



Industrial girls of Roumania at a Y.W.C.A. Camp on the shores of the Black Sea.

The forest murmurs its ancient tale . . . Though awake, I dream a golden dream about some ancient warriors in silver armour, about rows which glitter in the sun and who go with a song on their lips and glide into the unknown to seek life. And around, the forest murmurs its song, old and known.

To the people who listen entranced to the stillness of the evening it speaks about the life which flies like a dream, it tells about the happiness which glitters and allures from afar like an enchanted flower, about happiness which attracts by its beauty and pulls thousands who run after it.

You run and a shadow remains in your hand. To the people who listen entranced to the stillness of the evening the forest murmurs its song.

And it soothes the troubles of man, it pours into his soul silence and stillness. It makes him forget the other men, life and happiness, it fills his breast with a thrill of longing, with a desire of a life big, without limits. . . . The forest murmurs and prays in the soul of man. . . .

F. N.—

THE DREAM WHICH CAME TRUE (A Phantasy).

Oh, how the air stifling in W—! I so complain lying in bed tired from the whole day's work, and I almost fall asleep, while my thoughts run far away to the country. And I fancy that I am among meadows full of flowers, among pine woods—I fancy I smell the blossoming corn . . . or hay. . . . And suddenly I feel myself in the air like in an aeroplane, but I do not see it. I look down and there lie fields of rye, of buckwheat; they are like carpets with strange designs. I look to the left and I cannot believe my own eyes. . . . the flax is blooming so blue, so pretty, and it forms a design that I seem to know, but whereof? I try to remember what it can be. . . . Oh, yes, it is the Triangle, and there are letters on it, big and white. I look more intently—the letters are of jasmine, and what a perfume. . . . I fly higher and I am already near the stars, and when I look on any of them immediately I see a lovely little face and such a homely, such a confident one. And they all laugh loud and heartily. . . . of nothing. Suddenly near every head little wings grow like we see on the little

angels of the Christmas tree; hands have appeared, I do not know how and when. Suddenly they all looked to the left, then to the right, they bent, and all so gracefully, so unanimously—and then they began to look up in the air with their hands lifted as if they wanted to catch something. I curiously looked to see what it could be. And again I see stars, but big, immense ones, and the faces in them are bigger and the wings. And all these stars or suns keep horns of abundance, and with graceful hands they throw something in the air—something like balls or pieces of bread in the shape of a triangle. I fall asleep on my cloud and I feel so extremely happy, so well. . . .

But after a moment the cloud begins to escape me, to fly away. I try to catch it with my hand, but it is only straw, simply oats straw.

Do tell me, please, was it not a lovely dream? And it has all come true, I have it all in reality—pleasant faces and generous hands, lovely landscapes and beautiful fresh air. . . . Yes. . . . but where is my cloud. . . . even though a straw one? K— J—

ACCIDENTS AND ROBBERIES.

Yesterday at 5 o'clock p.m., during the absence of the lady from room without a number, a certain gentleman of suspicious appearance sneaked in, and, not having introduced himself to anybody, he snatched something that was lying on a chair. Then in the darkness he fled. It appears that the thing he has stolen was one pound of sausage (bitten twice) and bought at S— for the last cent. The injured owner entreats to capture the rascal and return to her the priceless object in any possible shape. The inquest is in full swing.

OFFERED POSITIONS.

Needed.—A doctor specialist, who could cure girls in high spirits. A young lady has arrived from the Province to S— and has fallen ill, she has a widening of the wind-pipe. Her voice is as sonorous as the bugle of a forester calling wild beasts to the attack. The kind specialist of such diseases is requested to apply personally to the editor, room —, right side into the passage, from the passage to the veranda, from the veranda outside, from outside to the place he came from.

HOW ROME WELCOMED THE CONGRESS.

JVS SVFFRAGII.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS



THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT.

THE necessity for a presidential election at Rome must have caused most of us a real pang, as we realized the Alliance was entering on a new epoch of work.

With the usual brilliance of women we have turned the crisis to account and have now two presidents, one, our founder and honorary president, who will continue to embody for us all the glamour and romance of our early work as pioneers. It was a period of desperately hard struggles and of tiny bands of remarkable women in all countries, and in many an astounding development of women's organization which has proved in itself a remarkable education, and of thrilling successes which have enfranchised the women of twenty-five countries. Success has been as wayward, according to our critics, as *la donna e mobile*. For success came sometimes in the night, with war and revolution, sometimes, long wooed, it only followed painstaking and self-sacrificing organization which penetrated, if not every home, at least every street and every hamlet. All this we cherish and remember in Mrs. Chapman Catt.



Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY.

What of your new work-a-day President? She must stand, I think, for the sober middle-age of the Alliance.

We are out of the romantic pioneer stage and must set to work to occupy and settle and develop the new lands we have won. Not that our middle age will be dull, far from it. We welcome to-day the gain of the municipal suffrage and eligibility of the Italian women as the foretaste of our elation when we shall hear that the first Latin country has completely enfranchised its women. In Brazil, France and Italy Woman's Suffrage Bills have passed the First Chamber, and we watch with interest the friendly rivalry of the Latin New and Old Worlds.

With a new President the responsibility on each member of the Board, on each National President, and on each individual is greater. True, in one sense, our task is easier because we have now in the world a permanent international authority, the League of Nations, whom we can help and who in turn can assist us. First, we are to stand for peace, and peace must rest on understanding, and common work for a single aim gives us this understanding.

Secondly, the machinery of the League enables us to work simultaneously in all countries, for instance, work on the nationality of married women is much simplified. To get such a change through many legislatures piecemeal would cause suffering and confusion, leaving many women without nationality, but a draft convention, approved by the Assembly of the League, can be ratified quickly by individual Governments. Slavery and child marriage can be fought everywhere at once, and drugs and traffic in women can only be attacked efficiently on an international scale.

My message to the unenfranchised women is: "Concentrate on the vote. Take part in other work, social, educational, civic, seize every opportunity to prove that women are capable and public-spirited, but do all this other work as a means to getting the vote, realizing that until women are full citizens much of their work is wasted in trying to cure the victims of evil instead of attacking its roots."

To the enfranchised women I would say: "We fought for and won the vote that we might be full and equal citizens of our countries, and we should therefore join with men in concerted action on all great national problems, but we must never forget that much of our strength will be wasted if we merely double men's efforts; we must for some time remember we are also specialists and experts with special work to do, and our work as humans must not be at the sacrifice of our work as women. As long as there is any discrimination against women in our civil codes, as long as in theory or practice (even 'health' practice) there is inequality, as long as a double standard of morality exists or any industrial disabilities we must consider their removal our special charge."

Life is service and to us, the women of the twentieth century, life and service undreamt of have opened.

MARGERY I. CORBETT ASHBY.

HOW ROME WELCOMED THE GREAT CONGRESS.

BEFORE the great Congress opened, representatives from forty-three countries had gathered in the Eternal City to take part in it. They had come from every corner of the globe—from China, Japan, India, Palestine, Egypt, Newfoundland, New Zealand, North and South America, and from most of the countries of Europe. Among the delegates were women Members of Parliaments, doctors of medicine and of science, lawyers, solicitors, writers, teachers, singers, musicians, and women engaged in trade and commerce.

Every creed, every race, every class and every profession were represented at the Congress.

Thirteen Governments had sent official delegates, the Secretariat of the League of Nations was represented by Dame Rachel Crowdy, and the International Labour Office by Signor Cabrini.

The Congress was formally opened by Signor Mussolini and Signor Cremonesi, Lord Mayor of Rome. No one who had the privilege of being present at that opening meeting is ever likely to forget it. The vast hall with its gay flags and flowers, the brilliant gathering, the babel of every known tongue, the enthusiastic applause which broke out on all sides as Signor Mussolini passed up the hall accompanied by Mrs. Chapman Catt, Signor Cremonesi, the Officers of the Alliance and the Italian Committee. The interest awakened by this dramatic opening was maintained throughout the Congress.

The Press table was always crowded; the evening meetings thrown open to the public were thronged with eager men and women, anxious to hear what this World Congress of Women had come to tell them.

On one evening it was the Government delegates who addressed the meeting; on another women Members of Parliaments; on another women of all the Continents, when delegates from East, West, North and South told us something of their hopes and aspirations and achievements. Whatever the programme, there was a crowded and an enthusiastic audience, in which there was a large percentage of men, both old and young.

Looking back, perhaps the feature of the Congress which is most fixed in one's memory is the fact that this gathering of women, whose outlook on life was so varied, achieved the triumph of working in harmony and of coming to an agreement on questions of the highest importance. Elsewhere in this issue we publish the long list of resolutions adopted at the Congress.

Diversity of opinion there was (how dull the world would be without it), but a diversity expressed with cordiality and a real desire to understand the other person's point of view. There was argument enough to satisfy the most ardent fighter, but in essentials there was an amazing unanimity. When we say that the woman's movement is universal it is not mere rhetoric.

It was a week of strenuous work, and yet some hours were snatched for pleasure. The Italian Committee had provided a charming entertainment at the Palazzo dell'Esposizione; the Italian Government gave a reception for the Congress in the beautiful Farnese Gardens on the Palatine Hill; the Municipality entertained delegates at the Capitol; the Lyceum Club gave a tea for the Congress. All the art galleries of Rome were thrown open free, and by the courtesy of His Holiness the galleries of the Vatican were also open free to delegates.

Nothing, indeed, could surpass the cordial welcome given to the Congress by the Italian Government, the Press and the Italian people.

On the morning of the last day all the delegates walked in procession from the Palazzo dell'Esposizione to the Home Office, where they were received by Signor Mussolini. It was Rome's first experience of a Suffrage procession, and splendidly did the people play up to it. The crowds that gathered in the streets, the people who flocked to the windows, may have been a little surprised, perhaps a little puzzled; but there was never a discourteous remark or unfriendly glance. It was a great day for Suffrage. The beautiful banner of the Alliance and the Italian flag led the way, followed by Mrs. Chapman Catt and Mrs. Corbett Ashby, the Board of Officers, Government delegates, Members of Parliament, the enfranchised countries in alphabetical order, the unenfranchised countries in alphabetical order. The leaders conferred with Signor Mussolini, who again promised that Italian women should be given the vote by gradual stages, and then the whole procession filed before him.

One was struck by the friendliness and accessibility of Signor Mussolini and his colleagues.

The closing hours of the Congress were saddened by the farewell of Mrs. Chapman Catt. In an eloquent and moving speech, the retiring President gave a word of warning to those who succeed her. She warned her hearers not to be too afraid of giving offence, and too anxious to placate everyone at the expense of principle. "Never do anything," she said, "that you would be unwilling to bear before the whole world." Then there need be no fear for the future of the Alliance.

The Congress presented to Mrs. Chapman Catt an album in Roman leather, containing the names of all the delegates—a sign of the wonderful growth of the Alliance to which she has given so much care and devotion.

L. DE ALBERTI.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT, TO THE NINTH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

Rome, Italy, May 14, 1923.

PART I.

THE International Woman Suffrage Alliance is indeed grateful to the Government of Italy and to its citizens for the cordial welcome we have received. Our Congress represents the world's movement among women, which demands the repeal of antiquated so-called "woman laws" and customs, and the substitution therefore of a modern civilized recognition of the fact that a woman is a human being—a female human with the same brain and conscience, strength or weakness, aspiration or indifference, as a male human. Our movement is old. The oldest of us is too young to have been a part of its beginning. Then, we know the brave women souls who led the way were not greeted as are we to-day. For them were ridicule and abuse, mobs and fusillades of decayed vegetables and eggs. But because they were right, and dared to brave the scorn of a hostile world, kings, premiers, presidents and mayors to-day do honour to our cause.

