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# THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE NEWS



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## CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
Meetings of the Board and Presidents' Council	130	Reports from Auxiliaries—	
News of International Societies	130 and 131	Japan	137
Protective Legislation for Women	132	Sweden	138
Reports from Auxiliaries—		United States	138
Denmark	133	Cuba	140
France	133	China	140
Finland	134	Obituary—the late Lt.-Col. Mansfeldt	140
Germany	134	Section Française—	
Great Britain	135	Discours de Mme. Paulina Luisi au Congrès Intl. de Sociologie	141
Australia	136	Commission de la Société des Nations contre la traite des Femmes	142
Tasmania	136	Nouvelles Féministes	142
India	136		
Italy	137		



The Women's Indian Association and Women Members of the Madras Council wearing Garlands.

### MEETINGS OF THE BOARD AND PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL.

A LONG time ago, when we knew that the International Council of Women was to hold its conference on the Prevention of the Causes of War, in London, the idea instantly came to us that many of our presidents and members might be coming over for it, and so enable us to have a meeting of our Presidents' Council. The date chosen was Sunday, May 4th, so as not to conflict with any of the meetings of the conference, and the following Presidents of Auxiliaries, or their proxies, attended: Australia, Miss Allen; Czecho Slovakia, Mme. Plaminkova; Finland, Miss Furuholm; France, Mme. Puech; Great Britain, Miss Rathbone (N.U.S.E.C.); Miss Barry (St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance); Ireland, Miss Montgomery; Holland, Miss Manus; Switzerland, Mme. Jomini. Germany and Uruguay were represented by Frau Lindemann and Dr. Luisi, who were present in the double capacity of members of the Board and representatives of their respective Auxiliaries.

The meeting could only have one day allotted to it, and therefore it was not possible to have a very extended programme for discussion. An interesting report was received from the hon. secretary, Mlle. Gourd, on the work accomplished by the Alliance since the Rome Congress; Miss Sterling, the treasurer, presented a report showing the serious financial position which would face the Alliance in the future unless some new scheme of support could be evolved. Several donations were promised on the spot, and it is hoped that before the next Congress the Auxiliaries will realise the seriousness of the position and take counsel as to the best way of meeting the difficulty. Miss Rathbone, chairman of the Committee on Family Allowances, whose book on this subject was reviewed in our last issue, gave an interesting account of the situation in Europe with regard to family allowances, especially in connection with the mining industry. She urged that women's societies should take a greater interest in the schemes now on foot, and especially that they should work to ensure that such allowances, when granted, are paid direct to the house-mother.

On the previous day, May 3rd, a special meeting of the Board was convened, in order to take advantage of the brief stay in Europe of Dr. Paulina Luisi. It is necessarily difficult for her to come the long distance from Uruguay at very frequent intervals, and her contribution to the discussion was, therefore, rightly regarded as of the first importance. Both at the meeting of the Board and of the Presidents' Council she gave valuable information on the work she has been doing on the Consultative Committee on Traffic in Women and Children of the League of Nations. She drew special attention to the serious position created by some of the legislation passed with a view to protecting young women travelling alone, this legislation being pushed to a point where it tends to limit the freedom of adult women. This question is being brought to the notice both of the League of Nations and also of a special International Conference now sitting in Rome to deal with questions of emigration and immigration.

Other questions which were discussed were a scheme of study tours from the unfranchised to the enfranchised countries; the education of women so that they may take full advantage of their civic and political rights; some arrangement by which lectures could be given in different countries so as to make the work of the Alliance known. Mrs. Corbett Ashby presided, and Miss Sterling attended as treasurer.

On May 5th, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, as President of the Alliance, with the kind assistance of Lady Isabel Margesson, representing the League of Nations Section of the Club, gave a reception at the Forum Club, which was extremely well attended. An excellent opportunity was afforded to women representing many points of view to meet each other, and many interesting sidelights were thrown on the woman's movement in the different countries in the series of speeches contributed by the delegates. Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham snatched a moment from their Parliamentary duties to look in

and meet friends old and new. This rather strenuous week-end was followed by the Council's conference, held at the British Empire Exhibition, of which an account appears elsewhere.

This international interlude proved of great interest to women in London, and we hope that our visitors have gone back to their countries feeling—if a little tired—that at least their journey was not taken in vain, but has contributed something to international understanding.

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS.

#### THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom held its fifth Congress in Washington, May 7 to 11, under the presidency of Miss Jane Addams. Thirty-one countries were represented by over 100 delegates—a remarkable achievement, considering the heavy expense of the journey and the unfavourable financial situation in most European countries. Intense interest was shown by the American public and Press, the visitors' galleries being thronged at every session, and the leading newspapers devoting many columns daily to reporting the proceedings and giving information about the foreign delegates. Jane Addams was unanimously re-elected president. After the congress a "Peace-Special" train took many delegates on a speaking tour; the delegates lived and slept on the train, and addressed meetings at towns on the railway. The tour culminated in a summer school at Chicago. The American section worked wonders in organising the congress, raising funds, and securing wide publicity, and it is believed that setting the women's plea for a new international order before the American nation by a number of leading women from the principal countries of Europe and Asia will bear excellent fruit, and will do a great deal to explain European conditions to America.

#### The International Council of Women.

The conference on the Prevention of the Causes of War, convened by the I.C.W., met at the British Empire Exhibition, Wembley, London, under the presidency of the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair. The speakers included: Mme. Malaterre Sellier, of France; Dr. René Sand, of the International Red Cross; Baroness Mannerheim, president of the International Council of Nurses; Mme. Avril de Ste. Croix, of France; Miss M. Mundt, of the International Labour Office; Dr. Nitobe, from the League of Nations; Lady Astor, Sir George Paish, Miss Margaret Bondfield, and Mr. J. A. Hobson, from Great Britain; Mme. d'Arcis, from Switzerland; Miss Annie Furuholm, from Finland; Dr. Paulina Luisi, from Uruguay; Miss Rosa Manus, from Holland. A public suffrage meeting was presided over by Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

#### Prevention of Causes of War.

The International Woman's Suffrage Alliance sent three fraternal delegates to the Congress on the Prevention of the Causes of War held by the International Council of Women in London in May: Mrs. Corbett Ashby, president; Mme. de Witt Schlumberger, 1st vice-president; and Frau Lindemann, 2nd vice-president. Unfortunately, Mme. Schlumberger got ill in London, so Miss Annie Furuholm, of Finland, kindly took her place. Mrs. Corbett Ashby presided over an afternoon meeting at which two questions which the I.W.S.A. has on its programme were discussed: the right of women to become full citizens, and the League of Nations. Mme. Malaterre Sellier gave a magnificent suffrage speech and received a warm welcome, as she had left France for 24 hours in the middle of the election campaign to speak to us. Delegates were much interested in the various aspects of the question laid before them in papers by eminent men and women, the conclusion being that we need a change of heart, of education, of political organisation, and in all these ways women can help. It was useful to have the complicated and many-sided

factors explained, and the fact of so many countries being represented was in itself a good omen of good work to come.

#### International Abolitionist Federation.

Congress at Graz, September 21st to 24th. Subjects for discussion:—

1. Consideration of the Federation's principles.
2. Experiences subsequent to the abolition of regulation in the countries which have effected such abolition.
3. The progress of abolitionist ideas in Germany and Austria.
4. Practical problems in the transition from regulation to a just and scientific system.
5. Consideration of the relation of venereal diseases to other contagious diseases.

#### Committee for an Equal Moral Standard and Against the Traffic in Women.

At the board meeting on May 3rd Dr. Paulina Luisi, chairman of the Equal Moral Standard Committee, pointed out that it was important for her work that it should be clearly recognised that the question of traffic in women was included in the terms of reference of her committee. The board therefore decided to change the name of this International Standing Committee to "Committee for an Equal Moral Standard and Against the Traffic in Women."

The International Sociological Congress, held in Rome during the last week of April, was presided over at two sessions by Dr. Paulina Luisi, of Uruguay, member of the League of Nations Commission on Traffic in Women. Her address will be found in our French section, page 141.

#### PROGRAMME OF THE NORTHERN WOMEN'S UNION CONGRESS, HELSINGFORS, FINLAND.

Tuesday, June 3.

- 10 a.m.—Opening of the Congress (Hall of University).  
15-min. speech by Miss Furuholm, President (in Swedish).  
10-min. speech by Mrs. Hallsten, Vice-President (in Finnish).  
5-min. speeches I.C.W. and I.W.S.A.—Mrs. Corbett Ashby.  
5-min. speeches, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Iceland.  
12 noon.—Lunch.  
1 to 2.30 p.m.—Address by Mrs. Lemche (Denmark): "The Future Organisation of the Work of the Northern Women's Union." Discussion.  
2.30 to 4 p.m.—Reception by Mrs. Stahlberg (wife of the President of the Republic).  
4.30 to 7.30 p.m.—(a) "The Housewife's Work from the Standpoint of National Economy," by Mrs. Gebhard, M.P. Discussion.  
(b) "The New Marriage Law of Sweden," by Mrs. Lindblom (Sweden).  
7.30 to 9 p.m.—Dinner.  
9 p.m.—Evening meeting, Finnish National Theatre. Speakers: I.C.W., I.W.S.A., the Scandinavian delegates (10 minutes each); Dr. Maikki Friberg (Finland); Miss Mathilde v. Troil (Finland); and others.

Wednesday, June 4.

- 9.30 a.m.—"The Marriage Reform Legislation," by Dr. Tekla Hultin (Finland). Discussion.  
11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.—"Women Clergymen," by Mrs. Scholdage (Norway).  
12.30 to 3 p.m.—Lunch at Brando.  
3.30 p.m.—"The Economic Conditions of Women's Work," by Miss A. Westergaard (Denmark). Discussion.  
"The Nationality of Married Women," by Barrister Mathilda Stad v. Holstein (Sweden).  
7.30 p.m.—Dinner, by invitation.  
10 p.m.—Concert at Stenmans Hall. Exhibition arranged by women artists.

Thursday, June 5.

- 9.30 to 10 a.m.—"Is 'Mrs.' or 'Miss' to be Used When Addressing Grown-up Women?" by Mrs. Ajala, B.A. (Finland).  
10 a.m.—"Young Women's Training to be Self-supporting or Professional Training?" by the Factory Inspector Engineer, Mrs. Markelm Svensson (Finland). Discussion.  
11.30 a.m. to 12 p.m.—Resolutions.  
12.30 to 3 p.m.—Excursion to the old fortress of Sveaborg.  
8 p.m.—Farewell dinner.

#### Nationality of Married Women.

A very awkward situation has arisen for European women who have married Americans, or whose husbands have become naturalised Americans. The "Cable" Law did away with the automatic granting of American nationality to the wives of American citizens; women have to qualify for naturalisation and go through the necessary formalities independently. This is not yet understood by immigrants, and there are many difficulties that prevent a poor foreign-born woman from acquiring nationality—difficulties of language and ignorance of American procedure. Thus many foreign-born women have lost rights to pensions and other assistance. Another difficulty arises when, as frequently happens, the foreign-born but naturalised husband decides to return to Europe. His passport no longer applies to his wife, and as she has lost her original nationality without acquiring his, she frequently finds herself unable to accompany her husband. International action is clearly necessary.

#### British Overseas Committee of the Alliance.

In connection with the Pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition which is being carried on by the above Committee, the use of one of the conference halls at the Exhibition (Conference Hall No. 4) has been obtained for the afternoon of Saturday, June 14, for a conference on the work of women police. The Women's Auxiliary Service (formerly Women's Police Service) is co-operating in the organisation of this conference, and the following have promised to speak: Commandant Allen, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan, and Lady Nott Bower. Admission to the conference itself is free, but tickets, costing 1s., which admit holders to the Exhibition (for which the usual entrance fee is 1s. 6d.), can be obtained from the Women's Auxiliary Service, 7, Rochester Row, S.W. 1, or from any of the three co-operating societies of the British Overseas Committee—N.U.S.E.C., 15, Dean's Yard, S.W. 1; St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, 55, Berners Street, W. 1; Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

#### Garden Party and Sale in aid of the Funds of the Alliance.

A Garden Party and International Sale in aid of the funds of the Alliance is to be held on Tuesday, July 1, from 3 to 7, in the gardens of Pembroke Lodge, Pembroke Gardens, Kensington, W., kindly lent by Mrs. Adrian Corbett. Interesting and characteristic articles from various national societies affiliated to the Alliance will be on sale, and teas and entertainments, comprising folk dancing, recitations, tennis, etc., will be provided. Entrance free. The Alliance is very grateful for the gifts already received from Czecho Slovakia, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Switzerland, and hopes to receive further contributions in time for the sale.

#### A Demand for Family Endowment.

At its annual conference in Melbourne early in April, the Victoria Labour Party adopted a report recommending that a Labour Government on attaining office should establish a weekly State payment of 5s. to each child from birth until school-leaving age.

#### Advanced Study for the Nursing Profession.

An international course of study, beginning on 1st September, and extending over ten months, has been organised by the League of Red Cross Societies for nurses who hope to qualify for administrative or teaching posts in the profession. A joint advisory committee has been formed, which includes the matrons of the leading London hospitals, the Leeds Infirmary, and the Radcliffe, at Oxford. It is specially interesting for the lay reader to note that students, who must be graduates of recognised schools of nursing, may select as an optional subject, Psychology or Modern Industrial Problems and Economics.

## PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION FOR WOMEN.

The Equal-Rights Amendment now before the United States Congress.

IN 1848, at Seneca Falls, New York, the first conference for equal rights for women was held. This conference, led by Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, demanded equal rights in the franchise, in education, in industry, in the professions, in political office, in marriage, in personal freedom, in control of property, in guardianship of children, in making contracts, in the Church, and in the leadership of all moral and public movements. In short, the conference of 1848 protested against every form of the subjection of women, and instituted a campaign to establish equal rights between men and women.

