

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

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THE PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE.

If the New Year of 1938 be pictured as a child untried pushing out with innocent hands the old year of 1937 we can hardly draw the pretty picture loved by our grandparents. We cannot see the young 1938 as a laughing, chubby child, but as a white-faced mite cowering in terror from death in the skies, or holding out piteous and hungry little hands to the world's charity. If 1936 came in with the betrayal of the Abyssinians and war in Africa, 1937 saw the democracies of France and England feebly protesting against foreign invasion of Spain and a second war in Europe; 1938 brings us the decadence of the white race in the East, and Japan revenging their insults and contempt and a third war, this time in Asia.

It is difficult to wish one's friends and colleagues a happy New Year. Have we the right to be happy in the affections of our families and the joy of work? "No," if it blinds us to the big issues and immense sorrows of others, but surely "yes," a thousand times "yes," if we draw new strength, fresh courage and deeper sympathy from our personal happiness and brief holiday.

We women are only on the threshold of discovery as to our own powers. Our deep-rooted reverence for the race may yet be able to save mankind from suicide.

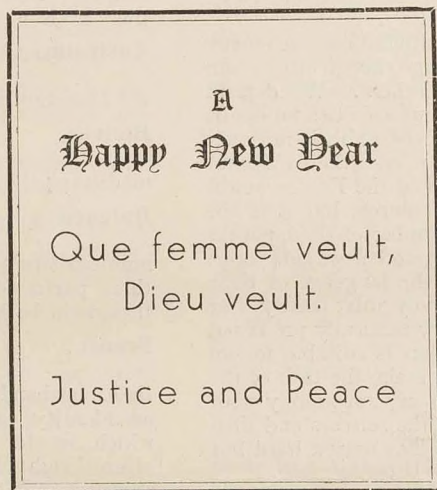
But if we are to save others we must be strong and free. Sombre and drear though the dawn of 1938 breaks, we women have an immense but hopeful task before us. Thanks to wonderful team work, loyal solidarity, political commonsense and sheer hard work the status of women is now the subject of world wide enquiry by the League of Nations. Women's main task in 1938 must be:—

1. First to show our keen interest in the personnel and place of work of the Committee which the Council of the League will appoint this month, and to gain publicity for both.

2. To adopt with vigour the programme of work recommended by the Liaison Committee. The League Committee should report in two or three years' time. Evidently it cannot without vast expense present every detail of every system; it must work internationally. We must ourselves complete the enquiry nationally. With the help of women lawyers and other experts we must make clear to the public what changes in our legal, political and civil status are needed. Such changes will be different in each land. Nothing is more encouraging than the chaos of the present situation. If it were remotely true that "nature intended woman to do this or that" or did "not intend her to do this or that," we should see a wide uniformity of restriction and limitation. On the contrary, whatever is forbidden to women in one country is allowed in

another. The final test by which nature disapproves of her work is the extinction of the offending species or at least its decadence. Experience shows us that the women of to-day bear and rear children of equal mental ability and improved physique. The death rate drops and if women were consulted (and their advice taken) the birth-rate would correspond to the optimum requirements of the race.

3. We can and must do our best to keep this subject of our status alive and in the news, and educate ourselves and our men folk to realise that the status of half the human race is immensely and universally of major importance.



4. We can and must battle against our own acquiescence in our inferiority through laziness.

I shall end with a "mea culpa." My passion in life is gardening. I have a new and charming little country house with an old, neglected garden, and I long to give up feminism and peace to grow roses and cabbages. The gardener and I have different views. After infinite discussion I can of course insist he does plant the sweet peas where I want and not where he wants them. On the other hand if I say "Mr. Ashby wants the sweet peas planted here" there is no discussion. Mr. Ashby doesn't know one plant from another and hasn't any views on where anything should grow, but because he is a man the gardener does what he is told, and I have to remember to tell my husband what orders he is supposed to have given. I am a lazy anti-feminist! Oh dear! Oh dear!

Please don't be like your President, who sends to all her courageous and fighting colleagues her best wishes for health, happiness and success in the New Year, and her deep admiration for your work.

M. I. CORBETT ASHBY.

GOOD WISHES AND GOOD RESOLUTIONS.

The Editor offers to all her readers her good wishes for a very Happy New Year, and she hopes that the small band of faithful subscribers will spare a thought to wish our International Paper good luck during 1938. It will reach its thirty-second birthday in this year and though that is not a very great age, the poor little thing is showing signs of needing new blood both in the form of subscriptions and contributors.

Each of the societies affiliated to the Alliance receives a copy of the paper as part of the return for their annual fee. It is specially to these societies that we address a somewhat urgent demand for the taking of a "Good Resolution"; namely to keep the International News supplied with international news!