We do not come to Rome in this year of 1923 to hold our Ninth Congress as timid suppliants for small favours. Our Congress represents women of forty nations, and there are only sixty nations in the world. In other words women of two-thirds of the nations of the world are represented in this gathering. Of these the delegates of twenty-five nations are voters on equal terms with men, and among them are Members of Parliaments and Councillors of great cities. The delegates from two countries are voters in their municipalities. The delegates in this Congress who are still pleading for the vote represent fifteen nations only. The majority of us are enfranchised. We, too, are a part of the collective rulers of nations.

Your Excellency, Signor Mussolini, you are the most talked-of man in all the world to-day. To millions of men you are a great hero, and all the world knows that you are afraid of nothing—not even public opinion when it is wrong. Men tell us that you stand for order, for unity, for patriotism, for a better and a higher civilization in the world. These are our ideals too. We stand for educated men and women, for schools for every child, for work and good wages for all, for better homes, for more tender and scientific care of children, that they may grow up to build a better order of things. We stand for the abolition of those old codes of law which, all the world around, kept women in perpetual tutelage and allowed them no independent individuality. These codes have made many men cruel masters and women timid and shrinking dependents. "Male and female created He them," says Genesis, "and gave them dominion over the earth." Alas, the males took all the dominion to themselves, and we stand for getting back our half of it. We stand, too, for the principle of self-government and for votes for men and women on equal terms.

We make no political intrigues. We shall not disturb the peace of Italy. We have, however, asked all the civilized Governments of the world to endorse our plea and our programme. We ask this Government to do so, with a new and very special emphasis, for Italy, the proud equal of the great nations of the world, is now in the minority on the woman question, and we dare to hope that it will be your Government, most honoured, most excellent Signor Mussolini, that will lead this land of ancient renown into the modern majority.

Men and nations are not thinking the same thoughts about women as before the war. It is an entirely new and different world for women. The thirty-two nations engaging in the greatest of world wars, in addition to

the obvious first cause, alleged many other reasons for their action. These were objects which they hoped to achieve through victory, and nations held them worthy the waste of wealth and men. In the list of these causes and aims no nation included the civil rights and political liberty of women. Not a general under any flag thought of the degraded status of women throughout the world when he led his men into the thick of slaughter. Not a man in any army preparing to offer his life for his country, dreamed that he might be making the supreme sacrifice to right the wrongs of women. Not a weeping father or mother, watching their loved son go forth to marching music and flying colours, perhaps never to return, had a vision that women's place in their own nation and the world bore relation to the patriotism that inspired their common service. Woman, too, was declared a "war power," and great men of great nations generously acknowledged her as a determining factor in that reserve behind the ranks which made possible the army at the front; yet these women at home, giving their all and counting no service too great, thought no word of rights of self or sex. Nevertheless, when time has stabilized Governments and finance, when commerce, trade and business have resumed their old-time activity, when the restless, unhappy present has given way to peace and order, and great men ask each other the puzzling question: "What good did the world get out of the war?" the answer most obvious will be: "The greatest thing that came out of the war was the emancipation of woman." No one aimed to secure it or expected it as a result of war, no one fought for it, yet it came. How did it happen? It happened because the years of struggle, sacrifice, agitation, education and organization had made this movement ripe for victory.

Very many years ago Victor Hugo declared the nineteenth century to be "the Century of Woman." When, however, that century closed the emancipation of women was so far from being achieved that the prediction seemed an error. Yet during the years of that century the leading nations of the world had conceded the righteousness of the woman's demand for education, the primary preparation for individual liberty. Indeed, one distinguished man declared that the vote for women became inevitable at the moment when it was conceded that they should be permitted to learn the alphabet. When the year 1900 closed the nineteenth century primary and high schools were very generally established for girls, and the doors of colleges and universities were not only opened to them, but women composed a large part of the teaching force of the schools of many nations. Women had advanced from an illiterate to an intelligent sex within a century. The right of women to enter the professions was conceded, and after a period of struggle, often rendered bitterly difficult by the opposition of reaction, women in 1900 were practising their professions with freedom and profit in many countries. Women also were everywhere writing for newspapers and magazines, speaking from platforms and leading movements for the betterment of human society. The law, too, which denied married women the right to their property, persons, wages and children, had been repealed or modified in many lands, and public opinion, controlling customs and conventions, granted a liberty of action to women at the close of the century unknown and undreamt of at the beginning. Although the emancipation of woman was nowhere complete, we now know that the nineteenth century was, in truth, the "Century of Woman," for no factor of advancing civilization during

that century showed such rapid evolution as the status of woman. So much of the woman's programme had been conceded in that century that the remainder became inevitable. The momentum gathered in the nineteenth century drove the movement forward into the twentieth with continually accelerating numbers of advocates and diversity of method. The end was in clear sight when the war began.

The vote has been the climax of the struggle of every class for liberty, and naturally the grant of this privilege was longest delayed and most grudgingly given. When, however, the Alliance met in Geneva in 1920, in its first after-war Congress, it celebrated twenty-two new national suffrage victories. The constitutional barriers holding fast against the logical demands of women for political liberty had been swept away by the wave of liberal emotion which overspread the world during the first months after the war. Nations wherein the organized demand had been slight, and others where there had been none at all, yielded to that influence. The nations where the organized movement was oldest granted the vote to women as an act of delayed justice; the new republics of Eastern Europe adopted it as a matter of course, and to others it came by revolution.

We who had laboured long in the thick of the struggle were also caught in the emotion of the moment, and when we celebrated the amazing list of woman suffrage victories at our Congress of 1920 we were no more able to comprehend the exact status of the entire movement than were the workers at the close of the nineteenth century. In 1900 the final victories seemed farther away than they were; and in 1920 the whole world campaign seemed more nearly complete than it was. Some could conceive no methods for useful further work, and others, thinking our task quite finished, proposed to dissolve the Alliance. Now that we have had three years in which to survey the movement as a whole, it becomes our duty to ask again, Where does it stand?

There are six continents. In Australia all women vote. In Europe from points above the Arctic Circle down to a line bordering Jugo-Slavia, Italy, Switzerland and France, all women vote, and, in my judgment, woman suffrage is securely and permanently established. In North America, from the northernmost tip of Alaska to the border of Mexico, all women vote. In Asia the ancient Indian civilization with modern democratic aspirations has shamed more youthful nations in generous justice to its women, and has granted the vote in several provinces. Not only do we welcome delegates for the second time from that far-away mystical country, but we receive a new auxiliary from Burmah, where tax-paying women have voted on equal terms with men for forty years. Palestine, too, the storm centre of age-long struggle, sends us a delegate. In Africa most British colonies have already extended the vote to women, while South Africa alone, among them all, hesitates. We are especially proud to welcome to this Congress delegates from that wonderland of Egypt. In ancient days there were Egyptian queens and women military leaders of great renown; why not heroines to-day, bearing aloft the standard of civil and political equality for modern Egyptian woman? Bravo, women of Egypt!

Of all the continents South America is the only one where no woman votes, yet it is a continent of republics, many of which have celebrated their centenary of independence. Here the Napoleonic code in strictest form operates from Panama to Cape Horn, with the exception of Uruguay. Here not only does the restraint imposed by the law upon the married woman, concerning the control of her property, wages, person, and children, render her well-nigh helpless if her husband chooses to play the master, but a stern public opinion, far less liberal than that of Europe, restricts her ordinary freedom of action to an unbelievable degree. Your President, accompanied by Miss Manus, of Holland, Miss Babcock and Mrs. van Lennep, of New York, has spent four months in making a survey of conditions there. We were able, in the time at our disposal, to visit six

only of the eleven republics, but these included the countries of largest population, most stable government, and those of acknowledged progressiveness. In every one we found the woman movement growing and spreading, a liberal sympathy expressed by Presidents of the Republics and by many members of the Congresses. Organization lags far behind the general sentiment, and education for women, which must everywhere be regarded as the primary qualification for improved status, offers neither the facilities nor the stimulus found in Europe.

In every country visited we found a suffrage movement, although usually small and timid, but an unmistakable beginning. These countries of South America look to Europe for leadership. The republics along the east coast, Brazil, Argentine and Uruguay, place great emphasis upon the example of France, and so long as France does not enfranchise its women South America will make no haste to do so. An immigration so enormous has gone to Argentine from Italy that it has even modified the Spanish language, and so long as Italy delays the enfranchisement of her women her sons, the voters of another land, will see no need for urgent action. The women leaders of many movements there are of French or Italian birth, and feel keenly the effect of the hesitancy of their home lands to catch step with the rest of the world. Spanish America and Southern Europe are bound together by many common ties. Their nationalities and their languages are closely related, their religion is the same, they love the same kind of poetry, literature, music and art, their educational system has followed the same models, and even politics, although it has taken its form from the North, draws its inspirations and methods chiefly from the South. They think and build ideals along the same lines.

The Woman Suffrage movement has won its victory in all the northern countries; not one now holds out against the logic of its demand. The southern lands, France, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Bulgaria and Spanish and Portuguese America, compel the movement to pause. Over the ramparts of southern conservatism the Alliance extends the hand of friendship. It must continue to cry to the women of all these nations: Awake, Arise, Take Courage. Already their women have so far heard and answered that I believe I speak strictly within the truth when I say that every independent nation in the world with a stable government has now its Woman Suffrage Society. The movement has begun, even where it has not travelled far. Startling though it may seem, our suffrage movement has in truth girdled the earth and spread from Arctic North to Antarctic South. It now counts among its auxiliaries those whose members represent the five great races of the world, Caucasian, Mongolian, Malay, Polynesian and Indian. Its membership embraces the five great religions: Christian, Hebrew, Buddhist, Confucian and Mohammedan. No such organized movement among men has yet come into the world. It is something new: a phenomenon—this arising, uniting and marching forward together of a sex. We are an army, but our only weapon is an appeal for justice. We go forward with confidence, for no government can long withstand our plea. Time, however, must pass before the movement comes to its final victory, and education, work and sacrifice must do their part. Meanwhile it needs the encouragement and inspiration of our common union, the *morale* aroused by the fact that the women of all nations, races and religions are united together in the demand for the abrogation of outworn bondage and the demand for individual freedom.

We thank your Excellency, Signor Mussolini, and you, the Royal Commissioner and Mayor of the most wonderful of the world's cities, Rome the Eternal, and you, women of Italy, for your warm greetings. We shall be happy in your city, and we shall make great plans. All over Italy are the ruined relics of ancient days. We shall ask you, fair Italy, to make another ruin, a destruction of all the "woman laws," which

deny to women the half of the world's dominion God gave them.

The motto of our Alliance, adopted twenty years ago, came from ancient Rome, and no wiser guidance for human action has any sage spoken through the centuries: "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things charity."

So, we differ in many things, in race, religion and politics; but we are a unit in our demand for a woman's share in all privileges, opportunities and responsibilities the world has to offer.

Rome old and hoary, with memories of by-gone greatness, we greet you with admiration and with reverence; Rome young and modern, we ask that we may march with you in a great world army of men and women whose aim is only to create a happier life for all nations and peoples of earth.

(Continued on page 157.)

SPEECH OF SIGNOR MUSSOLINI.

Rome Congress, May 12-19.

THE Fascista Government, over which I have the honour of presiding, wishes to express to you its great pleasure at your having chosen Rome as the seat of your Congress, and welcomes you in the most cordial and warmest way.

The problems of your Congress are most important from a political, economic, and social point of view. We may say, indeed, that they concern all the life and activity of women. The principal object of this international gathering is once more to call the attention of Governments and of public opinion to the necessity of granting to women a larger participation in the political activities of nations by means of the vote.

All possible consequences must be considered, but I can state that the Italian public spirit and the tendency of our policy offer no preconceived opposition to the enfranchisement of women. As far as I am concerned, I feel authorized to declare that the Fascista Government, if nothing unforeseen happens, will undertake to grant to several categories of women the right to vote, starting from the administrative vote.

