

Mrs England 1932

ADVANCE PROOF

TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

**Report of the Work of the 11th Session of the
Advisory Committee of the League of Nations**

This Session was held at Geneva, from April 4th to 9th, 1932, under the Chairmanship of Mme. H. Gr. Romniciano, of Roumania.

In addition to the Chairman, the following members and assessors were present:—

Government Delegates.

Dr. P. Luisi (*Vice Chairman*) Uruguay.
Dr. G. Bäumer Germany.
Mme. E. Zillken, *expert*.
His Excellency Count H. Carton de
 Wiart Belgium.
M. I. Maus, *expert*.
Dr. E. Hein Denmark.
Mme. M. L. de Martinez Sierra .. Spain.
M. E. Martinez Amador, *substitute*
 delegate.
Mr. A. Maxwell Great Britain.
Miss I. Wall, *assistant delegate*.
His Excellency M. E. Regnault .. France.
His Excellency M. S. Sawada .. Japan.
M. S. Matsumoto, *substitute delegate*.
His Excellency M. Chodźko .. Poland.

Assessors.

Mme. S. de Montenach, International Catholic Girls'
 Protection Society.
Mme. G. Avril de Sainte-Croix, Women's International
 Organisations.
Mme. L. Curchod-Secretan, International Federation of
 Girls' Friendly Societies (*Amies de la Jeune Fille*).
Mr. F. Sempkins, International Bureau for the Suppres-
 sion of Traffic in Women and Children.
Mr. S. Cohen, Jewish Association for the Protection of
 Girls and Women.
Mlle. M. Lavielle, International Union of Catholic
 Women's Leagues.
Dame Rachel Crowdy (nominated in a personal
 capacity).

Liaison Officer.

Mlle. M. Mundt, International Labour Office.

Secretariat.

M. E. E. Ekstrand, Director of the Opium Traffic and
 Social Questions Sections.

PROGRESS REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT.

An announcement was made that Lithuania and Monaco have ratified the 1921 Convention, and Monaco has adhered also to the 1904 Agreement and the 1910 Convention against Traffic. The following British colonies, protectorates and mandated territories have ratified all three instruments:—Gambia, Uganda, Tanganyika, Palestine (including Transjordan), Zanzibar, Sarawak, Gilbert and Ellice Islands and Solomon Islands. While the Committee was sitting an announcement was received that Egypt has decided to adhere to the 1921 Convention. For this adherence the International Bureau for the Suppression of the Traffic can claim the main responsibility. The suggestion was made by the Bureau two years ago, was accepted by the Council of the League, and resulted in a formal invitation being extended to the Government of Egypt. The activities of the Bureau in Egypt itself have kept the subject alive, with the gratifying result that Egypt has fallen into line with most other civilised countries.

It is to be noted with regret that no less than 14 States Members of the League have not yet acceded to the 1921 Convention, and readers of THE VIGILANCE RECORD will note with blank astonishment that the Irish Free State has not yet adhered.

Enquiry into Traffic in the Far East.—The Director announced that this enquiry was now finished and that a report was being drafted.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORTS OF GOVERNMENTS
FOR 1930.

Every year a questionnaire is issued to Governments asking for information as to cases of both national and international traffic in women; as to cases of extradition, repatriation and deportation; as to the Central Authorities which should be appointed to direct work against traffic; as to employment agencies; protection of travellers; emigration and immigration; exploitation of children and new legislation. If Governments who have signed the Convention fulfilled their obvious duty, the Annual Reports would form the background of the work of the Committee; but many States have never reported regularly, and some have reported inaccurately, no doubt owing, in part, to a misunderstanding of the questions asked, and some give their information in a form which is of little use to the Committee. But even with that criticism the summary of the reports which are submitted still provides instructive reading.