We have no money to pay for contributions, no money to advertise ourselves and not a large enough circulation to attract advertisements from others. We depend entirely on good-will. Many of our societies no doubt consider that when they themselves publish national papers and send us copies, we can take their national news from that source. And indeed the Editor would be badly off indeed without that source, but it is not enough. Consider that a large number of these papers are themselves monthlies, and therefore news gets stale; they are of course published in the language of their own country, and we are no polyglots; lastly, for national consumption news is very naturally presented in a different and fuller form than is suitable for an international paper. These facts make the task of the Editor in building up a whole paper, not merely with scissors and paste, but first with the scissors and then with her own rather weary brain, not only a hard but a rather discouraging one.

Is it not possible for each one of our societies to offer some direct help in making our international paper more interesting, more varied and a better record of our movement? There are two fairly simple methods: first the appointment of a correspondent direct to us; and secondly where a national paper is published, by asking its editor or one of its staff, to note down as the paper is being made up a few brief sentences giving the bare facts from any real news items that are appearing in it. We still have one or two occasional correspondents, whom we take the opportunity of thanking for their invaluable help, and naturally this method is the one which gives us the most assistance. For this purpose, English, French, German—even at a pinch

Spanish or Portuguese—can be employed. In addition to actual news, pure and simple facts of events, short articles on matters of general interest would also be very welcome although of course the Editor must reserve discretion as to publication.

With much greater diffidence we approach the question of getting us new subscribers. We are aware of the difficulty both of language and of cost. We would however venture to suggest that a scheme of group subscriptions, anything from six new subscribers upwards, could be arranged at special rates with the Editor.

Any suggestions for the improvement of the paper provided they would not involve additional cost, will be more than welcome. But do please help.

THE EDITOR.

EVENTS OF 1937.

International. At the head of the somewhat modest list of women's achievements in 1937, must come the result of the discussion on Status of Women by the League of Nations Assembly of 1937. The appointment of an Expert Committee to study this question may not be a spectacular victory, it was certainly not the outcome which the women's organisations had desired. But it marks a very definite step in the recognition of the real importance of women as citizens by a body which included representatives, and representatives of the highest status, of over 50 countries. It is much, it is even very much to have won such an acknowledgment, apart from the further practical results which it may be hoped may be the eventual outcome of the enquiry now to be undertaken.

Albania. The wearing of the veil has been prohibited—always a significant stage in women's emancipation.

Argentine. The State of La Rioja has adopted a measure of woman suffrage. Federally, a law has been passed prohibiting the "maison tolérée."

Australia. For the first time a woman has been elected a member of the Legislature of the State of Victoria.

Bolivia. A law has been passed granted Civil rights to women and modifying the existing Civil Code in that sense.

Bulgaria. Women have won two suffrage victories in this one year: first municipal franchise for mothers of legitimate children; then parliamentary franchise for married women, though in both cases without eligibility.

France. Married women no longer have to produce the authorisation of their husbands when applying for a passport or an identity card. A Bill has passed the Chamber which would give married women a large measure of civil rights in practice, though still recognising the principle of marital authority. In future the husband's consent to his wife's acts will be a purely formal right and she will have the right of appeal to the Courts. At the end of the year this Bill had just been sent back from the Senate to the Chamber, its final adoption depending on whether the latter would accept the Senate's amendments—of a reactionary kind!

Great Britain. An eleventh woman was elected to Parliament.

The Contributory Pensions Bill, establishing an unequal scale of income limit between men and women voluntary contributors to the old age pension scheme was adopted against the protests of women's organisations.

Holland. Four women were elected to the Second Chamber and one to the Senate.

India. Women showed great enthusiasm in the first elections under the new constitution, and 52 women were elected to the various provincial legislatures, many of them being subsequently appointed to ministerial or other official positions.

Iran. The first Iranian woman to become a doctor of medicine took her final degree at the Sorbonne and has returned to practise in her own country.

For the first time a woman has been appointed as a Professor (of European Literature) in the University of Teheran.

Ireland. Women protested, but vainly, against clauses in the new Constitution which by their references to women may open the door to future legal discriminations.

Mexico. Senorita Palma Guillen has been appointed Mexican Minister to Denmark.

Philippines. The women polled over 400,000 votes in favour of woman suffrage in the women's plebiscite, this being more than 100,000 over the minimum number required for victory.

Portugal. There are three women in the National Assembly.

Puerto Rico. A woman was elected to the Senate, it is believed as the first woman member.

Siam. The first woman to become a doctor of medicine has started her work in Bangkok.

South Africa. A third woman was elected to the Union Parliament.

Sweden. Two more women have become members of the Riksdag (Lower House) making 12 in all.

A law has been passed under which by degrees a system of equal pay for teachers will come into force.