I believe that none of you will be surprised by this prudent policy in regard to the matter of elections, especially as it is accompanied by the most optimistic anticipations. In fact, I believe that by granting women the right to vote, first in municipal and next in political elections, no disastrous effects will ensue, as is predicted by some pessimists. But very probably it will have beneficial consequences, because woman will bring to the exercise of this new right her fundamental qualities of foresight, balance, and wisdom. I wish to remark, nevertheless, that the vote cannot end, and does not end, in fact, the political activity of citizens. In many other ways, and by different means, one may influence the course of events and the development of political situations, for elections are but a more or less noisy and insignificant episode. Outside of the electoral problems there are many other problems whose solution affects women and their domestic and social position. You have then done well in putting these problems on your agenda.

I wish to state that everything which attempts to raise the moral position of women will have the cordial support of the Fascista Government. Recently this Government approved the Washington Convention concerning night-work of women and of young persons, and by this act it has placed itself in the first rank among civilized nations. It has also been one of the first to accept the resolutions passed by numerous International Congresses, and has adopted the law against the traffic in women and children, thus giving the legal protection to women which is a duty among civilized people, and which for a long time has been demanded by all who have studied this problem.

And now let my thoughts pass on from these different questions to all the mothers, to all the women, who have

suffered in silence and in dignity the sacrifices and the sorrows of the Great War—to all the women, even those who are not represented here, who have powerfully contributed during that period to ensure the stability of national life. Let my thoughts go to all the other women who every day give to humanity the precious contribution of their ceaseless work in the schools, in the workshops, in the homes, in the hospitals, and in the fields.

I wish you, ladies, to carry to all your countries, even to the most distant, my greetings, and I trust this Congress will mean an essential advancement of the status of women, and a new step forward in the history of civilized nations.

[Since the Congress, Signor Mussolini has already brought in his Electoral Reform Bill, which has passed the Chamber.]

OFFICERS OF THE ALLIANCE,

Elected at the Ninth Congress, Rome,

May 12-19, 1923.

Hon. President: Mrs. Chapman Catt, 404, Riverside Drive, New York, U.S.A. President: Mrs. Corbett Ashby, 33, Upper Richmond Road, London, S.W. 15, England. First Vice-President: Mme. de Witt Schlumberger, 14, Rue Pierre de Serbie, Paris, France. Second Vice-President: Frau A. Lindemann, Köln, Marienburg, Wolfgang Mullerstr., 20, Germany. Third Vice-President: Dr. M. Ancona, 8, Via Morigi, Milano 8, Italy. Fourth Vice-President: Mrs. Gifford Pinchot, Executive Mansion, Harrisburg, Pa., U.S.A. Corresponding Secretary: Miss E. Gourde, Pregny, Geneva, Switzerland. Recording Secretary: Mme. Theodoropoulos, Rue Deligeorgi 11A, Athens, Greece. Treasurer: Miss Frances Sterling, Homewood, Hartfield, Sussex. Committee: Frau Schreiber-Krieger, Ahornalle 50, Charlottenburg, Berlin, Germany; Frau Julie Arenholt, St. Kongensgade 23, Copenhagen K., Denmark; Dr. Paulina Luisi, chez M. Fould, 30 Rue du Faubourg, Poissonniere, Paris, France.

GOVERNMENT DELEGATES

Appointed to attend the Rome Congress.

BRAZIL.—Miss Bertha Lutz.

CHILE.—Sigrá C. Lénétayer, care of Unione Femenista Nacional.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.—Miss Maria Tumova.

ESTHONIA.—Mr. Herman Hellatt, Esthonian Legation, Rome.

FINLAND.—Miss Annie Furuhjelm, M.P.

GERMANY.—Dr. Gertrude Baumer.

GREECE.—Mrs. Avra S. Theodoropoulos.

ITALY.—Prof. Regina Terruzzi.

NORWAY.—Frau Helga Helgesen.

POLAND.—Senateur Miss Josephine de Szebeco.

PORTUGAL.—Dr. Adelaide Cabette.

SWEDEN.—Mme. Frigga Carlberg.

JUGO-SLAVIA.—Mme. Prof. Petkovitch-Masimovitch.

League of Nations Secretariat.—Dame Rachel Crowdy.
International Labour Office.—M. Cabrini.

DELEGATES.

The full list of delegates will be published in the International Woman Suffrage Alliance Report of the Ninth Congress.

The Report will also contain amendments to the Constitution, reports from auxiliaries, etc.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE ROME CONGRESS.

I.—WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

1. Whereas women are now enfranchised on equal terms with men in twenty-five nations, with unquestioned advantage to the men, the women and the nations concerned, therefore be it

Resolved: That we, the delegates of forty-three nations met in the Ninth Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance at Rome, Italy, May 11 to 19, 1923, instruct our official Board to inform all unenfranchised self-governing States of this fact, and to urge the enfranchisement of these women in order that "governments of people" may everywhere include *all* the people.

II.—INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

Whereas this Congress recognizes that all progress towards greater freedom and security for women, and, in particular, that progress advocated in the resolutions of this Congress, depend on an ordered political life and stabilized economic conditions, and

Whereas this Congress is of opinion that it is idle for a body of earnest and enlightened women to outline a programme of world-wide cultural and humanitarian progress without considering the present situation of the world, be it

Resolved: That this Congress affirms it to be the duty of the women of all the nations to work for friendly international relations; to demand the substitution of judicial methods for those of force; and to promote the conception of human solidarity as *superior to racial*, or national solidarity, and further

That this Congress urges the women here represented to do their utmost in supporting their Governments in all measures tending to bring about economic reconstruction of the world and the reconciliation of the nations.

III.—LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Believing that the League of Nations will have no real value if it does not include all the nations, the I.W.S.A. expresses its desire that the League of Nations should secure in the shortest possible time the adhesion of all those countries of the world that are not yet members.

IV.—EQUAL PAY AND RIGHT TO WORK.

That this Congress, realizing that economic necessities and the desire and right of women to work and secure for themselves the means of life has made them important and irreplaceable factors in production; and believing that it is essential that all avenues of work should be open to women, and that the sole consideration in regard to work should be the physical and intellectual suitability of the workers, declares

(1) That education for professions and trades should be equally available for women as for men.

(2) That all professions and all posts in the Civil Service in all its functions, administrative, judicial and executive, should be open to women as to men, and that advancement to all higher posts should be equally open for both sexes.

(3) That women should receive the same pay as men for the same work, and that the only interpretation of the expression "Equal Pay for Equal Work" which is acceptable to the Alliance is that men and women shall be paid at the same rate, whether this be computed by time or by piece, in the same occupation or grade.

(4) That the right to work of all be recognized, and no obstacle placed in the way of married women who desire to work; that no special regulations for women's work, different from regulations for men, should be imposed contrary to the wishes of the women concerned; that

laws relative to women as mothers should be so framed as not to handicap them in their economic position, and that all future labour regulations should tend towards equality for men and women.

V.—MORAL QUESTIONS.

1. Considering the harm that has come to the human race through irresponsibility in sex relations, through ignorance of the gravity of venereal diseases and through the absence of a high standard of morality accepted as necessary and possible to both sexes:

The Congress resolves that in all countries instruction, both moral and biological, should be given to teachers of all grades and by them transmitted to all adolescents of both sexes, in a manner both idealistic and sufficiently precise to enable them to understand the duty and necessity of chastity. It is the absolute duty of educators, whether parents or teachers in schools, not to maintain silence, but to give instruction to adolescents upon the terrible dangers which accompany infractions of the moral law, as well as their responsibility towards the family and society. Their duty is not only to lay down the principles of morality, but to give the biological reasons for these principles.

The Congress further recommends that:

(a) Sex-education be included in the programme of Normal Schools.

(b) That Governments and popular associations organize lectures on sex-education for parents, with due regard to their educational status.

(c) That an intensive campaign of education against popular prejudices in regard to venereal diseases be undertaken in all countries.

2. Considering the appalling danger of infection to the other partner when a person marries before being entirely cured of a venereal disease, especially in the frequent case of a young woman whose future children would be contaminated as well as herself:

The Congress recommends:

* That information on venereal diseases and their dangers be made available to the general public, so that they be ignored by no one.

3 (a) The Congress believes that venereal disease should be recognized as a Public Health problem, and calls on the women of all countries to watch all legislation and administration on the subject in order to secure that women and men should be dealt with impartially, and that in no case shall Public Health laws be administered in such a manner as to admit the regulation of prostitution in any way.

(b) The Congress disapproves of the principle of official distribution of prophylactic packets; a method which it considers deplorable from the moral point of view.

4. (a) With reference to the proposal made to the League of Nations, by M. Sokal, to prevent the employment of foreign women in licensed houses, the Congress approves the action of the Assembly in referring the question of the exploitation of foreign women to the Advisory Committee.

The Congress believes that the more Regulation is discussed the more it will be condemned. It rejoices that it has been discussed at the League of Nations; approves the action of the Council in circulating to the nations the Report of the Advisory Committee for information only and not for action, and urges on the Advisory Committee further study with a view to the complete abolition of the system of State Regulation of Prostitution.

(b) The Congress believes that united action on the part of women is essential to the abolition of the Regulation of Prostitution and the suppression of Traffic in Women and Children, and urges women and women's associations all over the world to work for this on national and international lines.

* See note, page 158.

VI.—NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

1. MARRIED WOMEN'S NATIONALITY RIGHTS.

That this Congress declares that a married woman should be given the same right as a man to retain or to change her nationality.

2. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS.

That this Congress declares that to obviate the hardships arising from conflicts between the laws on the nationality of married women in different countries, it is essential to deal with the question internationally.

The Congress therefore urges upon the auxiliaries of the Alliance to approach their Governments recommending the calling of a Conference of all the Governments of the world to adopt a convention on the nationality of married women embodying this principle.

3. PROVISIONAL DRAFT AS BASIS FOR CRITICISM.

That the I.W.S.A., having drawn up an international convention which embodies the principle that a married woman should be given the same right as a man to retain or to change her nationality, accepts it as a provisional draft; and resolves to submit it to Governments, associations and individuals, and to invite from them criticism and suggestions; and further recommends the National Auxiliaries and Government Delegates to submit it to their respective Governments.

4. REAPPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE.

That the Committee on the Nationality of Married Women be reappointed to give effect to these resolutions. That it shall include, as hitherto, one representative appointed by each affiliated country and one each from the International Council of Women and the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom. That it be authorized to co-opt as consultative technical advisers, jurists or others with special legal knowledge; and that it shall meet simultaneously with and in the same place as the International Conference of Governments.

VII.—ECONOMIC STATUS OF WIVES, MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, LEGITIMATE AND ILLEGITIMATE.

1. RIGHTS OF WIVES AND LEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

(a) This Congress believes that married women who are bringing up the children, who are the future citizens of the States, are doing work of as great importance to the community as those men and women who are producing material wealth or giving remunerated services of hand and brain.

(b) This Congress therefore declares that such improvements in the laws of the various countries should be made as will secure to the married woman a real economic security and independence.

(c) This Congress notes with interest the spread in European countries, such as Belgium, Czecho-Slovakia, France and Germany, and also in Australia, of the system of granting to wage earners, alike men and women, allowances for their dependent children, either paid by employers individually, or by associations of employers for the payment of family allowances, or by the State.

The Congress is, however, of the opinion that the allowance shall be paid to the mother as the actual guardian of the child.

The Congress resolves to appoint a Committee for the study of the system of family allowances.

This Congress declares:—

(d) That a husband and wife shall each have complete control of their earnings, income, and property, except, that in view of her care of the home and children, a wife shall have a right to a certain proportion of the husband's income, and that where a husband is wholly or partially incapable of self-support, he shall have a right to a certain proportion of his wife's income.

(e) That where the husband refuses to allow his wife the share of his income to which she is entitled, the Court may order a certain proportion of his wages or other income to be paid to her direct.

(f) That the law which in many countries permits a husband to disinherit his wife and child for no cause shall be amended so that the wife and children shall have claim to a reasonable proportion of the husband's estate at death.