Progress in Spain.—In considering these reports the most interesting statement was made by the delegate of Spain, who informed the Committee that legislation for the suppression of regulation is being drafted; that new hostels are contemplated in which women rescued from traffickers can be accommodated and trained; provincial branches of the Spanish National Committee have been formed under the Chairmanship of the Civil Governors, and travelling inspectors are being appointed. The Spanish delegate also told the Committee that her Government is considering the introduction of a State monopoly of employment agencies.

Cases of Traffic.—There has always been difficulty over the replies concerning actual cases of traffic, and it is impossible to make any useful comparison between different years and between different countries. Some countries do not report national traffic at all. The reports from Great Britain stand very high with regard to accuracy and usefulness. On the grounds that it is not the law which matters, but the application of the law, the Committee accepted a suggestion that information should be asked as to the reasons for which prosecutions sometimes fail.

Repatriation and Deportation.—There was the usual criticism levelled against *repatriation of prostitutes*. It is quite clear that in general prostitutes are deported, not because they are prostitutes, but by reason of some specific action on their part which brings them to the notice of the police, and the French delegate once again drew attention to the fact that Governments have strict legislation with regard to unemployed foreigners, and suggested that if a perfectly honest worker may be repatriated, even though he has committed no offence, Governments are surely entitled to deport undesirable foreigners, who are engaged in a pursuit harmful to public order. In any case States will not renounce their sovereign rights to deport undesirable foreigners.

Employment Agencies.—The report on *employment agencies*, and in particular a statement made by the representative of the International Labour Office, discloses the general tendency for States to take over the function of private registry offices which charge fees for their services. This would not, of course, affect the position of voluntary organisations which maintain agencies for obtaining employment.

Adoption of Children.—One of the questions concerns the *adoption of children*, and as a result of the pro-

ceedings at this session of the Committee it has been decided to refer this particular question to the Child Welfare Committee of the League.

A Belgian Bill.—With regard to *legislative measures*, M. Maus (Belgium) informed the Committee that a Bill to abolish tolerated houses of prostitution and regulation of prostitution had been introduced into the Belgian Chamber. The Belgian National Committee (of which M. Maus is the President) had first formed a Committee of Action from voluntary organisations of all kinds. That Committee of Action had carried on a campaign of education, with the result that the Bill in question had come before the Chamber, supported by members of all political parties. No decision had yet been taken.

REPORT OF THE LIAISON OFFICER OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE.

This report dealt mainly with the employment of children under a certain age, but that point was referred to the Child Welfare Committee.

Seamen.—It dealt also with the welfare of seamen at ports, concerning which a questionnaire had issued from the International Labour Office to Governments, one question dealing with the prohibition of soliciting and enticing seamen in dock areas. This is a highly contentious subject, since it is undoubtedly linked with control of prostitution, and the attitude towards it depends on whether the main desire is to protect seamen against the temptation, robbery and disease caused by commercialised vice, or whether it is to protect the female elements in that commercialised vice. The matter will be referred to a special Maritime Session of the International Labour Conference which will be held in 1933.

THE REPORTS OF THE VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS were considered at some length. They always give rise to an interesting discussion, and this year a good deal of time was devoted to a general discussion on abolition. Once again all the speakers expressed themselves in favour of abolition. Since the Advisory Committee itself owes its very existence to the work of the voluntary organisations, and since the influence of those voluntary organisations, brought to bear both on the Committee itself and in the different countries, provides the driving power for the Committee, it is interesting to see the references to the reports of the assessors given in the report of the Committee to the Council of the League. That report runs:—

“BARONESS DE MONTENACH spoke on behalf of the

Association catholique internationale des œuvres de protection de la jeune fille. Her report dealt mainly with the results of the Congress of the Association held at Budapest in June, 1931, which devoted special attention to the question of emigration. Among the matters considered are the provision of employment for girls abroad and the conditions and laws governing immigration into the various countries. It was decided to hold periodical technical conferences at the Association's headquarters for the purpose of improving the station missions. Mme. de Montenach described the work done by her Association, and gave particulars of cases of trafficking, urging the necessity of protection against the dangers of unemployment.