To-day—after seventy-five years—only one of the objects set forth in the 1848 resolutions has been completely attained. This one is equal rights in the franchise. The National Woman's Party, which played a considerable part in winning the suffrage, is now dedicated to carrying to victory the remainder of the 1848 programme.

A research of the laws of the States, made by the Legal Research Department of the Woman's Party, discloses the fact that there are more than fifty points at which the laws of the various states discriminate against women. In one state a man may will away his unborn child; in another state the inheritance laws are unequal; in other states the guardianship laws are unequal, etc. As an example, many of the laws of New York State hold women in a dependent class. They deny her as a mother a control of her children's services and earnings equal to the father's; they deny her, if married, under certain circumstances, the right to her own earnings in the home; they punish her for sex offences for which men go unpunished; they acknowledge the husband's property right in his wife's services by granting him compensation for loss of her services and earning capacity in case she is injured through negligence of a third party; they deny to women the right to sit on juries, and discriminate against her in other respects.

Separate and specific bills to remove the more obvious discriminations were introduced at the request of the Woman's Party in every state where the legislatures met in 1923. Twenty-five bills were introduced in New York, four of which passed. Two were passed in one state, four in another, etc., but the same bills were not passed in any two states. To secure equal rights by the state method at this rate would take another seventy-five years. Twenty-two bills were introduced in the New York Legislature this year, and only four were passed.

While the National Woman's Party campaign has already been instrumental in obtaining equal-rights legislation for over 25,000,000 women, the complete achievement of equal rights is still to be won, and the experience of the past two years with state legislatures seems to have convinced the workers for equal rights of the wisdom of turning to Congress, just as they finally turned to Congress in the suffrage struggle.

Senator Curtis and Representative Anthony have introduced in the Senate and House, at the request of the Woman's Party, the "Lucretia Mott Equal Rights Amendment": "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

One of the arguments for a Federal amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing Equal Rights to men and women, is the insecurity of the Equal Rights laws passed by the states. What one legislature gives a later legislature may take away. Women have to be constantly on the alert to prevent the legislatures from taking away the rights established by previous legislatures.

If, on the other hand, the principle that "Men and women shall have Equal Rights" were written into our national Constitution, it would mean that Equal Rights would be established once and for all, in so far as anything can be permanently established by law.

Another reason for an Equal Rights amendment to the Federal Constitution is that the national amendment obviates the referendum campaigns that are often necessary in establishing Equal Rights by state action.

A national amendment would over-rule all discriminations against women in state constitutions, and all discriminations existing in statutes and court decisions.

Opponents of the Equal Rights amendment claim that only specific state legislation can effectively reach existing inequalities of law affecting men and women. These same groups have, in many states, actually opposed such specific legislation introduced in the state legislatures, and at no time have generally supported Equal Rights legislation.

It is further claimed that the Equal Rights amendment would endanger existing statutes providing a 48-hour week, 8- or 9- or 10-hour day, mothers' pension laws, and maternity legislation. The Woman's Party claims that the Equal Rights amendment would not affect existing labour legislation, except to establish the principle that industrial legislation should apply to all workers, both men and women, in any given occupation, and not to women workers alone. Examples of states where labour legislation already applies to both sexes are: Oregon, where there is a ten-hour law for both men and women employed in mills, factories, and manufacturing establishments; and Florida, which requires seats for both men and women employes in stores.

The amendment would not endanger mothers' pension laws, but would simply establish the principle that these laws, which are intended for the benefit of the child, should apply to either parent, as is to-day the case in Colorado, which grants the pension to either parent, whether father or mother, who is unable from poverty to support the child. A telegram from Judge Ben B. Lindsey to the Woman's Party on January 31, 1924, states: "I am heartily in favour of Equal Rights amendment. Most opposition can be answered by pointing out that what is known as special legislation for women is, in fact, not for women at all, but for children."

A soldier's bonus or pension is not legislation for all men, but for a special group of men who have performed a special service for their country. Likewise, maternity legislation is not legislation for all women, but for a special group of women who have performed a service for their country. The Equal Rights amendment is designed to remove all sex inequalities in the law, but not to repeal special maternity legislation. The advantage, as with widows' pensions, is for the child.

The Woman's Party insists on equality in industry as in all other fields. It demands that in the field of labour no restrictions be placed upon women alone, because it claims such restrictions make it more difficult for women to compete with men in earning a livelihood. It points out that women have always performed the unpaid labour of the world, with no protest from anyone as to whether it may be beyond their strength. It points out that it is only in the field of paid labour that one finds this interest in the welfare of women, and it contends that this interest is largely—unconsciously perhaps—in protecting the jobs of men, and not in protecting the welfare of women.

The Woman's Party says that if various restrictions—such as the eight-hour day, forty-eight hour week, and the minimum wage for women only, etc., are considered good for the individuals concerned, and good for the race, they should apply to all workers in industry. In this way the individuals concerned will benefit, the race will benefit, and women will not be handicapped in competing with men.

The Woman's Party takes no stand upon minimum-wages legislation, except that it stands for the principle that wage legislation, if enacted, should be upon a non-sex basis, as is already the case in various foreign countries.

It takes no stand on the question of whether there should be any legislation limiting the hours of labour. It takes no position on the question of whether organisation through unionising of the workers or legislation is the best method of securing more leisure for the mass of people. But it insists that, whatever method is used, no distinction should be made between the sexes.

JANE NORMAN SMITH,  
Chairman, New York State Branch,  
National Woman's Party.

## REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

### DENMARK.

THE recent elections to the Folketing gave no single party majority in the House. However, the Socialdemocratic Party augmented its number of votes and mandates in such a way that it became the largest minority (55 members out of 148), and the ministry Neergaard—which had been in power since 1920—gave place to a ministry Stauning.

In his programme-speech in the Folketing Mr. Stauning announced that he would soon again bring in the marriage laws, which were not carried through both Houses during the last session.

The elections did not bring us any new women M.P.s, but the three women members of the Folketing—Mrs. Helga Larsen (Socialist), Mrs. Malling-Hauschultz (Conservative), and Mrs. Elna Munch (Radical)—were re-elected.

It is a regrettable fact that very few women candidates were put up on the party lists, and most of them in such places that they had no chance of carrying a seat. In Copenhagen 13 women were on the lists (three Conservatives, one Independent, three Liberals, five Radicals, and one of the Socialdemocratic Party); in the provinces only two (a Radical and a Liberal). The women candidates in Copenhagen took a fair share of the party canvassing, and Dansk Kvindesamfund worked as usual in a non-party way for turning out the women voters. Our organisation also interpellated the candidates at their meetings about questions of particular interest to women—e.g., marriage laws, women's right to clerical offices, etc.

Amongst the candidates who may be known abroad were Mrs. Karen Hessel, president of Dansk Kvindesamfund (Liberal), Mrs. Gyrithe Lemche (Independent), and Miss Anna Westergaard (Radical).

The small party lists, as, for example, the Independent list, of which Mrs. Lemche was a candidate, obtained no mandates. Repeated trials during the last elections have hitherto proved the impossibility of gaining a seat in Parliament outside the large party organisations.

### Mrs. Nina Bang.

#### The First Woman Minister in Denmark.

When Mr. Th. Stauning, as a result of the elections, accepted the responsibility of Prime Minister in the first Socialdemocratic Ministry in Denmark, it was found quite natural that Mrs. Nina Bang should obtain a seat in his Cabinet, being fully entitled to such a post through her long and able work in the Party and in Parliament. Besides the Prime Minister, who is also Minister of Commerce (the principal object of the Ministry being to raise the value of the Danish crown), the Cabinet Stauning counts 10 Ministers, and Mrs. Bang is Minister of Public Instruction. In this capacity she is the head of the University, of public schools, theatres, fine arts, museums, etc.—a fair field of work for an intelligent, cultured, and energetic woman.

The following biographical details of the new Minister may be of interest:—Born in 1866, she joined in her early youth the Socialdemocratic Party, and after having taken her university degree as Master of Arts she became a member of the staff of *Socialdemokraten*, the party paper of Copenhagen, and married Dr. phil. Gustav Bang—also an ardent partisan of Socialdemocratic ideas,—who left her a widow some years ago. In 1903 Mrs. Bang was elected a member of the Central Board of the Danish Socialdemocratic Party, a post which she still occupies. From 1913-1917 she was a member of the Municipal Council of Copenhagen, and since 1918 she has been a member of the Landsting (Upper House). Apart from all this work, Mrs. Bang has been occupied with historical economic researches, which have resulted in several works from her pen.

The new Minister has gone to her work quite as businesslike as a man. Amongst other reform plans,

she has already announced that she will work for a reorganisation of our public schools. A great drawback for reform work in her Department is, however, that most reforms cost money, and at this moment Denmark has to join with many other countries under the pass-word: the State must cut down expenses. How-



Mrs. Nina Bang.

ever, women of all parties—who are glad that Denmark was the first country to have a woman Minister—will wish Mrs. Nina Bang good luck for her important work.

LOUISE NEERGAARD,

Corresponding Secretary, Dansk Kvindesamfund,  
Copenhagen, May, 1924.

### FRANCE.

#### Children Born Out of Wedlock. Changes in French Law.

THE Act recently passed by the French Parliament modifying the Article in the Civil Code relating to the legal status of illegitimate children provides that children born out of wedlock, other than those born in adultery, become legitimate by the subsequent marriage of the father and mother, provided they are legally recognised by the parents before their marriage or at the marriage ceremony. In the following cases children born in adultery become legitimate by the subsequent marriage of the father and mother, provided they are recognised by the parents at the celebration of their marriage: (1) children born in adultery who are disavowed by the husband of the mother and his heirs; (2) children born in adultery of the father or the mother when they are reputed to be conceived at a period when the father or the mother is legally separated, and anterior to a judicial reconciliation, provided that the recognition and legitimisation can be annulled if the child possesses the status of legitimacy; (3) children born by the adultery of the husband in all other cases, if there do not exist legitimate children or descendants issue of the marriage in the course of which the child born in adultery was conceived.

## FINLAND.

Miss Annie Furuhjelm.

MISS FURUHJELM was born in Alaska, daughter of the last Governor of that country representing the Russian Government. Her father, who was a remarkable character, broadly intelligent and public spirited, served in many posts of trust. In consequence, Miss Furuhjelm in her childhood lived in many strange and remote places, among them Siberia. Her grandmother was an Englishwoman; and she speaks seven languages. She was elected to the Finnish Parliament first in 1913. She was defeated in the recent election, and now hopes to be able to devote more of her time to the woman's movement, of which she is one of the pioneers, being president of the Finland Svenska Kvinnoförbund and of the Enfranchised Women's Committee of the Alliance. The following extract from a recent issue of our contemporary, *The Vote*, throws an interesting light on her experiences:—

"My Parliamentary life lasted ten years, and included a very exciting period in our national life. I was all through the Revolution of 1917, and helped subsequently in the election, first of a Regent, then of a King, who reigned one day only, and finally of a President. During the Revolution I frequently left home armed with sandwiches and pillows, never knowing from one day to another if I should not have to spend the night in the precincts of Parliament. In Finland we have only one Chamber for all parties. The number of members is small compared with your House of Commons—only 200, in fact. In the present Parliament there are 16 women—a good proportion, you will agree. Indeed, for some years past now the women members of our Parliament have averaged in number from 14 up to 25.

"Ever since the word 'man' in our constitution was altered to the word 'person,' Finnish women have enjoyed a good deal of independence. They study at the universities and enter the professions on the same terms as men. We have many women doctors, teachers, engineers, etc. Women are also studying to become solicitors, but we have no women barristers as yet. Finnish women, however, are not yet permitted to become judges, or to enter the Church. Women work freely on the railways, and in the post office, and quite a number act as stationmasters, and look very well in their official uniform, with its peaked cap and smart brass buttons."

## GERMANY.

Book Notices: "Truth and Error in Sexual Psychology."

THE second part of Mathias and Mathilde Vaerting's prominent work on "A New Basis for the Psychology of Man and Woman" (see November issue of I.W.S.N.) has come out recently under the above title\* showing up not only the scanty truths and the innumerable errors in conventional sex psychology, but also the reasons, which hitherto needs must lead to the latter. While one of the main sources of these errors—the predominance of one sex over the other—has been treated already from an ethnological and sociological point of view in the first part ("Woman's Nature in Man's State and Man's Nature in Woman's State"), this second part deals with the question from its psychological aspect, bringing forward at the same time, as a quite new scientific conception and theory, a most important factor in psychology—namely, the "sexual component,"—which hitherto has not been taken into consideration at all, but whose fatal influence has, unconsciously, determined and confused all current ideas and scientific investigations on the matter.

This ingenious new theory of the "sexual component" is the central point of the second part of the Vaertings'

\* "Neubegründung der Psychologie von Mann und Weib." II. Band: "Wahrheit und Irrtum in der Geschlechtspsychologie." (254 pp.) Karlsruhe in Baden, G. Braun, G.m.b.H., 1923.

remarkable work, leading to puzzling and irrefutable results. It means, in short, that man's natural disposition always will affect man and woman differently, and so will, of course, woman's disposition. The mind manifests itself in a sexually neutral way towards your own sex, but in a sexually accentuated way towards the other sex. So if persons of different sex come into mental touch they will, as a rule, be sure to be sexually influenced. No wonder that, therefore, most of the well-known psychological "sex differences" are erroneous—first of all that principal and fundamental doctrine of modern sex psychology, woman's predominant sentiment and emotionalism. This illusion is proved as such by a great many striking instances, while other important questions—e.g., that of co-education, of woman's logic, objectiveness, and judicial fitness, etc., etc.—find an absolutely new solution in the light of this new theory.