2. RIGHTS OF WIDOWS AND FATHERLESS CHILDREN.

(a) This Congress declares that necessitous widows with dependent children should receive adequate pensions from the State or Municipalities for themselves and their children; these pensions to be granted not as charity, but as a recognition of the value to the State of the mother's care of the child.

(b) In countries whose economic conditions make it impossible to secure pensions for widowed mothers with dependent children entirely out of State funds, the money shall be provided partly by a system of State insurance.

3. RIGHTS OF UNMARRIED MOTHERS AND ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

This Congress declares:—

(a) That *la recherche de la Paternité* should be permitted and that court proceedings to establish paternity and to secure support may be taken at any time before or after the birth of the child. The proceedings may be taken by the mother or State or other guardian of the child or by the child after it has reached its majority.

(b) That the expenses of confinement shall be borne by the father, or, in default of the father, by the State, if the mother is without sufficient means.

(c) That the amount granted to the mother shall be in accordance with the economic status of the father, so that the child may enjoy as nearly as possible the same conditions for moral, physical and intellectual development as the child born in wedlock.

(d) That the Alliance through its Auxiliaries should bring pressure to bear upon the Governments to secure an international arrangement by which sums due to wives and mothers under order of the Court can be claimed from men who have gone abroad or are outside the jurisdiction of the Court.

VIII.—SLAVERY.

Since any form of Slavery tends to press more hardily on women than on men, the I.W.S.A. urges the Assembly of the League of Nations, which is shortly to consider the question of Slavery, to set up a Commission of Investigation, consisting of men and women, to inquire into the various forms of slavery and quasi-slavery which exist in the world to-day, and to include in the terms of reference of the Commission the need for inquiry into the selling and giving of women and girls for any purpose whatever, including the selling or giving of women or girls into marriage without their consent. It further urges the League of Nations immediately to make representations for the abolition of the Slavery recognized in certain mandatory territories.

The Congress further urges upon the Governments to bring this resolution before the League of Nations.

IX.—CHILD MARRIAGE.

This Congress considers child marriage one of the great obstacles to the physical and intellectual development of woman in the countries where it prevails, and in view of the fact that the League of Nations is charged with definite responsibilities in the mandated countries, this Congress requests that the Mandates Commission of the League of Nations be asked to

consider the question of Child Marriage with special reference to the age of consent, which, in the opinion of the Congress, should be fixed at 16 and preferably 18 years.

X.—DANGEROUS DRUGS.

The Congress, being of opinion that the present excessive world-wide use of narcotics constitutes a grave danger to the human race, and is therefore a matter of vital importance to the women of the world, recommends to its Auxiliaries:—

(1) To make a careful study of the matters especially in those countries where the cultivation of the poppy and the manufacture of dangerous drugs is excessive.

(2) To urge their National Governments:

(a) To limit within their own countries the use of dangerous drugs to the amounts required for medical and scientific purposes;

(b) To support the League of Nations in its effort to exterminate, by means of international co-operation and action, the illicit traffic in opium and dangerous drugs.

XI.—WOMEN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

Resolved: That the Conference of Enfranchised Women recommend to the Congress that a Committee be appointed by the new Board, the members to include representatives of Great Britain, Germany, Holland, the Scandinavian nations, the United States of America, and any others directly interested, for the purpose of considering methods of securing more women in the Parliaments of their respective countries.

XII.—RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

That the I.W.S.A. resolves to add to its constitution a provision giving the I.C.W. the right to three voting representatives to its Convention, and the Congress hopes that the I.C.W. will make provision in its constitution for giving three voting delegates to the I.W.S.A. in its quinquennial and other full Councils. This is to be done in such a way that each Society can describe the arrangement as it likes.

XIII.—CIVIL CODES.

That the enfranchised and unenfranchised women resolve to unite to secure the repeal of the last vestige of those outworn codes of law that for many centuries have placed women in an inferior status.

XIV.—ORGANIZATION.

That this Congress urges its Auxiliaries in all countries to do all in their power to federate the Societies in their own country which work for the objects of the Alliance.

XV.—WOMEN INSPECTORS.

Since the International Labour Bureau of the League of Nations during its Conference to be held this autumn will discuss the question of Labour Inspection as one of the items on its programme,

This Congress therefore calls upon the International Labour Bureau to place the question of the inclusion of women among the inspecting staffs for industrial workers in the orders of the day of the Conference, and to secure evidence from those countries in which inspection by women is now in successful operation.

This Congress of the I.W.S.A. further urges the Conference of the Labour Bureau to accept the principle of women inspectors, to report in its favour, and to make representations to the associated countries to secure their appointment.

XVI.—EGYPT.

That the Congress deplores the fact that the Government of Egypt has taken away from their girls and women the right, which they have had for many years,

to enter for the primary, secondary and higher examinations, and declares that the equal right of young men and women to share in all the educational opportunities of the country is an essential sign of progress and civilization.

XVII.—VOTES OF THANKS.

Miss Macmillan moved the following votes of thanks, which were unanimously and enthusiastically carried:—

To His Excellency Signor Mussolini for acting as Honorary President of the Congress, and for his encouraging speech and reception of the deputation from the Congress; and to the *Italian Government* for the delightful hospitality extended to the Congress on the historic Hill of the Palatine.

To the Municipality of Rome for its generosity in lending the Palazzo dell'Esposizione as the seat of the Congress, and in giving the delegates the delight of a charming social function set among the wonders and beauties of the Capitol.

To His Holiness the Pope for the message of sympathy with the main object of the Alliance, and for the much appreciated kindness of throwing open the galleries of the Vatican to the delegates.

To the Minister of the Fine Arts for the no less appreciated freedom to visit all the Galleries and Museums controlled by the State, and to the *State Railways of Italy* for the concession generously granted on railway fares, which had helped to secure the presence of so representative a gathering.

To the Lyceum Club for its graceful gesture in opening its doors to delegates and for its memorable reception.

To the Press of Italy and of the *World* for the full and appreciative reports of the Congress, as also to the *photographers and cinematograph operators*, who have made it possible for delegates to obtain vivid and permanent records of a great Congress, while helping to bring it nearer to those who were not present.

To Signora Alice Schiavoni Bosio and her *Committee of Arrangements*, who have been working hard for many weeks for the comfort and success of the Congress; and also to the *artists* who helped and the *choir* who charmed us with their singing.

To Signora Benedettini and the *Giornale della Donna* for the splendid publicity given to the Congress, joined with a recognition of the vital importance of that paper to the feminist movement in Italy.

To Mrs. Fawcett for her valiant and successful work in helping to raise the considerable sum of over £800 in Great Britain; to *Mrs. McCormick* for her work as Treasurer of the Alliance, coupled with regret for her resignation; and to *Mrs. Abbott* for her brilliant editing of *JUS SUFFRAGI*, and for all the work she has done for the Alliance, again joined to the great regret of the Congress in losing those services.

To Mrs. Bompas and *Miss Gordon* for their indefatigable work in the Secretariat and the Press room; to *Miss Wright* and her troop of pages for their cheerful work during the long hours of standing; to *Miss Steinmann* and her fellow-helpers in the Information and Travel Bureau; to *Signor Spasiano* and his staff of *typists*, who never said "it is too late," but worked equally willingly and efficiently at all hours; to the *caretakers of the Hall* for their helpfulness and wonderful alacrity in the never-ending task of "clearing up."

And finally to the *Public of Italy* with their ever-smiling faces.

HOMAGE TO THE DEAD.

On hearing that the Italian Delegation, on returning from the deputation to the President of the Council, had gone to lay flowers on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Congress rose in silent homage to the soldiers of all countries who laid down their lives, as they believed, for the cause of humanity.

RÉUNION POUR LA SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

Vœu proposé par la France aux déléguées présentes de l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage des Femmes.

LES déléguées de l'A.I.S.F., présentes à la réunion du 16 mai 1923, votent la résolution suivante:

Ce qui a fait jusqu'ici la force de l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage des Femmes, et ce qui a rendu possible son immense tâche, c'est l'union des femmes de tous les pays. Il faut non seulement que cette union continue, mais qu'elle se développe et s'intensifie de plus en plus. Il faut que les femmes deviennent de plus en plus conscientes non seulement de leur rôle et de leurs devoirs nationaux, mais de l'immense action et des devoirs internationaux spéciaux qu'elles sont maintenant appelées à remplir, si elles veulent être à la hauteur de leur véritable tâche.

Les femmes affranchies ont dans le monde beaucoup plus de force et d'influence que les autres, c'est pourquoi leur appui est indispensable aux femmes des pays non affranchis pour obtenir le suffrage. Aucune d'elles ne doit se sentir libre dans le fond de son âme tant que d'autres femmes ne sont pas affranchies.

L'horizon de l'avenir, si sombre et si douloureux qu'il soit au point de vue politique, s'éclaire merveilleusement pour nous d'une compréhension toujours plus nette des devoirs internationaux des femmes. Deux immenses tâches se dressent devant nous, l'une est l'obtention graduelle du droit de suffrage pour toutes les femmes, et de leur égalité civique et morale avec les hommes; l'autre est l'union et la collaboration toujours plus étroite des femmes de tous les pays en faveur de la paix. Cette paix ne pourra être assurée que par une Société des Nations solidement établie et comprenant toutes les nations. La première partie de notre tâche doit être accomplie pour rendre la seconde possible.

Notre douloureuse époque où la politique des hommes n'a pas toujours été une politique d'union, il faut que nous, femmes, nous prouvions, par une alliance étroite et par un effort de compréhension mutuelle des femmes, notre volonté d'entente et de paix.

Les femmes sont aussi patriotes que les hommes, et nous ne sommes certes pas ce qu'on a appelé des "défaitistes."

Chacune se doit à son pays d'abord, et les femmes sans patriotisme n'inspirent aucune confiance, mais il nous faut chacune comprendre le patriotisme des femmes d'autres pays, et surtout nous rappeler que pour prouver son amour à son pays, il n'est pas nécessaire de haïr les pays des autres femmes.

Il nous faut répéter que la haine n'est pas une religion, mais un sentiment diabolique de destruction, et que nous voulons substituer dans le monde l'esprit d'amour à l'esprit de haine. Il ne faut pas admettre que la haine soit considérée comme étant nécessairement le corollaire d'un patriotisme national. Il y a un patriotisme national et un patriotisme international d'amour de l'humanité. Cet idéal et cette mentalité, qui exigent un effort de conscience et de courage moral, doivent être plus faciles à atteindre par les femmes que par les hommes, et cela parce qu'un lourd passé de luttes sanglantes ne pèse pas sur nous comme sur eux.

Tout en nous joignant passionnément aux préoccupations de nos maris, de nos fils et de nos frères, nous n'avons pourtant pas pris comme eux, depuis le commencement des siècles l'habitude de nous battre les uns contre les autres, et de croire que donner des coups est la seule manière de régler les difficultés entre les peuples. Les luttes fratricides que notre civilisation réprouve et condamne entre particuliers, elle l'admet entre les nations avec une absence complète de logique.

C'est cette mentalité que nous voulons absolument changer.

Les femmes ont été jusqu'ici les victimes expiatoires des guerres, et le sang versé sur les champs de bataille par les hommes n'est pas autre chose, en définitive, que notre propre sang et que le lait dont nous avons nourri

nos chers enfants. C'est le sang des femmes qu'on répand pendant la guerre. Nous avons une horreur instinctive, aussi bien qu'une horreur raisonnée des guerres, et c'est pourquoi nous, mères, qui donnons la vie, nous sommes fermement et définitivement décidées à nous unir pour que nos enfants ne se donnent plus la mort.

Ce qui a surtout manqué dans le gouvernement du monde par les hommes seuls, et ce que nous voulons y apporter aujourd'hui par la puissance du suffrage des femmes, c'est l'intervention du cœur des femmes. On a souvent plaisanté sur notre sensibilité, sans savoir reconnaître que c'est justement notre cœur et notre amour dont ils ont besoin, aussi bien dans la grande famille mondiale que dans chaque famille créée par l'homme et la femme.

