

WILPF 216

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL
LEAGUE



Annual Report

1936

PRICE 2D.

Women's International League

(British Section of the Women's International League
for Peace and Freedom).

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 1936 — FEBRUARY 1937.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE, 55 GOWER STREET,
LONDON, W.C.1.

Telephone: MUSEUM 3179.

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM.

Head Office: Maison Internationale, 12 Rue du Vieux Collège, Geneva.

Formed at the Hague Congress of Women in 1915 to bind together women in every country who desire to promote the following objects:—

- I.—The Settlement of Disputes by some means other than War.
- II.—The Emancipation of Women.

National Sections or Corresponding Groups:—

ARGENTINE	GERMANY	PALESTINE
AUSTRALIA :	GREAT BRITAIN	PANAMA
VICTORIA	GREECE	PERU
TASMANIA	HAITI	PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
NEW SOUTH WALES	HOLLAND	POLAND
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	HONDURAS	PORTUGAL
AUSTRIA	HUNGARY	ROUMANIA
BELGIUM	INDIA	RUSSIA
BULGARIA	IRELAND	SOUTH AFRICA
CANADA	ITALY	SPAIN
CHINA	JAPAN	SWEDEN
COSTA RICA	JUGO-SLAVIA	SWITZERLAND
CUBA	LATVIA	SYRIA
CZECHO-SLOVAKIA	LIBERIA	TUNIS
DENMARK	LITHUANIA	TURKEY
EGYPT	LUXEMBURG	UKRAINE
EL SALVADOR	MEXICO	URUGUAY
ESTHONIA	NEW ZEALAND	U.S.A.
FINLAND	NICARAGUA	
FRANCE	NORWAY	

The BRITISH SECTION of the LEAGUE is known as
The Women's International League

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE, 55 GOWER STREET, LONDON, W.C.1

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 1937.

Chairman: Mrs. Duncan Harris, J.P.

Vice Chairmen: Miss Pye, Miss Sheepshanks, Mrs. Thoday.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. K. E. Innes.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. McGregor Wood.

Hon. Press Secretary: Miss Karleen Baker, B.Sc.Econ.

Miss Mosa Anderson.	Miss Agatha Harrison.	Mrs. Paul Sturge.
Miss Karleen Baker.	Mrs. Kraft.	Mrs. Thoday.
Mrs. Binyon.	Mrs. Lankester.	Mrs. Thornycroft.
Miss Mary Chick.	Mrs. Longson.	Mrs. Philip Unwin.
Dr. Hilda Clark.	Miss C. E. Marshall.	Miss Dora Warner.
Miss Maud Dickinson.	Miss W. G. Rinder.	Miss Freda White.
Mrs. Greenwood.	Mrs. Savage,	

Vice-Presidents:

Miss Margaret Ashton.	The Hon. Mrs. Franklin.	Lady Unwin.
Miss Vera Brittain.	Mrs. E. Pethick Lawrence.	Mrs. Basil Williams.
Mrs. de Bunsen.	Dr. Maude Royden.	Dr. Ethel Williams, J.P.

MEMBERSHIP is open to all women who are BRITISH SUBJECTS, who desire to work for the above two-fold object. Associate membership is open to women and men of any nationality. Minimum Subscription, 2s. 6d. per annum. Monthly News Sheet, 1d.; 1s. 6d. per annum, post free.

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

March, 1936—February, 1937.

The year 1936-1937 has been one of great difficulty for those who believe, as an early pronouncement of the W.I.L.P.F. stated, "that experience condemns force as a self-defeating weapon."

The failure of the League of Nations to prevent violence gaining its end in Abyssinia, and the resultant loss of faith in the efficacy of economic sanctions, has been accompanied by an increase in armaments in all directions; the race is in full swing and in Great Britain it is being widely urged that re-armament must be supported for the sake of the collective system.

In these circumstances we feel that a Society which would always stand against the use of violence, and which, even in a war in which this country was involved, would regard it as its task to seek every opportunity of conciliation, is more urgently needed than ever.