Spain. Madame I. O. de Palencia was appointed Spanish Ambassador to Sweden.

Syria. For the first time a woman was called to the Bar.

U.S.A. Mrs. Harriman was appointed United States Minister to Norway. In the State of New York, women have been given the right to serve on juries.

OBITUARY.

The past year has brought to the Alliance the loss of two of its oldest and most valued members, Miss Annie Furuholm of Finland and Miss Crystal Macmillan of Great Britain. Their work for women will not be forgotten. We have also had to record with regret the loss of Fru Marie Hjelmer, a former President of our Danish Auxiliary; of Miss Anna Abergson, a suffrage pioneer in Sweden; of Mme. Guthrie d'Arcis of Switzerland, whose work for peace and especially as Treasurer of the Women's Peace and Disarmament Committee, was of such outstanding value; of Miss Margaret Ashton, a great figure in the suffrage movement in Great Britain,

and of Mrs. Lucretia Blankenberg, also a suffrage worker in the United States. The death of the first great President of Czechoslovakia, M. Masaryk, was also a loss deeply felt by women, not only in his own country but beyond its borders.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The National Council for Equal Citizenship has kindly supplied some parliamentary news on two questions in which women's societies have taken a keen interest: Mui Tsai, and the Inheritance Bill.

Our readers will remember that last year Miss Picton-Turberville was appointed a member of a Government Committee sent out to study the position of these so-called adopted children in Hong-Kong and Malaya. She presented a minority report advocating new legislation for the protection of all girls under 12 taken from their own homes. The Colonial Secretary has now stated that the Straits Settlements Government has adopted this report, and there is little doubt that the rest of the Malay Straits will follow suit. This is satisfactory hearing as the proposals in the Minority Report have been urged on the Government by a recent deputation to the colonial Secretary of representatives of many women's organisations and of the Anti-Slavery Society. The position in Hong Kong is that so far the Government there has accepted the majority report, but the Colonial Secretary stated that he had discussed the subject with the new Governor before he left England and is now awaiting his views.

Since 1929 there has been a whole series of Bills presented by private members, including one in 1931 presented by Miss Rathbone, for bringing England into line with most other civilised countries in regard to the right of spouses and children to a share in the estate left by a deceased spouse or parent. Miss Rathbone's Bill was based on Scots Law, which resembles that in force in most European countries, and by which a surviving spouse and children have a clear right to a determined proportion of the estate. Subsequent Bills, including that now before Parliament, are based on the precedent of laws in the British Dominions, by which the right of appeal to the courts is given to the disinherited family.

These Bills have always secured an impressive measure of support and the present Bill introduced by Mr. Stanley Holmes passed its Second Reading by 159 votes to 29, and is now in Committee. A Memorial signed by 250 Members of Parliament was presented to the Prime Minister last session asking that the Bill should be given facilities. The Solicitor General has, therefore, proposed a compromise, which has been accepted by the promoter, which in exchange for the Government's co-operation would limit the amount which the courts would be empowered to award to any applicant under the Bill, such applicants being limited to the spouse, infant children, unmarried daughters or disabled sons of the testator. The Bill will now be re-drafted and should have greater prospects of reaching the Statute Book than most Bills promoted by private members.

Editorially speaking, we would have preferred to see the clear right of family succession adopted as the basis of a new law, both because if you admit the validity of a family claim why not admit it as a principle and not a mere right to relief, and also because in this case the members of the family know where they stand and subsequent litigation is rendered unnecessary. Also in these days when, under whatever economic handicaps, daughters have as a rule the opportunity of earning their living, why include adult daughters if unmarried, but adult sons only if disabled? It suggests that spinsterhood is a "disability"—a view which is surely repugnant to feminists.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

France. As a result of representations made by Mme Brunshvieg and Mme Grinberg on behalf of the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes, the Minister of the Interior has decided that in future the husband's authority will not have to be produced when a married woman applies for an identity card. It will be remembered that some time ago this authority was dispensed with in the case of applications for passports.

The women's organisations have decided to support a demand that the Chamber should adopt the Renault Bill which does away with many of the limitations on a married woman's civil rights, as it has come down from the Senate in spite of several reactionary modifications. If the Chamber amends it again, it will have to go back to the Senate and so the game will go on. It is pointed out that further reforms can be embodied in later Bills.

Great Britain. Miss Myra Curtis has been promoted Assistant Secretary to the Treasury, which carries with it appointment as Director of Women's Establishments. The promotion of a woman in the normal course to one of the higher posts is an encouraging sign of the disappearance of "segregation."

Miss Frances M. Melville is standing as an Independent candidate for the Parliamentary vacancy for the Scottish Universities caused by the death of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. We wish her success.