Notre idéal n'est pas un rêve, mais une réalité possible à atteindre, malgré ses immenses difficultés, si les femmes comprennent leur mission, si elles y apportent leur ferme volonté, en n'oubliant jamais que l'union des femmes est la base nécessaire de cette mission.

Ce n'est donc pas tournées vers le passé, mais les yeux fixés sur l'avenir, que les femmes doivent marcher. Ce n'est pas à des ennemies d'hier, mais à des collaboratrices d'aujourd'hui et de demain que nous sommes prêtes à tendre loyalement la main. C'est avec elles que nous voulons, toutes ensemble, bâtir la paix du monde, et dans ce but agir de toutes les manières, mais surtout en soutenant de toutes nos forces une Société des Nations forte et bien constituée.

M. DE WITT-SCHLUMBERGER.

Mercredi, 16 Mai 1923.

FIJI.

Committee to deal with the Social and Moral Conditions of Indian Women in Fiji.

(Communicated by Mrs. JAMIESON WILLIAMS.)

It is not widely known that this Committee, consisting of fifty or more societies in Australasia, including the National Council of Women and other leading bodies, is operating in unostentatious and humanitarian efforts for the welfare of the Indian women in Fiji, and came into being as the result of reports from the Rev. C. F. Andrews, M.A., in November, 1917, regarding the moral conditions, especially of Indian women and children, in Fiji.

Endeavours were made by individual societies to obtain information in order to improve conditions said to exist, culminating in the calling together by the Australasian League of Honour (since gone out of existence) representatives from many organizations, at which meeting this committee was formed in May, 1918.

It was decided to send Miss Garnham, of the London Missionary Society, Calcutta, then visiting Sydney, possessed of wide knowledge of Indian life, to investigate conditions in the Indian community, Fiji, who was given every facility and treated with the utmost courtesy by the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company (chief employers of labour in Fiji), as well as the various planters and missionaries.

As a result of Miss Garnham's report to the committee, upon her return to Australia, it was decided to ask the Government of Fiji for certain reforms, viz., an adjustment of the sex ratio, improvement in housing accommodation on plantations, medical and nursing arrangements, extension of educational and religious facilities, and a course of action necessary for the general improvement of conditions affecting Indians in Fiji. This petition led to an appointment by the Government of a Select Committee of the Legislative Council to inquire into and report upon the steps that might be taken to deal with these matters.

On one point alone the Fijian Government recognized the human spirit of the activities of these Women's Societies, by the appointment, in January, 1921, of a medical woman, Dr. Mildred Staley, of vast experience among Indian women, to the Colonial Hospital, Suva, who, after two years' strenuous and devoted work among the Indian women and children of Fiji, has recently been dismissed, owing, it is stated, to financial stringency and the urgent necessity for retrenchments in medical and other establishments. This matter is exercising the minds of the women's organizations throughout the world at the present moment. Although occurring in a remote corner such as Fiji, it has become an international matter, for not only have the Australasian Committee cabled to the Fijian Government and Colonial Office, urging the continuance of this appointment on the grounds of its absolute necessity, but representations have been made to the Colonial Office (by which the appointment of Dr. Staley was originally made, on the recommendation of the Fijian Government, through this Australasian Committee's endorsement of Dr. Staley's fitness for the position) from the British Overseas Committee of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance.

This world-wide organization has cabled and written to the Government of Fiji and asked for deputations at the Colonial Office, urging continuance of this appointment, drafted leading questions, asked in the House of Commons by Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., and Viscountess Astor, which Mr. Ormsby-Gore, the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, has answered, to the effect that "although final recommendations had not yet been received, owing to financial reasons, the Secretary of State would not be justified in urging the continuance of any particular appointment against the wishes of the Colonial Government, but that he should be glad to receive further evidence on the point of Viscountess Astor's question, as to whether it would not be a waste, instead of an economy, to dismiss Dr. Staley?" It being pointed out by the I.W.S. Alliance that the petition of the Indian women of Suva to the Governor of Fiji in itself justified the necessity for the continuance of the appointment.

The Australasian Committee has, since receiving this information, again urged the Colonial Office for a recommendation to be sent to the Fijian Government that retrenchments in establishments other than the medical be made, thereby maintaining the standard of British justice in its regard for the welfare particularly of Indian subjects in Fiji.

This band of Australasian women, which has merged itself into a great body of women throughout the British Dominions, is unique in the history of women's organizations, for it is governed by no rules or regulations, there is no annual subscription, but an appeal to the co-operating societies when funds are necessary, meets with immediate response, the Committee being guided by a Central Committee in Sydney, with the co-operation of the Interstate and other bodies. Moreover, it represents the first combined co-operative effort on the part of the Australasian women in any one humanitarian cause, and stands as a monument of love with hands of understanding and sympathy outstretched from the women of a young vast continent to the sisters of a mightier part of the British Empire, by reason of its age and traditions.

At the moment this dismissal of a medical woman from the Colonial Hospital, Suva, and the principle lying behind the question is considered of sufficient importance to send forward a delegate representing the Australasian Committee to the Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance to be held in Rome, May 12, 1923, in order to discuss the matter in all its bearings.

In connection with this agitation for continuing Dr. Staley in her appointment, the Secretary of the I.W.S.A. has received from the Colonial Secretary, Fiji, a copy of the reply sent to the Indian women's petition. It is as follows:—

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
SUVA, FIJI.

November 25, 1923.

MADAM.—The letter of the 30th October from certain Indian ladies resident in Fiji, expressing their thanks to the Governor for action taken in providing certain facilities for medical treatment, and praying that thoroughly trained Indian midwives may be given to them, has been laid before His Excellency.

2. The Governor has directed me to reply that the question of medical treatment of Indians is one which has constantly engaged His Excellency's attention and that recognition is given to the fact that the training of Indian women in midwifery would form an important part of any scheme which may ultimately be decided upon.

3. His Excellency trusts that it may be possible during the coming year to make some provision in the estimates for improving medical facilities to Indians in the Colony. It is, however, well known that the finances of the Colony are at present depressed, and that the Government has been faced with the unpleasant duty of reducing rather than increasing its establishment. It is therefore impossible to undertake schemes of an extensive nature at the present time, and all Departments, including the Medical, will be called upon to suffer a reduction of staff.

4. His Excellency notes that amongst the signatories to the letter occurs the name of Mrs. E. I. Prasad, trained nurse and diploma holder. If this lady, in collaboration with others, wishes to put forward a scheme for the training of Indian midwives, such scheme will be considered by the Government, and will be examined by the Medical Department as to the practicability of its adoption, at such time as the finances of the Colony will admit of such a course.—I am, Madam, your obedient servant,
(Signed) T. E. FELL,
Colonial Secretary.

[It is scarcely necessary to say that the agitation for the appointment of a medical woman to Fiji will be continued. The matter is also being taken up by women's organizations in India.]

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE event of the last few weeks has been the election of Mrs. Hilton Philipson, M.P. for Berwick. Mrs. Philipson was returned by the splendid majority of 6,142 votes.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

The great meetings at Rome have aroused much interest in this country, and speakers on the Congress are in great demand. The National Union is proud to think that the new President, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, is and has been for many years closely identified with it at different periods as Secretary, Speaker, Member of its Executive Committee, and in recent years Vice-Chairman. Delegates to the National Council who have cause to know the charm and courtesy with which she presides over large gatherings, can have no doubt that the new President will carry on the work of the Alliance in the spirit of its great founder. The many admirers of Mrs. Catt in the National Union are rejoiced to hear that her connection with the Alliance still continues to be very close, though she is freed from the heavy responsibilities of office. The National Union also welcomes Miss Frances Sterling, another worker long associated with its work, as a new member of the Board. It is difficult for friends of the Alliance in this country to imagine a Board without Fru Wicksell, of Sweden, or our own Chrystal Macmillan, who have both resigned after many years of devoted work. The other retiring members, Madame Girardet-Vielle, already known to London gatherings, and Mrs. Eleanor Rathbone, our own President, will be much missed.

Some Signs of Progress.

Readers of this column will remember that the General Election served as a sort of giant extinguisher of all our hopes for Bills, many of which were in a very promising position. Some progress has, however, already been made in the new House of Commons. The large majority on the occasion of the third reading of the Matrimonial Causes Bill, drafted and promoted by the N.U.S.E.C., was an indication of a real advance in public opinion on the principle of an equal standard of morals for both sexes. This Bill did not deal with the extension of facilities for divorce; as *The Times* newspaper stated, "Its simplicity was its salvation." One issue and one issue alone was dealt with—the amendment of the present Divorce Laws, to enable a woman to divorce her husband for adultery alone—in other words to make the grounds for divorce the same for men and women. The Bill now proceeds to the House of Lords, and political prophets combine in predicting that it will find a place on the Statute Book before long.

Two other private members' bills, in whose fortunes the National Union is deeply interested, passed their third reading last week—the Legitimacy Bill and the Bastardy Bill. Both of these affect the position of the unmarried mother and the illegitimate child. The first legitimizes the child on the subsequent marriage of its parents, but a weakening amendment was added which excluded from the benefits of the Bill any person whose father or mother was married to a third person at the time of birth. The Bastardy Bill deals with the conditions of payment of affiliation orders, and a fierce fight waged round an amendment proposed by the National Union, with the approval of the Home Office, that imprisonment for debt incurred under such orders should not be wiped out by imprisonment. This amendment was dropped, but the Government promised that both the above-mentioned points would receive favourable consideration when the Bills come before the House of Lords.
ELIZABETH MACADAM.

The Women's Freedom League.

Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. (Hon. Organizing Secretary) and Miss F. A. Underwood (General Secretary) were our delegates to the International Woman Suffrage Congress at Rome, Mrs. Yates and Mrs. Spiller being our alternate delegates. It is a great satisfaction to us that the Women's Freedom League is now, under the new constitution, able to affiliate independently of the Alliance.

The activities of the Women's Freedom League are at present chiefly directed towards arousing public opinion in favour of Mr. Foot's Bill, the object of which is to secure for women the Parliamentary vote at the same age and on the same terms as men.

With regard to prisons and asylums administration, which is now practically entirely in the hands of men in this country, we are urging that women should be appointed Prison Commissioners; that a medical woman inspector as well as women inspectors of prisons should be appointed; and that there should be women governors, women deputy governors and women medical officers in all women's prisons and women's sections of prisons.

In connection with the new Mental Treatment Bill now before Parliament, the Women's Freedom League is urging that, as the proportion of women mental patients to men mental patients is computed to be ten to seven in Great Britain, there should be at least an equal number of women with men on all Asylums Visiting Committees, and that the number of women inspectors (there is no such woman inspector at present) under the Board of Control should be equal to the number of men inspectors.

From July 19 to August 21 we are running a Clyde Coast open-air campaign, organized by Miss Alix M. Clark, the headquarters of which will be at Rothesay, where meetings will be held each week-day evening at the pier-head, and meetings in the daytime at Dunoon, Millport and Largs. The subject of the equality of the sexes will be discussed in all its aspects at these meetings.
F. A. UNDERWOOD.

HUNGARY.

THE heart of any feminist may rejoice upon perusal of yesterday's *Világ* and some other papers published in Hungary which gave favourable news of our cause.

Lectures on Feminism.

One report was on the lecture on "Feminism in Literature" by Prof. Balassa, given before a numerous audience and followed by a lively discussion. This was the last lecture of the season and of a course, which embraced an excellent lecture by Prof. Beke, who spoke of "Women in Natural Science," appreciating the scientific work of women from ancient times up to date. Before this, Dr. Margaret Révész, specialist for nervous diseases of children, spoke of the "Changes in a girl during her development," giving the audience advice concerning moral education and the choice of trades and professions. On another occasion Dr. Hankinson gave us his interesting recollections of the women's struggle for suffrage in England, of his work in the internment camps in England during the war and his recent welfare work in Hungary. Last but not least we remember gratefully the very interesting lectures of Miss Emily Leaf on the "Fight the Famine Council," and of Dr. Frederic Ayusawa on "Women's Work for Peace in Japan."