The authors then dwell in a most impressive way upon the fatal, far-reaching consequences of the co-operation of both these strong motives: The predominance of the male sex during thousands of years and the sexual component. It is obvious that woman's supposed mental and bodily inferiority, being acknowledged by the predominant male sexual component as an irrevocable principle and scientific doctrine, not only means an adulteration in sex psychology, but is also to be looked at as the main reason for our whole, one-sided male culture. Only under the supposition of full equality of the sexes, in rights and duties, woman's sexual component will be free to work itself out also, and so to establish, with a real human culture, a right balance in the world.

What is said in this connection of all the well-known prejudices—about man's and woman's interests, ideals, chastity, honour, woman's "incalculable" and "enigmatic" nature, women's friendships, the struggle of the sexes, etc.,—is not less interesting for the average reader than the suggestions for new methods in scientific investigation and elimination of the sexual component will be for the psychologist.

To what an excessive degree the sexual component is at work in the educational domain, especially between girl pupils and man teachers, confusing the impartial judgment and objectiveness on both sides, and artificially breeding that fatal sex differentiation which hitherto has ruled all our conceptions, is convincingly demonstrated in the chapter on "Differences in the Education of the Sexes." The authors' claims in this direction—teachers and pupils of the same sex, or co-education (which latter they prefer)—are so well founded, and so moderate in their details, that one should wish to see this special chapter in the hands of every father and mother and of all educational authorities.

In two special chapters (the last of this second part), the authors deal with the suppression and destruction of woman's genius by physical and spiritual checks, and the psychological reasons for the latter; and with the governing and reigning capacities of man and woman, cutting down the thick forest of sex-dominant prejudices about these questions with their sharp hatchets of logic and scientific investigation.

The more one admires the eminent critical power of Prof. and Dr. Vaerting in the two first volumes of their work, so much more eagerly one looks forward for the last part and its positive results of a true sex-psychology, uninfluenced by sex-dominance and sexual component.

Dresden, May 16.

MARIE STRITT.

## British Women Doctors' Jubilee.

The London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, part of the University of London, was opened in October, 1874, and the jubilee of this great movement is to be celebrated next October by a thanksgiving service in St. Paul's Cathedral and by a festival dinner in the City of London Guildhall.

At the present time there are nearly four hundred women students. This is the only centre of medical training exclusively for women in the British Empire, and to-day its medical students include women from eighteen countries.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

Parliamentary News.

EACH year the end of April finds the British citizen all agog to know what the contents of the next Budget will be, and whether the burdens on his or her pocket will be lightened or increased. This year's Budget, the first introduced by a Labour Government, naturally roused particular interest. Though less sensational than many people hoped or feared, according to their political views, it has, nevertheless, important features, some of which, moreover, particularly concern women. The chief changes, apart from the removal of the McKenna protective duties, are the reductions in the taxes on sugar, tea, coffee, and cocoa. These "breakfast-table taxes" are those which have fallen particularly hard on the working women of this country. In the vast number of cases the working-man pays his wife a part only of his wages for housekeeping purposes, and the amount he gives her certainly does not increase when the tea or sugar duty goes up. Such taxes, therefore, mean, in practice, that the men have the same amount of money for their personal expenditure, whilst the women have to face the higher prices of some of the most important articles of consumption with only the former amount of housekeeping money. The reductions in these indirect taxes will therefore mean a very real relief to the daily struggles of the married woman of small means.

But though women will welcome this change wholeheartedly, in one important respect the Budget has proved a great disappointment: no provision is made for many urgent forms of social expenditure, above all for widows' pensions. The Labour Party have for so long supported the introduction of widows' pensions that it seemed almost incredible that they should miss the great opportunity of their first Budget to introduce this much desired and comparatively inexpensive reform. The question was raised in the debate by Mrs. Wintringham and Mr. Pethick Lawrence, and Mr. Snowden's reply was not unencouraging. He said, with some reason, that widows' pensions should be part of a wider scheme, and that the experts who were considering the whole question were making considerable progress. He could give no pledge, but "confidently hoped" that proposals would be submitted to Parliament before the end of the year. Certainly, a comprehensive scheme of social insurance which would remove the many anomalies and fill the many gaps of our present methods would be welcomed by members of all parties, and if the Chancellor of the Exchequer can bring this to pass, with widows' pensions as an integral part of it, within the next twelvemonth, there will be little cause for complaint. It is difficult not to feel, though, that a simpler reform which commands the support of the whole House introduced now is a surer and better thing than a very complex scheme, which is bound to raise much opposition, introduced at some future uncertain date.

Apart from the questions connected with the Budget, the chief fact of interest to women in the Parliamentary situation is that the Representation of the People Bill will shortly be coming up in Committee. It has been held up by claims of the Rent Restrictions Bill, but now that this has been withdrawn there again seems a reasonable hope that women may shortly obtain the franchise on the same terms as men. There is no further progress to report with regard to the Guardianship of Infants Bill, the Separation Orders Bill, or the Legitimacy Bill.

## British Empire Exhibition, Wembley.

Much that is of interest to women is happening at Wembley. The Overseas Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance are sharing their pavilion with the various auxiliary suffrage societies. The International Council of Women, which also has a hut, has already held a conference on the Prevention of War. The question was regarded from the widest aspects; the educational side of the problem, the rights of wage-earners, and international economic problems, were discussed, as well as such questions as the League of Nations, the rights of racial minorities, disarmament, and democratic control in foreign affairs. The whole conference was of the greatest interest, and showed how valuable

Wembley may prove to be in the education of public opinion. The International Woman Suffrage Alliance has also organised a series of conferences on the legal and economic status of women throughout the Empire. Amongst other matters to be considered is the question of population. It is here that Imperial problems are of such vital interest to women. The possible over-population of the industrial centres in this country and the under-population of other parts of the Empire are amongst the most urgent and difficult questions to be considered by Imperial statesmen. But whatever solution is found, whether it is a matter which can be solved by emigration or only by the birth rate, the women of this country and the Colonies will be vitally affected. It is a problem in which the contribution of women should be of the utmost importance; and the importance of the problem itself it is impossible to exaggerate, bound up as it is with the whole future of the British Empire.

## Equal Pay for Equal Work.

An important demonstration was held in Trafalgar Square to protest against the differentiation between the salaries of men and women teachers "in view of their equal professional training and duties." The demonstration was organised by the National Union of Women Teachers, and was supported by all the leading women's societies. A resolution was passed "calling upon the Government to instruct the Burnham Committee to establish the principle of equal pay for men and women teachers of the same professional status by raising the women's scale to that of the men."

Though the demonstration dealt only with the matter of pay, that is not the only respect in which women teachers have a serious grievance. The question of the employment of married women is also a burning one, and it is noticeable how frequently it has been raised lately by various education committees, the general tendency at present being regrettably, and we are afraid increasingly, reactionary.

W. A. E.

## THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Members of the Women's Freedom League are actively assisting in the work of the British Overseas Committee's Pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition, Wembley, and we shall arrange for an Equal Franchise Conference to be held there on October 10th. We are also holding a reception to the overseas members of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance who are now in London, at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square.

The chief work of our League continues to lie in the direction of securing the equal enfranchisement of men and women in this country. We are also urging the Government to pass legislation conferring real equality of parents in the matter of guardianship and responsibility for their children; and our branches are vigorously agitating for the establishment of the principle of equal pay for equal work among all Government employees in the service of the State and among members of the teaching profession, irrespective of the sex of the persons employed.

Representatives of the Women's Freedom League have recently taken part in deputations to the Home Secretary on the subjects of women police and the abolition of capital punishment.

On July 4th we are arranging a birthday party at Caxton Hall, Westminster, in honour of Mrs. Despard, the former president of the Women's Freedom League. This will serve as a reunion of members and friends of the League, as well as a means of getting in funds to carry on our work. From the middle of July until the end of August we shall run an equality campaign on the Clyde coast, making its headquarters at Rothesay. As before, this campaign will be in charge of Miss Alix M. Clark.

At our Seventeenth Annual Conference held at Caxton Hall last April, Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. (of Middlesbrough), was unanimously elected president of the Women's Freedom League; Dr. Elizabeth Knight was unanimously re-elected hon. treasurer; and Mrs. Whetton (of Portsmouth) was appointed hon. organising secretary.

FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

## AUSTRALIA.

THE first session of the conference of the Australian Federation of Women's Societies working for equal citizenship took place in Adelaide. The President (Mrs. Rischbieth) occupied the chair. The following delegates were present: Mesdames H. F. Bennett, Cramp, and Killicat, of the Council of Women's Union of Service; Mesdames Dale and Roberts, of the Women's League of New South Wales; Mrs. McDonnell and Misses Stephens and Moseley, of the Women's Non-Party Association of South Australia; Mrs. Nicholls, of the W.C.T.C. of New South Wales and Tasmanian Women's Non-Party Political League; and Mesdames Rischbieth and A. E. King, and Miss M. King, of the Women's Service Guilds of Western Australia.

The provisional constitution was reviewed, and a sub-committee was appointed to deal further with the matter.

The President read an interesting and comprehensive report of the work, aims, and achievements of the Federation since its inception late in 1921. She pointed out that there was never likely to be a long list of societies affiliated with the Federation, for it was not probable that there could be a number of separate societies in each State working for an equal-citizenship programme, and such bodies only were eligible for affiliation. Her review revealed the value of such a co-operation between societies working in different States for the same ends, and showed how, as a national unit, the Federation formed a direct link for Australia with the International Women Suffrage Alliance. As an auxiliary of that alliance, the Federation was concerned with such questions as the following: "How may the enfranchised women within the Alliance most effectively aid the unenfranchised women of self-governing countries to obtain the vote?" "How may the Alliance aid women voters to a full realisation of the dignity and duty which belong to their new status?" The last-named must be considered, because so many, though enfranchised, were not emancipated in spirit. Among the definite achievements of the Federation was the appointment of the first Australian woman delegate to the League of Nations Assembly—an appointment due to the mutual agreement between the constituent bodies. Since then that delegate has addressed 100 meetings in various States on the League of Nations, and has received a letter of thanks and congratulation from the Prime Minister (Mr. Bruce). At the instigation of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, the Federation took united action on the matter of reciprocal legislation to improve the position of deserted wives within the Empire, and all possible support had been given to women in various parts of the British Dominions still struggling for enfranchisement, such as South Africa and Newfoundland. The status of women citizens within the Empire was brought under the notice of the Prime Minister before he left for the Imperial Conference, together with the question of nationality of married women. It was regretted that the Conference had not dealt satisfactorily with those matters, but a letter had since been received from the Prime Minister, eulogising the civic responsibility of enfranchised women in Australia. As a means of extending the work of the Federation, it was suggested that schools of citizenship should be established within the separate organisations, and that efforts should be made to place more women in administrative positions, and that every encouragement should be given to certain well-known British women to visit Australia.

## Resolutions.

A resolution was passed in appreciation of the work done by Mrs. Dale at the Third League Assembly. It was recorded as a matter of satisfaction that the principle of including a woman had been upheld in 1923, and that Miss Jessie Webb had received the appointment. Another resolution embodied the pleasure of the Federation at having been represented at the I.W.S. Alliance Congress at Rome by an able delegation of nine members.

## The Australian Federation of Women's Societies.

The Australian Federation of Women's Societies has published an attractive booklet for the information of visitors to the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley.

## TASMANIA.

WOMEN'S NON-PARTY LEAGUE.  
Annual Meeting.

AT the end of March a conference was held in Melbourne, called by the National Council of Women, to discuss the maternity bonus. Mrs. H. Reynolds represented the Tasmania League at this conference. A deputation from the League waited on the Premier, and put before him the urgent need of treating deserted wives and children with greater consideration. Mr. Lyons received the deputation sympathetically, stating that the Government had decided to reform the prison system so that men who refuse to support their families can be put to work and their earnings given to their wives, and that mothers and foster-mothers would in future be given the same allowance. The Attorney-General, who was also present, said he was not in favour of making orders applicable to deserting husbands, but he would see that such men were brought back from other States at the Government's expense when the wife was unable to afford it. The League sent delegates with a deputation organised by the Prohibition League, which waited on the Premier to ask for a referendum and for the more effectual carrying out of the 6 o'clock closing regulations; and were also represented on a deputation organised by the Women's Division of the National Federation, which waited on the Chief Secretary to ask that a woman should be appointed to a vacancy on the Hospital Board. The truancy of children from school has been discussed, and correspondence with the Minister of Education followed. In February, representatives of the League, with the Women's Criminal Law Reform Association, waited on the Attorney-General to ask for the appointment of women justices of the peace and for other reforms. As a result of these deputations a woman (Mrs. Giblin) has been appointed to the Hobart Public Hospital Board, and the announcement has just been made of the appointment of three women justices of the peace—viz., Mrs. Piesse, Mrs. Hurst, and Mrs. Elliot. It is with gratification that we record these appointments. The present Government by this action has proved itself a friend to the cause of the emancipation of women, and has carried out one of the planks of its own platform. We now hope to see the appointment of other women in Hobart and in various parts of the State, and that in future public appointments may be filled equally by men and by women. The chief aim of the League, which is shortly expressed by "equal citizenship"—i.e., equality of opportunity between men and women—has thus received much encouragement. No other body of women in Tasmania has this aim for the chief plank of their programme, and the special work we are doing is, we feel, of value to all the women of Tasmania. Affiliated as we are to the Australian Federation of Women's Societies, which, in turn, is affiliated to the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, we are a small link in a far-flung chain of women's societies, non-party in politics, and working first and foremost for equal citizenship. Before closing this report Mrs. Waterworth's visit to America and England must be mentioned. Her appointment as proxy for the president of the Australian Federation of Women's Societies while she is in England is a matter for congratulation, and we know we shall be represented at meetings in England by one who is wholehearted in her devotion to the women's cause.

