AMERICA.

REPRESENTATIVE women from all over the United States assembled at Westport-on-Lake Champlain, New York, on August 15, 16, and 17, to take part in the "Women for Congress" Conference called by the National Woman's Party.

The Conference unanimously adopted a resolution which read: "Resolved, that the Woman's Party endorse for Congress and do its utmost to elect all women nominees, irrespective of their political affiliations, who seem qualified to sit in Congress and who will support the Equal Rights Amendment and a general feminist programme."

In commenting on the resolution, Miss Alice Paul, Vice-President of the Woman's Party, said:

"This is a different election policy than we have ever had before. What we want is to make a better position for women in the United States and all over the world. The situation regarding equal rights is much the same as in 1914, when we started out to carry suffrage. None of the dominant political parties would endorse it. We campaigned against every candidate in the Western States who was blocking suffrage. At the end of the campaign they considered that it was expedient for them to be for suffrage in the future. We will do the same for our equal rights programme to the extent of making it an issue.

"The Farmer-Labour Convention at St. Paul was the only one to look favourably upon our movement. No man in Congress thinks it is for his advantage, or for the advantage of his party, to be for it. We have thousands of voters with us all over the country, but we do not know how to use them. Shall we do as we did in 1914 and try to defeat the party in power, which happens to be the Republican, from Mr. Coolidge down? Many urge that we do this, but I do not think it would be wise, for the situation has changed since 1914.

"Congress is now ruled by blocs, and the dominant party finds it impossible to control legislation. Mr. Coolidge found it impossible to get many things he desired through. He was defeated on the bonus, and the Republicans are not really responsible.

"Another policy suggested for us is that we support one of the third parties that seems most favourable to us. As a matter of fact, they are all about the same.

"Then it has been suggested that we go out against individuals, which would mean about every man in Congress, and help those men who are for us. I cannot find a single man who is really for our amendment.

"Let us try to put in women who will work for it from the bottom of their hearts if elected; just as the farmers have done so successfully when they gave up supporting Republicans and Democrats and elected farmers, and just as Labour has done. Only women can really put our programme before everything else. We want to elect women nominated by the different parties who will work for it, irrespective of their affiliations.

"Of course, we could stand back and wait for the process of evolution. During the last four years only four women have been in Congress, and none of them has been of any value to the women's movement. It would have been better for us not to have had them there.

"Only five of the twenty-four States which have thus far held their primaries have nominated women candidates for Congress. You can see how far we are going to get if we leave matters to evolution. All of the women candidates have been named in districts which are believed to be hopeless. They want women to be the candidates and bear the expenses of the campaigns. It is certain that none of these five States will elect women unless we stand behind them.

"Whether we win or lose in the election, we win; we shall have changed the status of women and made the position of women an issue in succeeding elections."

Following the Conference, a spectacular and historical Memorial Pageant, "Forward Into Light," in honour of women who have fought for the freedom of women, and showing the steady march of women's progress from darkness into light, was given on the slopes of beautiful "Mount Inez," near Meadowmount, the home of the Milholland family. More than one thousand persons from all the surrounding country took part in the pageant, which was witnessed by over ten thousand people.

Preceding the pageant, on Sunday morning a memorial service to Inez Milholland was held in the church at Lewis, followed by a pilgrimage to her grave in the little country churchyard. More than five thousand women and children, from near-by farms and from cities in all parts of the country, came to pay tribute to her courage and beauty. There, in tribute to the young crusader, the delegates to the Conference laid their flowers as a symbol of the everlasting link uniting the living and the dead.

## NEWS OF DIVERS WOMEN.

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

## INTERNATIONAL.

Six women attended the Fifth Assembly of the League as alternate delegates. Mrs. G. F. Allen, editor of the *Melbourne Argus*, representing Australia; Professor Kristine Bonnevie, Norway; Mdlle. Forchhammer, Denmark; Mrs. Swanwick, Great Britain; Mdlle. Vacaresco, Rumania; Mme. Wicksell, Sweden.

## Women Co-operators at Ghent.

Last week the International Co-operative Women's Guild, formed at Basle in 1921, held a conference at Ghent. Fifty-six Englishwomen, representing various branches of the Women's Co-operative Guild, were present, including Miss Llewelyn Davies (the founder of the English Women's Guild movement), and Miss Enfield, its general secretary (who was subsequently elected secretary of the international organisation), together with representatives from fifteen other countries. Frau Emmy Freundlich, a member of Parliament and a director of the Austrian Co-operative Society, presided at the conference, and gave all her rulings in English, French, and German. Each day the conference was opened with "The Mothers' International," sung in Esperanto. A resolution was adopted, addressed to the Assembly of the League of Nations, calling for more far-reaching measures to organise the world for peace, and in sending this resolution it was decided to ask the League of Nations to receive a deputation from the International Women's Co-operative Guild, which has now ten fully accredited national organisations.

## BULGARIA.

The Bulgarian Post and Telegraph Office are reducing the number of their women employees to ten per cent. of the whole personnel, and men will replace all the women who now exceed that percentage, excepting only the women in the telephone exchanges. Women now occupying managerial posts will at once be replaced by men, and no woman in future may occupy a post where other persons will be under her control.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

Arrangements will be made for increasing the number of women police throughout the country when Mr. Arthur Henderson, the Home Secretary, returns from the Continent in a few days. At present women police in London number 20. The establishment is to be increased to 200. Particular attention will, it is understood, be paid to the night-club question when the women are enrolled, and close observation will be kept by them on women of undesirable character who are known to be coming to the country.

## HOLLAND.

The management of the Netherlands Railways has decided to dismiss all married women employees on the railways on December 1, 1924. Thus the process of the industrial extermination of the married woman goes on!

## INDIA.

## Woman President?

Mahatma Gandhi has declined the nomination to the Presidency at the ensuing session of the All-India Congress by the provincial committees, and strongly recommends instead Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, who has recently returned to India after an extensive tour in East South Africa. If elected, Mrs. Naidu will be the second woman to preside over the deliberations of the Congress, the first being Mrs. Annie Besant.

## Bengal Women to Vote?

At the summer session of the Bengal Legislative Council a resolution has been tabled requesting the Government of Bengal to remove the women's disqualifications in connection with the voting for the Bengal

Council elections. When moved in the last Council, about three years ago, it was defeated.

## Cochin Women's Demand.

The newly enfranchised women of Cochin have asked the Government to allocate at least four of its fifteen nominated seats to women of the State, pointing out that there are many subjects connected with the lives of women and children on which women representatives are really necessary when laws are being made about them. The percentage of female literacy amongst Cochin women is the highest in India. The matriarchal system holds good in the State, so that women hold most of the property.

## A Woman Regent.

Prince Chitthira Tirumal, a boy of 12 years of age, has been installed as Maharajah of Travancore. The civil ceremony took place before a numerous attendance of Europeans and Indians. At the same time, the senior Rani, Setu Lakshmi Bayi, was installed as Regent. The new Regent, who is 28 years of age, used often, when a girl, to rise at 3 a.m. and study until the arrival of her English teacher at 7.30.

## NEW ZEALAND.

## Ban on Women J.P.s.

The New Zealand Legislative Council has rejected a Bill legalising the appointment of women magistrates.

## Women Inspectors.

The New Zealand Government have decided on an innovation to appoint women as school inspectors, and also to administrative positions in the Education Department.

## PHILIPPINES.

Women of the Philippines are crowding out men in a number of courses open to both sexes in the University of the Philippines and other co-educational institutions, according to statistics compiled from reports of the last school year. In the University of the Philippines, out of 46 graduates in pharmaceutical chemistry 42 were women. Out of 11 receiving the degree of doctor of medicine, 4 were women. Out of a total of 488 receiving degrees from the university during the year just closed, 110 were women.

## SIAM.

Women police have long been an institution in Siam, where a corps of female police is maintained to guard the Inner or Women's Palace at Bangkok. They are uniformed but not armed, and they follow every stranger who enters the palace precincts and remain with him until he leaves, and even palace officials, workmen, doctors, etc., always have one of the corps in attendance.

## TIBET.

Mme. Neel, the woman traveller who recently visited Lhasa in disguise, travelled as a beggar-pilgrim, visiting the shrines in Tibet, and her disguise was so good that it was never detected, even during her two months' residence in Lhasa. Mme. Neel is a woman of 60, and speaks Tibetan like a native.

## TURKEY.

## New Marriage State.

The committee to whom the task of drawing up the new Turkish marriage code has been entrusted have set down the following principles:—

1. The wife shall bear the name of her husband.
2. A divorce suit or demand shall lapse if the wife is found to be in a pregnant condition.
3. It shall be forbidden for parents of the girl to receive money or valuables from the man to whom they are giving her in marriage.
4. The wife is obliged to live in her husband's home and to follow him whenever he wishes to move to another place.

(Continued on next page.)