“ At the request of the representative of Uruguay, Mme. de Montenach promised for the Committee's next meeting information regarding the results of the enquiries undertaken by her organisation.

“ MME. CURCHOD-SECRETAN submitted the report of the International Federation of Girls' Friendly Societies. She observed that the associations belonging to that organisation had progressed in spite of the prevailing economic difficulties. Station missions and homes have increased in number, especially in the Baltic States, Yugoslavia and Roumania. New employment agencies have been opened at Strasburg and Berne—the latter specially for employment in Great Britain. A social information bureau has been organised in the Netherlands, and an information service in North Africa. She called attention to an appeal issued by eight important women's associations on behalf of the cause of abolitionism, and sent to those Governments which still maintain the system of regulated prostitution, in the hope of prevailing upon them to put an end to this special régime.

“ MME. AVRIL DE SAINTE-CROIX stated in her report, submitted on behalf of the Women's International Associations, that these Associations had been asked to give their opinion on the compulsory or voluntary repatriation of foreign prostitutes, on the necessity of creating, where such did not yet exist, women police or auxiliary services for the protection of children and women, and on the measures adopted for the suppression of obscene publications. She read the text of the questionnaire sent to the Associations and explained that information had been requested as to the assistance given to prostitutes under age by the organisations engaged in rescue work. She quoted from the replies which had been received from sixteen countries. Reports had been sent

by the following Associations: International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, International Council of Women, and World's Young Women's Christian Association. Mme. Avril de Sainte-Croix said that the great majority of Women's International Associations had declared themselves opposed to the expulsion of foreign prostitutes, that they had made strenuous efforts to obtain the ratification of the 1923 Convention for the Suppression of Obscene Publications, that they were everywhere urging that licensed houses [of prostitution.—Ed., V.R.] should be closed, and were taking steps to induce Governments to introduce women police where such did not as yet exist.

“ The Chairman asked Mme. Avril de Sainte-Croix to be good enough to express to the World's Young Women's Christian Association the Committee's gratitude for the valuable assistance given by its national committees to the League's Commission of Enquiry in the Far East.

“ Mlle. LAVIELLE submitted the report of the *International Union of Catholic Women's Associations*, which deals with the position taken up by the International Union with regard to the problem of the abolition of licensed houses [of prostitution.—Ed., V.R.], with the action of the Union against prostitution and with its co-operation in the enquiry of the experts in the East. The Union considers that its chief task consists in protecting and educating girls, more particularly those who receive no support from their families or do not live with their families. In order to facilitate the enquiry undertaken by the League of Nations in the East on the traffic in women and children, the Union has sent to the experts, lists of mission centres capable of supplying them with information.

“ The Chairman requested Mlle. Lavielle to thank the missions' organisation on behalf of the Committee for the effective help it had given the Commission of Enquiry.

“ MR. SEMPKINS, on behalf of the *International Bureau for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children*, in submitting his report, stated that, in view of the opposition encountered by the proposal for the repatriation of foreign prostitutes submitted by the Bureau at the Committee's last session, he did not wish to pursue the suggestions made by the Bureau before they had been re-examined by the Bureau at its next

Congress. He noted particularly the activities of the Egyptian National Committee, which had achieved its object of drawing attention to the necessity of abolishing the official regulation of prostitution. He also referred to the Indian Committee, which had succeeded in securing the adoption of a law making houses of prostitution illegal in Bombay. The Bureau had also studied the utility of propaganda films against the traffic. Such films sometimes met with enthusiastic approval and sometimes the most uncompromising condemnation. Attached to the annual report of the Bureau was a statement summing up the arguments adduced for and against these films. The Belgian and German delegates laid stress on the dangers of such films, and drew attention to the difficulties of producing films of this kind having an artistic and moral character likely to exercise a good influence on the minds of the audience.

“ The Uruguayan delegate recalled, in connection with certain observations contained in the Bureau's report, the recommendation of the Assembly that the Committee should deal with the dangers involved by the present unemployment and economic depression, and asked that the Committee should undertake an enquiry on the relation between these questions and prostitution.