G. M. GIBLIN, Hon. Sec.

## INDIA.

MRS. TATA sends us the following information from Bombay:—

"We had a successful meeting of women in Bombay on March 13 under the joint auspices of six women's organisations, *re* the admission of women to the Councils. Then we had a fancy fête organised by the members of the Princess Mary Gymkhana for the housing scheme for poor Parsi families, which lasted for nine days, and we have got 3 lacs w5 thousands in all to build a few houses for them. A Bill is to be brought forward for Children's Protection by the Government in the Bombay Presidency. My daughter has joined the Bar, and is studying the Indian laws in a leading counsel's chambers."

## Compulsory Elementary Education in Madras.

It is a matter for great congratulation that the Corporation of Madras has voted with but one dissentient for the introduction of a scheme of compulsory primary education for all the children of the city, to be accomplished in a period of seven years. It is especially satisfactory that it includes provision for all the girls between the age of five and ten, as when the scheme was first issued it was intended to apply it only to boys. It is sad that only two out of the 19 municipalities which have undertaken compulsory education in Madras Presidency have included girls. All the others have excused themselves on the ground of cost. The procedure is really inexcusable for, as the *Madras Mail* wrote: "Girls deserve, and are entitled to, education equally with boys. In the ultimate interests of the city and the nation it is even more imperative that the girls should be educated. They are the future home-makers, whose influence over the coming manhood during the formative years of childhood is infinitely great. They can make or mar sanitary measures, they can help or undo the work of legions of public health workers, and on them depends the future health of the nation. If any city councillor treasures the belief that cheapness can be served and the interests of the city satisfied by the compulsory education of boys alone, we hope he will discard that belief. It is reactionary and unworthy of any self-respecting person." Though primarily the proposer, Rao Bahadur T. Varadarajulu Naidu, is to be thanked, the Women's Indian Association may justly take to itself a great deal of the credit for the passing of the Madras compulsory scheme with the inclusion of girls in its provisions, for its members have been urging this measure for the past four years, and they interviewed a number of the city councillors in the weeks preceding the introduction of the scheme, and a good number of the members also attended the Corporation meeting when the matter was put to such a satisfactory vote.

## Women's Entry into Legislative Councils.

Mr. Bhubananda Das did good service to the women's cause by asking a number of questions in the Legislative Assembly relating to the position of women as voters in the various Provinces, and the inconsistency existent in the fact that they are not allowed to be elected or nominated for the Legislative Council or the Assembly. He brought strongly to the notice of the members that the women of Madras and Bombay are pressing their claim to have this disqualification of their sex removed. Sir Malcolm Hailey, in reply, said he himself had no objection to the admission of ladies to the Assembly; it was merely a matter for alteration of the Legislative Rules. When further pressed as to whether the Government would take steps to amend the Rules, his answer was most disappointing: "Not as at present advised." We think, however, that this advice will not stand thus for long. The Cabinet of the Madras Government has by a majority recommended that the Rules be at once amended. As the result of the fine meeting held jointly by a number of Bombay women's societies in support of the same motion it is most probable that the Bombay Government will send forward a similar recommendation. We are assured, on legal advice, that the recommendation has then only to pass through a formality of being "tabled" in Parliament, and the order for the change in the Rules is sure to be sent from the India Office. It will take some little time, but we shall have the powerful influence of Miss Bondfield, M.P., Col. Wedgwood, Mr. John Scurr, and others in Parliament, and Lord and Lady Willingdon on the spot, to help in achieving our object as quickly as possible.

## Women in the Indian Constitution.

A National Convention will meet in Allahabad on April 22 and 23, whose business it is going to be to draft an Indian Constitution which its representatives will present to Parliament. There is now before the country no programme for gaining Dominion Home Rule—Swaraj—by constitutional means except by this Convention, and it is very necessary that the position of women,

as fully responsible citizens of their country, shall be safeguarded when such a Constitution is being drawn up. Mrs. Jinarajadasa has already sent forward a memorandum to the Convention officers pointing out that the interests of women were explicitly stated in the Constitution drawn up by the people of Ireland for the forming of the Irish Free State in the words "Men and women shall have equal rights as citizens," and claiming that the same principle of equal status shall be incorporated in India's Constitution. Women must ask the Convention to see that this is done.

The Leslie Bequest Fund has granted a second donation of \$500 for suffrage work in India.

The purdah system prevents women from knowing what is going on in the public life of the country, and makes it all the more necessary for women workers to organise countless purdah meetings for their instruction.

—*Stri Dharma.*

## ITALY.

THE 12th of May was the first anniversary of the opening of the Rome Congress of the Alliance, when, in his opening speech, Signor Mussolini promised to introduce a Bill giving the municipal vote to certain categories of Italian women. Our readers will be familiar with the history of this measure, and we feel sure that they will sympathise with the women of Italy for the delays that have occurred in the passing of such a measure. We have therefore reminded Signor Mussolini of his promise, which was formally reiterated to the deputation of delegates from the Congress which presented a special resolution to him at its close. Let us hope that the telegram we sent him on the 12th will recall his promise to his mind. We learn that a similar telegram was despatched by our auxiliary in Switzerland, which, as one of the Latin unenfranchised countries, is also vitally interested in seeing such a measure passed in a sister country.

## JAPAN.

THE following letter received from Japan will no doubt interest our readers:—

Dear Sisters,—We are very glad to inform you about the present state of Japanese woman suffrage, as we have read your news service in the *Kokumin* newspaper. We have a General Election on May 10, but we have not the right to vote. We have planned to take advantage of this occasion. We called on the Prime Minister and others to state their attitude towards our movement. Posters, pamphlets, and papers will be issued for the election, and all over Japan there will be held many gatherings, visited by the leaders of women's parties, who will make speeches. With regard to the candidates for Parliament, if they are for us we help them; if against, we make every effort to keep them out.

In Japan there are two parties, as follows:—

1. Branch of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. Leader, Mrs. Ochim Kubushiro.

2. Women's Suffrage Union. Under this Union all Japanese woman suffrage parties are included: The Japan Women's Association (leader, Miss T. Kamimura); the Real Advanced Women's Party (leader, Mrs. F. Nishikawa); the Women's Temperance Union (leader, Mrs. K. Midorikawa); and ten other parties.

We can give you further information later, and if you introduce us to all your women's parties we will be glad to take hand with you all.—Yours faithfully,

T. KAMIMURA.

## SWEDEN.

## Women's Questions before the Swedish Parliament.

IT is an old experience all the world over that when in hard times a home is bound to economise, the first who has to suffer under the restrictions is mother. The same old story is now repeating itself in our Parliament, with the exception that here the children share the fate of their mothers.

The Swedish State has, like all other countries after the war, bad finances, which must be repaired, and one of the economies practised is to refuse all Bills concerning the position of women and their needs.

And still, the Bills proposed by the women members of Parliament have really been very moderate in claiming money. But "from financial reasons" has become a catchword in Parliament, behind which lurks armament and a strong defence in "the next war."

The most discouraging case among these rejected Bills is perhaps the one asking for care of poor mothers and their infants; the Bill is not new, it has been resting in a Committee for the last nine years. Miss Kerstin Hesselgren, in the First Chamber, asked for a revival of the Bill, and the same question was raised in the Second Chamber by Mrs. Agra Ostlund. In the First Chamber the Bill was accepted without voting, but in the Second Chamber it was rejected with a great majority—"for State financial reasons" of course.

Is it really good economy while working for armament and an efficient defence to squander the living force of the population? More than 8,000 infants die every year in our country, with a population of about 6,000,000, for want of care and healthy conditions, and still more grow up sickly and defective from the same reasons.

In many cases, especially in the country, the child-bearing mother has no home of her own—or perhaps an overcrowded one-room dwelling among children and strangers. In some communities the women have organised a sort of "home-help"—the neighbours helping one another in times of need, and keeping a stock of linen and clothes to lend to the suffering woman and her infant.

Thanks to the humanity—one ray of light in all the darkness—shown by the members of the First Chamber, we may hope that the next session may bring victory to this urgent cause.

Another Bill, asking for the small contribution of 800 crowns to the Institution of Landskrona, was introduced in the First Chamber by Miss Hesselgren and in the Second Chamber by Miss Tamm.

The money required was intended for helping the girls leaving the Institution. It was a most practical measure, but it was rejected—"for State financial reasons." "Ever spare, ever bare," seems to be a forgotten saying.

The gentlemen do not content themselves with opposing Bills of reforms concerning women and children, they bring in Bills themselves for reduction of women's possibilities of earning their livelihood. The Committee of the State made a proposal of reducing the private schools, which would mean taking the bread from a large number of young women, without counting the irreparable loss of acknowledged good education of our girls. The results of the Bill are not yet given. The female teachers have protested very strongly against the injustice.

The old Bill, "Equal Pay for Equal Work"—referring to women in the Civil Service,—is still waiting in the committee for investigation—"from financial reasons," of course.

In a Bill about reforms in manning of vessels it is proposed to reduce the work of female helps on board. Hitherto, the women have served as cooks and stewardesses, doing the cabins and other womanly occupations. The Bill proposes to reduce the women's service only to coasting vessels. "Seafaring Women's Organisation" is awake to the danger, and hopes to get help when the Bill comes under discussion. They are supported by the shipowners.

I am sorry to have only distressing news to tell this time, but still we have not lost faith in the future; with energetic work and helping one another we must look forward.

FRIGGA CARLBERG.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.  
NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN  
VOTERS.

UNUSUAL interest attached to the fifth annual convention of the National League of Women Voters, at Buffalo, New York, April 25—29, because of the presence for the first time at a League convention of members of a Canadian League, the addresses of two British women, and the ending of the third term of office of the president of the League, Mrs. Maud Wood Park, who has headed the organisation ever since its first convention in 1920. Regret at Mrs. Park's decision not to accept another term was unanimous, and the first evening session of the convention, at which she delivered her annual address as president, was made the occasion of an affecting demonstration of the League's admiration for the retiring leader.

## Letter from President Coolidge.

That evening Mrs. Park read a letter from the President of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, in which he expressed his disappointment at his inability to accept the invitation given him to address the convention, adding—

"I wish to give expression to my interest and my sympathetic attitude toward the League of Women Voters. Its efforts to arouse among the women of the land the fullest possible interest in their citizenship duties are deserving of all support and encouragement. The advent of women as voters on the same basis as men marks a tremendously important step in the evolution of democracy, and I am sure that through the agencies of such organisations as your own the fullest conception of their duties and obligations will be carried to the women of the nation."

In her address the retiring president of the League was able to announce that the League is now organised in at least 346 of the 433 Congressional Districts of the United States, and in the District of Columbia and Hawaii as well. In the four years of its existence more than half the "planks" the League presented to the political parties for inclusion in the campaign platforms of 1920 have been carried out. In the various states 420 bills supported by the League have been passed, and 64 bills the League opposed defeated. In state as well as Federal legislative work the League has co-operated with other women's organisations, and the greater number of Federal and state laws concern child welfare and removal of discriminations against women. Before the convention adjourned Mrs. Park was able to add to the record the good news that the resolution for a Constitutional amendment giving the Congress power to limit, regulate, or prohibit the labour of persons under 18 years of age, was adopted by the House of Representatives, on April 26, by a vote of 197 to 69, and that it is likely to be adopted by the Senate before the adjournment of this session of the Congress.

Miss Belle Sherwin, of Cleveland, first vice-president of the League, and head of its Department of Efficiency in Government, reported that 200,000 pieces of printed matter have been published, and that of this amount—which does not include 11,800 leaflets published by the Department of International Co-operation to Prevent War, and the standing committees on child welfare, education, living costs, social hygiene, women in industry, and uniform laws concerning women—most have been distributed in the United States and seven foreign countries. Major schools, institutes, and conferences on politics and government, to the number of 159, have been held in 28 states, and 495 study groups formed. In the second, fourth, and seventh of the seven regions into which the United States are divided for League work, regional institutes will be held in July of this year—that of the second region in co-operation with the University of Pennsylvania, that of the fourth in co-operation with the University of Michigan, and that of the seventh in co-operation with the University of California and Leland Stanford, Jr., University.

The Iowa League will conduct two citizenship schools during the summer—one in co-operation with Des Moines College, and one in co-operation with Drake University.

A commonwealth conference will be held under the auspices of the University of Iowa, at Iowa City, June 30 and July 1. The North Carolina League will conduct a school, July 24—29, with the Asheville Normal School, and the League will co-operate with the University of Minnesota in a week's institute of government as part of the regular university summer session.

As the immediate chief activity of the League is the effort to bring to the polls in the November general election of 1924 a vote twenty-five per cent. larger than that cast in 1920, and as work for world peace is the permanent chief aim in the League's programme, time was given to the discussion of both subjects, in addition to the open conferences which the Department of Efficiency in Government and the Department of International Co-operation to Prevent War, held simultaneously with the open conferences of the standing committees.

## Women Voters Work for Peace.

The largest auditorium in Buffalo was used for a "Peace: Make the Wish the Will" mass meeting, at which Miss Ruth Morgan, of New York, who directs the League's work for peace, presided. The Honourable Hamilton Fish, member of Congress, and United States Senator Walsh, of Montana, spoke to the topic, "Some Aspects of our Foreign Policy." The other speakers were Mr. Norman Davis, Under-secretary for State in the Wilson Administration, who was chosen by the League of Nations as a disinterested person to assist in the settlement of the Memel dispute; and Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, honorary president of the National League of Women Voters.

Representative Fish said that the women of America are really responsible for the Washington Conference on Limitation of Armament, which he regards as a great step towards peace. He announced his belief that the League of Nations is "powerless," and opposes membership of the United States in it. Senator Walsh, who is a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, gave an extended study of American foreign relations, urging entry into the Permanent Court of International Justice and full co-operation with the League of Nations, even without membership in it.