## SECTION FRANÇAISE.

## ROUMANIE.

## Une Grande Fédération des Sociétés Féminines et Feministes en Roumanie.

UNE petite partie seulement du peuple roumain formait le royaume libre de la Roumanie avant la grande guerre mondiale. Avant 1918 la Roumanie libre n'était formée que de la Moldavie, la Valachie, et la Dobrudja. Le reste des Roumains était divisé sous différentes dominations étrangères:

1. Plus d'un million en Bessarabie, province romaine ravie par les Russes en 1812.
2. Environ 800 milles en Bucovine, détachée de la patrie mère par les Autrichiens en 1775.
3. Mais la plus grande partie, plus de 3 millions a été envahie par les Hongrois lors de l'invasion d'Arpad, qui avait subjugué l'ancienne citadelle des Roumains au delà des Carpathes, où nos ancêtres avaient été amenés et installés par le grand empereur roumain, Trajan lui-même, après la défaite de Décébél roi des Daces.

Cette dernière partie était formée de plusieurs provinces: Transylvanie (Ardeal), Maramuresch, Temisiana, et Crisiana. Les femmes roumaines de l'Ardeal, après les révolutions des Roumains contre les Hongrois en 1848, avaient compris qu'en dehors de leurs occupations ménagères, en dehors de l'éducation des enfants et de leurs devoirs d'épouses, elles devaient une bonne partie de leur force de travail au bien de leur nation.

Sous l'impulsion de ce sentiment, les femmes de Transylvanie fondèrent dans les temps durs et dangereux, ces sociétés féminines, nommées "reuninni" (réunions), dont la plus ancienne dès 1850 à Brasov (Kronstadt), existe ainsi depuis 74 ans. A partir de cette date les femmes roumaines des autres centres fondèrent successivement de nouvelles "reuninni" dans leurs villes, de sorte qu'aujourd'hui il y a en Transylvanie 56 "reuninni" qui se sont distinguées par des œuvres philanthropiques et de culture nationale.

Ces sociétés ont fondé et entretenu des écoles pour les jeunes filles dans le but de former des mères conscientes, ont établi des liaisons entre les femmes de tous les coins de ces provinces, en conservant ainsi la langue, la foi, la tradition, et les vertus de nos ancêtres tellement éprouvés et menacés de perdre leur individualité et leur nationalité.

C'est grâce à l'initiative d'une femme de Transylvanie—Cornelia Emilian—qu'on doit la première société de femmes moldaves à Jassy, la plus ancienne société dans le royaume libre, fondée en 1865, qui créa la première école d'ouvrage pour les petites filles pauvres dans laquelle celles-ci pouvaient apprendre un métier qui leur permit de gagner honorablement la vie. Cette société existe encore aujourd'hui, et continue à être très appréciée pour avoir créé l'enseignement professionnel en Roumanie et porte son ancien nom de "Reuninea femeilor române."

En 1913 toutes ces "reuninni" de Transylvanie, province encore sous la domination hongroise, ont fédéré, tout en gardant chacune son individualité et son indé-

## Polygamy.

A Government Commission, which has been inquiring into the subject, has issued a report urging the abolition of polygamy except in cases where special licences are obtained from magistrates.

The meeting of the Medical Women's International Association includes Dr. Safieta Ali, who has been practising medicine in Constantinople now for two years, ever since the ban on her sex in the profession was raised. Dr. Ali is a small, dark woman, and wears a black silken scarf wound round her hair, the remnant of the veil with which all well-bred women covered their faces until the Revolution brought with it emancipation. She has already one medical woman colleague and soon will have many more, for there are 45 women medical students in Constantinople to-day. Since the Revolution changed their status, women have become teachers, secretaries, and are earning their living in various ways, in banks and other businesses, but of course marriage is the chief vocation.

pendance. Cette fédération porte le nom de "Uniunea tutoror reununilor femeilor române" (l'Union de toutes les Réunions des Femmes roumaines). Le but de l'union de toutes les femmes roumaines dans une seule association était de pouvoir participer par des forces réunies à la résolution de tous les problèmes d'assistance nécessaire au peuple roumain, d'éducation intégrale de nos filles, de la préparation civile et politique de la femme en formant sa conscience et en élevant le sentiment de sa dignité. La présidence de cette fédération a été confiée à Mme. Marie Baiulescu de Brasov, une des plus remarquables personnalités féminines non seulement de Transylvanie mais de toute la Grande Roumanie. Conformément à ses statuts "La Uniunea" organise chaque année un congrès en printemps, jour de la Pentecôte, et chaque fois dans une autre ville.

En Novembre, 1923, sous l'initiative de l'Association pour l'Emancipation civile et politique des femmes roumaines de Jassy, une fédération de 10 sociétés de cette ville, avec leurs filiales, ont adhéré à la vaste fédération "Uniunea" siégeant à Brasov. L'exemple de la fédération de Moldavie a été imitée par la société des dames roumaines de la Bucovine, siégeant à Czernovitz, de sorte qu'aujourd'hui la "Uniunea de Transylvanie" comprend non seulement les 56 "reuninni" de cette province incorporée à la Grande Roumaine, mais aussi les sociétés féminines et féministes fédérées de la Moldavie qui comptent—filiales y compris—jusqu'à 45 sociétés, ainsi que quelques sociétés de la Bucovine.

On espère que sous peu la grande majorité de toutes les sociétés féminines et féministes de la Grande Roumanie adhéreront à la vaste fédération de Transylvanie.

Le congrès de cette année-ci, qui a eu lieu à Baia Mare (nord de Transylvanie) outre les questions à l'ordre du jour, a célébré avec enthousiasme l'adhésion de la Moldavie et de la Bucovine, adhésion qui représente le plus bel espoir d'unification d'âme entre sœurs et frères séparés par les vicissitudes du sort plus de mille ans, mais réunis à tout jamais par la grande victoire de la guerre. Soixante-dix (70) sociétés ont été représentées à ce congrès. La Présidente de la fédération de Jassy a adressé un salut enthousiaste aux femmes roumaines de Transylvanie et a parlé ensuite sur la nécessité de l'activité de la femme en dehors de la maison. Elle y fit connaître la riche activité de l'Alliance internationale pour le Suffrage des Femmes, les qualités extraordinaires de l'ex-Présidente, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, de la Présidente actuelle Mrs. Corbett Ashby, et du travail de ces femmes exceptionnelles qui ont groupé autour d'elles plus de 2 cents millions de femmes des pays affranchis et non-affranchis du monde entier.

La Princesse Olga Sturza, représentant l'Association pour l'Emancipation civile et politique de Jassy, a mis dans le Congrès avec talent et autorité le problème de l'émancipation de la femme roumaine. Les autres déléguées ont fait des rapports sur l'activité des différentes sociétés qu'elles représentaient.

HÉLÈNE C. MEISSNER,  
Présidente de la Fédération de Jassy,  
et de l'Association pour l'Emancipation  
civile et politique des Femmes roumaines.

## LA LÉGISLATION PROTECTRICE DE LA FEMME.

(Suite et fin.)

"En matière de législation du travail, cet amendement établirait le principe qui est celui du P.N.F. que toute réglementation industrielle doit s'appliquer à tous les travailleurs également, quel que soit leur sexe, pour un genre de travail donné, et non pas seulement aux hommes. Il réaliserait ainsi la législation existant déjà dans l'Orégon, où la journée de dix heures est la règle pour les hommes et les femmes employés dans l'industrie, ou en Floride, où la loi exige des sièges pour les employés de magasins des deux sexes. En ce qui concerne les pensions aux mères, il établirait le principe que cette

législation est valable pour les deux parents, que ce soit le père ou la mère qui soit dans le besoin et incapable d'élever les enfants, ainsi que cela est déjà le cas dans le Colorado. (Il faudrait plutôt alors intituler ces pensions 'pensions aux parents' (Réf.). Car la législation protectrice de la maternité n'est pas une législation pour toutes les femmes, mais seulement pour celles qui ont rendu un service à leur pays en mettant des enfants au monde.

"Notre Parti National Féminin réclame l'égalité dans l'industrie comme dans tous les domaines, et demande qu'aucune restriction en matière de travail ne soit imposée aux femmes seulement, étant prouvé que ces restrictions rendent plus difficile aux femmes la concurrence avec les hommes pour gagner leur pain quotidien. Il relève que les femmes ont toujours accompli à travers le monde du travail non payé, sans que personne ait jamais protesté ou se soit inquiété si ce travail était au-dessus de leurs forces, alors que c'est uniquement lorsqu'il s'est agi de travail payé que l'on a commencé à manifester tant d'égards pour le bien-être des femmes! et il se demande même si peut-être inconsciemment à coup sûr — ces égards n'ont pas pour but de protéger les affaires des hommes et non pas la santé des femmes?... Nous pensons, en effet, que toutes les restrictions imposées par la législation du travail valent pour les hommes comme pour les femmes, qu'il s'agisse de la journée de 8 heures, de la semaine de 48 heures, du salaire minimum; et que, si elles sont considérées par le législateur comme bonnes pour tous les individus et utiles à l'avenir de la race, elles doivent alors être appliquées à tous les travailleurs, — ce qui sera au bénéfice de chacun et non pas au détriment des femmes seules. Spécialement en ce qui concerne la législation du minimum de salaire, notre Parti réclame que cette législation ne soit pas appliquée suivant les sexes, mais indifféremment aux deux sexes, comme c'est d'ailleurs le cas dans plusieurs pays d'Europe et d'Australie. Et s'il se défend de prendre position sur tel ou tel point contesté de la législation du travail (durée légale du travail, par exemple) ou sur la tactique à suivre pour assurer la protection des ouvriers par la voie syndicale ou par la voie législative, il insiste, quelle que soit la méthode adoptée, pour qu'aucune différence ne soit faite entre les sexes."