The record of work which we have to tell shows that this feeling is shared by an increasing number. New Branches have sprung up and new members have joined us. The Report is, we believe, full of interest and is a reflection of many-sided endeavour.

Executive Committee.

We again have to record a high standard of attendance throughout the year. Absentees from time to time have had the justification either of illness or absence from England. Our Treasurer, Lady Unwin, has been in the U.S.A. for some months, Miss Chick and Miss White have been ill, and Mrs. Unwin has been kept away since October by the arrival of a baby daughter. Mrs. Lankester was obliged to resign the Honorary Secretaryship of the India Committee, and Miss Harrison has been to India during the year.

The Publicity and the Friends of Peace and Disarmament Sub-Committees have met throughout the year, and also a Pax Sub-Committee, which has been formed since the September Executive

of the W.I.L.P.F. to assist Miss Karleen Baker, who was then appointed Honorary Editor.

The Annual Council in 1936 was held in March and its resolutions were printed in last year's Report.

The great feature of the year as far as the Executive is concerned has been a delightful week-end at Branscombe, by invitation of Miss Chick. The Committee thrashed out many of the problems which have been troubling peace workers, and decided to pass on the results of discussion to Branches as far as possible in leaflets. We have already quoted in the introduction a sentence from an early W.I.L.P.F. statement which was reprinted after this week-end. A valuable contribution by Miss Anderson deals with steps which are necessary in the economic and colonial fields if peace is to be established. It is entitled "Opening the Empire Door—A Positive Policy for Peace."

Some of the matters with which the Executive has been mainly concerned during the year will appear in the separate sections of this report, but we may mention here (1) action taken early in the year about the Hendon Air Pageant over which Mrs. Innes joined in a protest with others about the proposed display of bombing of natives, while the W.I.L. Executive sent a telegram to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Air urging the withdrawal of this item. As a result of protests the character of the item was changed; (2) a letter sent to Sir John Simon at the time of the Fascist riots in the East End of London urging the banning of uniforms and the strengthening of the law to prevent verbal or physical attacks on religious or racial grounds against any of His Majesty's subjects. Owing to the widespread expression of public opinion a Bill was passed with unusual speed. It does more than was asked for and needs careful watching; (3) a letter to the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs' Committee regretting the military nature of the Lord Mayor's Show this year and another letter to the London Passenger Transport Board expressing appreciation of the withdrawal of a poster of two guns announcing the Show; (4) the sending of our last Council resolution on the Coronation arrangements to the Chairman of the Arrangements Committee (Mr. Ramsay MacDonald).

We are affiliated to the National Peace Council, the Women's Peace Crusade, the Women's Advisory Council on Indian Questions, and the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations.

We are represented on the Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union, the Moral Welfare Committee of the National Council of Women, the British Women's Liaison Group of the All India Women's Conference, the India Civil Liberties Committee, the International Peace Campaign, and an Observer

has attended the meetings of the Women's Committee of the Council of Action for Peace and Reconstruction.

We have sent representatives to the Annual Congress of the National Peace Council and to the Conference of the British Commonwealth League.

The Committee has had great pleasure in welcoming to its meetings the following members from other Sections:—Mrs. Wilkins (Australia), Miss Stoitcheva (Bulgaria), Mrs. Osborne (Canada), Mrs. Humphrey (New Zealand), Miss Brate (U.S.A.), while Miss Katherine Blake and Mrs. Hire visited the Office from the U.S.A. and Miss Lewis from New Zealand.

Italo-Abyssinian Dispute.

As the war developed and Italian victory seemed probable, the Executive passed resolutions urging upon the Government the application of effective measures directed towards the crippling of the war machine, such as the application of the oil sanction to Italy, and urging impartial investigation into specific grievances of any State. The Branches were urged to take similar action locally, and to protest against the breaking of Treaties, the bombing of open towns, and the use of poison gas. Letters were sent by the Executive on this last point to the Italian Ambassador and Abyssinian Minister. There was a good response from both individuals and Branches to suggestions for action.