Mr. Davis gave high praise to the World Court, saying that the Memel settlement in regard to Lithuania was brought about by the Court in three months, while the four Allied powers had not been able to solve the difficulty in five years.

Mrs. Catt made a brilliant reply to the opposition to the League of Nations, advocating American entry into the League and not mere vague co-operation. "I believe in the League of Nations from the bottom of my heart," she said; "I believe the greatest blunder this nation ever made was its refusal to ratify the League of Nations covenant."

Miss Ruth Morgan had an "experience meeting" at the conference of the department she heads (International Co-operation to Prevent War), and the progress of work for peace in several states was reported in detail. Of the Congressional work of the department, she said that a permanent lobby had been maintained in Washington, composed of representatives of eleven organisations which have endorsed the World Court, working under the leadership of Miss Josephine Schain, of the League department, and Mrs. Raymond Morgan, of the American Association of University Women. A movement to secure hearings on the World Court resolution was initiated, with such success that hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Sub-Committee began on April 30. Miss Morgan, with a number of delegates, left Buffalo before the end of the convention in order to arrive in Washington for the first hearing. A resolution adopted by the convention in regard to world peace was as follows:

"Whereas, the President of the United States has stated his intention to call, at the earliest moment practicable, a conference of the nations of the world to secure, by international agreement, reduction of all armament; and

"Whereas, he has once more urged the Senate to assure American entry into the World Court on the terms of the Harding-Hughes proposals; be it resolved:

"That this convention express to the President its appreciation of the service he is rendering the cause of world peace in thus pressing for action on these two vital aspects of the problem, and pledge our diligent support to the undertaking."

## Education for Citizenship.

Various methods of education for citizenship and for getting out the vote were discussed, not only in convention session, but at dinner conference as well. A plan for concerted action by state and local leagues was adopted, and a campaign committee appointed to push the undertaking, in which satisfactory progress has already been made. The radio, which has become almost as general a possession in the American family as the motor car, will be generally used. In one city, before registration, it was arranged with the electric light company and announced by the local press that all lights should go out for a moment at a time fixed, as a "string-on-the-finger" reminder to vote. In another, central telephone operators before putting subscribers through were permitted to ask, "Have you voted?" instead of "Number?" Many organisations have already joined the campaign, and the League slogan, "Get out the Vote," becomes daily more familiar.

The League's wise policy of non-partisanship, so well illustrated by the reception of speeches advocating and opposing the entry of the United States into the League of Nations, was further shown at one convention mass meeting, at which Miss Sherwin presided, and "Progress in State Administration" was the subject. Governor Ritchie, of Maryland, a Democrat, explained the re-organisation of public employment in his state, and added a declaration of his opposition to the extension of Federal activities in matters which, in his belief, ought to be left to the states.

Governor Pinchot, of Pennsylvania, a Republican, whose topic was announced as "A Reconstruction of State Finance," was unsparing in his denunciation of political corruption and in his advocacy of an extension of Federal conservation. Applause of the one governor was not confined to Democratic women, nor approval of the other to Republicans. Applause was unpartisan and most enthusiastic when points which are not party matters were made.

The women selected some time ago as the twelve greatest living American women had been invited to be guests of honour at a banquet and conference, which had as its motto, "The Widening Field for Women." Miss Martha Van Rensselaer, of Cornell University; Mrs. Anna Botsford Comstock, of the same University; and Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, honorary president of the National League of Women Voters, were the three women present whose names are in the dozen list, but famous women not included in the dozen limit occupied seats of honour and made brief addresses. Miss Katharine Ludington, League treasurer, was toastmaster.

A programme of work for the League was adopted, and the following important resolution passed: "Resolved, that the National League for Women Voters, in furtherance of one of its great objectives, international peace and goodwill, expresses its earnest hope that the question of Japanese immigration may be so settled as to carry out a domestic policy of the United States without offence to a friendly Power.

"Resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent immediately to the President of the United States, to the Secretary of State, and to the members of the Conference Committee considering the Immigration Bill."

Miss Belle Sherwin, of Cleveland, was unanimously chosen to succeed Mrs. Park as president. The other officers elected are: First vice-president, Miss Julia Lathrop, of Illinois; second vice-president, Mrs. Minnie Fisher Cunningham, of Texas; third vice-president, Miss Ruth Morgan, of New York (re-elected); secretary, Miss Elizabeth Hauser, of Ohio (re-elected). The term of office of Miss Katharine Ludington, of Connecticut, treasurer, does not expire until 1925.

The Woman's National Committee for Law Enforcement held its first convention in Washington, April 10—11. Mrs. Henry W. Peabody, of Boston, formerly chairman of the Federated Missions Boards, to whom the

success of the plan to raise three million dollars for women's schools and colleges in the Orient is due, is chairman of the organisation which has chosen as its slogan, "Allegiance to the Constitution. Observance of Law."

The conference was devoted chiefly to a consideration of the necessity for working to bring about perfect enforcement of the Prohibition amendment and Prohibition laws. Mrs. Henry Hoover, wife of the Secretary of Commerce, presided at the opening session, which was addressed by the new Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Curtis D. Wilbur; the new Attorney-General, Mr. Harlin Fiske Stone; the Assistant Attorney-General, Mrs. Mabel Willebrandt; Senator George, of Georgia; Bishop William Frazer McDowell, and other persons of distinction.

A forum on observance of law was held on the second day of the conference, with such well-known women as Miss Grace Abbott, director of the Children's Bureau; Miss Charl Williams, of the National Education Association; Mrs. Ida Clyde Clarke, of the *Pictorial Review*; Mrs. Mina Van Winkle, director of the Woman's Bureau of the Washington Police Department; and Mrs. Gifford Pinchot, wife of the Governor of Pennsylvania, as speakers.

The closing address was a moving appeal by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt for better law observance.

#### Child-Labour Law.

The amendment to the Federal Constitution has passed the House of Representatives by 297 votes to 69. The Bill is in the form supported by the women's organisations, and provides that Congress shall have power to limit, regulate, or prohibit the labour of children and young persons under eighteen years of age. The amendment, if passed, will be an enabling Act, not a statute, and will have to be followed by legislation. Manufacturers' opposition was conspicuous, and certain rural interests tried to secure the exemption of children working on farms.

#### CUBA.

THE grant of the municipal vote to women in Spain is having repercussions throughout the Latin world. Cuban women announce in large letters: "The liberty of Cuban men, secured with the help of women, is the cause of the continued servitude of the latter, because if Cuba had continued a Spanish colony, Cuban women would have the vote, since Spain has lately conceded it to Spanish women. Let Cuban members of Congress think of the position that their sisters will soon occupy in the world. Spanish emigrants and those of many other nations come to Cuba in search of work, most of them illiterate, and possess political rights, whilst the mothers, sisters, and wives of Cubans are put in an inferior position because we are considered incapable of exercising the franchise. Moreover, if we belonged to the United States we should have a vote. Our members of Congress owe their position partly to women, and in return keep them in servitude."

#### CHINA.

THE wife of the Premier of Peking has never been out of China, but is an organiser of a very advanced type. She is chairman of twenty-eight societies, runs vocational schools for teaching trades, and is a keen philanthropist.

The wife of the famous Dr. Sun Yat Sen is the president of the South China Red Cross Society, and devotes herself to alleviating social conditions.

A young Chinese woman of 28 has raised enough money to build and carry on a hospital for women, containing 380 beds. Chinese women are specialising on medical care for women and children; nursing and education are their chief interest.

Peace propaganda has a tremendous hold in Japan, where the Women's International League is very strong.

—*Stri Dharma.*

### THE LATE LIEUT.-COLONEL W. A. E. MANSFELDT.

Hon. Secretary Men's International Alliance  
for Woman Suffrage.

#### An Appreciation.

SEVERAL political and humanitarian organisations, but especially the woman's cause, have suffered a severe loss by the death, at Arnhem, Holland, on the 24th of April last, of Lieut.-Colonel W. A. E. Mansfeldt, at the age of 68. The deceased, in spite of his military career, was a leading spirit of the Dutch Freethought Democratic Party, and frequently sacrificed his personal material interests to his higher humane pursuits. In all his labours he was inspired and assisted by his devoted wife, Madame De W. H. Huberts-Mansfeldt, herself a well-known journalist, and one of the earliest Woman Suffrage pioneers in Holland. Both husband and wife gave to the woman's emancipation movement their best energies and material means, he being, firstly, the president of the Dutch Men's League for Woman Suffrage, and then one of the founders and the hon. secretary of the Men's International Alliance for Woman Suffrage, formed in Stockholm in 1911. Not many realise what the work of a secretary of an international movement implies, especially when it is done as a labour of love. It was Colonel Mansfeldt's task not only to organise conferences and congresses of Men's Leagues for Woman Suffrage which already existed in various countries, but to create Men's Leagues where such did not exist. The first of such international congresses took place in London in 1912, under the chairmanship of the president of the Alliance, the Hon. Sir John A. Cockburn, M.D., K.C.M.G.; Lieut.-Colonel and Madame Mansfeldt being present. The effect of that congress upon the Woman Suffrage movement in England and other countries was incalculable, not only by the encouragement it gave to women, but by the influence it exercised upon public opinion generally, upon the Press, and especially upon Parliaments; for amongst the foreign delegates were distinguished members of the legislative chambers of various countries, leaders of political parties, and the world's Press reported extensively the proceedings, and mostly in a sympathetic spirit, as has never been done before in the case of women's congresses. In the following year of 1913 Lieut.-Colonel Mansfeldt and myself were delegates from the Men's Alliance to the XX. Universal Peace Congress, held at The Hague. On that occasion, being the Colonel's guest at his house in Utrecht, I had the opportunity of observing the immense correspondence he had to carry on, and which he did so cheerfully and with such devotion, being at the same time connected with several other humanitarian organisations. In 1920 the Colonel and myself were again delegates from the same Alliance, together with Herrn Leopold Katscher, to the Eighth Women's International Congress at Geneva, and once more I had the opportunity of watching him at work with his wonted zeal and skill.

Within the last few years Lieut. Colonel Mansfeldt retired from military service and lived on a very limited pension, a small fraction only of which is now granted to the widow. It would be but a graceful and dutiful act if some women took the initiative of organising a substantial presentation to Madame Mansfeldt as a token of gratitude to the memory of her late husband, and I would be only too happy to contribute my share.

JAAKOFF PRELOOKER.

The Golden Gate Canneries Company, of Southern California refused temporarily to comply with the State minimum-wage law, and were sustained in their action by an opinion rendered for the Industrial Welfare Commission by Attorney-General U. S. Webb. When the Commission complained that the company was not paying to its women workers the minimum wage prescribed by the Commission's order, the company offered to put \$3,800, the amount covering the wages in dispute, in escrow pending a final determination by the Supreme Court as to the validity of the minimum-wage law. The Attorney-General ruled that this procedure could be followed.—*San Francisco Call-Post*, January 22, 1924.

## SECTION FRANÇAISE.

### DISCOURS DE MME. LE DOCTEUR PAULINA LUISI AU CONGRÈS INTERNATIONAL DE SOCIOLOGIE À ROME.

[N.B.—Mme. Luisi a présidé le Congrès pendant deux jours.]

IL serait trop hardi de ma part, de venir parler à cette assemblée solennelle d'inauguration au 3<sup>e</sup> Congrès International de Sociologie—où tant de maîtres aimés et vénérés, viendront nous apporter le fruit de leur longue expérience.

En cedant à la requête bienveillante de notre maître, professeur Cosentini j'ai accepté ce trop grand honneur seulement parce que j'ai cru interpréter son désir de faire prendre à la femme sa part dans les travaux de ce congrès, comme doit lui revenir sa part dans les travaux et les responsabilités qui nous incombent à tous—à l'heure présente, si grave pour le bonheur des générations qui se préparent.

C'est en effet, à la femme consciente et capable, c'est à toutes les femmes, car toutes doivent l'être ainsi qu' incombe la tâche délicate de tracer les premiers sillons qui laissent pour la vie entière, leur marque dans le cœur et l'esprit de la créature humaine.

C'est ce pli donné pendant les premiers années, qui rendra l'esprit favorable à l'éclosion des nouveaux sentiments que les nécessités de l'heure actuelle nous ont montrée comme indispensables. C'est seulement dès la plus tendre enfance qu'il faut semer et faire naître—non comme un sentiment imposé par la raison—sinon comme une nécessité de la vie—ce sentiment de solidarité que les dures expériences des années écoulées, nous ont montré, comme une nécessité pour la vie des peuples.

C'est à la femme qu' incombe cette tâche ardue de créer ce sentiment de solidarité, et plus cette tâche devient ardue, plus ce sentiment est à créer, *comme une nécessité du développement et du bonheur de la vie*, il est en opposition bien souvent avec cet autre sentiment, plus puissant parce que né de l'instinct, le sentiment de l'égoïsme personnel.

À l'heure présente, le devoir de la femme s'élargit au delà de sa simple mission de générer et continuer la vie à travers les siècles. C'est grâce à son rôle de conservatrice de la vie, que la femme a compris qu'il lui faut aller au delà de sa fonction de maternité ou pour mieux dire qu'il lui faut étendre cette fonction de conservatrice de l'espèce, en veillant sur elle au delà de l'enfantement, car c'est une œuvre de conservation et non de destruction, celle qui nous ordonne, aidez vous les-uns les autres, soyez unis, soyez solidaires—œuvre d'amour, de paix, de travail sans laquelle la vie ne peut être protégée.