Sans doute, le Parti National Féminin est-il radical dans ses affirmations; il faut au moins reconnaître qu'il s'appuie fermement sur des principes, et que cela confère toujours une force inattaquable. La théorie est-elle différente de la réalité? c'est ce que l'on soutient dans l'autre école, où se rencontrent tout autant de femmes également distinguées, comme notamment Mrs. Alice Hamilton, membre de la Commission d'Hygiène de la Société des Nations, qui s'appuie sur des statistiques pour prouver que les femmes ont besoin d'une protection légale à elles spéciale. Et, tout en nous plaçant personnellement, comme nous l'avons dit au début de cet article, de préférence du côté du P.N.F. en cette matière, nous reconnaissons cependant que l'on peut être fort bonne féministe et professeur des vues tout à fait opposées. Qu'en pensent nos lecteurs? Leur opinion sur ce sujet serait intéressante à connaître. J. GUYBAUD.

—Le Mouvement Féministe.

#### ASSISES INTERNATIONALES.

S. D. N. et B. I. T.

Si la première semaine de septembre a enregistré les émouvants débats historiques en séance plénière de la V<sup>me</sup> Assemblée de la Société des Nations, la deuxième et la troisième ont vu le travail plus paisible, mais certainement tout aussi fécond, des Commissions. Nous ne nous y arrêterons pas aujourd'hui, préférant à notre habitude, consacrer, une fois cette session terminée, une étude d'ensemble à l'œuvre accomplie par elle et à la part qu'y ont eue les femmes; et d'ailleurs nous savons bien qu'il n'est pas une de nos lectrices qui ne soit au courant, parce que suffragiste et donc vivement intéressée par la chose publique, des grandes discussions suscitées par les discours des deux "Premiers"; pas une qui ne se soit profondément réjouie, parce que pacifiste, de la proclamation si nette par eux du principe d'arbitrage,

qui est le principe vital de demain et même d'aujourd'hui, et de l'essor ainsi donné à la S. d. N. dont l'importance s'affirme tout spécialement; pas une enfin qui n'ait constaté avec fierté, parce que démocrate, que cette V<sup>me</sup> Assemblée a marqué le triomphe de la démocratie, puisque les trois hommes d'Etat qui y jouent le rôle le plus en vue sont tous des fils de leurs œuvres: MM. Motta, Herriot, et MacDonald.

Peu de semaines avant cette réunion, c'est-à-dire au début de l'été, le Bureau International du Travail, qui est une des ailes de la Société des Nations, avait de son côté convoqué la Conférence annuelle internationale du Travail qui a également siégé à Genève. Les vacances nous ont malheureusement empêchées d'en entretenir nos lectrices à cette époque-là; mais comme nous l'écrivait un jour de nos collaborateurs "les Conférences Internationales du Travail sont d'actualité durant toute l'année où elles ont eu lieu parce qu'elles traitent de questions toujours importantes et actuelles." Ces questions importantes et actuelles ont été à la Conférence de 1924 celle du travail de nuit des boulangers, celle de l'utilisation des loisirs ouvriers, puis celles d'un intérêt moins direct pour nous, femmes, de l'arrêt du travail dans les verreries à bassins, de l'égalité de traitements entre ouvriers nationaux et étrangers victimes d'accidents du travail, et de la lutte contre le charbon. Et quoique le B. I. T., tout bien disposé qu'il soit, n'eût pas jugé nécessaire de demander cette fois-ci aux gouvernements d'appliquer le fameux § 2 de l'article 389, plusieurs Etats avaient cependant estimé que ces questions concernaient assez directement les femmes pour leur réserver des places dans leur délégation. "C'est chose admise chez nous maintenant, nous disait une déléguée danoise, qu'une femme doit toujours faire partie d'une de ces délégations aux Assemblées internationales, quels que soient les sujets à l'ordre du jour." Bel exemple pour d'autres gouvernements qui se font tirer l'oreille pour remplir leurs obligations même lorsque l'application du fameux paragraphe crée les yeux!

La déléguée danoise, il est vrai, était tout spécialement qualifiée pour la place qu'elle occupait, puisque c'était notre collègue Mrs. Arenholt, membre du Comité exécutif et présidente d'une Commission de l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage des Femmes, et encore ingénieure (qu'on nous passe le néologisme!) civile et inspectrice du travail dans les boulangeries à Copenhague. Ses collègues étaient Mrs. Charles Thorburn, vice-présidente du C. N. des femmes (Canada), Miss Margaret Bondfield, députée et juge de paix, secrétaire parlementaire au ministère du Travail (Grande-Bretagne), M<sup>me</sup> Betty Kjelsberg, inspectrice des usines (Norvège), toutes trois déléguées gouvernementales; puis comme conseillères techniques, Miss Julia Varley, représentante des syndicats ouvriers (Grande-Bretagne), M<sup>me</sup> Laura de Zayas Bazan (Cuba), M<sup>me</sup> Marie Svolos, ancienne inspectrice du travail (Grèce), Miss Brighid Stafford, inspectrice des fabriques (Irlande), et M<sup>me</sup> Gabrielle Letellier, inspectrice départementale du travail (France). Toutes ces déléguées accomplirent un travail fort utile et apportèrent une collaboration précieuse à la Conférence, deux d'entre elles y fonctionnant même comme rapporteur général de Commissions: M<sup>me</sup> Kjelsberg, sur la question de l'utilisation des loisirs ouvriers, et M<sup>me</sup> Letellier, sur celle du travail de nuit dans les boulangeries.

La place nous manque malheureusement pour donner ici un compte-rendu détaillé des débats qui s'engagèrent sur ces différentes questions. La revue *Informations sociales*, à laquelle nous empruntons la grande partie des renseignements qui précèdent, conclut: "La Conférence a marqué la continuité de son œuvre par d'intéressants débats sur l'état de ratification des conventions antérieures, en particulier de celle des huit heures. Les gouvernements, les patrons, et les ouvriers ont montré qu'ils ne limitent pas leur œuvre à l'adoption de nouveaux projets de Convention ou de nouvelles Recommandations, mais qu'ils s'intéressent également au sort réservé par les divers pays aux décisions des années précédentes. Ainsi, la Conférence, rouage principal de l'organisation permanente, prend de plus en plus nettement conscience de la portée capitale de ses attributions, et de la responsabilité qui lui incombe." E. G.

#### PORTUGAL.

Rapport sur le Congrès Féministe et d'Education, de Lisbonne.

(La rédaction insert avec plaisir le rapport suivant, avec le seul regret d'un délai inévitable et d'un raccourcissement dû au peu d'espace dont elle dispose.)

Le premier Congrès Féministe réalisé au Portugal, vient d'avoir lieu à Lisbonne, de 4 Mai dernier, sous le nom de Congrès Féministe et d'Education, et représente le fruit de dix années de travail de la part du Conseil National des Femmes Portugaises, présidé par M<sup>me</sup> le Dr. Adelaide Cabette.

Le fait d'avoir éveillé dans les milieux officiels un vif intérêt pour les travaux du Congrès, représente pour le féminisme au Portugal une première victoire, si grande, qu'elle peut être considérée comme la plus difficile des étapes à vaincre, vaincue.

Quoique de caractère national, le Congrès a néanmoins englobé dans son esprit toute l'œuvre solidaire des féministes étrangères et, par suite de cette union qui distingue l'œuvre de l'I.C.W. il a reçu de même de nombreuses adhésions venues de tous les points du globe, parmi lesquelles, celle de notre chère Présidente, Lady Aberdeen and Temair qui, par l'entremise de sa représentante, Mrs. Milne, a bien voulu nous rendre palpables sa sympathie et ses vœux.

Ainsi que son nom l'indique le Congrès Féministe et d'Education, a divisé ses travaux en deux grandes catégories: Le Féminisme et L'Education.

Dans la première séance, présidée par M. le Président de la République, Mesdames les Dr. Adelaide Cabette et Aurora Gouveia ont prononcé des discours pleines de feu et de enthousiasme.