“ A discussion followed with regard to the possibilities and the utility of such an enquiry. It was advocated by the German delegate and by certain delegates of private associations. The Danish and British delegates emphasised the practical difficulty of getting correct knowledge by such an enquiry. The Danish delegate suggested that it should be carried out by the voluntary organisations.

“ Mr. Sempkins said that his organisation had placed this question on the agenda of its meeting of September, 1932. The representatives of certain other organisations also declared their willingness to take part in such an enquiry. The Committee asked the International Bureau for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children to report to it on the subject at its next meeting.

“ The Committee heard a report from MR. COHEN on the work of the *Jewish Association for the Protection of Girls and Women*. This association had been able to carry on its work despite the difficulties of the present time. It had dealt, in particular, with special cases notified by its various branches in Europe and overseas.

“ The Rapporteur reported on the measures taken against the “ Zwi-Migdal ” society in the Argentine, which had led to the dissolution of the society and the deportation of the traffickers in question. He described their methods, mentioning the supervision exercised by the Association in the Buenos Ayres, Montevideo and Rio de Janeiro docks, and the consolidation of the work of the Jewish committees for the protection of girls in Poland. The report also contained a brief account of the work done through the London Central Bureau in liaison with its overseas branches and its committees.

“ The Uruguayan delegate gave details of the legal proceedings taken in Uruguay, in accordance with the law in force concerning procuring, against the members of the “ Zwi-Migdal ” deported from the Argentine. She handed in certain documents on this question to the Secretariat.

“ The Committee thanked the voluntary organisations for their valuable reports, expressed its appreciation of their work and hoped their activities will be pursued.

ABOLITION OF THE AGE LIMIT FROM THE CONVENTIONS AGAINST THE TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

The existing conventions punish traffic in women under 21 years of age, whether the woman concerned consents or not. They also stipulate for the punishment of traffic in women over age if the traffickers employ fraud, violence, threats, or any other method of compulsion, or if they abuse their authority. But traffic in women over 21 is not dealt with under the conventions in the absence of such force, etc., if the women concerned have full knowledge of the life to which they are going. This limit of age has for many years been criticised by voluntary organisations, and owing, as we have frequently stated, to the persistence of MR. COHEN, the question of elimination has become a very live one on the Advisory Committee itself, as well as amongst the social organisations in different countries. The Governments who are signatories to the conventions had been asked whether they are prepared to abolish this age limit, and, of 31 replies, 30 are, in principle, in favour of such elimination. There are, naturally, qualifying remarks referring to national legislation. The most marked difficulty in respect of national legislation lies in the existence of tolerated houses of prostitution. Obviously many of the persons connected with such a tolerated house would automatically be liable to punishment as traffickers if there

were no limit of age in the Conventions. Governments which either themselves authorise such a tolerated system, or in whose countries local authorities have the power and do tolerate such systems, are therefore in a difficulty. Their representatives might be prepared to sign a convention eliminating the age limit, but the signature could hardly be ratified, in good faith, afterwards, so long as local or national legislation permitted the houses to continue. That has always been one difficulty to be overcome. Another difficulty was raised on this occasion by DR. HEIN, who is a staunch abolitionist representing an abolitionist country. The Danish law punishes anyone who "for reasons of profit" connives at the prostitution of another, and Dr. Hein appeared to fear that an unconditional amendment might conceivably result in an unsuspecting third party being charged with conniving at the prostitution of an adult woman. A more important reservation she made was the undesirability of protecting adult women from the actions which they had voluntarily committed. She thought, however, that Denmark might possibly agree to a special provision abolishing the age limit in the case of international traffic. That set the tone to the discussion, which turned on whether elimination should be confined to cases of international traffic. Should the Committee in fact say, "This amount of agreement can be obtained," or should the Committee say, "In our view this ought to be obtained"? The strongest point made by those who favoured elimination on principle is the fact that the existence of any limit which refers to women over age undoubtedly results in traffickers obtaining false papers, etc., for younger women, who are thus recruited into the ranks of prostitutes with international connections. On the whole the members who favoured unconditional elimination carried their point, and the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"The Traffic in Women and Children Committee,