Women to be Admitted Again to the Medical Faculty of Budapest University.

Another column of yesterday's paper contained the good news that the Minister of Education received a deputation from the Feminists' Society, women doctors and members of Parliament of different political parties, being led and interpreted by Monsignore Giesswein, Prelate of the Pope and staunch promoter of the women's cause. The Minister assured the deputation that he will endeavour to make the University change its recent attitude towards women students, and expressed his hopes that in the next term, to begin next autumn, women will find no obstacles to being registered in the Medical Faculty of the Budapest University.

The Woman's Vote in Municipal and Country Councils.

Another column reports a brilliant speech by Count Albert Apponyi, made at a discussion of the so-called Reform Bill of the Government concerning municipal and country administration. Regarding the suffrage for municipal and country councils, he emphasized his strong opposition to the exclusion of women, either from the right to vote or from being elected. The Feminists' Society will certainly have to fight against any such reactionary measure.

A Brilliant Speech by Our Sole Woman Member in Parliament.

Owing to a disastrous accident in a button and comb factory in Budapest, where fifteen labourers, men, women, and children, were instantly killed and two grievously wounded, Anna Kéthly, M.P., of the Social Democratic Party, in a heartfelt and forcible speech, asked the Minister whether he means to order a rigid examination of the guilty parties in this catastrophe and whether he will in future take measures to prevent similar misfortunes. We are very glad and proud to have such an able, courageous and good woman in Parliament, who never misses an opportunity to defend a good cause and principally the interests of women and children. She is highly esteemed by members of all parties.

Our Official Organ "A Nő"

could be published but once since last February, and as we have not the necessary sum in hand, we had to renounce its further publication. This is a real grief to us, as *A Nő* is the only means to communicate with many of our members, especially in the country.

Our Annual General Meeting and the Rome Congress.

On April 27 will be held our annual general meeting, at which our statutes will be altered according to a ministerial order. This will be one last occasion to make propaganda for the Rome Congress.
April. EUGENIE MISROLCZEY MELLER.

POPULAR GOVERNMENT IN RAJKOT.

Universal Franchise.

MRS. JINARAJADASA sends us the following good news:—Rajkot, April 1.—With a view to introduce popular government in the Rajkot State, a House of Representatives, with 90 elected members, has been created with a non-official elected President. The subjects of the State have been given universal franchise for electing their representatives. Two ladies have been elected to the new assembly, and Mr. Liladhar A. Mehta has been elected President by ballot.

ROUMANIA.

WITHIN the last few weeks a new law has been passed in Roumania giving equal civil rights to men and women, which means that marital authority is now abolished. The sixth article specifies that political rights may be conferred upon women by an ordinary law passed by a two-thirds majority. Women have also been admitted to the Bar. Bravo, Roumania!

TASMANIA.

News of the Woman's Movement.

YOU ask for information as to the Woman's Movement in Tasmania, and I will gladly tell you all I can (although, perhaps, I should say that I am English, and have only been here just three years). Until the last few years I think I can say there was no Woman's Movement in Tasmania. There was one organization, the Woman's Health Association, which was formed more than thirty years ago, and has taken an active interest in all matters of public health. From this, or, rather, certain members of this association, about five years ago, formed a Woman's Association for Criminal Law Reform, which has been very active, and kept itself much before the public. A petition was signed by our 6,000 women asking for the Criminal Law to be reformed, and was presented to Parliament. As a result these alterations have been brought about:—

- (1) In case of criminal assault, the man cannot plead that he believed the girl to be over the age of consent, i.e., 16.
- (2) A prosecution for assault can now be brought, up to twelve months after the assault. Previously the time limit was three months.
- (3) The Courts are now cleared in criminal assault cases.
- (4) Indeterminate sentences, i.e., irresponsible persons can be detained for an indefinite time.

Other organizations arising from the Woman's Health Association are the Bush Nursing Association, Women's Association for Film Censorship (which brought about a Government Censor Board), and the Child Welfare Association. Coming to more recent events, of which I can speak with personal knowledge, early this year this League was formed, owing to a Bill passing (most unexpectedly) both Houses of Parliament, enabling women to stand for elections for the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council; the first our Lower House, the second the Upper. An election took place in June, and we ran one candidate, a vice-president of the League, a Mrs Waterworth, one of the most prominent women here in the Woman's Movement. She did not get in, but had a most successful campaign, with crowded meetings, and we feel that much good has been done by putting our aims before the public. We have the Proportional Representation system of voting in this State, the first English-speaking country to introduce this method.

Women have been voters in Australia for many years, but they have done little to make their influence felt in politics until quite recently. We have had the right to stand for election for the Federal Parliament ever since the Commonwealth Government was formed, but no woman has yet been elected.

Returning to the Association for Criminal Law Reform, we have just recently been successful in persuading the Attorney-General to appoint women Justices of the Peace, and we are now working for the appointment of women on juries.

Another matter we have recently been keenly interested in is the right of any woman who is giving evidence to have a woman friend or relative in the Court with her when the Court is cleared by the judge's order. A Bill has just lately been passed giving effect to this, and also to the right of an accredited association (such as the C.L.R. Association) to send two representatives to be present at such cases.

Lately a case has caused much comment and discussion—the marriage of a girl of 12½ to a man of 40. Some of us have made inquiries, and discover that there is no law here in Tasmania as to the marriageable age of minors, but (as in all such eventualities) the English law holds good. This seems to be a very difficult matter—I mean the age at which minors can marry. Twelve seems to be ridiculously young. Has this matter come to your notice, and have you any information as to the marriageable age of minors in other countries? Twelve for a girl and fourteen for a boy (with the parents' consent) does seem to savour of Oriental customs!

In some ways we are very much behind the movement in England. Tasmania is a small place, and Hobart, the largest town, has a population of only 50,000 people. As in all small towns, there is a weight of reaction and conservatism to battle against, or, perhaps, I should be more correct to say that there are very few progressive people to be found in such a town.

E. M. GIBLIN.

NEW AUXILIARIES TO THE ALLIANCE.

1. *Palestine* .. Palestinian Jewish Women's Rights Association.
2. *Newfoundland* .. N.F. Women's Franchise League.
3. *India* .. Women's Indian Association.
4. *Lithuania* .. L'Association des Femmes (Catholiques).
5. *Ireland* .. Central Committee of the Women of Ireland.
6. *Jamaica* .. Woman's Social Service Association.
7. *Brazil* .. Aliança Brasileira pelo Suffragio Feminino.
8. *Japan* .. Women's Suffrage Association of Japan.
9. *New Zealand* .. Auxiliary Committee of New Zealand.
10. *Egypt* .. L'Union Féministe Egyptienne pour le Suffrage des Femmes.
11. *Poland* .. L'Organisation Nationale des Femmes Polonaises.
12. *Ukraine* .. Comité Ukrainienne des Droits de la Femme.
13. *Sweden* .. (Second Society) The Fredrika Bremer Forbund.
- *14. *Germany* .. Allgemeiner Deutscher Frauenverein.
- *15. *U.S.A.* .. National League of Women Voters.
- *16. *Australia* .. Australian Federation of Women's Societies.
- *17. *Sweden* .. The Swedish Committee for International Suffrage Work.

* The above were considered as immediate successors of the old Auxiliaries and admitted without vote.

MRS. CHAPMAN CATT'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

PART II.

(Concluded from page 149.)

You will remember that in 1920 there were delegates of our first post-war Congress who thought that the time had come to dissolve the Alliance. I was in doubt myself, as many of you were, concerning the wisdom of continuing the Alliance long. It seemed then that all that portion of the world which was self-governing and where the woman movement was well founded had either enfranchised its women or would do so soon. Three years have passed during which we have all been able to make observations. Your president, accompanied by Miss Manus, spent seven months in making a survey of the conditions in Central Europe and South America.

The opinion had been published abroad that woman suffrage brought about in Central Europe by revolution might be swept away should counter-revolution ever result from unsettled conditions there. We interviewed the Presidents of Republics, leaders of political parties, women members of parliaments and leaders of the Woman's Movement. The conclusion was reached that woman suffrage is nowhere more firmly established than in Central Europe. The only exception is Hungary, and even there belief in Woman Suffrage is far more firmly rooted than before the war. I believe that women are nowhere in the world performing more intelligent and helpful political service than in Central Europe, and that no men are more sympathetically appreciative of the work of women than the men of those countries.

Indeed we were deeply impressed by the exalted position and respect given to women, and, I venture to predict, that, come what will, Woman Suffrage is as unalterably established in that part of the world as is man suffrage.

South American women are restless under the bondage imposed by law and custom, and they long for the spirit and the enjoyment of the freedom they find in other countries, yet the movement is vague in its aim, and the women as a whole have no clear idea what wrongs are fundamental and which are superficial; they do not realize as yet that a single legal restriction often imposes a group of grievances. It will take time for the movement there to become stabilized with a constructive programme. The movement has passed through this stage in every land, and the women in South America have an advantage no other women have had. Women of other countries were forced to make precedents and prove them good to a doubting public. These precedents—the right to education, to organize, to speak in public, to lead movements, to control property, to do business and to vote—now as firmly established in many lands as Gibraltar itself, serve the movement in South America as examples and give to the women of those Republics the privilege of putting an unanswerable query to state and society, namely:—

"If women of half the world enjoy freedom of personal action, control property and wages, vote and sit in Parliaments, why are we denied these rights? Are we inferior to the women of other lands or are our men less generous?" Since in the long run nations are logical, we may expect that the inability of men to answer these questions will bring unexpected rapidity of progress. A group of women in every country visited are agitating the Woman Suffrage question. The leaders in their isolation often reminded me of snowcapped peaks rising to grand heights above the common mass. I predict they will not long stand alone. We welcome Brazil as a new auxiliary in the Congress, and I am sure we shall have many more from South America and Central America when the next Congress meets. Next week, in Mexico City, the first Mexican Congress of Women will meet. Organizations are forming in other Central American countries. These women need the moral support of the Alliance.

When we ask, as we must, the duty of this day and hour, I venture an opinion. To my mind the experi-

ence of the last three years should remove all thought of dissolution of the Alliance. I believe it was never needed so much as now. The opportunities for useful service to the woman's cause which lie ahead are likely to prove quite as important as those already passed, and the Alliance, instead of dissolving, should grow more assertive, larger, stronger.

In 1920 we thought mainly of the needs of Southern Europe, but it is clear that organizations and campaigns are certain to arise in the twenty Republics of South and Central America in the near future. The new organizations in India, Japan, China, Egypt and Palestine need the inspiration of the comradeship we have given each other. The Alliance must surely heed these world-wide calls to duty, and provide the centre through which sympathy and encouragement may be given such movements.

To my mind the development of our movement during the past three years clearly points to four distinct but closely related questions, which should receive the chief consideration of this Congress.