M. le Président de la République a prononcé des affirmations féministes.

A la deuxième séance, M<sup>me</sup> Aurora Gouveia énonce les "Revendications Politiques de la Femme Portugaise" dont les conclusions démontrent que le moment est venu pour la femme portugaise de jouir de ses droits d'élire et d'être élue; ce sujet, comme toujours, a donné lieu à un vif débat sur le droit du vote.

"La Femme dans l'organisation municipale" a été l'objet de la thèse de M<sup>me</sup> Isabel Correio Maneo. Tout en se rattachant directement aux travaux ci-dessus, cette thèse présente un côté moins exploité de la question: l'intervention de la femme dans l'administration.

M<sup>me</sup> Dr. Aurora Gouveia a mis aux voix la suivante motion:

"Considérant que ce Congrès a reconnu comme juste et nécessaire la revendication des droits politiques pour la femme portugaise qui se trouve aujourd'hui apte à les exercer, de même le Congrès Féministe et d'Education juge à plus forte raison opportun qu'il soit concédé à la femme portugaise le droit d'élection et d'éligibilité administratives."

La question de la "Nationalité de la Femme mariée" présentée par le Dr. Jayme Gouveia, a suscité la plus grande attention. Ses conclusions ont été les suivantes:

1° La femme mariée à un étranger ne doit perdre sa nationalité que dans le cas où elle opterait en faveur de celle de son mari, par déclaration formelle au moment du mariage.

2° La femme qui a opté pour la nationalité du mari, doit, en cas de veuvage, divorce ou simplement séparation, pouvoir récupérer sa nationalité.

3° Des lois internationales devront être adoptées afin d'éviter le conflit de lois de nationalités différentes en de semblables cas.

4° La législation portugaise devra être modifiée en ce sens et particulièrement le n° 6 de l'art. 18 et le n° 4 de l'art. 22, du Code Civil.

Le Dr. Arnaldo Brazao, Secrétaire Général du Congrès, a mis aux voix la suivante motion:

"Le Congrès Féministe et d'Education, jugeant que le principe de la Nationalisation de la femme mariée est un problème de droit international déjà affecté à la Ligue des Nations, accepte les propositions de la thèse "Nationalité de la Femme mariée" et espère que la Ligue des Nations se prononcera dans ce sens."

Mais s'abstenant d'insister sur nos justes prétentions, le Dr. Adelaide Cabette par le maintien de cette pro-

tection que la femme est en droit d'attendre de la société au moment où elle porte dans son sein la génération à venir. "La Protection à la femme enceinte" est le thème de notre chère Présidente, thème qu'elle défend depuis vingt années avec la même vigueur sans avoir encore pu obtenir, malheureusement, ce qu'elle réclame et qui est:

1° La promulgation d'une loi décrétant pour les femmes enceintes employées dans les fabriques ou autres établissements privés ou appartenant à l'état, un mois de repos avant leur accouchement.

2° La création de maternités, dont l'une à Lisbonne, dans les conditions exigées.

3° La création de sanatoriums pour femmes enceintes, de crèches et d'asiles pour enfants; incitation à la fondation de maternités ou autres institutions analogues, ayant pour but de secourir les femmes nécessiteuses au moment de leur accouchement et même à domicile.

4° La distribution arbitraire aux femmes de fabrique ou autres établissements privés ou à l'Etat, d'un subside pécuniaire un mois avant leurs couches et retiré d'un fond constitué en partie par un pourcentage levé sur les bénéfices de l'établissement où elles travaillent et en partie d'un impôt personnel atteignant tous les employés sans distinction de sexe.

5° La demande aux autorités municipales et administratives d'encourager dans leurs arrondissements respectifs des conférences ayant pour objet la question dont nous nous occupons.

6° Finalement, l'exécution rigoureuse de l'art. 2° de la loi du 14 avril, 1891, tant par devoir humanitaire, que par mesure d'intérêt national.

Plusieurs des individualités présentes se sont prononcées sur le sujet.

Pour compléter le cycle des Revendications de la Femme, nous avons en dernier lieu le thèse du Dr. Arnaldo Brazao intitulée "Abolitionisme" dans laquelle sont combattues, avec la réglementation de la prostitution, toutes autres mesures de ce genre, si dégradantes pour la femme et dont l'efficacité n'a pas encore été prouvée jusqu'ici. Comme moyens beaucoup plus sûrs, le conférencier propose l'accroissement de l'assistance médicale aux maladies vénériennes; la suppression des hôpitaux spécialement affectés à ce genre de maladie et incite surtout à développer les connaissances d'hygiène individuelle et préventive par des conférences, des imprimés, des projections, etc. Cet important travail a reçu l'approbation de l'illustre professeur espagnol, le Dr. Cesar Juarros, qui a demandé l'autorisation de le faire paraître dans le "Siglo Medical" de Madrid. Cette thèse ayant été mise aux voix, M<sup>mes</sup> Angelica Porto et Domingas Amaral se sont prononcées hautement contre le système réglementation de la prostitution.

La Chambre de Députés et le Sénat ont salué le Congrès, qui a siégé pendant cinq jours et a laissé derrière lui un véritable enthousiasme.

#### LES FRANÇAISES DOIVENT-ELLES VOTER?

Enquête.

Par Alice la Mazière.

Au lendemain du renouvellement de la Chambre des députés, au moment que, selon toute vraisemblance, la vie politique et sociale du pays va changer d'orientation, la question de la participation des femmes aux affaires publiques se pose une fois encore, et sans doute sera-t-elle portée prochainement à la tribune.

L'argument le plus fréquemment formulé par les législateurs opposés à ce que les femmes de notre pays cessent d'être tenues en tutelle pour devenir des citoyennes, argument qui sera sans doute repris au cours des futures discussions, est celui-ci:

"L'émancipation politique des femmes ne passionne qu'une poignée de féministes. L'immense majorité des Françaises ne désire point voter. Le pays se désintéresse de la question."

Affirmation toute gratuite apportée par des hommes obstinés à ne point voir, obstinés à ne point entendre ce qui se passe, ce qui se dit autour d'eux.

Non. Le vote des femmes ne passionne pas seulement cette poignée de féministes dont il est plaisant de parler avec ironie.

L'objet de l'enquête que nous avons menée, dont nous publions quelques extraits dans cette revue, en attendant l'édition du volume où elle paraîtra intégralement (1) a été de demander à des hommes et à des femmes remarquables à des titres divers et qui, dans les différents domaines de la pensée humaine constituent une élite, leur opinion sur ce point.

Leurs raisons semblaient d'autant plus précieuses à connaître et à retenir que le sujet, pour certains, était étranger à leurs préoccupations habituelles.

Nous leur avons posé les questions suivantes :

1. Pensez-vous que la Française obtienne bientôt le droit de vote?

2. Estimez-vous que cette conquête du bulletin de vote soit désirable pour la femme, la collectivité, et que le pays tout entier en bénéficiera?

Estimez-vous au contraire, qu'elle n'est pas à souhaiter, et qu'il serait préférable de refuser à la Française le droit dont jouissent, à l'heure présente, plus de 138 millions de femmes appartenant à 24 pays étrangers?

L'empressément avec lequel ils nous ont répondu, et dont nous leur savons un gré extrême, le soin qu'ils ont mis à formuler leur sentiment, la valeur de leurs arguments, prouvent au contraire que le problème du vote des femmes les intéresse profondément.

M. ROMAIN COOLUS.

Il me paraît impossible que le Sénat persiste longtemps dans son opposition surannée. Il est opportun, il est juste, il est nécessaire que la femme française obtienne, dans le plus bref délai, le droit de vote; et cette conquête aura pour tout le monde les conséquences les plus heureuses. Mon seul regret est qu'en accordant à la femme cette capacité électorale, la France se montre si tardivement libérale. Son histoire nous avait habitués à plus d'audacieuse générosité.

M. GEORGE SCHELLE,

Professeur à la Faculté de Droit  
de l'Université de Dijon.

Il est naturellement assez difficile de prévoir si le Parlement, qui ne s'est que si lentement décidé à donner un statut équitable à la femme commerçante, à la femme ouvrière, comprendra tout ce qu'il y a de "réactionnaire," au sens large du mot, à la maintenir chez nous en dehors de toute participation légale aux affaires publiques, alors que dans l'immense majorité des pays la reconnaissance de ses droits électoraux est aujourd'hui une conquête réalisée. Le dernier vote du Sénat nous a montré que nos pères conscris—ainsi nommés par antinomie, car ils ont passé l'âge des généreuses ardeurs—s'étaient laissés guider uniquement par les considérations de politique électorale les plus radicalement basses.

Mais si nous laissons de côté les infirmités ou sénilités de l'action parlementaire qui pèsent sur l'avenir féministe, pour nous placer sur le terrain de principes, je n'ai aucune hésitation à vous répondre que je suis résolument partisan non seulement de l'électorat, mais de l'éligibilité des femmes.

M. PIERRE TERMIER,

Membre de l'Académie des Sciences.