After the flight of the Emperor we supported the meeting arranged by the Women's Peace Crusade in the Queen's Hall, at which Princess Tsahai spoke, and also the Garden Party arranged by Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Mrs. Seligman in Wimbledon, at which the Emperor was present.

The Government was urged to adopt measures which would prevent Italy from profiting by her aggression, and to pursue positive measures of reconstruction on the lines hinted at by Sir Samuel Hoare in his speech in Geneva in September, 1935, in order that the League system and the future of civilisation might be saved.

Limitation and Reduction of Armaments.

On seeing from the papers that the League of Nations Assembly in September was not setting up the Third (Disarmament) Committee, though the General Committee was empowered to propose to the Assembly to set it up at any time during the session, the Chairman sent the following telegram to Mr. Eden:—

"British Section of the Women's International League beg you support calling of meeting of Disarmament Committee."

Mrs. Innes, who was in Geneva, was able to do some publicity work for this telegram. The Committee was set up.

When the Royal Commission on the Private Manufacture of and Trading in Arms reported, a resolution was adopted and sent to the Government, the Press and the Branches, regretting that fuller inquiry had not been made into the evils of the system of private profit, and urging that certain of the reforms proposed should be immediately accepted. An article on the Royal Commission Report written by Miss Courtney was circulated.

Civil War in Spain.

The tragedy which has plunged Spain for some months into the horrors of civil war has presented difficult problems to all Peace Societies. The Executive urged early in the struggle that Parliament should remain in session during the crisis, that an expert and independent body should be set up under Article XI of the Covenant to concern itself with non-intervention, and to report continually and publicly to the League Council, and that the League Assembly should take steps to mobilise world opinion in support of measures by which the sufferings of the people of Spain might be alleviated. The question of offering mediation was considered, but it seemed advisable to wait for the right moment for a definite proposition. In December a letter was sent to Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Anthony Eden in which it was suggested that the League Council might take the following measures:—

(I) The offer to the Spanish Government of a Refugee Commissioner, to be despatched at once in order to advise and organise the evacuation of civilians from the War Zone, to organise refugee relief, and to use every opportunity to mitigate the suffering of the people.

(II) The strengthening of the Non-Intervention Agreement by the establishment of impartial and non-Governmental Commissions of supervision, and by including in the Agreement the prohibition of man-power from other countries.

(III) The offer of mediation to the combatants with a view to declaring an armistice coupled with the offer of impartial advisers to go to Spain to inform the League upon the fulfilment of the truce, and to help the Spanish authorities, if it is possible, in carrying out negotiations for a peace settlement. We feel that the opportunity for friendly aid and the need for information would both occur if the fighting stopped, and that while it would be most important to avoid the intervention of foreign Governments in the affairs of

Spain, the presence of impartial Commissioners of the League might prevent a fresh outbreak of hostilities, and further a just settlement. The co-operation of United States citizens in such a scheme might well be used.

Our Vice-Chairman, Miss Edith Pye, has been in Spain on behalf of the Save the Children Fund and the Society of Friends.

Palestine.

The situation in Palestine throughout the year has been one of acute conflict involving much bloodshed between the Arabs and Jews. The British Government at first took the attitude that they would not negotiate until the Arabs ceased to defy authority. A letter was sent to Mr. Ormsby Gore regretting that negotiations should be held up pending the cessation of violence, and when the Royal Commission was appointed the Executive endorsed a letter signed by women's organisations regretting that there was no woman on the Commission. A letter from the W.I.L. appeared in the *Manchester Guardian*. No woman was appointed.

Danzig.

Another centre of conflict between the Nazis and non-Nazis as well as between the German Nazis and the Poles, has been the Free City of Danzig. The Nazis in control clearly violated the Constitution guaranteed by the League of Nations in their persecution of those who differed from them politically and in their defiance of the High Commissioner. A letter was addressed to Mr. Anthony Eden urging that Great Britain should bring the situation to the League Council immediately, and a memorandum on the position, drafted by Miss Courtney, was sent to the Branches.

Africa.