Et comme la vie constructive s'étend au delà du foyer, il faut à la femme son développement intégral pour bien conduire son œuvre d'éducation et pour être guide consciente du chemin qui doit être parcouru, il lui faut pour cela déjà la connaître, il lui faut l'avoir appris préalablement—il lui faut avoir vécu la vie intégrale et complète qui s'étend au delà du foyer dans la fournaise créatrice de la vie collective.

Déjà, un peu de toutes parts, l'œuvre a commencé.

Déjà, dans la vie collective, de bien de peuples, la femme y a apporté ses sentiments et ses aptitudes dérivées de ses fonctions de conservation et d'ordre.

La première étape de la collaboration, de la solidarité, s'est accomplie dans le travail commun dans l'œuvre de coopération des deux sexes pour le progrès de la vie collective de leur peuple.

Déjà d'autre part, les peuples ont compris que seul ce même esprit d'union, de collaboration, de solidarité peut entraver les graves menaces qui planent sur leur destin et une fédération des peuples, est en train de s'élaborer. Un organisme encore en enfance qui est comme l'expression de cette solidarité entre les peuples est en train de se développer.

La aussi, petit à petit, les femmes sont appelées à y coopérer, réalisant ainsi de nouveau cet esprit de collaboration que nous voudrions voir s'étendre dans toute l'étendue de l'activité humaine.

Une magnifique démonstration de ce que peut cette œuvre de solidarité entre les peuples, nous a été donnée par cette promesse féconde pour l'esprit de solidarité qui s'appelle la Société des Nations, par l'œuvre d'un de ses organes. Aussi secondaire qu'on voudra le considérer, parce qu'il n'affecte ni les intérêts politiques ni ceux économiques des peuples associés, plus important peut-être, en essence, parce qu'il veille sur la vie même des peuples. L'organisation internationale, l'office de l'hygiène, a donné la preuve éclatante de ce que peut l'esprit de solidarité, en élevant cette barrière infranchissable qu'elle a su opposer à l'invasion du choléra qui sévissait en Russie après la guerre et aurait envahi comme un nouveau fléau, tous les points du monde.

Et voilà encore un œuvre de solidarité internationale sans douanes et sans frontières. Les problèmes de la biosociologie, de l'hygiène, de l'assistance, cette œuvre merveilleuse de la solidarité; les problèmes de l'eugénique, de la morale sexuelle, se présentent effrayants dans leur complexité parce que souvent en



Dr. Paulina Luisi.

lutte avec les instincts de l'égoïsme humain, parce que souvent trahis par le malicieux enfant aux yeux bandés.

Et là aussi, messieurs les savants, pour réaliser votre œuvre de coopération, de solidarité, il faut commencer par appeler à vous la solidarité, la coopération des deux sexes, parce que vos magnifiques conceptions n'aboutiront jamais au résultat pratique que vous ambitionnez, si vous ne les confiez pas aux mains habiles, au cœur maternel de la femme *la seule*, qui puisse faire l'éducation *dès le berceau*, l'éducation pendant l'enfance de cette nouvelle morale de solidarité sur la quelle nous reposons notre espoir pour le bonheur futur de l'humanité, pour la paix réelle du monde.

A ce congrès international de sociologie où tant de pays, où tant de science sont représentés, qu'il soit permis à la plus modeste des adhérentes de vous apporter la voix lointaine, d'un pays pour lequel l'Atlantique n'est plus une barrière parce qu'il est devenu un lien, la voix d'un pays qui suit vos travaux et vos études avec un intérêt profond. Qu'il porte à tout ce qui est bon, à tout ce qui est bien, et qu'il me soit permis, au nom de ce pays lointain de l'Amérique du Sud de l'Uruguay de formuler les vœux les plus ardents pour la réalisation de cet idéal de solidarité auquel vous, savants, de tous les pays avez consacré tant d'efforts et tant de dévouement.

## COMMISSION DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

### Contre la Traite des Femmes.

UN grand pas vient d'être fait à Genève, la semaine dernière, en vue de la défense des intérêts moraux des femmes et des enfants. La Commission Consultative pour la lutte contre la Traite des Femmes et des Enfants à la Société des Nations, vient de tenir sa troisième session, et l'on peut dire que tant par la valeur des rapports qui y furent présentés, que par l'importance des résolutions prises, cette réunion fut incontestablement celle qui apporta le plus de lumière sur ce douloureux problème.

Mme. Rachel Crowdy, la Secrétaire Générale permanente de la Commission Consultative avait, avec la compétence et la précision qui la caractérisent, admirablement tout préparé pour que les travaux de la Commission marquent une étape décisive dans la lutte contre la Traite et elle y a réussi.

L'an dernier, la Commission ayant émis le vœu de voir le secrétariat préparer un résumé des rapports annuels envoyés par les Gouvernements, la Secrétaire Générale présenta un travail des plus intéressants, — d'abord sur les dispositions prises en exécution des résolutions, adoptées lors de la seconde Session, relatives 1° aux lois et règlements en vigueur au sujet de la Traite des Femmes; 2° à la nécessité pour les Etats d'adhérer à la Convention de 1921, s'ils ne l'ont pas déjà fait, ou de la ratifier sans délai, si l'adhésion est déjà parvenue; 3° aux mesures prises en faveur des émigrantes, en tant que ces mesures se rapportent à la Traite; 4° à la proposition relative à l'emploi de femmes étrangères dans les maisons de tolérance, — et enfin à l'importante question de l'influence de la réglementation sur la Traite, que la Commission Consultative avait soumise au Conseil.

Après avoir discuté la question, le Conseil avait, l'an dernier adopté la résolution suivante:

“Le Conseil, reconnaissant les rapports qui peuvent exister entre un système comprenant les maisons de tolérance, et la Traite des Femmes et des Enfants, décide que les Etats, membres de la Société, qui ont récemment abandonné le système de la réglementation officielle, comprenant l'existence des ‘maisons,’ seront invités à faire connaître les motifs de cette décision en tant qu'ils intéressent la traite; les Etats où existe encore un système de réglementation officielle comprenant l'existence des ‘maisons,’ seront priés, à la lumière de leur expérience, d'indiquer au Conseil, de la manière la plus détaillée possible, si ce système dans son application, semble favoriser ou entraver la Traite des Femmes et des Enfants.”

M. Hymans, l'éminent homme d'Etat belge, chargé de présenter un rapport sur ce sujet, conclut dans le sens du Conseil, ne voyant, dit-il “que des avantages à demander aux Gouvernements des renseignements comme ceux dont il s'agit... capables de rendre les plus grands services, non seulement à la Commission Consultative, mais encore aux Gouvernements eux-mêmes, quand ils chercheront, comme c'est le cas presque partout, à résoudre les aspects pratiques de la question.”

Une lettre fut, à cet effet, adressée aux Gouvernements. Des Etats auxquels elle parvint, quinze seulement répondirent, trois déclarèrent conserver le système et l'envisager comme utile à la santé publique; quatre annoncèrent son abandon prochain, comme contraire à toutes les lois humaines et morales, et huit déclarèrent l'avoir supprimé depuis quelques années, au grand profit de l'ordre public, de la morale et de l'hygiène.

Plusieurs pays, telle l'Angleterre, qui, depuis longtemps, s'est débarrassée de cette tare, n'avaient pas jugé nécessaire d'envoyer un rapport sur le sujet. Celle-ci avait pris position depuis longtemps. D'autres, où la réglementation sévit encore, n'avaient pas, eux non plus répondu, mais pour d'autres raisons. Il est désagréable de défendre une cause, que l'on sait condamnée à l'avance dès qu'on en étudie le peu de valeur ou la malfaisance sociale. La France étant parmi ceux des Etats qui n'ont pas répondu, nous avons été heureux de pouvoir rassurer l'opinion, et dire que si la réponse n'est pas parvenue, la question n'en est pas moins à l'ordre du jour chez nous,

tant dans le public que dans les sphères gouvernementales, puis qu'une Commission extra-parlementaire a été nommée en vue d'étudier la question, et qu'on n'a pas craint d'inviter à en faire partie, des abolitionnistes connus pour leur opinion.

Pour nous, qui avons toujours été et restons toujours convaincus de l'influence néfaste du système, nous sommes heureuses de l'appui que vient d'apporter aux idées que nous défendons, la Commission Consultative. Nous sommes fières de constater également le rôle que jouent les femmes dans cette lutte en faveur de la dignité féminine.

C'est à une femme, Mme. Rachel Crowdy, qu'incombe la direction des travaux de la Commission, et ce fut une femme, le D<sup>r</sup> Estrid Hein, qui présida, cette année les travaux de la Commission.

L'une et l'autre s'acquittèrent de leur tâche avec une dignité, une largeur d'esprit dont nous leur sommes infiniment reconnaissantes.

Elles se sont efforcées autant que les représentantes des quatre grandes Associations internationales de femmes qui y siégeaient, de donner à la Commission Consultative, la tenue morale qu'exigeait le sujet qui y était traité.

Deux femmes, la Doctoresse Luisi, pour l'Uruguay, et la Doctoresse Hein, pour la Danemark, y représentaient officiellement leur pays. G. AVRIL DE SAINTE-CROIX.

## NOUVELLES FÉMINISTES.

### Roumanie.

Après différents débats relatifs à l'organisation intérieure de la Ligue, elle a recommencé son activité publique par une conférence documentée scientifiquement sur l'Education de la Femme, tenue au Cercle des Etudes Sociales du Parti National Roumain par Mme. Eugénie de Reuss Jancoulesco, présidente de la Ligue et membre du Parti National Roumain, qui a été spécialement invitée à parler: la première fois qu'une femme parle à un cercle politique d'hommes.

A présent la Ligue a son siège Calea Victoriei 70 où elle tiendra chaque vendredi de 6-7½ une série de conférences:

Nécessité de l'éducation féministe, par Eugénie de Reuss Jancoulesco.

Evolution de la Mentalité du peuple roumain, par Dr. Popescu Hagiul.

L'impôt progressif sur la Fortune, par l'avocat Armand Ilescu.

Les Femmes dans le Parlement anglais, par M. Michel Holban.

La paysanne roumaine et les Ecoles d'Horticulture, par Mme. Steliana Ciortescu.

L'Enfant naturel, par M. l'avocat Alexandre Mavrojani.

La Politique féministe, par Mme. l'avocate Henriette Gavrilescu.

Question d'Hygiène scolaire, par Mlle. Dr. Alexandra Stoika.

Instruction et Education, par Mme. Elise Cornea.

Question de pédologie, par Mme. Elise Cornea.

Coopérative féminine, par Mme. Hélène Creanga.

Programme politique de la Ligue, par Mme. E. de Reuss Jancoulesco.

Après chaque conférence se suivront des discussions libres sur les sujets pour prendre des décisions et formuler des pétitions.

Sauf cela le 1 juin se fera avec grandes fêtes l'inauguration à Berlad de la statue que la Ligue des Droits et Devoirs de la Femme et les citoyens de la Roumanie ont fait élever au grand poète, Alexandre Vlahuta, défenseur ardent des droits de la femme; statue qui est l'œuvre du sculpteur, Jean Dimitriu, Berlad. Le comité qui doit faire la réception de la statue sera composé des plus grands noms politiques, littéraires, scientifiques. A la fin de juin la Ligue tiendra son Assemblée générale et organisera son activité pour les vacances.

### Uruguay.

#### Les Intellectuelles de l'Uruguay Avancent.

Décidément les femmes continuent à avancer et à prendre position dans le monde intellectuel.

Le jeune ingénieur de ponts et chaussées, Mademoiselle

Juana Pereira, vient d'être nommée professeur des cours pratiques de ponts (5ème année) à la Faculté de Sciences appliquées (Ecole Polytechnique de Montevideo).

Des jeunes gens assemblés au pied de la chaire d'une femme, c'est un beau spectacle et... très vingtième siècle.

Cette jeune demoiselle qui, en choisissant une carrière libérale, a aspiré à réaliser le complet développement de son intelligence, couronne l'épanouissement de son être en lui ajoutant le rôle si maternel d'institutrice.

M. SARA REY ALVAREZ,

Membre de l'Alliance Uruguayenne.

Bruxelles, le 15 mai, 1924.

## NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

*Prévention des Causes de Guerre.*—La Conférence organisée par le Conseil International des Femmes s'est réunie à l'exposition de Wembley sous la présidence de la Marquise d'Aberdeen et Tenair. Les oratrices étaient Mme. Malaterre Sellier, Mme. Avril de Ste. Croix; Dr. René Sand, de la Croix Rouge Internationale; Baronne Mannerheim, présidente du Conseil International des Nurses; Miss Mundt, du Bureau International du Travail; Dr. Nitobé, de la Société des Nations; Lady Astor, Sir George Paish, Miss Margaret Bondfield, et Mr. Hobson, de Grande Bretagne; Mme. d'Arcias, de Suisse; Miss Furuhejm, de Finlande; Dr. P. Luisi, d'Uruguay; Miss Manus, de Hollande. L'Alliance International avait envoyé trois déléguées: Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mme. de Witt Schlumberger, et Frau Lindemann. Mme. Schlumberger étant tombée malade à Londres, Miss Furuhejm la suppléa. Mrs. Corbett Ashby présida une séance où deux questions furent discutées: Droits politiques complets pour les femmes et Société des Nations. Mme. Malaterre Sellier fit un discours suffragiste magnifique et fut très applaudie. La conclusion des discours est qu'un changement radical est nécessaire dans les organisations politiques, l'enseignement et dans la mentalité des hommes.

*Ligue Internationale des Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté.*—La Ligue a tenu son cinquième congrès à Washington du 7 au 11 mai sous la présidence de Miss J. Addams. 31 pays étaient représentés par plus de 100 déléguées. Le public et la presse prirent grand intérêt aux séances. Après le congrès un train spécial emporta les déléguées jusqu'à Chicago et le long de la route elles firent dans plusieurs villes des discours et des réunions.