Voici, chère grande amie, ma réponse à votre enquête. Faites ce que vous voudrez de ces quelques lignes.

Je suis infiniment réactionnaire; mais il se trouve que, sur ce point, et parce que je cherche un correctif au mal des institutions modernes, j'ai de ces idées que l'on appelle avancées.

Dieu veuille que vous réussissiez! Je crois sincèrement qu'il y a quelque chose d'utile à attendre de la collaboration des femmes aux affaires publiques. Les arguments sont innombrables; les objections misérables. Ah! si j'étais sénateur, quel beau discours je ferais et qui vous transporterait d'aise!

M. ROBERT DE FLERS,

de l'Académie française.

Je suis persuadé que la Française obtiendra, dans un délai rapproché, le droit de vote dans les élections muni-

(1) Povolovsky, 13me Bonaparte, éditeur.

cipales et cantonales, et il me paraît certain qu'une fois ce premier résultat acquis, les autres scrutins ne tarderont pas à lui être ouverts.

M. MARCEL PRÉVOST,

de l'Académie française.

Je suis convaincu que les Françaises obtiendront le droit de vote politique d'ici à très peu d'années.

Je ne serais pas surpris, toutefois, que la plénitude de droit de suffrage ne leur fût pas tout de suite accordée, et qu'elles ne la conquissent que par étapes.

C'est assez la coutume française. Elle est assez défendable.

La réforme fera d'abord du bien et du mal, comme toutes les réformes. Peu à peu, passant dans les mœurs, elle fera surtout du bien, j'en suis convaincu.

Elle en fera à la société française: elle en fera aussi à la femme. Elle contribuera, je l'espère, à corriger la futilité fâcheuse qui s'empare aujourd'hui de toute une classe sociale de femmes: passion de la toilette, frénésie de divertissement.

Pour que l'égalité des deux sexes soit défendable et triomphe, n'est-il pas indispensable que le sérieux des deux sexes soit comparable?

Or, promenez-vous dans une ville quelconque, et voyez l'importance démesurée que la commerce accorde au vêtement, à la parure de la femme—comparativement à ce qui concerne l'homme! Quelles médiocres préoccupations cela révèle chez la femme moderne!

Non, les femmes qui consacrent la majeure partie de leur souci et de leur argent à s'habiller ne sont pas les vraies égales des hommes.

MME. LUCIE DELAURE-MARDRUS.

Je crois que le vote des femmes est à souhaiter pour les classes laborieuses, la femme qui travaille étant actuellement sans armes pour lutter. Un bulletin de vote dans une main besogneuse est nécessaire, de nos jours, pour triompher de l'injustice immanente dont souffrent les faibles.

Mais je regrette que la femme française en soit arrivée là. C'était notre suprême coquetterie de n'être, en France, que des femmes, et non des électeurs. La courtoisie étant morte chez nous, faisons comme les autres. Je vote donc, en soupirant, pour le vote des femmes, simplement par altruisme, et non par sentiment.

Voici la conclusion d'une longue consultation du Général SARRAIL :

L'accession de la femme au droit de vote est néanmoins une réalisation à poursuivre; mais, je le répète, il ne s'agit pas d'avoir à réparer plus tard la faute certaine que constituerait, à l'heure actuelle, le suffrage universel immédiatement élargi. A chaque jour, son œuvre.

Faut-il procéder par étapes? C'est plus que discutable. Je ne crois pas à la possibilité de laisser approcher des urnes les seules veuves de guerre; elles apporteraient dans l'exercice de leurs droits électoraux une mentalité toute spéciale; je suis encore plus hostile à l'obtention de ce droit pour les femmes qui gèrent une industrie, un commerce, ou une fortune; le règne de l'oligarchie et de l'argent n'est que trop développé en France. Je ne vois pas la femme confinée politiquement dans le seul domaine municipal, où elle pourrait sûrement apporter dans bien des cas l'expérience acquise dans son propre foyer; mais les délégués sénatoriaux sont nommés par les conseillers municipaux; on ne peut donner d'une main et retirer de l'autre; dans une République, il n'y a pas de demi-citoyens.

Quand sera donc mûre une réforme complète, qui seule peut clore le débat? Il faut d'abord savoir ce que sera la Chambre des Députés de 1924 et ce qu'elle pourra et voudra faire. Il s'agira aussi de voir si, contrairement à ce qui se passe aujourd'hui, l'opinion publique croit au féminisme, et, dans cette hypothèse, si cette opinion est la résultante des sentiments des intéressées ou l'œuvre de partis religieux en quête de chercher une revanche.

L'émancipation politique de la femme ne se fera qu'avec la République, ou elle ne sera pas. L'émancipation politique de la femme ne peut être qu'avec une émancipation laïque. Vouloir brusquer un dénouement

serait une faute politique avec des conséquences incalculables; à l'égard du régime républicain, ce serait presque un crime.

ME. ALBERT SALLE,

Ancien bâtonnier de l'Ordre des Avocats.

Vous m'interrogez sur la matière délicate du droit de vote féminin: bien volontiers je vous donne mon opinion. Certes, oui, je pense que la Française obtiendra bientôt le droit de vote.

Toutes les Françaises? non. En toute matière? pas immédiatement. Et je m'explique.

Le droit de vote pour les femmes est dans l'air: en dépit de certaines résistances intéressées du Parlement, il sera avant peu une réalité.

Mais précisément, en raison de ces résistances, les partisans du vote féminin devront jouer du lest. Les veuves de guerre, les veuves tout court devenus chefs de famille seront les premières à voter: en y ajoutant par la suite certaines industrielles ou commerçantes, certaines intellectuelles et aussi les mères de famille, je crois qu'on leur aura fait la part qui leur revient très légalement. Doivent-elles souhaiter le suffrage universel absolu? je ne le pense pas. Tel qu'il est pratiqué en France pour les hommes, il est déjà une généreuse mais absurde utopie: inutile de l'étendre.

## NOUVELLES FÉMINISTES.

### Autriche.

Pension alimentaire.—Olga Rudel Zeynek a déposé un projet de loi pour assurer le paiement de la pension alimentaire aux mères et aux enfants légitimes ou illégitimes. Ce paiement est souvent éludé par les paysans qui travaillent dans leur famille sans recevoir de gages. 1°. La loi imposera un emprisonnement d'une semaine à six mois en cas de négligence. 2°. La loi rendra responsable la famille chez qui l'homme est employé. On sait que l'Alliance internationale au Congrès de Rome a déjà demandé aux gouvernements de procéder à une entente internationale pour obliger les hommes vivant à l'étranger à fournir la pension.

Une femme substitut du procureur général.—Tandis que la question: "les femmes peuvent-elles être juges?" est violemment discutée, Dr. Maria Fischer, magistrat au tribunal d'enfants de Vienne, a été nommée substitut pendant les vacances et a rempli ses fonctions avec tact dans plusieurs jugements différents.

### Etats Unis.

Hygiène sociale.—La Ligue nationale des Femmes électrices a un comité qui ne s'occupe que des réformes politiques en matière d'hygiène sociale. Son programme est un programme d'étude; il est fondé sur le principe que les femmes ont trois raisons de s'intéresser à cette question. 1°. Parce qu'elles sont seules tenues responsables des fautes sexuelles. 2°. Parce qu'elles sont les victimes innocentes des maladies vénériennes. 3°. Parce que les femmes comme électrices peuvent créer un état de choses plus équitable.

Tant qu'il y aura dans les lois un principe de morale différent pour les deux sexes, aucun progrès ne pourra être obtenu. Il n'y a pas de moralité sans justice, et l'injustice faite à la "prostituée ordinaire" comme la loi l'appelle, est une injustice faite à toutes les femmes.

Suffrage.—A la veille de la grande élection nationale, les femmes sont plus actives que jamais. La Ligue nationale engage les électrices à voter en grand nombre. D'autres associations féminines coopèrent: la Fédération des Femmes universitaires; la Fédération du Travail; l'Association pour l'Economie domestique; le Conseil fédéral des Eglises; la Fédération générale des Clubs féminins; la Fédération des Sociétés amicales; l'Association des jeunes Filles chrétiennes; le Congrès national des mères; le Conseil national des jeunes Juives; le Conseil national des Femmes; l'Association nationale de l'Education; l'Union nationale des Fermières; la Grange nationale; la Ligue municipale; la Conférence pan-hellénique nationale; l'Union chrétienne de Tempérance; la Ligue des Trade Unions; la "Service Star

Union." Un intérêt spécial s'attache au lancement d'un troisième parti politique, désigné officiellement sous le nom de "Conference for progressive political action," et, plus familièrement le parti La Follette, du nom de son président. Mme. Costigan qui a fait un discours à la convention nationale a dit que les femmes ne cherchaient pas à user de leurs droits politiques dans un but égoïste, et comme esclaves des partis mais qu'elles y voyaient un moyen de travailler à côté des hommes pour le bien de l'humanité.