A grave blow to the position of the African occurred during 1936—the abolition by the South African Union Parliament of the "coloured vote" in the Cape Province. This was done in the teeth of opposition from the natives throughout South Africa. Following

on this, General Hertzog reiterated the aim of the Union Government to take over in the near future the three Protectorates—Bechuanaland, Swaziland, and Basutoland—which are still under the Dominions' Office of the British Government. This, too, is very unpopular among the Africans, and will be, so long as the repressive laws against Africans exist in the Union. Against this handing over of large numbers of Africans unwillingly to another Government, the W.I.L. protested in a letter to the Press in July.

In the letter also, was an appeal to our Government not to use the Morris Carter Inquiry on the land question in Kenya as an excuse for giving away more land to Europeans (who only succeed in beneficially using 10·8 per cent. of the land that they hold), and also there was a protest against the suggestion that the State Forests in Kenya should be included in the area allocated to Europeans.

Subsequently, in the Debate on the Colonial Office vote, the Colonial Secretary declared that in any Order in Council which may be made by the present Government relating to land in the Kenya Highlands, there would be "no *legal* colour bar." (The italics are ours.) The implication of this promise will have to be closely watched, as it does not necessarily mean that there will not be racial discrimination in actual practice.

India.

British Military Policy on the Indian Frontier.

The W.I.L. has for long been disturbed by the policy of the Government on the Indian Frontier, which includes the use of bombing aeroplanes whenever there is trouble. Acting on the suggestion of the India Sub-Committee, the Executive made a proposal to the National Peace Council that it should organise a conference on the subject, in collaboration with the W.I.L. and the India Conciliation Group. This was agreed to and an interesting conference with expert speakers and useful discussion took place in April, a committee being formed to follow it up. In view of the recent renewed military operations on the Indian Frontier, which have been condemned by Indian nationalists, the continued need for watching this situation is evident.

Visit of Miss Agatha Harrison to India.

The visit to India of Miss Agatha Harrison (a member of the Executive) from September, 1936, to February, 1937, has brought the W.I.L. into close touch with Indian problems. As Hon. Secre-

tary of the Indian Conciliation Group during the past years she has made contacts with practically all the Indian leaders and has a unique knowledge of the situation. She attended the Annual Session of the All India Women's Conference as the specially invited guest chosen to represent the Liaison Group of British women's societies which co-operate with the A.I.W.C., of which W.I.L. is one. She met there at Ahmedabad among the delegates some of the finest of the Indian women leaders. She was also present at the annual meetings of the Indian National Congress, where the opposition of this, the largest political party in India, to the new constitution was again registered. She has met and has had many talks with Mr. Gandhi, and has stayed with Mr. Jawarahlal Nehru, President of the Congress, and on the other hand she has had interviews with many leading Government officials. Her visit to India at this time has been of great importance.

Liaison Group.

A good deal of W.I.L. work for India has been done through the Committee of the Liaison Group referred to above, the liaison officer in this country being Mrs. Lankester, another member of the Executive. Mrs. Paul Sturge has represented Miss Harrison on this Committee during the latter's absence in India. The Group was active in efforts to get support for the Bills for Social reform affecting women, which were before the Legislative Assembly in India, especially the Bill to amend the largely inoperative Child Marriage Restraint Act and a Bill with regard to Hindu Women's Right to Property. This co-operation between British and Indian women is of real value at this time and makes for greater understanding in this country of the problems with which Indian reformers are faced. It is much appreciated by the organised Indian women. A quarterly Bulletin, giving information about the Indian women's movement, which is always of great interest, is issued by the Liaison Group and can be obtained through the W.I.L. Office for 2s. 6d. a year.

India Sub-Committee.

The India Committee decided in June to suspend regular meetings and to be called only when matters needing serious consideration arose, and that those members specially concerned with India together with Mrs. Polak should have a watching brief and be ready to bring to the Executive any matters of urgency. Mrs. Lankester was appointed convenor of this Committee.

Civil Liberties in India.

The W.I.L. was invited in October to appoint a representative to serve on a special committee dealing with India of the National Council for Civil Liberties. Until Miss Harrison's return Miss Catherine Marshall agreed to act on this Committee.