Ireland. Mrs. Dehra Parker, who is believed to be the only woman in the Parliament of Northern Ireland, has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education, and is thus the first woman to hold office under that Government.

Switzerland. The "Mouvement Féministe" has an interesting article on a Study of Women in the Professions, published by Dr. Gsell-Trümpf and based on questionnaires widely distributed. Mme Gsell has come to the conclusion that a married woman can exercise a profession if she can rely on household help, but that otherwise the burden is too heavy. We would not quarrel with that conclusion, but we do dispute the closing remark of the review which says: "If in certain isolated cases, a profession is used as a means of escape from domestic work which a woman detests, such exceptional cases do not justify restrictive laws being after all based on an anomaly." Quite a number of women detest domestic work and are ill-fitted for it, and while social convenience indicates this as a field of work for many women, we would always protest against the idea that it is in the true sense *natural* for all women to enjoy it.

INDIA.

The legislative programme of the All India Women's Conference as submitted to all Members of the Legislative Provincial Assemblies and Congress Ministries is a wide one. It advocates Bills for the Abolition of Untouchability; for the Reform of Inheritance Rights for Women, of Marriage and Divorce and all legal disabilities of women; for the introduction of free compulsory education, with inclusion of vocational and manual training; for medical inspection of all educational institutions; for schemes for the economic, physical and moral reconstruction of villages; for Amendment of the Child Marriage Restraint (Sarda) Act; for combatting immoral traffic in women and children, Devadassi and commercialised systems; for an All India Maternity Service; for an All India Insurance scheme; for an All India Maternity Benefit scheme;

for Child Protection in every Province; for Prohibition; for plans to meet the beggar problem; for the compulsory teaching of Hindustani in all educational curricula; for the reform of prisons; for compulsory registration of births, marriages and deaths.

This is certainly "some" programme, but the fact that it is still necessary to demand such reforms shows what leeway India has to make up in many directions.

PEACE.

Though it will be stale news indeed when this number appears, we must offer our congratulations to Lord Cecil of Chelwood on the award to him of the Nobel Peace Prize. No more appropriate award can ever have been made, as no one has been more closely concerned with efforts to safeguard the peace of the world, since he was instrumental in securing the preparation of the first Draft Covenant for the League of Nations by the Phillimore Committee appointed by the British Foreign Office in 1916. It was this Draft on which President Wilson based his proposals on which the League was actually founded.

As President of the I.P.C., Lord Cecil received the congratulations of his colleagues at a big reception in London on December 16th.

The I.P.C. Bulletins continue to report the growing movement for a boycott of Japanese goods. In this connection, the Consultative Group in Geneva has issued a special Memorandum containing the arguments for and against such a private boycott which shows once more how difficult and complicated the close interdependence of our modern world makes any action directed against any given country, however strong may be the natural desire to check aggression as best one can.

From the W.I.L.P.F. on the other hand comes a moving appeal from Mrs. Chiang Kai-shek, wife of the General, in which she says that economic pressure alone can shorten the duration of the terrible massacre. "Boycott is the most effective non-military weapon in the fight for peace and freedom."

The Women's Peace and Disarmament Committee has just issued its Annual Report for 1936-37, together with a printed leaflet summarising its history, activities and organisation. It states "To-day this Committee is composed of 12 International and five powerful groups of national and regional organisations. This is the greatest concerted effort for Peace ever undertaken by women." The Committee has acted as "the medium through which the opinion of its members has been expressed to the League of Nations; as a clearing centre for information between international and national groups concerning the great problems underlining the organisation of Peace; as a centre for Study Conferences for Peace Leaders and for co-operative work with other international bodies." Its work is done through a wide publicity and documentary service; through meetings of various kinds; through the travels of its officers and Committee members, etc., etc. It is planning to publish shortly a pamphlet on an interesting piece of work begun by the late Treasurer, Mme. Guthrie d'Arcis entitled "The Peace Roll of Industry." This is an attempt to take a plebiscite of the opinions of big industrialists and businessmen in different countries in regard to peace.

Naturally and inevitably an appeal for funds accompanies these documents. The Committee needs an annual budget of £2000 if in addition to its present work it is to be able to finance various important projects, such as the above "Peace Roll," an International Congress on Economic Peace Problems in connection with the World's Fair in New York in 1939, etc. Apart from the contributions of its member organisations and sums raised through their national affiliations,

individuals may become subscribers for a minimum sum of 5s. for which they will get the Committee's communications.

The Committee has been presented with 5,000 stamps for affixing to letters, to be sold at the rate of 4 Swiss frs. a 100, or 1 fr. for 25. They bear the picture of a globe encircled by the words "Peace is the new Patriotism." If the entire 5,000 can be sold the Committee's funds will benefit to the extent of 200 Swiss frs. Please order some from the Women's Peace and Disarmament Committee, Palais Wilson, Geneva.