(1) How may enfranchised and unenfranchised women unite to secure the repeal of the last vestige of those outworn codes of law that for many centuries feebled women in the same status as that of children, feeble-minded and insane? Here and there these laws have been repealed, but parts remain in some lands which treat the married woman as a child in civil matters, while granting her the status of an adult in political matters. An effort to remove these inconsistencies should call forth no opposition; but the task demands intelligent and earnest attention. In the so-called Latin countries it is time that a vigorous onslaught was made against the degrading, insulting, abominable code which denies to women the dignity of an adult human being. There should be no serious objection anywhere to such a campaign. The old barriers of prejudice and custom are breaking fast. Women are sitting in the City and County Councils of all the Northern European nations, from Iceland to the Italian border. They are serving in considerable numbers in the Parliaments of Europe, and in the Legislatures and Congress of the United States. Within the past two years evidence of the acknowledgment of the new status of women come from all parts of the world. Japan has given women the right to attend political meetings and they have improved the opportunity afforded by organizing a national suffrage association. Denmark records a law granting equal pay for equal work in Government service. Australia, where women have long voted, has extended eligibility to sit in some of the State Parliaments, a right hitherto illogically denied. Within that period Germany, Belgium, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Argentine, Peru and India have admitted women to the practice of law, and Germany has appointed women to judgeships. The Governments of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Roumania, France, Great Britain, Uruguay, Australia and Siam have appointed women representatives to the Assembly, the Commissions and Conferences of the League of Nations. The United States and Bulgaria have appointed women to the Diplomatic Service, and, lastly, the United States has granted married women the right to their own nationality. In the light of these facts, it is clear that the correction of these old-time injustices should be readily made in all countries if the demand for the action is sufficiently strong. "Those who would be free must strike the blow." Let us then in this Congress of 1923 plan a world-wide campaign for the emancipation of women from the bondage of the international but intolerable civil codes.

We should earnestly invite the women of Mohammedan, Buddhist and Confucian countries to join in this campaign. Why should they languish in the bondage of tradition when Christian and Jewish women are striking for freedom?

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



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CHRISTIANITY AND NATIONAL LIFE.

AT the World's Committee held last year at St. Wolfgang, Austria, an interesting addition to the "Aims" of the World's Y.W.C.A. was unanimously passed. It declares that one of the "aims" of the World's Y.W.C.A. is to promote "Christian principles of social and international conduct," and further declares that the World's Y.W.C.A. believes that the "principles of justice, love, and the equal value of every human life, shall apply to national and international as well as to personal relations."

How easy to meet together in fellowship and pass such resolutions; how difficult for each member of the Committee to have some share in her own country to make a resolution an active reality instead of letting it remain a pious hope!

Theoretically, my readers will perhaps be inclined to say, everyone would approve of the sentiments expressed in the resolution; the difficulty is in putting them into practice. But in point of fact that is not so. There are a large number, perhaps the majority of people in every country, who are persuaded that in practice statecraft demands a lower standard of morality than is expected in personal relationships; that it is frankly impossible, in justice to the people of the nation, to let Christian principles be the guide in national statesmanship and international diplomacy. This line of thought has been defended by men of known integrity and of Christian character. Against it, however, there is to-day the awakening moral consciousness of the people—statesmen in every nation for the most part reflect the mind of the people; although, and this is an interesting fact, they are often some ten or twenty years behind.

It is clear to me that those who passed the resolution at St. Wolfgang will have some share in realizing their hopes, through their societies as well as individually, if they will take some part at least in the political life of the country to which they belong.

Religious societies have for the most part refused to concern themselves with political affairs. Indeed, it is not too much to say that very often the more "spiritual" a society has desired to be, the less it has concerned itself with matters affecting the laws of the nation. There has been good reason for adopting this attitude; politics are so often corrupt, there is so much intrigue that safety from contamination has been sought by keeping away from them altogether. And yet the more we think of politics, the more clear it becomes that in every country they do bear upon the moral and spiritual welfare of the nation. Politics after all are nothing more or less than the machinery by which the laws of the country are made. In most nations to-day politics is the machinery by which the corporate will of the people is put into operation. Is it not vital to the

welfare of the nation that the corporate will shall be in harmony with the will of God? Surely! The resolution passed shows that the World's Y.W.C.A. fully realizes this. Then it seems clear that we must take some share in that part of the life of the nation that puts into operation the will of the people. It is not the only way, but it is one way, and it is a way that religious societies have for the most part ignored. There can be no hope for national righteousness or international harmony unless the nations are prepared to aim at a single standard of morality for personal, national and international life. This has in practice been held through the centuries as impracticable—the result, wars and ever more wars. To-day, we are on the threshold of a new era—on the threshold only—and it is quite possible that by lack of faith and heroic effort we may see but not enter the promised land. The past is no more, the future is doubtful, but the present is with us; new thinking must usher in the new era—Christ is the Saviour of Mankind, He is also the greatest statesman the world has ever seen; to Christians He is more than a Teacher, yet men of all nations hail Him and accept Him as one of the great Teachers of mankind. It cannot be impossible—though it will not be easy—to build the whole of life on Christian principles, and as national and international life function largely through the political machinery of the nation, religious societies will surely realize that they have a clear responsibility to the national life of the country to which they belong.
 EDITH PICTON-TURBERVILLE.

THE DOMESTIC WORKER.

THE Minister of Labour in Great Britain has set up a Committee (of which the Y.W.C.A. President, Lady Procter, has been appointed a member) "to inquire into the present conditions as to the supply of domestic servants and in particular to inquire into the effect of the Unemployment Insurance benefit in this connection; and to make recommendations."

Questions connected with domestic service are considered to be of vital importance to the Association; firstly, because their chief concern is with young women, and they form the bulk of domestic workers; secondly, because as a Christian Association the conditions under which the work is done concern it very greatly, and also the spirit and ideals which the girls themselves bring into the occupation. Thirdly, the opinion of the Association on all that affects the lives of girls is valued, by Government Departments, by the Press, by other Societies and by the general public. It often finds itself expected to take a lead.

A large amount of very various knowledge is necessary to those who would lead aright, and as the Association's opinion is being asked just now almost daily on matters connected with domestic service, and as the President

will need all the information that can be given her on the subject, the Industrial Law Bureau has decided to set up a Committee with practically the same terms of reference as the Government Committee. The Secretary will therefore be glad to receive as many answers as possible to the following questions, and from as many different kinds of people as possible, i.e., mistresses, maids, and lookers-on, which include husbands of mistresses and parents of maids, also from workers who, when the decision was before them, chose other than domestic occupations:—

1. What are the chief faults which mistresses find in their maids?
2. What are the chief faults which maids find in their mistresses?
3. What time is the maid on duty in the morning and when is she free to go to bed?
4. What weekly and daily times off does she have?
5. Does the maid wear uniform (print dresses in morning, black dresses in afternoon, caps and aprons)? Does the mistress or she provide it?
6. If in need of a maid (or a situation) what means do you take to satisfy the need and with what success?
7. Are you in touch with your Local Employment Exchange, and do you find it helpful?
8. Do you consider that the payment of Unemployment Benefit to industrial workers has affected the supply of maids, and if so, why? Give examples known to you.
9. Give as many reasons as you can think of for and against domestic service as a wage-earning occupation?
10. Given the fact that you had to earn your own living, would you choose domestic service—and why? or why not?

Information may be sent at any time to Miss Phillips, Y.W.C.A. Industrial Law Bureau, 22, George Street, Hanover Square, W.1. Anonymous contributions will not be considered.

N.B.—The British Y.W.C.A. has been studying the problem of the domestic worker for years, and as a contribution to its solution has an experimental centre in London from which girls go out as daily domestic workers. The girls live in the comfortably equipped hostel, work for a definite number of hours daily, receive a standard rate of pay, and generally attack domestic work from a "professionalized" standpoint. It seems likely that such centres would succeed elsewhere. In this day of small houses and flats a mistress is spared the upkeep of a full-time maid; while the maid on her part is as sure as the office or factory worker of her free times.

TRAINING IN HOME-MAKING IN CHINA.

NO matter how enlightened a constitution may be, no matter how progressive the leaders of a nation, a country cannot reach its full standard of development if its homes lag, ever so little, behind. China has ever exalted the importance of the family, so it is in line with the national genius that women in the Young Women's Christian Association should be thinking of the home in its relation to China to-day and to the China of the future.

The Peking Y.W.C.A. feels that there is need for a co-operative plan of helping home-makers with their job. It points out that the actual conditions of homes are below the ideal. A conservative estimate puts infantile mortality at 60 per cent., while the clothes of older children leave the body exposed in such a way as to encourage infections. Everywhere flagrant abuses of the

simplest rules of sanitation are apparent, in spite of an often high standard of cleanliness. Cold stone floors, deeply cracked, sealed windows, chairs that do not promise rest to weary people, these are typical of poor homes, while in well-to-do homes the greater number of servants and much beautiful old furniture do not add appreciably to the real comfort and healthiness of the houses. It is not entirely a question of finance, but also one of standard. Flies are thick in the houses of rich and poor alike and intestinal diseases due to lack of care of food are only too common. Every summer brings its siege of dysentery, and ignorance regarding infection results in the spread among thousands of smallpox, scarlet fever and other contagious diseases. Running water is a rarity in even the larger towns. Home-making, instead of being thought of as a profession of dignity, has rather been thought of as one of drudgery, dignified in many cases by an ideal of service, but still drudgery, ruled by custom. Where the Y.W.C.A. has offered simple short courses the response has been both gratifying and pathetic; gratifying because of the desire to learn, pathetic because so little meant so much to these Chinese home-makers!

It is not only the actual need that has stirred the Peking Y.W.C.A., but the way in which the impact of a different civilization has affected many young Chinese women. The ancient order of family life is changing in China; cheap Western goods, or Chinese copies of poor Western patterns, are replacing the beautiful old workmanship, and so lowering standards. Western theories, including that of free love, are eagerly canvassed; and now is the time, Chinese women are thinking, with their usual common sense, to take the best the West can offer and to adapt it to Chinese tradition.

Why should such a movement begin in Peking? The Y.W.C.A. explains that Peking is the educational centre of the country and experts in child welfare, dietetics, etc., are at hand and are ready to co-operate. In addition there is already a working co-operation for social service work between missions, hospitals, the Student Work Union, and other bodies, so that the mechanism exists whereby an extensive and intensive programme in home-making could be pushed throughout the city.¹

Such a joint effort would include the creation of public opinion regarding the importance of home-making, the desirability of having courses in home economics as part of the school curriculum for girls,² agitation on the part of educational associations, etc., for, until public opinion is better informed, manual labour, including all forms of housework, will continue to be despised. It would also include special help to the middle schools, which cannot at present afford full time teachers of home science but to whom the loan of an expert for short courses would stimulate an interest that would create a demand.³ A third type of work would be in the direction of mass education. A very low percentage of Chinese women can read and literature cannot reach the illiterate. It is not possible for all to see, for example, a small model house, but with a higher rate of literacy, illustrated leaflets might do great things, and pave the way for travelling exhibits. Such movable exhibits might go from quarter to quarter of the city. Still another field for experiment and help will be that of research into Chinese food values, possibilities in sanitation and so forth. Altogether Peking is looking before it leaps, and as the need is a real one and there are pioneer women ready to meet it, one hopes that Peking will not have to look much longer, but will be able to get to work on this practical form of community service.

¹ It has even been possible to offer a little help to the maidservants (amahs), and one centre of the Chinese Y.W.C.A. reports social meetings and classes in infant care and in cooking for amahs.

² The Y.W.C.A. in Japan has found that classes in knitting, cooking, children's clothes, dietetics, home management, etc., are increasingly popular.

³ This has been the case with the Y.W.C.A. Physical Training College in Shanghai. The demand for physical directors trained in the College exceeds the supply.

FOREIGN ETIQUETTE SUPPERS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

EVEN would-be internationalists are apt to notice and criticize the table manners of their friends from other countries. Japanese women are obviously preparing themselves in advance to do no such thing. As part of an international education scheme the Y.W.C.A. in Tokio is having the teachers of the two hundred primary schools in batches of from fifty to eighty for demonstration of foreign meals. Scattered among the guests are Japanese women who have lived abroad, and English or American women who can speak Japanese. At each plate a little mimeographed booklet is placed with the menu, the recipes for each dish, the cost and the food values. Between each course one of the Japanese secretaries explains foreign table manners and customs. For example, a teacher who arrives believing that the more noisily one drinks the more one shows appreciation, learns that the more silently one disposes of one's soup in foreign lands the better bred one is considered.

A Y.W.C.A. CLUB FOR YOUNG MARRIED PEOPLE.