Une victoire féministe.—Le féminisme enregistre une belle victoire. Mme. Ferguson a été élue par plus de 200,000 voix, gouverneur du Texas. C'est la première fois qu'une femme est gouverneur d'un Etat américain.

### Grèce.

L'Assemblée nationale a rejeté un article du projet de loi sur l'administration des communes, disant qu'après les prochaines élections, le gouvernement aurait la faculté de reconnaître par un simple décret le droit de vote municipal, aux femmes. Notre confrère d'Athènes, *la Lutte de la Femme*, auquel nous devons cette nouvelle, relève fort justement à ce propos qu'une Assemblée capable d'émettre un tel vote n'est pas, comme elle prétend l'être, une Assemblée républicaine, puisqu'elle n'admet pas en principe que la République soit basée sur la volonté de tous les membres de la nation.

### Perse.

Le travail des enfants, et spécialement la protection des femmes et des enfants, employés dans l'industrie des tapis, ont été l'objet de mesures nouvelles en Perse. La durée du travail est désormais fixée à 8 heures; l'âge minimum d'admission au travail est de 8 ans pour les garçons et 10 ans pour les filles. L'atelier des garçons doit être indépendant de celui des filles, et la surveillance des ateliers de filles doit être confiée à des femmes. Une visite sanitaire doit être effectuée chaque mois. Ces résultats sont dus aux démarches du Bureau International du Travail auprès du gouvernement persan.

### Suède.

Une Commission avait été chargée par le gouvernement suédois de faire une enquête sur la question des traitements des employées de l'Etat. Le rapport a conclu qu'on ne pouvait adopter entièrement le principe: à travail égal, salaire égal. Les principales raisons seraient que la proportion des malades parmi les femmes est supérieure de 40 pour cent à celle des hommes, et que le rendement des hommes serait supérieur à celui des femmes. En tout cas, quand il y aura salaire égal, dans les postes élevés de l'Administration, les émoluments réels des femmes seront inférieurs à ceux des hommes d'une somme correspondant aux contributions que ceux-ci doivent verser pour assurer une pension à leurs veuves et à leurs enfants.

### Suisse.

Un petit progrès, — oh! bien modeste! est à signaler. Quelques députés vaudois ont déposé sur le bureau du Grand Conseil une motion qui doit être discutée sous peu, aux fins d'étendre le droit de vote en matière de tribunaux de prud'hommes aux patronnes et employées du sexe féminin.

### Internationales.

Fédération internationale des Femmes universitaires.—Le congrès s'est ouvert à Cristiania. Les déléguées ont été reçues par les représentants de la Suède, la Norvège, le Danemark et la Finlande et par l'explorateur Nansen. Le congrès a décidé de réunir des fonds pour augmenter le nombre des bourses aux étudiants qui font leurs études à l'étranger; il a formé, à la suggestion de Miss Tuke, un comité pour étudier la question d'une langue internationale; enfin il a élu Présidente pour deux ans Miss Gildersleeve, de l'université de Columbia, une des fondatrices de la Fédération.

### Allemagne.

La réforme du divorce.—La dissolution du Reichstag a fait remettre à plus tard l'amendement sur le divorce qui avait été présenté il y a deux ans. Le Conseil national des Femmes demande: qu'en cas de désaccord



matrimonial, le divorce soit prononcé par consentement mutuel, alors qu'il n'est accordé actuellement que pour adultère, sévices ou désertion. Le Conseil national demande aussi que la folie incurable, constatée après trois ans d'observation, permette le divorce; enfin qu'en cas de séparation des époux, le droit parental soit accordé à celui qui a la garde des enfants. La loi actuelle accorde tous les droits au père, et même lorsqu'il a démerité, ces droits sont transférés à un autre homme et non à la mère.

#### Grande Bretagne.

*Les Femmes dans la Police.*—Les officiers de police ont fait les plus grands éloges du travail accompli par les femmes, et le comité départemental a déclaré que le service de la police avait été amélioré par l'emploi des police-women. Ces déclarations ont été reproduites dans la presse. L'opinion de Sir Nevil Macready, l'ancien "Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police," est qu'il devrait y avoir 200 femmes dans la police de Londres. Or il n'y en a actuellement que 110 dans tout le comté. Le comité départemental compte en nommer un aussi grand nombre qu'en 1922 et il a recommandé par dessus tout que des femmes soient employées pour recevoir les dépositions des femmes et des enfants en ce qui concerne les délits sexuels. La réalisation de ces vues dépend maintenant du "Home Office" (Ministère de l'Intérieur).

*Élections parlementaires.*—Il y a un nombre de candidates suffisant aux prochaines élections. Jusqu'à présent, 11 socialistes, 6 conservatrices, et 5 libérales (y compris les députées actuelles) ont posé leur candidature, et Mrs Corbett Ashby se présente à Watford. En outre les dates des élections locales approchent. Les élections municipales auront lieu le 1 novembre, les élections de comté en mars, les élections de districts, de paroisses et d'assistance publique avant avril. L'Union nationale emploie tous les moyens de propagande féministe, y compris la téléphone sans fil.

#### Indes.

L'Etat de Cochín est le premier qui ait renoncé à la "sex disqualification" et qui ait permis aux femmes d'être électrices et éligibles. Les autres états suivront

peu à peu. Les femmes ont de bons champions à l'Assemblée législative où les résolutions suivantes ont été présentées pour la prochaine assemblée: 1° que des mesures immédiates soient prises pour que le gouvernement des Indes accorde le vote et l'éligibilité aux femmes au même titre qu'aux hommes; 2° qu'en attendant une femme hindoue soit nommée membre non officiel de la prochaine assemblée. Le projet de loi présenté par le Dr. Gour pour élever l'âge du consentement pour les filles de 12 à 14 ans, projet recommandé par l'Association de Femmes hindoues avec l'appui de la presse, a été pris en considération et appuyé par 12 membres de la commission sur 16.

#### Bresil.

*Une femme à la Faculté de Médecine.*—La première femme brésilienne vient d'entrer comme professeur dans l'enseignement supérieur. Il s'agit de Mlle, le Docteur Béatriz Gonzaga, qui, par le vote unanime de la Congrégation de la Faculté de Médecine de Rio de Janeiro, a été nommée professeur libre de la chaire de microbiologie.

*La nationalité de la femme mariée.*—La commission de législation du Sénat fédéral étudie actuellement le projet qui règle la nationalité de la femme étrangère mariée à un Brésilien et de la Brésilienne mariée à un étranger. Selon le projet, l'épouse adopte la nationalité du mari, sauf si antérieurement au mariage civil elle déclare vouloir conserver sa nationalité d'origine. La commission demande que le changement de nationalité ne puisse avoir lieu qu'en vertu d'un décret du gouvernement pris à la demande de l'intéressée.

*Conseil National du Travail.*—Le président de la République a reçu une pétition revêtue de 450 signatures, représentant 6,000 femmes occupées dans le commerce ou l'industrie, demandant qu'au Conseil national du travail une place soit réservée à une femme. Le Conseil a déjà eu l'occasion de se montrer favorable à la mesure réclamée, étant donné la valeur de la collaboration féminine dans toutes les questions ayant une portée sociale.

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

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

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#### A YEAR'S WORK IN JAPAN.

A FEW months after the earthquake the Young Women's Christian Association in Japan sent out a message to all friends throughout the world, in the form of a leaflet describing shortly the work of the Association in each centre. On the front page were printed the words "Carry On"—words which give us a glimpse of the spirit of courage, hope, and faith which has been so evident in the Y.W.C.A. in Japan in the past year. Reports which reach us periodically tell us the same story of progress and of great opportunity for Christian teaching. The demand for Bibles, hymn books, and reading of a religious kind is very great, though it is going to take some time to gather supplies, as so many of the Christian publishing houses were destroyed. The spirit of inquiry is abroad, and wherever this spirit is found within the scope of the Association, Miss Kawai, the General Secretary of the Y.W.C.A. in Japan, does much to give young people the guidance they need—going round schools, colleges, and Y.W.C.A. groups, bringing her compelling message to those she meets, strengthening their purpose and renewing their faith.

#### Education Work.

The education programme of the Y.W.C.A., both in the devastated towns and others, has met with great response from the girls. Classes in English and typing, chiefly held in the winter session, have been well attended. In most centres Bible study forms part of the educational programme; this varies a great deal, from discussion and study groups to vespers services with occasional evangelistic meetings. In addition to regular classes such as these, each centre has its own specialities. Foreign cooking is a popular course, and may include anything from a Christmas dinner to summer drinks! Foreign etiquette, too, always arouses interest. Most places have successful sewing classes, where embroidery is learned and garment-making. A great deal of sewing has been done this year by these classes on behalf of refugees in Tokyo and Yokohama. In one centre a lecture course on health foods and healthful living proved popular, and in another place classes were held in interior decorating, and wood block printing.