REVIEWS.

DIVORCE LAW UP-TO-DATE. By A. S. B. Glover. Jordan & Sons, Chancery Lane, London. Price 2/.

This compact little book gives the text of the recent new law on divorce, and a clear and simple statement of the whole legal position regarding marriage and divorce under English law. It also gives the text of another new law adopted during 1937, the Summary Procedure (Domestic Proceedings) Act under which for the first time special Courts of "domestic proceedings" have been set up, largely to undertake investigations and attempts at conciliation in matrimonial and domestic disputes.

As English Law has never been codified, such a clear account may well be useful to those who want to know the legal position, though its scope does not include any attempt to summarise the laws affecting married women apart from cases of separation or divorce.

REPORT OF THE NINTH CONGRESS OF THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM. 12 rue du Vieux Collège, Geneva. Price 3 Swiss francs.

This Report has a special interest because the main subject of this Congress was "A New International Order" and the Report contains summaries of addresses made on many aspects of international politics, such as Disarmament, Arbitration, Economics, Aviation, etc., as well as reports from the various national branches. It is these rather than the actual resolutions adopted which make this a booklet of general interest to the international student.

PRINCIPLES APPLICABLE TO THE FUNCTIONING OF JUVENILE COURTS AND SIMILAR BODIES, ETC. Advisory Committee on Social Questions of the League of Nations. English edition from George Allen & Unwin, 40 Museum Street, London. Price 1s. 6d.

We cannot do better in order to give an idea of the value of this publication than quote from the League's Information Section notice. "This study is the outcome of over ten years of investigation of special aspects of the question of neglected and delinquent minors. It is a good example of pooling the experience of many countries and securing the widest possible adoption of the best methods and principles. . . The principles now formulated by the Committee are of considerable importance not only in respect of juvenile courts, but also because of their bearing upon the wider problems of education. The Committee places particular emphasis upon new methods of re-education, involving co-operation between doctors, educationists, psychiatrists and psychologists. It is pointed out that many delinquents belong to the category of normal children, and the necessity for a distinction between measures of protection for the normal child and measures especially adapted to the defective or abnormal child is emphasised. Satisfactory results cannot possibly be obtained from a system of repression, punishment or mass treatment. The measures adopted should be educative and the

first objective should be an understanding of the character of each delinquent minor."

WORLD YOUTH, Quarterly Review of the World's Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations, October 1937, 52 rue des Pâquis, Geneva.

This Quarterly is exchanged regularly with our own paper, and if we single out this issue for review it is because it is devoted to a study of relations between the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A., in the course of which many valuable things are said about present-day relationships between young people, which might well be studied by those working in any "cause." The article by the President of the World's Y.W.C.A., Miss van Asch van Wijck, entitled "Some Fundamental Issues" is an extremely interesting and carefully thought-out study of the need to face the changes in the position of women brought about during recent years. It is pointed out that as members of the Christian Church men and women are equally admitted, but that in regard to the problem of the relationships between men and women "all thinking has been on the level of expediency and opportunism." "Decisions about what woman may do and what she may not, which are the realms of life where woman has a task, and which are those where she does not belong, have been taken by men alone, even in the Church, without ever seriously thinking through together what, according to the Biblical revelation, should be our conception of humanity as it stands before us in its dual form of man and woman." "We have to ask ourselves whether the complete neglect of this fundamental truth and law in all realms of life (that is, the complementary function of the sexes) does not mean a purely arbitrary impoverishment of life. Whether this may not be one of the causes of that total collapse of social and international relationships, as the capacities laid by God in the mind and soul of the female half of humanity have been prevented from making their full contribution."

We are tempted to quote at length, but must only permit ourselves just one more quotation on a different point: "In the minds of how many of us would it be not true that the whole question of what we have to do for young people in preparing them for a life in which the two sexes have to find their right places and relationships crystallises itself into the aspect of the difficulties and temptations of sexual life in its most restricted form?" "Is it not appalling to think of how far we Christians have allowed ourselves to be governed in our thinking by the eroticism of the present age."

WHAT FOOLS WE WOMEN BE! By Ellen Dorothy Abb. Cassell & Co., London, Toronto, Melbourne and Sydney. Price 7s. 6d.

This is a clear and definite call to feminism, earnest, whole-hearted unambiguous feminism, as just about the most urgent and important piece of work to be done "while there is yet time." It is extremely difficult to review just because it's not about this or that "woman's question" but about "that woman question" which covers all of life. It is based on the position of the English or English-speaking woman, but in fact it is one of the grounds for appealing still to a universal solidarity of sex that while women may be a little up or a little down in one country as compared with another, all women all over the world are still up against the same things, because this is a complete man-made world.