"Having noted the answers received from Governments on the question of the elimination of the age limit in the Convention of 1910 and 1921,

"Considering that it follows from these answers that in some countries the traffic in women over age is already punished without any restrictions, that in other countries this traffic is not punishable according to the penal legislation, and that again in other countries this traffic is punished under certain limitations such as to allow prosecution, for instance, only in cases where the victims are sent abroad,

“ Considering that the traffic in women is always and in all circumstances a profoundly immoral and anti-social act,

“ Considering that experience has shown that impunity as regards traffic in women who are over age and who consent is hampering the effective suppression of traffic in minors,

“ Expresses the opinion that the traffic in women, even if the victims are over age and consent, should be punished; and begs the Council to approach Governments with a view to obtaining the introduction of the necessary modifications in their national legislations and in the above-mentioned conventions.”

The resolution is based on a draft introduced by Dr. Chodźko, the Polish delegate, but it was probably a speech by M. Maus which contributed more than anything else to the decision taken.

SOUTENEURS.

The repression of the activities of these pests has been under consideration on the Committee since 1929, when the Secretariat published a concise study of the laws and penalties relating to *souteneurs*. At an early stage the Committee had resolved that it was necessary to grant powers for the prompt arrest of such persons; to inflict penalties on them suited to the dangerous character of their national and international activities, and to apply special repressive measures in the case of repeated offenders. The Assembly of the League, on considering that resolution, recommended that a Sub-Committee of the Traffic in Women and Children Committee should be appointed to enquire into the question, and the Committee itself appointed such a Sub-Committee composed of Government representatives with judicial, legal and police experience. That Sub-Committee had before it evidence collected by the Secretariat from different Governments, and the decisions taken by the 8th International Congress called by the International Bureau at Warsaw in 1930. It drew up an additional draft Protocol which it was suggested should be added to the existing International Conventions. That Protocol dealt with the subject exhaustively and made detailed suggestions in connection with the definition of *souteneur*, extradition, competency of courts, punishment and criminal procedure. After amendment at the last Session of the Committee the Protocol was sent to Governments for their opinion. One-third of the Governments had sent in their comments, which were considered at this Session of the Committee. The

replies showed that there is little agreement on the subject of punishment and procedure, although a measure of agreement may well be arrived at on the other points in the Protocol. One major difficulty is the fact that many countries have punishments in their penal codes which are not provided for in the penal legislation of other countries. Specific references to such punishments are therefore simply not understood in countries which have no such penalties. The National Vigilance Association, The British National Committee for the Suppression of the Traffic, and the Bureau itself in its administrative capacity, have all urged that the subject should be kept to the simple one of providing speedy, adequate punishment for the person who lives wholly or in part on the immoral earnings of a woman. The suggestions of the Advisory Committee and of the Warsaw Congress went much beyond that simple idea, and the Advisory Committee may find it necessary at a subsequent stage to confine itself to the more simple aspect. A decision was taken at this Session to call the Sub-Committee together again and to submit replies, which had been received and which may be received, to that Committee. The International Voluntary Organisations have been asked their views.

(The Protocol itself together with the Warsaw resolution were printed in THE VIGILANCE RECORD for June, 1931.)

CENTRAL AUTHORITIES.