#### Student Work.

The earthquake had a tremendous influence on student life in Japan. One report tells us: "More than 37 large girls' schools were totally destroyed, and 5,000 high school girls are living in barracks. These bare figures give no indication of the deeper tragedies for students in Japan. Death and loss of homes and the means by which those homes were supported mean the shouldering of responsibilities by many who would still be in school. And the loss of the school buildings meant a limitation of numbers even with the relay system of recitations only every other day. All the girls are trying desperately to

help each other, to bring back into school those who had to drop out, and to help with clothes and books wherever they can. The Y.W.C.A. has helped by providing the warm school skirts, but the book problem is a hard one, since the very plates for printing the school books were destroyed. The students draw for the books by lot each day; they copy out long pages, they study in groups. Here in this largest student centre (Tokyo) in the world, conditions exist which make the students fight even to starvation to get their education." In another report we read of the efforts various colleges have made to help those in the earthquake zone. "Everywhere girls put in their spare moments knitting and making clothing, and in one school the girls gave up all food except a scanty portion of rice and pickles one day in each week." From another school thirteen bales of materials were sent to the Presbyterian relief work in Tokyo, and a few days before the same girls had given Miss Kawai 300 yen for the Y.W.C.A. So far it has not been within the power of the Y.W.C.A. to touch more than a small number of students in Japan; but through the recent experiences they have shared, as well as through the regular Y.W.C.A. programme of conferences and visitation, a student consciousness is steadily growing.

#### Tokyo.

In the first thirty seconds of the earthquake, the Association buildings in Tokyo, carefully planned, built, and owned by the Y.W.C.A. itself, collapsed and caught fire. Much that was lost then can never be replaced, but nothing could destroy the spirit of the Association, which in a short time made itself felt in the community. By the end of a month the Blue Triangle appeared over tents pitched on the Y.W.C.A. premises, clubs were meeting, sewing for relief was begun. "Y.W.C.A. girls made over 6,000 relief garments before the end of November, and had made surveys of the barrack refugees. More tents went up to hold the relief supplies, and the secretaries' residences were used for meetings. Employment was given girls who had no way of earning; the clubs raised money by holding victrola concerts and little bazaars and by knitting for a large yarn store, and real help was given to many girls by the money so raised. The Association, scattered as it was, carried on clubs, classes, and meetings for worship and prayer." By summer time Y.W.C.A. barracks were built, and hastily furnished with stoves, curtains, pictures, cots for the children cared for in the day nursery, flowers to cheer and to decorate. One of the first uses of the barracks was the holding by the Federation of Women's Clubs of an exhibition of household things. Hundreds of Japanese women visited the building then, and it quickly became known. The classrooms on the second floor were soon filled to overflowing with students of English and commerce and groups for Bible study. Also over 60 girls came each week for foreign cooking, and twice a month they met as a club to discuss subjects



Washington Representatives from China, Japan, and Korea.

pertaining to the home. With increasing opportunities for women in business and economic life, the wider social activities, the scarcity and soaring wages of servants, women are seeking means of lightening the old domestic burdens; and greater efficiency in household matters—be it housing, equipment, clothes, or food—is receiving thoughtful attention. The gymnasium is much missed, as physical education was a popular department before. There is no doubt that a large permanent building is urgently needed, but in the meantime the barracks have been made as attractive and well equipped as possible.

#### Yokohama.

Like Tokyo, Yokohama suffered irreparable loss in the earthquake, but in a short time a Y.W.C.A. tent was erected, which became a busy centre for relief, for finding employment, and giving shelter and comfort to scattered members. As time went on, it overflowed with class work and club meetings, so many girls wanted to revive all that the Association had stood for. Here, as well as in Tokyo, the Government has helped in the re-building of the Association centre, and the city authorities, too, have taken much interest in it. As the need for definite relief work lessened, the Y.W.C.A. in Yokohama found that it had a larger field than ever before; it became the headquarters for the Federation of Women's Clubs in the city, and a large number of Japanese girls began to look to the Y.W.C.A. for help of various kinds. The outlook for the Association is most hopeful, and strong foundations have been laid for the re-establishment of the work in Yokohama for migrants, business girls, students, factory girls, and women in the home.

#### Kobe.

A curved Japanese arch of a gate, an irregular series of steps through a miniature Japanese garden in the midst of a bustling town, a great seaport and manufacturing centre—this is the Kobe Y.W.C.A. It is a busy centre, for there are large classes of girls who want to learn English, cooking, knitting, sewing, and singing; there are Bible Study groups; there are immigrants who come for help and advice, industrial girls who come to spend their free time in play. Kobe, like other cities, spent much of its time during the winter in relief work, and modified its Christmas preparations in view of the need in Tokyo and Yokohama. An interesting activity in which Kobe, Kyoto, and Osaka share is the business girls' club organised for these three cities. The girls have meetings several times a year, and have done several things unitedly. For instance, they had a booklet of

hymns printed and sent to the Yokohama and Tokyo Associations with New Testaments as a Christmas gift. They have issued a club paper, and they have had several meetings where representatives from the different clubs meet for discussion and fellowship. Week-end conferences have been held in the different centres.

#### Kyoto.

About 300 miles west of Tokyo lies Kyoto, a beautiful old historical city, educational rather than industrial, and famous for the production of works of art—china, weaving, and metal work. The Y.W.C.A. here is an old foreign house consisting of a general office, a clubroom, kitchen, classroom, students' room, and a bedroom, which is in great demand. The Association in Kyoto had its first birthday last March. It has now 300 members and seven secretaries, and gives promise of further lusty growth. The Association has reached out to the schools, has organised clubs, and to the business girls has given a new corporate dignity, so that when the clubs of the three western cities had a conference, Kyoto had an articulate delegation eager to raise the standards among business girls in Japan. Business girls, mothers from homes, teachers, Korean girls, students, refugees, tourists, make up the list of constantly changing visitors at the busy Y.W.C.A. in this beautiful city. The Y.W.C.A. has taken its place in the community, being part of the Federated Women's Societies of Kyoto, also of the United Women's Societies of the Churches; but what is most delightful is the friendly spirit in the Kyoto Association, the sense of comradeship and co-operation which makes service in the Y.W.C.A. such a glad thing.

#### Osaka.

The event of the year for Osaka has been the opening of the new building. It is a beautiful four square building of creamy brick, decorated with an effective design of triangles. Miss Kawai was present at the formal dedication, and gave a vision of the possibilities that lay before the Association in Osaka. Banks, factories, telephone companies, department stores, railway stations: all are represented in the girlhood that passes to and fro between the doors of this new building. As was mentioned above, Osaka takes part in the girls' club organised along with Kobe and Kyoto. In connection with this, a business girls' Inter-City Rally was held in Osaka, when girls from the other cities lived in the Osaka dormitory and returned to their own place eager to have such a building of their own. Some of the members of the club already knew each other, having made acquaintance at the summer conference, so that it was an occasion for reunion. Through such meetings and conferences business girls all over Japan are learning comradeship, and are realising that through friendship they can help their own community.

#### IMPRESSIONS OF WASHINGTON.

IN the last issue we announced the meeting of the World's Y.W.C.A. Committee, then being held at Washington, D.C., giving at the same time an outline of the programme and referring briefly to the many different countries that were being represented. To put into words all that happened, to express all that it meant to those who were there as well as to those who watched it from afar, is a difficult task, and all that is possible here is to give a few impressions and state some of the achievements of that week.

The setting of the meeting was the Grace Dodge Hotel, Washington. Wherever delegates went in America, but particularly in Washington itself, Association friends were lavish in their hospitality, and spared neither time nor energy in doing those kindnesses, great and small, which make a stranger's visit pleasant and interesting. The time-table was a full one, the only free time being between lunch and tea; but at that time and at all meals things were so planned that opportunity was given to representatives from each country to meet various friends. Among the social activities must be mentioned the reception given by Mrs. Lansing, the expedition to Mount Vernon, and the visit to the White House, where President and Mrs. Coolidge received the Committee.



Washington Representatives from Esthonia and Latvia.

The evening meetings of the Committee were open to visitors, and there was a large gathering when Viscountess Gladstone, Miss Landazuri (Mexico), and Mrs. Mei (China) spoke on "Christian Principles of Conduct." At two evening meetings the time was used for five-minute speeches by delegates from all the represented countries.