### Grande-Bretagne.

Le premier budget du Parlement socialiste a éveillé un intérêt particulier. Les changements importants, outre la suppression des droits protecteurs de McKenna, sont les réductions de la taxe sur le sucre, le thé, le café, et le cacao, ce qui est un soulagement pour les familles pauvres. Mais, sur d'autres points, il y a une déception. Aucune provision n'est faite pour augmenter la pension des veuves. Cette réforme, a dit Mr. Snowden, sera liée à un projet plus vaste qui sera soumis au Parlement avant la fin de l'année. Un autre projet de loi intéressant sur la Représentation du Peuple donnera aux femmes les mêmes droits politiques qu'aux hommes. Les projets de loi sur la tutelle, la séparation, la légitimation n'ont pas eu de suite.

*Exposition de l'Empire Britannique à Wembley.*—Le Comité d'Outre Mer de l'Alliance Internationale partage son pavillon avec plusieurs autres sociétés suffragistes. Le Conseil International des Femmes a aussi un pavillon. L'Alliance Internationale a organisé une série de conférences sur le statut légal et économique des femmes à travers l'Empire. L'inégalité de la population: surplus dans la mère-patrie et déficit dans les colonies est une question qui intéresse les femmes.

*Saluire égal pour travail égal.*—Une démonstration importante, organisée par l'Union Nationale des Institutrices a eu lieu à Trafalgar Square pour protester contre les différences de traitements des institutrices et institutrices. Une résolution a été votée, invitant le gouvernement à établir le principe de l'égalité des traitements pour les fonctionnaires de même grade. Mais les

femmes ont encore d'autres griefs: mesures réactionnaires amenant le renvoi des institutrices mariées, etc.

### Indes.

La corporation de Madras a voté un projet d'enseignement obligatoire pour les filles de 5 à 10 ans. Mr. Bhubananda Das a demandé à l'Assemblée législative pourquoi les femmes ne sont pas éligibles. Sir Malcolm Haixley répondit que cette mesure exigerait la réforme des statuts. Une convention nationale s'est réunie à Allahabad le 22 et 23 avril pour préparer une constitution hindoue relative au Home Rule que ses délégués présenteront au Parlement. Il faudra veiller à ce que la situation politique des femmes soit sauvegardée comme elle l'a été en Irlande.

### Australie.

La Conférence de la Fédération des Sociétés féminines, réunie pour obtenir l'égalité des droits politiques, a tenu sa première session à Adelaïde. Elle discuta la question suivante: “Comment les femmes affranchies de l'Alliance Internationale peuvent-elles aider les femmes non-affranchies des autres contrées à obtenir le vote.” La Fédération a élu la première femme australienne déléguée à la Société des Nations. La déléguée a déjà fait une centaine de discours et reçu les félicitations du Premier Ministre. Des écoles civiques vont être établies par les sociétés féministes.

### Tasmanie.

Le Conseil National des Femmes s'est réuni à Melbourne pour discuter les conditions de la maternité. Mrs. Reynolds représentait la Ligue de Tasmanie. Une déléguée de ce pays s'étant présentée au ministre pour lui signaler la situation des femmes et des enfants abandonnés, Mr. Lyons la reçut avec bienveillance et l'informa que le gouvernement allait réformer le système des prisons de sorte que les hommes qui abandonnent leur famille seront condamnés aux travaux forcés et leurs gains remis à leur femme. La ligue de prohibition envoya des déléguées au premier ministre pour obtenir un règlement effectif pour la fermeture des débits à 6 heures; la Fédération nationale féminine demanda au Premier Secrétaire et obtint la nomination d'une femme au Conseil d'Administration de l'hôpital; elle demanda à l'Attorney-General et obtint la nomination de trois femmes juges de paix. Le programme principal de la ligue est: droits politiques égaux; opportunités égales. La Ligue de Tasmanie est affiliée à la Fédération des Sociétés féministes australiennes, affiliée elle-même à l'Alliance Internationale.

### Danemark.

*Elections.*—Les élections au Folketing n'ont donné la majorité à aucun parti. Le Premier Ministre a promis de présenter le projet de loi sur le mariage qui n'a pas abouti à la dernière session. Les élections n'ont pas amené plus de femmes au Parlement; mais les trois députées sortantes, Mme. H. Larsen (socialiste), Mme. Malling-Hauschultz (conservatrice), et Mme. Elna Munch (radicale) ont été réélues.

*Une femme Ministre.*—Mme. Nina Bang, nommée Ministre de l'Instruction publique dans le nouveau Ministère est la première femme Ministre. Née en 1866, elle appartient depuis sa jeunesse au parti social démocratique. De 1913 à 1917 elle a été membre du Conseil Municipal de Copenhague et depuis 1918, elle est membre du Lansting (Senat). Elle a écrit des ouvrages d'Economie politique. Elle compte réorganiser les écoles publiques.

### Suède.

La Suède est dans un mauvais état financier et les économies portent sur les situations féminines, tandis que des sommes importantes sont affectées aux armements pour “la prochaine guerre.” Le projet de loi pour la protection des femmes pauvres et leurs enfants, après avoir dormi 9 ans à la Commission et avoir été accepté sans vote par la première chambre a été rejeté par la deuxième. Plus de 8,000 enfants meurent chaque année par manque de soins. Un autre projet de subvention pour l'Institut de Landskrona, patronage pour jeunes filles en danger moral, a été rejeté. De plus, le Comité d'Etat a proposé de réduire le nombre des écoles privées. Les institutrices ont protesté énergiquement.



**Finlande.**

Mlle. Annie Furuhielm, née en Alaska, fut élue au Parlement finlandais en 1913. Voici un extrait de *The Vote* la concernant:—

"Ma vie parlementaire a duré dix ans, pendant lesquels j'ai vu la révolution de 1917 et j'ai aidé à l'élection d'un régent, puis d'un roi. La Finlande n'a qu'une chambre de 200 membres, sur lesquels il y a maintenant 16 femmes. Depuis que le mot 'homme,' dans la Constitution, a été remplacé par le mot 'personne,' les femmes ont plus de droits. Il y a beaucoup de femmes docteurs, ingénieurs, professeurs, etc. Il y a des avouées, mais pas d'avocat; elles ne peuvent pas être juges ou prêtres."

**Italie.**

Le 12 mai, 1923, au Congrès de l'Alliance Internationale tenu à Rome, Signor Mussolini avait promis de présenter un projet de loi donnant le vote municipal à certaines catégories de femmes. A l'occasion de l'anniversaire de ce congrès, l'Alliance Internationale et l'Union du Suffrage de Suisse lui envoyèrent un telegramme pour lui rappeler sa promesse.

**Etats-Unis.**

*Amendement sur l'égalité des droits, devant le Congrès.*  
—En 1848 s'est tenu à New York la première conférence pour les droits égaux des deux sexes en politique, dans l'enseignement, dans l'industrie, dans les professions, dans les offices du Gouvernement, le mariage, la liberté personnelle, le contrôle de la propriété, la tutelle des enfants, la direction des œuvres de morale publique, les contrats privés, etc. Après 75 ans de lutte, un seul but

est atteint: l'égalité politique. A la requête du parti national des femmes, 25 projets de loi ont été présentés à New York, dont 4 ont passé. "L'amendement Lucretia Mott pour l'égalité des droits" présenté au Sénat et à la Chambre donnera aux deux sexes les mêmes droits dans tous les Etats-Unis et les pays sous leur juridiction.

*Ligue Nationale des femmes électrices.*—La cinquième convention de la Ligue, réunie à New York du 25 au 29 avril a été caractérisée par la présence de la Ligue canadienne, les discours de deux femmes britanniques et l'élection de Miss Belle Sherwin Présidente à la place de Mrs. Wood Park. Le Président Coolidge avait envoyé une lettre disant:—

"Je désire exprimer ma sympathie à la Ligue. Les efforts pour éveiller chez les femmes du pays le sens le plus complet de leurs devoirs civiques, méritent tous les appuis et les encouragements. L'obtention des droits politiques égaux pour les deux sexes marque un pas important dans l'évolution de la démocratie."

La Ligue comprend aujourd'hui 346 sociétés sur 433 districts des Etats-Unis; 420 projets de lois soutenus par la Ligue ont été votés et 64 combatus par elle ont été repoussés. La Présidente a annoncé que la loi pour réglementer le travail des personnes au-dessous de 18 ans a été adoptée par la Chambre le 26 avril et sera adopté par le Sénat avant la fin de la session. Miss Sherwin a fait savoir que 200,000 imprimés ont été distribués aux Etats-Unis et à l'étranger; 159 écoles et instituts d'enseignement civique ont été fondés dans 28 Etats, et 495 groupes d'études se sont formés.

Le grand meeting sur la Paix eut lieu dans la salle Buffalo; le titre était "Faire du désir une réalité."

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

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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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**WASHINGTON.**

AS we go to press some 100 representatives are gathering together in Washington, D.C., for the Biennial Meeting of the World's Y.W.C.A. Committee. Women of almost every country have gone there—from Japan, in spite of the recent distress and loss they have suffered; from Korea, where the first seeds of Association work have just been planted; from India, Malaya, China; from Australia and New Zealand, Canada and the Americas, the Near East, and most of the European countries. The Washington Association, the hostesses of the World's Committee, have arranged a welcome to the representatives, in the form of a garden party on the opening day, and throughout the time they have planned that hospitality should be constantly offered so that the representatives from each country may be met by various friends. A glance at the programme (which we print below) shows how full the conference days are. Each day opens with a devotional session, followed by a report of some aspect of the work of the World's Y.W.C.A. The afternoons are occupied with discussions of a comprehensive nature—on "The Functions of the World's Committee," "The Aim of the World's Y.W.C.A.," "The Service of Leadership." Evening meetings, consisting of two or three addresses by women of different nationalities, are open to the public, as far as accommodation permits.

**Biennial Meeting of the World's Committee,  
Washington, D.C., U.S.A., May 9-17, 1924.**

**PROGRAMME OF OPEN SESSIONS.**

Friday, May 9th—

Garden Party.

Business Session for Members of World's Committee.

Saturday, May 10th—

Devotional Session, led by Rev. Angus Dun.

Report Session: General and Extension Work.

Conference Session on "The Functions of the World's Committee."

Open Meeting. Subject: "The Call of the Day."

Speakers: Miss Picton-Turbervill (Great Britain).

Mlle. Jeanne Bertsch (France).

Monday, May 12th—

Devotional Session.

Report Session: Industrial and Migration Work.

Conference Session on "The Aim of the World's Y.W.C.A."

Open Meeting. Subject: "Christian Principles of Conduct."

Speakers: Miss Landazuri (Mexico).

Mrs. Mei (China).

The Viscountess Gladstone (Great Britain).

Tuesday, May 13th—

Devotional Session.

Report Session: Training of Volunteer and Employed

Leadership.

Conference Session on "The Service of Leadership."

Open Meeting. Subject: "Our Privilege as Leaders."

Speakers: Fräulein Hulda Zarnack (Germany).

Mrs. Robert Speer (United States of America).

**THE ASSOCIATION IN CHINA.**

AT a memorable meeting of the World's Committee in April there were an unusual number of visitors present from India and China, and the claims of these countries were put before the committee in a most moving way. One of the impressions that must remain vivid in the minds of all who were there was that made by Miss Harrison, who, in a few striking words, made us see the tremendous opportunities and duties that lie before the Y.W.C.A. in China, not only because of the effect of the work in China alone, but because of its bearing on social reconstruction throughout the world.

Yet the importance of China lies not so much in its vastness, though that is impressive, but in the possibilities of its people, who are full of character and whose development out of the present stage of transition is the concern of all who care for the future of the world. It is certain that few people have more absorbing work than those who devote their lives to the people of China.



The Lunch Hour at a Chinese Factory.

To read the Association reports of even one year's work reveals the growing importance of the younger generation in China, abounding with energy, spiritually awake, capable of leadership, zealous for industrial reform, eager for education, alive to the importance of home life, health, and social relationships. At least four out of the latest set of China reports make special mention of the way in which Chinese women's leadership is coming into its own. Foochow writes of a camp—the first camp for girls of that province—which was self-governing, and was so successful and so much appreciated that there is a general desire that it should become an annual event. Peking is witnessing the growth of Chinese leadership; and even where there are no experienced leaders, events show that they are needed, and educated women are expected to supply the need. In Wuchang there is an illustration of this where a young girl, newly graduated, was given the position of Dean of Women in the co-educational Normal College, and her sister "bears the high-sounding title of Dean of Discipline" in the Girls' Normal School. Such appointments are a tribute to what has been already done by women leaders, and shows what is expected of others in their turn. A final illustration of Chinese leadership is the Hangchow Conference, the first national Chinese conference, where Association members from almost every centre gathered, and for which responsibility was very largely carried by Chinese women.

The widespread attention given to home-making in the Chinese Association is remarkable. With the loss of the old ideas of family government there has come the demand for some constructive teaching. Moukden has a "Better Homes Club" run jointly with the Y.M.C.A. This club held a Conference for Better Homes which lasted four days. The meetings were well attended, and there were discussions on health, ideal home life, and the relationships of men and women. In Peking there was a Home Makers' Conference, where there were exhibits on home management, furnishings, foods, health, recreation, and religious education. Both Tsinanfu and Canton report discussions and courses on home-making. Canton students held a conference of which the general theme was reconstruction. "Traditions, old and new, were discussed; home life, the place of women in these days of re-thinking and reconstruction of standards; industry and the problems it is bringing; the relation of national unity to international understanding; the function of the Church; and always interwoven with every other theme, the reconstructing of one's own life."