The reviewer's copy is liberally marked with passages for quotation, so liberally that she despairs of quoting at all. But just one or two, chosen almost at random: "We force the poor man's wife to do two jobs, we encourage the rich man's wife to do neither, and we won't allow the middle-class wife to choose the one she's fitted for." "At thirty-five or forty many a wife is

already beginning to drift aimlessly along. . . . Her children no longer need her. To her husband she is just a habit whom he continues to support in idleness. Just a monument of futility, a living reproach to the world which tells her callously it has no further use for her: she must stand back and leave the jobs to those who need them. She has her keep." "Do you know a woman who does not wash her own stockings? If so, she is very rich. . . . Do you know a man who washes his own socks? If so, he is very poor. . . . So you must learn to be egocentric and ruthless, to spend your money selfishly. . . . Women always try to give out the whole time: they never will relax to fill up again." "Wives for women! The busy woman wants someone to look after her just as much as a man does. Someone of her own generation, a companion, a helpmate." "When women's rights go, men's go too. A free country for women is a free country for men. In self-interest we should all, men and women, be fighting for our common rights to-day."

These quotations do not give any idea of the book, they may, thus taken from their context, seem comparatively trivial, but to the reviewer as she came upon them they shone forth as the very truth. And that is the aim—and the achieved aim—of this book. To make women see the truth: the truth about "beauty-culture" the truth about the Press; the truth about marriage ("Marriage is still the best career"); the truth about sex, about children, about work, about everything that affects the different status of men and women. One's first feeling is: Ah, if only men would read this book. But a very few minutes' reflection changes that into: Every woman and every girl ought to be *made* to read this book. K.B.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND I.L.O.

Every year as an annex to the Budget of the League adopted by the Assembly, there is attached a staff list for both the League Secretariat and that of the I.L.O. And every year, the study of these lists becomes just a shade more depressing from the point of view of the opportunity given by these great organisations to women. The League was started at a moment of sudden fruition for the woman's movement, and in its principles as we know so well there is included the equality of the sexes for all positions on its staff. It is perfectly easy to find quite a good explanation of why in the beginning women did not get a very large share of the better paid and more influential posts; it is not quite so easy to understand why instead of improving, the general position of women has declined. Though the idea no doubt seems fantastic, it has declined as the power and prestige of the League has declined, which may be an allegory. No feminist is so wild as to suppose that with a fifty-fifty distribution of jobs in the secretariat as between men and women, the governments and the nations would have behaved quite differently and much more reasonably. But go a little behind that outrageous idea, and it is permissible to wonder whether if the League of Nations had been, or could have been, the joint work of men and women from its conception, through all its activities, it might not now be facing a happier future. Nay more, to go back simply to the staff, no one who knows the immense influence wielded by any secretariat can altogether deny that a larger proportion of women in the higher posts might have affected the progress of the League in certain ways. For that particular job, enthusiasm, ideals, faith were needed quite as much as technical qualifications, and though we do not mean to imply that they are not to be found among men, a survey of the actual work—not mere attendance at Committees and Lord Mayor's Meetings and Dinners—done for charity and good causes, does tend to show that women are capable of a very large share of "practical idealism." There was at any

rate an opportunity to start that experiment in making a new world on the basis of a real co-operation between the sexes. For a "new world" perhaps experience in the ways of the old was not so essential, perhaps a certain freshness and freedom from the coils of red tape might even have been a positive advantage.

Well, the opportunity was not used, it was lost, perhaps for ever. For now women are nearly as weary and dispirited as men. Hope deferred maketh the heart sick and having to fight all the time for the mere opportunity of service, leaves so much less energy for using the meagre share that may eventually be wrested from prejudice and jealousy.

SWEDEN.

From the Bulletin of the I.C.W. we learn of an interesting piece of work which the Swedish women's organisations through a Committee with Miss Hesselgren as Chairman, are doing in connection with a Memorial Exhibition to be held in the Swedish Museum of Philadelphia next year, to mark the third centenary of the first settlement of Swedish colonists in Delaware. One of the rooms in the Exhibition will bear the name of Frederika Bremer; it will be furnished in the style of the period with objects that belonged to the great pioneer of the Swedish woman's movement and will contain a selection of her literary work. The collection, despatch and arrangement of the objects for this room and the financing of the scheme are being undertaken by the Committee referred to.

We also learn that the Scholarship Foundation of the Frederika Bremer Forbundet recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

MESSAGE DE LA PRÉSIDENTE A L'OCCASION DE LA NOUVELLE ANNÉE.