The work of the Committee began on the evening of May 9th. Open sessions were held on May 10th, 12th, and 13th, business sessions following on the 14th, 15th, and 16th. After a devotional meeting in the morning each day was opened by the presentation of a report, the first being that of the General Secretary, followed by those of the Standing Committees. The first Standing Committee report was that of the Extension Department, which deals with Associations not yet fully organised. Encouraging progress in several places was reported, notably in Malaya, Jamaica, Korea, and Mexico City. The two last were established as recently as 1922. Another session was devoted to the Industrial report and the Migration report. The independence of the International Migration Service was formally ratified. In a later issue we hope to devote some space to a statement of its precise position, its aim and hopes for the future. A report was also made on the Training of Volunteer and Employed Leadership. The report sessions were followed by meetings for discussion, opened by an address. After the report on Training a notable address on the "Service of Leadership" was given by Miss Charlotte Adams, of the National Y.W.C.A. Training School in New York. The resolutions passed by the World's Committee cover a wide range of activities—industrial work; training; the development of work in new countries; co-operation with the World's Student Christian Federation; and the creation of a true spirit of internationalism. A special meeting was held to discuss the last question, and there the feeling was expressed that a definite effort ought to be made to induce national associations to study economic, social, and racial conditions; that the Y.W.C.A. ought to try to get below the surface of things and face the fundamental difficulties which divide race from race and nation from nation, and that the Association had a real responsibility in the matter which must be faced.

The moment of farewell to the President, Mrs. Waldegrave, was a moving one. She has guided the Committee wisely and devotedly for the last ten years; she remains on the Committee as first Vice-President, however, and the Association hopes to gain much still from her experience and sympathy. Lady Parmoor, who has been a

valued member of the World's Committee for some years, has been elected President, a position for which her interest and knowledge of the work and her great sympathy with international questions well qualify her. In her unavoidable absence from the meeting, a cable announcing her election was sent by the Committee, and an answer received from her just before the meeting dispersed.

Perhaps the most memorable event of the week was the Communion Service at Old Christ Church, Alexandria, the church attended by George Washington, a little brick building with white-painted pews and old-fashioned gallery. There the delegates shared the morning service with the parishioners, and then stayed on to take part in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The quiet worship together, the peace of the place, the international fellowship of that communion hour, were an experience of God, and the experience made itself felt throughout the meeting. Whatever the other achievements of Washington may be, they include that which will outlive resolutions and business sessions, the forging and strengthening of links in the chain of friendship which will make the Association of greater service to the world.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL CAMP IN FRANCE.

AT the end of July the Association in France organised a camp for Y.W.C.A. leaders and future leaders, chiefly from the Latin countries of Europe. Thirty-two representatives attended from eight different countries—France, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Holland, Italy, Portugal, Roumania, and Switzerland. It was found to be a most helpful experience, and one which will probably be repeated. The various functions of the Y.W.C.A. were discussed—the duty of all members to study industrial conditions and the laws which affect women; the responsibility laid upon the Association to give through clubs, holiday homes, physical exercises, those things which are lacking in the lives of some girls; to give careful attention to education programmes; to help girls in their reading, to develop their religious life by study and example, and to show them ways of service. The desire was expressed on every hand for more facilities for training in the form of courses shared in by several countries, in addition to such practical training as each National Association can provide. There was considerable discussion also on adolescents.

The suggestion has been made, and will probably be carried out, that the next international camp of this nature be held in Italy.



Blue Triangle Girls, Portugal.

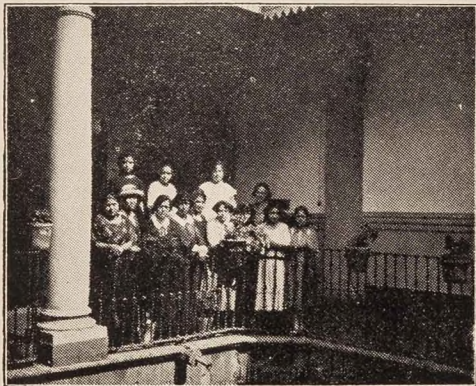
#### GLIMPSES FROM PORTUGAL.

THE Y.W.C.A. has great opportunities before it in Portugal, as it is one of the few women's organisations that exist there, and the development of leadership among Portuguese women is still at an early stage. The natural diffidence and social traditions which have prevented women in Portugal from becoming leaders still prevail to a large extent, but initiative and resourcefulness are being developed, and the Y.W.C.A. does its share through leaders' training courses and other Association activities.

There is a great need in Portugal of more extensive education for women, and here, too, the Y.W.C.A. renders a service in organising classes for girls and for older women who have not had the advantage of education. They take courses in Bible study, French, English, and handicraft, and attend occasional lectures as well. But the greatest need of all is education in health, especially in the care of children. Many children of the poorer classes grow up in ill-health and deformity owing to the ignorance of their elders. In view of this, the Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A. in Oporto organised a course for mothers on baby care and on the physical and moral education of older children. Four hundred mothers came to the course—an achievement in numbers, for wherever such a course is held for the first time there are prejudices to be overcome.

The Y.W.C.A. undertakes a considerable amount of sewing for poor children, and the Christmas season is made the occasion for a delightful distribution party, enjoyed both by those who give and those who receive. Nor are the needs of other countries forgotten. One small branch sent a contribution to Japan for the work of reconstruction there. Members of the Y.W.C.A. support and educate orphans in an African mission, and younger girls sew garments which are sent abroad.

Girls' work in Portugal takes the form of an organisation called the *Jovens do Triangulo Azul* (Blue Triangle Girls), which the girls thoroughly enjoy; for the companionship it brings, the physical exercise, and the co-operation in work and play are new experiences for many of them.



A Blue Triangle Group, Mexico City.

### TWO NEW ASSOCIATIONS.

AT the meeting of the World's Y.W.C.A. Committee held at Washington last May, two new Associations were formally welcomed to membership—Korea and Mexico City.

Korea was represented at Washington by Miss Helen Kim, now studying in U.S.A. She and another student attended the last meeting of the World Student Christian Federation at Peking in 1922, and there conceived the idea of establishing a Y.W.C.A. in Korea. In a short time work was begun, particularly among students, and now the Association there is ready for further help in leadership and training. The Y.W.C.A. in Mexico City was formed in 1922 by Miss Elena Landazuri and Miss Caroline Smith, her associate. Rooms near the centre of the city were taken as offices, and there the foundation was laid of very varied Association work. The Y.W.C.A. programme included educational classes, particularly one in English, which grew quickly and gained official recognition from the public school authorities; clubs, both English and Spanish speaking; a health centre for women and babies, and a baby clinic; and all that is known as "case work"—helping individual women and girls in their search for employment, and advising migrants and travellers in difficulties. The Y.W.C.A. in Mexico City has developed quickly, and has the support of a committee of women who are progressive and influential citizens. It also co-operates with various societies and forms part of the Federation of Christian Workers of the district.

### THE ASSOCIATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

FIVE branches of the Young Women's Christian Association are to be found in Czechoslovakia, with a total of five thousand members. The largest is in Prague, which has seventeen clubs, forty classes, a playground, recreation centres, and a cafeteria. A summer camp is organised from this centre, and is held at Prerov. The Y.W.C.A. in Prague also takes part in migration work, as it is a busy centre for travellers and would-be migrants from Eastern Europe. A smaller Y.W.C.A. branch in the same city has a club, a few classes, and a recreation programme. Bratislava has the second largest branch, and carries out a programme similar to that in Prague, including a summer camp. Work in Bratislava is among a very mixed population, including Czech, German, and Magyar. It is also characterised by work among factory girls, and a prosperous Social Help Service. Here, too, the State has built a Home for Women State Employees and other working women, and has asked the Y.W.C.A. to administer it. Last year the Y.W.C.A. established work in Hrodec Kralove, a Bohemian town, and at the same time opened a registry office for procuring paid home work for women. It is hoped that the youngest branch, that of Brno, Moravia, may become an important centre for work among factory girls, as it is a large industrial district.

No sketch of the Association in Czechoslovakia would be complete without some mention of the Czechoslovakian Student Renaissance Movement. This movement originated in 1920, and its members are bound together by a strong sense of social service as well as by religious faith. It has branches in Prague, Brno, and Pribam, and has a full-time secretary. The Movement is part of the Confederation of Student Renaissance Movements in Czechoslovakia, and as such has corresponding membership in the World's Student Christian Federation.

### THE WEEK OF PRAYER AND WORLD FELLOWSHIP.

EVERY year a week in November beginning from the second Sunday of the month is observed by the World's Young Men's Christian Association and the World's Young Women's Christian Association as a Week of Prayer and Fellowship. This year the dates are from November 9th to 16th, and Associations all over the world are making plans for the observance of this week.

Some time beforehand, an outline is prepared consisting of meditations for each day linked together by some leading thought for the week. This outline is used both by the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A., who undertake its preparation alternate years. Last year it was arranged by the Y.W.C.A. in India, and this year by the Rev. Basil Matthews, Boys' Work Secretary of the World's Y.M.C.A. The leading thought for the week is: "The Need and Hope of the World"—the need of new life in a world full of unrest and dissatisfaction and disillusionment, and the hope that lies in youth if it will but answer Christ's call to save the world in His way. This outline, along with suggestions for thanksgiving and intercession contributed by each country, is sent out in booklet form to every Y.W.C.A., and is used universally as the guide for prayer each day. The Week of Prayer and World Fellowship is the time when Associations are most conscious of unity, and when they feel their kinship most as members of a fellowship which has a common faith as well as a common purpose.

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