IN one of the big towns of Japan the Y.W.C.A. has a club for young married women, which meets chiefly for such practical purposes as a class in foreign knitting and a cooking class, taken by a very capable and much sought-after teacher. (The lessons are based on the work of the Nutrition Laboratory in Tokio, and only such things as can be cooked in the average Japanese kitchen, with the average Japanese foods and materials, are used for the demonstrations.) This club is also tackling the question of the joint recreation of men and women. For example, the club gave a dinner at which both the club members and their husbands were present. For most of the members this was the first time that they had ever been with their husbands to a public function. The entertainment which followed was planned with great care, for it was to introduce ideas of recreation and sociability other than the travestied cinema versions of western dances, which make the dancing clubs at hotels and elsewhere a problem.

JUBILEE OF THE INDIAN Y.W.C.A.

THE Indian Y.W.C.A. dates back its beginnings to 1875 and looks forward to celebrating its jubilee in 1925. A committee has already been formed to plan the forms the celebrations will take and to gather materials for a history of the development of the different forms of work bound up in the Indian Y.W.C.A.

"FOREIGN" IS GOING OUT OF FASHION.

FOR many years now Young Women's Christian Associations have had what were known as "Foreign Departments." At the request of the World's Y.W.C.A., these departments sent trained workers (paying their salaries) to work under National Y.W.C.A. committees which were not fully self-supporting and also collected funds to provide scholarships, put up buildings, etc. Such departments still exist, and a national committee needing extra workers, or a country desiring an association to be started, apply to the World's Y.W.C.A., which passes on the request to the appropriate "Foreign Department" in Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Sweden, and the United States. But it is significant of the growth in international friendliness that these departments are rapidly changing their names, so that should Japan ask for a specialist secretary and the request be sent on to Australia, it goes to the "World Fellowship Committee"; or should Roumania ask that its British secretary in Jassy be continued, then the World's Y.W.C.A. forwards the letter to the "Overseas Committee." What's in a name? A great deal, as all who are concerned with building up international understanding and co-operation know to their cost.

WOMEN LEADERS ON THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.



OUR illustration shows former girl members of the Y.W.C.A. of Onitsha, West Africa, now married women, looked up to and respected for the sterling qualities brought out by their school training and active membership of their association. Members look forward eagerly to the day when they receive their membership badge, which they wear on a transverse ribbon, and they have themselves settled that no girl may be admitted who has not reached a certain educational standard. The President of the Y.W.C.A. sits in the left centre of the group. This Onitsha branch was the second to send a contribution to the Y.W.C.A. Hostel in Jerusalem, a hostel that in all probability none of them will ever see. They are keenly interested in women in other parts of the world.

SHOULD THERE BE "MOVEMENTS" FOR GIRLS IN THEIR TEENS?

SIXTY women of different nationalities will meet at Sonntagsberg, near Vienna, from July 18 to July 30 to discuss the girl in her teens, and the movements which have sprung up in different countries to meet her needs. They will all be secretaries of, or women in close connection with, the Young Women's Christian Associations, whose work is chiefly or exclusively with girls from eleven to eighteen years of age. There will be one of the originators of "Canadian Girls in Training," the girls' work movement of the Council of Religious Education of churches in Canada; the creator of "Australian Girl Citizens"; the National Girls' Work Secretary of the Indian Y.W.C.A., who has trained a large number of "guiders"; the National Girls' Work Secretary of the American Y.W.C.A. (which has over one hundred and seventy thousand "girl reserves"), and other leaders of girls' work in different Y.W.C.A.'s. The aim of the conference is to discover the principles on which any girls' movement should be based. Present organizations will be studied and leaders will compare notes on method, but this will be only subsidiary. Even the actual demonstrations of recreation, woodcraft, Bible study circles, pageantry, self-governing committees, etc., will be related to theory and will be the starting point for discussion. Although most girls' movements at the present day deal chiefly with the girl in school or in cities, there is a tendency for such work to spread to the countryside and there will be special sessions at this conference on the country girl.

With churches everywhere reporting a leakage of young people in their teens, it is a foregone conclusion that such a conference should give time to studying how and when religious instruction should be given. The first item on each day's programme is a lecture on one of the cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith and the subject recurs in session after session.

METHODS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION SERVICE.

ONE day a letter arrives in the small village of Eastern Europe. It contains money from Mrs. Poiski's husband, and brings news that he has found work in the new country and is eagerly awaiting his family. The time of waiting and anxious suspense are over and there follows a week of feverish activity. There is the house to sell, clothes to get ready, a visit to the nearest town to procure passports and visas—growing excitement mingled with anxiety at the anticipation of the long journey to the seaboard, emotional stress at the breaking up of the old home, the farewells. Then the long comfortless journey, the excited children, tired and peevish, the absence of hot food, the arrival in the strange city, the glaring lights, the bustle, instructions shouted in a strange tongue, and always the anxiety as to whether the money, which has sadly dwindled *en route*, will cover the cost of the steamship tickets.

It is little wonder that migrants reach the port of embarkation in an overwrought and disintegrated state of mind. The men and women grow irritable, seek someone whom they can blame for their misfortunes, or listen with helpless stoicism to instructions they cannot understand. The younger ones, freed from traditions and conventions and, if travelling alone, from all supervision, become intoxicated with the excitement and opportunities for enjoying life that the city affords.

To help migrants through this difficult period of transition is the work of the Migration Secretaries, and the International Migration Service insists that all its workers shall be *Trained Social Workers*, who bring to the work sympathy and kindness, but also experience in "effecting adjustments between men and their social environment." To do this it is necessary to understand thoroughly one's client, and to understand one must have the fullest knowledge. In most case-work the client's story is checked and amplified by information gained from home, relations, schools and workshops. In the case of the migrant these opportunities are lacking, and it is necessary to rely solely on the statement of the client. For this reason the Secretaries, wherever possible, talk to the client in her own language, and this not only helps to evoke the fullest confidence, but acts immediately as a sedative, and the woman grows calmer and more able to face the problem.

Is it a sick child? Then a hospital must be found. More money needed? Then lodging and if possible work must be found for the period of waiting until the money arrives. An excited girl who has spent her money foolishly and must now wait for a further sum to cover the steamship ticket? It will be best to find some job for her in the Bureau to keep her occupied and out of reach of the tempting shops. Gradually each migrant ceases to be an isolated traveller and becomes at least a temporary member of a community. But before the Migration Secretary can meet the needs of her clients she must be well informed on the resources of the community and know exactly where she can look for help and co-operation.

Her first work, therefore, is to make a *Survey* of the community and make herself familiar with the steamship lines, railway routes, dates of sailings, prices of tickets, rates of money exchange, Customs regulations. She must have a thorough knowledge of the Immigration Laws and Regulations of the receiving countries and of the method of inspection at the port of embarkation. She must be in touch with Consulates, be able to advise as regards banks, lodgings, employment bureaux. She will need the co-operation of hospitals, maternity homes, orphanages, relief agencies, doctors, clinics, clubs for girls and boys. Above all, she needs to be in touch with the Bureaux and Co-operating Agencies in other countries, for international help is necessary to solve most of the migration problems.

With this information to back her previous experience, the Migration Secretary sets up her office, and before very long her clients arrive.

A refugee from the Near East has a ticket that takes her only to the French port. How can she get a visa for the United States of America? Before this question can be answered there are many facts the Migration Secretary must know: the migrant's country of birth, to discover how she will be affected by the United States of America quota regulations; her age, whether she is married or single, whether she has any physical defects, the name of relations to whom she is going, the nearness of relationship, whether she possesses an affidavit or sufficient money, whether she has relatives with whom she can spend the time waiting in port, whether she is literate.

The answers to all these questions are entered on the confidential *Case Record Cards*, which are of a standard pattern and used by all secretaries of the I.M.S. With numbers of clients a day, it would be impossible to rely on memory to keep case distinct from case, and sometimes the Secretary is in touch with a particular migrant for a year or even two years. All that has taken place during their contact is recorded on the card. When the time comes to sail, the record card, with its history, long or short, is sent on to the Bureau in the country to which the migrant is going, and the new secretary is in possession of every detail and knows exactly how to help the migrant through the next stage of the journey. Even when the migrant has reached her destination and the final entry has been made, the usefulness of the record card is not at an end.

For ever since its initiation the I.M.S. has carried on, side by side with its practical programme, a study of the problems affecting migrants with a view to discovering the causes of difficulties and working towards the amelioration of conditions.

For example, in the early days of the Service it was discovered that numbers of migrants started on their journey in utter ignorance of the Health Regulations and Immigration Laws of the countries to which they were going. Ever since an effort has been made to spread the necessary information in the villages and small towns of the countries from which migrants come, with the hope of preventing at the source some of the tragedies that arise through deportation or refusal to land.

The completed Case Record Cards afford valuable material for such studies, and the first year's cards have been collected at the Headquarters Office for that purpose.

Besides keeping careful record of each individual case, the Migration Secretaries send to Headquarters a *Monthly Report* of their work on standardized forms. This covers new developments, examples of service rendered and accounts of particular cases, comments on working of laws and regulations, co-operation with other Bureaux or outside organizations, information published, interviews made or speeches given. Then follow statistics on number of migrants served, number of families, women, men, children; nationalities served, how each case reached the Bureau, number of active cases, number of closed cases to date; types of service rendered, number of letters, cables, telephone calls. This detailed report seems a good deal to ask from a busy Secretary, but it is of the utmost value to an International Secretary who can only pay a limited number of visits during the year. By means of these monthly reports she is kept in touch with the latest developments in the various countries, is able to make suggestions and give advice for the improvement of the Service. They also supply material for articles, speeches and special studies, and extracts of particular interest are circulated among the other secretaries that each may have the benefit of the other's experience.

By means of Trained Workers, Surveys, Case Record Cards and Monthly Reports it is possible to maintain a certain standard of work in the International Chain of Service, and to collect accurate data of the needs of migrants which will ensure a Service that is constructive and not merely palliative.

MILDRED HUGHES,
Assistant to Migration Secretary, World's Y.W.C.A.

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THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS

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NOTES.

International Council of Women.

The I.C.W. at the meeting of its Executive held at the Scottish home of the President, the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, in July, decided to hold a Congress in March of 1924 to discuss the Prevention of the Causes of War.

An Australian Woman Delegate to the League of Nations.

Miss Jessie Webb, of Melbourne University, Victoria, has been appointed alternate to the Assembly. Miss Webb is much respected in her State for her practical ability and activity as well as for academic attainments. She has done much to further education and has worked for the women's club in Melbourne. Recently she took part in an expedition of exploration in Africa and is now studying classical art in Athens.

League of Nations and the Traffic in Women.

The League of Nations Convention on the traffic in women and children does not apply to mandated territories, and it is clear that this omission is deliberate. It is, of course, peculiarly important that the women and children in mandated territories should be protected from this traffic, and Auxiliaries of the I.W.S.A. should urge their governments to instruct their representatives to the Assembly of the League of Nations to

take up the question of the inclusion of this Convention in the terms of the mandates.

The International Federation of Working Women.

The third Biennial Congress will meet at Schönbrunn, Vienna, August 14 to 21. Schönbrunn Castle, finished by Maria Theresa, and since then the summer residence of the Austrian Imperial family, is the scene of many historic events. Napoleon's son, the Duke of Reichstadt, died there in 1832. In these democratic days it is used for public purposes. The working women of all countries will meet there in beautiful and memorable surroundings.

International Labour Bureau.

On another page Madame Brunschvicg's letter to National Councils of Women appeals for common action in securing the enforcement of International Labour Conventions.

These conventions, in so far as they advocate special protective legislation for women, do not always coincide with the policy of the I.W.S.A. But our Auxiliaries are urged to secure the application of whatever benefits accrue to women under the conventions, and also to put forward names of suitable women delegates and advisers to International Labour Conferences, in conjunction with other women's bodies.