It has been fairly obvious for a number of years past that the status and organisation of the Central Authorities varies considerably in different countries. These Authorities are appointed under the International Agreement of 1904 to co-ordinate all information in their respective countries relative to the procuring of women or girls for immoral purposes abroad, and each Authority is empowered to correspond direct with the similar department established in each of the other contracting States. The Conventions of 1910 extended somewhat the field of action of the Central Authorities, but so far as the Conventions are concerned the Central Authorities are only supposed to be dealing with international traffic. In the meantime, however, the discussions on the Advisory Committee, and in particular the Report of the Experts who enquired into the extent of the traffic, have resulted in a recognition that international traffic cannot be entirely divorced from a consideration of national traffic. In practice, the Central Authorities in some countries do deal with national traffic, that is to

say procuring, and in other countries they only deal with international traffic. The consequence is that the Committee receives, as has been pointed out above, reports from different countries which are not comparable by reason of the fact that the Authorities preparing the reports are not dealing with the same sort of cases. The discussions at this Session turned on whether the Secretariat should establish closer contact with Central Authorities, or whether an International Central Information Bureau should be organised, and whether the work of the Central Authorities could be entrusted exclusively to the police. To take the last point first, it was decided that the same form of organisation is not possible in all countries, but the hope was expressed that Governments would entrust the work to an *active* department. The following resolution was adopted:—

“ The Traffic in Women and Children Committee recommends that more direct contact should be established between the Central Authorities and the Secretariat, with a view to a closer analysis of the cases of traffic reported.

“ It also recommends that the Secretariat should maintain close contact with organisations such as the International Criminal Police Commission.

“ The Committee requests the Council to ask the Governments to examine if it is possible to improve the organisation of the Central Authority, to strengthen its power of action and to encourage its relations with voluntary organisations, with a view to rendering its work more efficient.”

In the course of the discussion an interesting suggestion was made that the reason for some Central Authorities not working satisfactorily might be due to the fact that, following the abolition of regulation of prostitution, the department concerned was being reorganised and was still working on tentative lines. It is no doubt true that Central Authorities in regulationist countries have more information at their disposal, and in such countries, after the introduction of abolition, the Central Authority *might* take some time to readapt itself; but there is no evidence that that in fact has taken place, and it is at least as likely that the differences in the work done, as between different countries, are due more to the fact that some Central Authorities are specifically authorised to consider only cases of proved international traffic.

The opposition to entrusting the work exclusively to the police is almost entirely bound up with the distrust,

felt by some people, of the police, when they are working under a system of regulation of prostitution.

WOMEN POLICE.

It was decided to keep this subject on the Agenda. The only point of interest was the hope expressed that a further study should not be limited to the question of women police in connection with the traffic in women, but should take account of the welfare work done by women police.

REPATRIATION OF PROSTITUTES.

DR. PAULINA LUISI, delegate of Uruguay, submitted a preliminary report on this subject, devoted almost entirely to a criticism of the Memorandum of the International Bureau. The representative of the Bureau once again took the opportunity of explaining that the Memorandum in question had been submitted only as a basis for discussion, and once again drew attention to the fact that the Memorandum does make a number of very helpful suggestions, all tending to substitute repatriation for expulsion to the frontiers, and to provide that such repatriation should be carried out in the most humane and helpful way. It is by now obvious that any suggestion for compulsory repatriation will be met by the most violent opposition. Dr. Luisi, in her report, expressed the view that repatriation cannot be considered without examining the question as to how prostitutes thus repatriated may be helped to earn their living respectably. Although on the whole opposed to the compulsory repatriation of prostitutes, the Committee felt that, since the report submitted to it was only preliminary in character, it could not come to any final conclusions; it requested Dr. Luisi to continue her study and to submit the question again at the next Session of the Committee.

EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG WOMEN ARTISTES ABROAD.