Social service has a considerable part in the practical life of the Association in China. In Changsha the Y.W.C.A. helps in the vocational training and health work in the Beggars' Homes and runs a school for poor children. They have been asked to help start a training home for women servants—a new idea in China. Tientsin has a workshop where women sew and sell the garments they make, also an industrial school for girls; and in addition carries on courses for various groups in the community. In Peking there is a valuable Community Service Group Movement shared in by the Y.W.C.A., the Y.M.C.A., and various churches, which directs its attention to all sorts of social problems—child welfare, citizen training, general education, schools for poor children, and health.

As well as being an example of practical social service in China, the Community Service Group is typical of the kind of co-operation that is found in many city centres. Peking writes: "Industrially, we co-operate with the committee of the Church Federation. A conference was also held for people conducting industrial enterprises for the poor, in which they discussed the problems of conducting industrial work according to Christian principles. The Association continues to co-operate with Yen Ching University in conducting a training course for social workers, three members of the staff giving some time to it. In Canton the Y.W.C.A. is represented on a committee for women's work appointed by the Kwangtung Evangelical Association." Foochow reports: "We have been able to co-operate more than usual with the Y.M.C.A. in the past year, through joint responsibility for the Neighbourhood Sunday School; through a big and successful Christmas party which we expect to repeat

again this year; through calling, etc. . . . We want frequently to have conferences with the workers in the Y.M.C.A. and Methodist Institutional Church so that we may know each other's plans, and co-operate and build together."

In many centres, and especially where the Association work is not highly organised, a great deal of valuable work is done through calling, and it is the experience of many that such visits are welcomed by people in every walk of life. Such contact is the first step towards bringing together women and girls who are willing to join clubs and attend the various courses run by the Y.W.C.A., through which the Association does its work of religious education as well as general education. In some places the religious education department works through other bodies, and one finds the secretaries doing Bible work in Sunday schools and classes scattered throughout the city under various auspices. We read in the report from Foochow: "It seemed to us that it did not matter that our activities should be carried on in our own building especially, as long as we were getting things done, so we are giving a great deal of time to organising and teaching Bible classes in the churches; to training leaders for clubs and then helping them with their clubs in the churches; to calling with the Bible women and introducing them to members who live near the church; and to helping with the Sunday schools." Bible work among students is organised by the student department, and opportunities for such study are widely used. Changsha reports that their students "grow more and more interested in their Bible study, the daily short devotional service in our chapel, the Sunday afternoon meetings of religious character, and their pioneer club." Nanking students held regular Bible classes, and Tsinan group had a course on "Jesus' Programme of Reform." Peking had 500 members in 35 classes, and two teams of women students were sent out to do evangelical work during one vacation—a new feature in student work.

And so the story unfolds itself chapter by chapter, a story of wonderful progress in spite of difficulties. Most centres find the Christian community too small to be able to give the financial support needed. Others are hampered by unsettled conditions—more than that, by civil war. Chengtu was under siege for two weeks, though for a long time before that the cloud of war was over them. But this, the secretary reports, meant that the Association was able to get into closer touch than before with the homes where they called, and that now in many ways the Association "is stronger than a year ago!" Changsha was besieged for two months, and was under martial law of a very severe kind. Of course, most organised Y.W.C.A. work was suspended, but refugee work and such classes and visitation as could go on more than occupied the time and accommodation at the disposal of the Y.W.C.A. Is it any wonder that the Association there expresses a special hope for peace in the coming year? Yet this report ends like all the others, in thankfulness for the past year, and is full of courage for the future.

### CAMPS.

TO tell the story of summer camps throughout every Association would fill a volume; even to dwell chiefly on European camps, as this article proposes to do, makes a fascinating tale, much of which must be left untold. The Y.W.C.A. camp takes every conceivable form, from attractive houses at the seaside or in the country, to summer shacks on a mountain side or tents in a field. In France holiday homes are most popular—houses which are kept open throughout the vacation season. Last summer 250 members spent their holidays in this way. Another form of the "indoor" camp is to be found in Great Britain—such as the one at Felixstowe last year, where eighty campers were accommodated in a school; and at Sleninge Castle, in Sweden, where the girls lived in a wing of the castle, and enjoyed the baronial grounds, with their ancient lime trees and well-kept paths and green lawns stretching to the water's edge. The housing problem is not always so pleasantly solved; though even where accommodation is barest, the happy camp spirit is always found. A Latvian camp was held in a mended,



At a French Camp.

partly furnished house. As food was scarce and dear, it was only possible to have two meals a day; and many of the girls walked to save the railway fare—yet they called the camp "Paradise."

Camps vary a great deal in programme and purpose, and some combine a special purpose with the holiday aim. Last year forty delegates from different French foyers met at Argeronne for an instruction camp. The general idea throughout their study was: "To live and to know how to live." To this end they studied personalities who had known "how to live," such as St. Francis of Assisi, Florence Nightingale, Pascal. At Constantinople, where so many different nationalities mingle, camps often have an international character, and at the beautiful "Garden of Happiness," on the Sea of Marmora, many a lesson in internationalism is learned. Some camps cater for schoolgirls. Bulgaria reports one held annually at Teham-Koria, just at the beginning of the summer vacation. It is within walking distance of the Samodov school, and from camp they can take excursions into the Balkan mountains. In the mornings the girls study and discuss, and do their own housework and cooking as well. But as they are accustomed to do their own laundry and some housework in addition to a heavy school curriculum, they seem well fitted for such a programme, and have time to spare for recreation as well!

Few people who have not organised a camp realise how much work is involved before the camp actually begins. In countries where camps are not yet widely



Haymaking at a British Camp.

known, one job is to get the girls to arrange to come. That is becoming less and less difficult as camps increase in number and popularity. But the task of finding the camp site and all accessories still remains. A report from Roumania gives a vivid picture of pre-camp duties. One secretary writes: "My responsibility was the removal of the camp equipment, superintending the erection of a kitchen in the garden of the school, including the building of a stove—begging as much as we dared from a local

garrison,—and generally co-ordinating things, so that within a week of the place being secured we had 60 campers in residence and their first meal cooked. Of course, it meant hectic days and very short nights, but such is much of the life in Roumania, and it's all in the day's work."

When the camp opens, responsibility for it is often taken by the girls themselves, who thoroughly enjoy the experience and learn much from it. Such self-government is one of the achievements aimed at by camp organisers, and a training course for camp officers is a common preliminary to the camping season. One such course—we quote Roumania again—included three main subjects: Camp management; prayer, especially corporate prayer life; and personal influence. When leaders go to camp with these things prominent in their thoughts, it will be understood what a considerable part of their time and energy is given to the spiritual life of the camp, and how, sometimes by Bible study, discussion, informal talks, or by all three, Christ's teaching is woven into the fabric of daily life there.

### CLUBS IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

CLUBS are evidently a popular institution in Constantinople, where nine varieties have been organised. There is the Music Club, which is composed of a small group of young artists, who meet to study the lives of great musicians, such as Beethoven, Chopin, Bach, etc., and then demonstrate their different masterpieces on piano or violin. They organise concerts twice a month, for all the members of the Association. The first concert is given by the club members themselves, while for the second outside players are provided. A new rule was made this year that only girls who could play some kind of musical instrument, or could sing well, could be members of the Music Club. The idea of having this arrangement was to have only active members in the club—girls that could contribute somehow, as well as get something new and useful out of it. There are a few old members, however, who neither play nor sing, but are the literary members of the club, and look up the lives of the different artists they study, and give short talks on their works. The last week of the month their leader gives them a short talk on the appreciation of music. The Embroidery Club is a large group of girls, all interested in fine handwork. Most of these girls do not understand any English, so every single sentence has to be interpreted into Turkish, Armenian, Greek, or French. In spite of difference in languages, however, these forty girls work very happily together. Another very interesting group is the Fireside Club, whose members are mostly teachers. They take up subjects that interest them in their own line of work, and their discussion often leads them to questions of an international nature. The Outlook Club is interested in the women of other countries. So far they have studied Africa; its

geographical features first, and then the lives of African women. Now they are studying Japan, and read about its women in books and magazines which are specially collected for them on the reference shelf. There is also a Business Girls' Club, which, however, has found it difficult to meet regularly, as the hour is not convenient to all. The French Club studies good French literature, and is also much interested in drama, and is preparing a play for the entertainment of other members. The Science Club is a new addition to the series. The members discuss through the week the subject of the lecture they receive fortnightly on a scientific subject—birds, bees, evolution, heredity, etc. The Glee Club is composed of a number of girls who care mostly for singing. To them was given the responsibility of the Christmas service. The Girl Reserve Movement, which is developing fast, is included in the sphere of the club worker. The Girl Reserves are divided into Volunteer Junior Girl Reserves (age 12—16) and Volunteer Girl Reserves (age 12—20). Besides the moral and physical education both these groups receive, they each do a special piece of practical work. The Juniors do handwork, chiefly for the annual bazaar, and the Girl Reserves prepare a play for Christmas.

Each club aims at doing a definite piece of service. At the end of the year, for instance, each group contributed, in some way, to the Christmas activities and the annual bazaar. It is interesting to note, too, that the clubs are educative in several ways—not only as regards the subject round which they centre, but also in the training they provide for the girls in the conduct of affairs, in the promotion of order, in self-expression and self-control.

#### IN THE FAR NORTH.

WHEN our imagination feasts itself on pictures of the "Land of the Midnight Sun," and on the glamour of the ice-bound Arctic, we are apt to forget the hardships and difficulties of the people who live in these regions. Such a land is to be found in Norway, in its northernmost part, known as Finmark. Here the summer, with its quick harvest of flowers and fairy greenness, is all too short. Winter lasts nine months. There are people of three races, speaking three different tongues—Norwegian, the Sameh or Lapper race, and the Kvan folk. Some of the Lappers are nomadic in habit, living in tents, and moving from place to place to find food for the great flocks of reindeer, their source of wealth. Others are fishermen, who live on the coast in the poorest of wooden huts, which have only recently superseded earthen shelters. In a climate so rigorous, where roads are few and distances long, it is not surprising to find that educational facilities are rare. Nor, up to 1922, had any Y.W.C.A. work been done in Finmark. In September of that year, however, a teacher who was keenly alive to the needs of girls in Finmark offered herself for Y.W.C.A. work among them, and a travelling school was begun.

This unique experiment, which affords to the girls of that land the only opportunity for education of any kind, has steadily grown since that time. The school is held for three months in each place, and about twelve to eighteen girls are taught at once. The subjects are thoroughly useful to girls who live such isolated lives—handicraft, nursing, anatomy, first aid, and cooking. In addition to that there is Bible teaching every afternoon. Last year the school had forty-two pupils, and an observer reports how greatly appreciated the work is, and how it has already widened the interests and roused the latent enthusiasm of the girls concerned. The staff of the school has now increased to include a Lapper teacher of handicraft. A summer conference is planned which should help to consolidate the work and give the girls a sense of unity. In time it may be possible to find club leaders for the community, to establish some link with the women and girls who cannot attend the school, and to make Finmark a vital part of the Association in Norway.

#### A STUDY OF THE WORLD'S YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

THERE has just been published "A Study of the World's Y.W.C.A.," a volume of some ninety pages, dealing historically with the growth of the World's Association since its foundation in 1894. The last historical sketch of the World's Y.W.C.A. was "A Ten Years' Record," by Miss A. Reynolds, the first general secretary—whose words are quoted in the early part of the "Study." But the ten-year record did not go beyond 1904, and this later volume reveals in an interesting way how much and in what directions the World's Association has grown since its first days of fourfold membership. Throughout the book, and especially in the chapter called "The Evolution of an International Mind through Conferences," which deals with those gatherings when one could best gauge the spirit of the Association and measure its growth, the reader can trace the development of this movement which is now found in most countries throughout the world. In a skilful way the writer shows how the recognition of the missionary call, of industrial need and the necessity for a social gospel, of the claim of adolescents, together with its constant awareness of the need to interpret and express the implications of Christian truth for each generation—how such an attitude of mind has brought that increasing enrichment to the Association which is apparent in the number and scope of its activities. Altogether "A Study of the World's Y.W.C.A." is a book well worth reading, both for its own interest and for its usefulness as a background to all Association work. Orders should be sent to the World's Y.W.C.A., 34, Baker Street, London, W. 1. Price, cloth bound 3s. 3d., paper bound 2s. 6d.

#### REBUILDING IN TOKYO.

TOKYO to-day presents such a totally different appearance to the waste and desolation that was to be seen on every hand before Christmas, that to behold it seems like experiencing a miracle. Wherever one goes are rows of neat shops in new, unpainted wood, and over them bright new signs in brilliantly painted characters.

All through the winter it has been amazing to see how quickly houses and shops have been built. The resources of many a country family must have been drained to help their earthquake-stricken relatives.

Meanwhile, the Y.W.C.A., too, is rebuilding—though the longed-for permanent building, with adequate accommodation, is not yet at hand. A two-storeyed wooden "barracks," however, has been provided, and there the Y.W.C.A. carries on its numerous activities. The timber for this building was given by the Government, which in turn received it from the United States. Downstairs are the offices, household science and general kitchens, and two large club rooms. Upstairs are some classrooms, the commercial department, and the housekeeper's rooms. The building is well lighted and airy, and when furnished a little more fully should be most attractive. It was finished just in time to let the Federation of Women's Clubs hold their exhibition there, so that thousands of visitors saw it as soon as it was opened.

Even though this is not the ideal permanent building, it will be a very useful and attractive centre for the classes, club work, and Bible-study work, which have been held all winter in the home of one of the secretaries.

#### MONTREAL JUBILEE.

FIFTY years of progressive work by the Montreal Y.W.C.A. was fittingly celebrated this spring, when a special thanksgiving service was held in one of the large churches. It was planned that many Association members in other centres should share in the service by "listening in" when it was broadcasted. Other Jubilee events included a birthday tea, luncheons, and an evening exhibition with tableaux of Association work.