Le petit être inconnu et innocent qui vient vers nous sous les dehors de l'année 1938 nous fait par contraste jeter les yeux sur son aîné 1937, au visage ravagé par la terreur, aux mains implorantes sous la menace des cieux sillonnés d'engins de guerre. 1936 a vu l'action traîtresse de la campagne d'Abyssinie. 1937 a démontré la veulerie des démocraties, en face de l'invasion étrangère, en Espagne et en Chine.

Il est difficile de souhaiter une bonne année à ses amis, quand on considère de tels augures de malheur. Tâchons cependant de trouver dans la paix de nos foyers et l'affection de nos familles, une nouvelle source de courage et de sympathie, pour mener à bien notre lutte pour l'égalité des sexes, et relever la dignité de notre race, ce qui peut seul sauver l'humanité du suicide.

La principale tâche des femmes pour l'année 1938 devra être la suivante:

- (1) Montrer notre intérêt effectif dans la composition et le lieu de travail de la Commission du Statut Civil et assurer sa publicité.
- (2) Adopter avec vigueur le plan de travail recommandé par le Comité de liaison. La Commission de la Société des Nations a besoin d'une documentation internationale et son rapport ne peut être présenté avant deux ou trois ans. Prenons notre part du travail, en faisant dans nos pays respectifs une enquête nationale. En vérité, le chaos de la situation présente est encourageant, parce qu'il démontre la fausseté de l'argument si souvent avancé contre nous que la femme est naturellement créée pour tel ou tel dessein, ou que sa nature la restreint à telle ou telle fonction. Il n'y a certainement aucune uniformité dans la nature ou la condition de la femme à travers le monde — et nous constatons que plus le niveau intellectuel

- de la femme est élevé, plus la santé corporelle de la nation et de ses enfants est en progrès.
- (3) Persuader aux hommes et aux femmes que cette question du statut pour la moitié de la race humaine a une importance extrême.
 - (4) Ne pas nous abandonner nous mêmes à l'admission paresseuse que la sujétion d'un sexe à un autre est chose naturelle, et en tout et partout ne reconnaître comme critérium que la valeur et le mérite. d'après MRS. CORBETT-ASHBY.

SOUHAITS ET BONNES RESOLUTIONS

La Rédactrice de JUS SUFFRAGI offre à tous ses lecteurs, ses meilleurs vœux de bonne année; elle espère que sa petite compagnie de souscripteurs va aussi souhaiter "Bonne chance" à notre Bulletin international pour l'année 1938.

Nous atteignons cette année notre trente-deuxième anniversaire; ce n'est certes pas un âge avancé. Cependant notre progéniture est faible et a grand besoin qu'on lui transfuse un sang nouveau.

Chaque Société affiliée à l'Alliance reçoit naturellement "Jus Suffragi." C'est donc à chaque auxiliaire que nous demandons de prendre la bonne résolution, de nous envoyer régulièrement des nouvelles, quoique d'une manière concise et courte sur les progrès et l'activité des femmes dans leurs pays respectifs.

La Rédactrice reçoit en vérité, plusieurs feuilles nationales. Mais elle n'est pas polyglotte. Cependant des nouvelles en anglais, français, allemand et même espagnol ou portugais trouveront toujours à notre bureau une traductrice. Il y aurait deux méthodes très simples de resserrer les liens entre nos auxiliaires et l'office central. Ce serait d'abord d'avoir des correspondants en contact avec nous; et en outre de nous envoyer régulièrement quelques notes.

Nos finances, dont le niveau est déplorablement bas, auraient besoin d'un afflux de souscripteurs. Nous pouvons facilement arranger des souscriptions collectives, p.ex. de six personnes par groupe à des conditions plus avantageuses que les souscriptions individuelles.

CALENDRIER FEMINISTE POUR 1937.

- International.** Nomination d'un comité spécial par l'Assemblée de la Société des Nations pour étudier le Statut de la Femme.
- Albanie.** Le port du voile est prohibé: signe d'émancipation féminine.
- Argentine.** Premier pas vers le suffrage dans l'Etat de La Rioja. Une loi prohibe la "maison de tolérance."
- Australie.** Une femme a été élue à l'Assemblée législative de l'Etat de Victoria.
- Bolivie.** Le code a été modifié en ce qu'il accorde certains droits civils aux femmes.
- Bulgarie.** Le droit de vote est accordé aux mères d'enfants légitimes et aux femmes mariées.
- France.** Le consentement du mari à la plupart des actions civiles individuelles de l'épouse n'est plus nécessairement obligatoire.
- Grande Bretagne.** La 11ème femme député est entrée au Parlement.

Une loi sur les Retraites consacre en pratique la différence de traitement entre hommes et femmes fonctionnaires.