A report from the British delegate on this subject was before the Committee, which does possess a great deal of information on the subject. The British delegate had arrived at the conclusion that the problem of these travelling artistes is a limited one and that the difficulties can all be met by comparatively simple precautions which have already been suggested. He did not think it necessary or possible for the Committee to carry the matter further, since they could only suggest remedies, the application of which must rest with Governments. The representative of the International Bureau pressed for the retention of the subject on the Agenda in view

of the difficulty of replacing an item on the Agenda once it had been removed. The position of young so-called artistes, who had had little training, and who went abroad to find work in another country, was much more serious than that of the professional prostitute who went abroad of her own free will for the purpose of entering a brothel, since the former might not intend to lead an immoral life at all, but might be forced by economic circumstances or the lack of legislative protection to supplement her living by prostitution. He urged that the subject be kept on the Agenda, even although no immediate action were contemplated. With the support of the German delegate that point of view prevailed and the following resolution was adopted:—

“ The Advisory Committee, having studied, with the help of the International Labour Office, the subject of the employment of young women abroad in music-halls and similar places of amusement, considers that the resolutions which it has passed and the documents which it has prepared will be of assistance in helping Governments to effect the necessary measures of protection for young artistes, and decides therefore that, while keeping the subject on its agenda, it will postpone further study of the problem till a future session.”

THE JOINT MEETINGS WITH THE CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

CONSTITUTION OF THE ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

The Traffic in Women and Children Committee, together with the Child Welfare Committee, form the League Advisory Commission for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Young People, and a joint meeting was held to consider the report of the British delegate, Mr. Harris, on the composition and work of the Commission. That report was very critical of the work of the Commission and particularly critical of the work of the Child Welfare Committee. It is to be doubted whether the Commission can satisfactorily consider its own work or composition, particularly in the course of open debate, but it was unanimously agreed that the time has come to examine its composition and methods of work, although the view was expressed by all the speakers that the criticisms put forward by the British delegate, particularly those concerning the Child

Welfare Committee, was unduly severe. The following resolution was finally adopted:—

“ A Sub-Committee should be set up to consider modifications and improvements which might be made in respect of the constitution and the working of the two Committees of the Advisory Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Young People. This Sub-Committee should report to the two Committees when they next meet.”

All members and assessors of the Commission have been requested to submit to the Secretariat in writing their suggestions as regards the reorganisation of the Commission.

Publicity for the Commission's Work.—There is always a real difficulty in interesting the daily Press with problems not connected with topical matters, and we have expressed the view before that the sort of publicity given by the Press to the work of the Advisory Committee is not in the best interests of the work and is directed to the less important subjects which are considered. On the other hand, the publications issued by the Secretariat, although admirably adapted for the instruction of active social workers and of Government departments, are not generally in a form which commands a ready sale. After full discussion the following resolution was adopted:—

“ The Members of the Commission—

“ (1) Express their willingness to co-operate with the Secretariat by indicating writers in various countries interested in social questions and willing to write articles for the weekly and monthly journals;

“ (2) To write articles themselves, when occasion arises, on the basis of the reports and resolutions of the annual meetings;

“ (3) To send a list to the Secretariat of the periodicals of their own country which they regard as the best medium for such publicity.”

Adoption of Children.—In the annual questionnaire issued by the Traffic Committee to Governments, there has figured a question dealing with adoption of children, with particular reference to the possibility of adoption being abused and leading to a child being exploited for immoral purposes. The Traffic Committee found that it was impossible within the limits of the Annual Reports to devote the necessary time to this very serious question, and decided to refer the matter to the Joint Committee for consideration.

Miss Wall (Great Britain) offered to submit to the Child Welfare Committee a memorandum on the main aspects of the question, which would enable that Committee to decide whether there were grounds for a detailed inquiry into the subject. This suggestion was finally accepted, and the subject will in future figure on the agenda of the Child Welfare Committee and not on that of the Traffic Committee, unless for some special reason it may be found necessary to take up the question again on that Committee.

At the close of the Session the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

“ The Advisory Commission for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Young People desires to express very particularly to M. Ekstrand, Director of the Social Questions Section, its gratitude for his enlightened assistance in its work and asks that its appreciation may be mentioned in the report to the Council of the League of Nations.”

The Report of the Committee to the Council of the League is published and can be purchased.

All League of Nations publications dealing with Traffic in Women can be obtained direct from the Publications Department of the League, Geneva, or from George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. (League of Nations Publications Department), 40, Museum Street, London, W.C.1.

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