- Hollande.** Quatre femmes ont été élues à la Seconde Chambre et une au Sénat.
- Inde.** Les femmes ont voté en grand nombre aux élections. 52 ont été élues aux Assemblées provinciales. Plusieurs d'entre elles ont de hautes fonctions dans les ministères.
- Iran.** Une Iranienne a pris son grade de Docteur en médecine à la Sorbonne. Une autre a été nommée Professeur de Littérature européenne à l'Université de Téhéran.
- Mexico.** Senorita Palma Guillen a été nommée ministre plénipotentiaire au Danemark.
- Philippines.** Le nombre des votantes au plébiscite a excédé de 100,000 le chiffre requis pour admettre le droit des femmes au suffrage.
- Portugal.** Il y a désormais trois femmes dans l'Assemblée nationale.
- Puerto Rico.** Une femme a été élue au Sénat.
- Siam.** La première femme docteur en Médecine a ouvert son cabinet à Bangkok.
- Union Sud-Africaine.** Une troisième femme a été élue au Parlement.
- Suède.** Deux autres femmes ont été élues au Riksdag portant le total à 12.
- Espagne.** Isabel de Palencia a été envoyée comme Ambassadeur en Suède.
- Syrie.** Une femme a été reçue Avocat.
- Etats Unis Amérique.** Mrs. Harriman a été nommée Ministre en Norvège. Dans l'Etat de New York les femmes ont le droit de servir comme jurés.

NOUVELLES BREVES.

- France.** Après avoir entendu l'avis de Madame Brunshvicg, soutenue par Madame Grinberg représentant l'Union française pour le Suffrage des Femmes, le Ministre de l'Intérieur a décidé qu'à l'avenir, une femme pourra obtenir une carte d'identité sans l'autorisation de son mari, de même qu'elle peut désormais obtenir un passeport à titre personnel.
- Les organisations féminines ont enfin décidé de soutenir le projet de loi Renoult qui est, quoique très limité, un premier pas dans l'amélioration du statut civil de la femme mariée. Si la Chambre devait encore l'amender, le Sénat refuserait encore de le passer tel, et le jeu continuerait indéfiniment. On décide donc de l'accepter tel qu'il a été transformé par le Sénat, quitte à le compléter par des réformes ultérieures.
- Grande Bretagne.** Miss Myra Curtis a été promue Secrétaire adjointe au Ministère des Finances et concurremment Surintendante des Femmes employées. C'est un encouragement.
- Nouvelles parlementaires** sur la question Mui Tsai et la loi de Succession.
- On se rappelle qu'une commission, dont Miss Picton Turbervill faisait partie a été envoyée l'année dernière par le Gouvernement en Malaisie et à Hong-Kong. Miss Picton-Turberville dont les conclusions différaient de celles de la majorité masculine avait présenté un rapport minoritaire. Elle recommandait une nouvelle législation pour la protection de toutes les petites filles au-dessous de 12 ans, hors du foyer paternel. Le

Ministre des Colonies nous apprend que ce rapport minoritaire est précisément celui qui a été accepté par le Gouvernement des Détroits et il est plus que probable que le reste des Iles Malaises suivra cette direction. Le Gouvernement de Hong-Kong, d'autre part, avait adopté le rapport majoritaire mais le Ministre des Colonies a discuté la question avec le nouveau Gouverneur et celui-ci doit présenter un rapport sur le sujet.

La loi de succession a été débattue aux Communes depuis l'année 1929. En 1931 Miss Rathbone avait présenté un projet de loi qui mettait la loi anglaise en harmonie avec celle des autres pays. Déjà en Ecosse, il est impossible à un mari ou à un père de déshériter sa femme ou ses enfants qui ont un droit sur une part de la succession.

La question a été fort débattue au Parlement et une pétition signée par 250 députés, fut présentée au Premier Ministre en demandant que le Gouvernement facilite le passage du Projet de loi.

Le Ministre de la Justice a proposé un compromis qui donnerait discrétion aux Cours d'Appel d'adjuger aux plaignants une part de la succession. C'est mieux que rien, mais il nous semblerait préférable d'avoir un code ou une loi précise, déterminant la part des ayant droits,

plutôt que d'entraîner ceux-ci à une litigieuse longue ou coûteuse.

Suède. Une Exposition Commémorative de la première colonisation suédoise en Delaware (E.U.A.) se tiendra au Musée Suédois de Philadelphie l'année prochaine. Une des salles portera le nom de Frederika Bremer, sera meublée dans le style de l'époque et contiendra un choix de ses œuvres et de sa propagande pour le mouvement féministe en Suède. La fondation Frederika Bremer a célébré récemment son cinquantième anniversaire. Son capital se monte aujourd'hui à un million de couronnes. La fondation a créé plusieurs bourses pour aider les jeunes Suédoises dans diverses études ou cours d'entraînement qui leur permettront de se créer une situation indépendante.

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