Political Prisoners.

Considerable activity was undertaken on behalf of a young Macedonian, who in 1927 was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment at Skoplje in Yugo-Slavia. An appeal from Bulgaria in the summer of 1936 told of the intolerable conditions of his imprisonment and of the serious injuries he had suffered. Letters to him from his mother were being returned to her without any comment and she was filled with anxiety. A letter from the W.I.L. to the Yugo-Slav Legation on September 2nd, 1936, elicited the reply that it was being communicated to the competent quarters in Yugo-Slavia; further letters to the Minister received no reply. Miss Anderson, on behalf of the Executive, wrote to a member of the Yugo-Slav W.I.L.P.F. and the Howard League also communicated with a member in Yugo-Slavia. Since these steps were taken, his position has greatly improved; he has received his mother's letters and been able to write to her, and he has been allowed to receive money from outside, to provide himself with extra food, &c. Friends in Bulgaria write that they believe this improvement is due to our efforts, and they are hoping that he will be liberated on the expiry of his sentence in 1937.

In November, 1936, an appeal for help on behalf of two German women, Frau Ewert and Frau Olga Benario, was communicated to the Executive by Miss Pye. These women had been deported to Germany from Brazil and had been arrested and taken to Berlin. A protest was sent to the Brazilian Ambassador and a letter to the German Ambassador, pointing out that these women had been offered an asylum in several other countries and begging for their release. The German Ambassador replied that "an investigation of their case is pending."

International Headquarters.

The Spring Meeting of the Executive was held in Prague from April 29th-May 3rd. Mrs. Duncan Harris and Miss Marshall went as Consultative Members. The British Section submitted a resolution urging the extension of the Mandate system to all colonial territories, and the calling of a World Conference to deal with the whole subject and the redistribution of raw materials and the opening of markets. A

feature of special interest was applications for membership from Egypt, Honduras, and San Salvador.

The Chairmen before the Prague Meeting were Madame Clara Ragaz and Miss Gertrud Baer. Madame Ramondt was appointed as a Third Chairman, as it was felt that this would assist in the carrying out of the work of the W.I.L.P.F. with satisfaction to all Sections and all points of view.

Mrs. Duncan Harris took part in the W.I.L.P.F. Broadcast from Prague, and she and Miss Pye spoke at well-attended meetings in different parts of Czecho-Slovakia. The September Executive was held in Geneva and our Consultative Members were Mrs. Innes and Mrs. Duncan Harris. Miss Karleen Baker attended as a visitor. It was decided to hold the next Congress somewhere in Central Europe at the end of July, 1937, and "A New Peace" was the subject fixed for the main consideration. It was decided after much discussion that the Offices should remain at Maison Internationale for the coming year.

Egypt was admitted provisionally as a Section, ratification to take place at the 1937 Congress. The Constitutions of Honduras and San Salvador had not been received; provisional admission was, therefore, not possible.

The work at Geneva is being carried on most ably by Miss Lotti Birch and Miss Louisa Jacques.

It is difficult to believe, because she belongs to those who always remain young, that Miss Emily Balch celebrated her 70th birthday on January 8th. Greetings were sent from the British Section and a special article on her work, with a photograph, was produced in the December issue of *Pax*.

The People's Mandate.

The Mandate Campaign in Great Britain came to an end in July. The following report of the deputation to Lord Cranborne at the Foreign Office summarises the work done.

The deputation was introduced by Mrs. Duncan Harris, as joint Chairman with Mrs. Innes of the European Committee of the People's Mandate, and the Chairman of the British Section of the Women's International League. We take the following facts from Mrs. Duncan Harris's report:—

Work for the People's Mandate had taken place in forty countries, and twenty-five countries were co-operating with the European Committee. In the United Kingdom the People's Mandate in six months' work had secured the support of twenty-four organisations representing about 1,300,000 individuals. The Mandate had been endorsed by 902 meetings of branches of national organisations, and

by 879 other meetings. The People's Mandate was in no sense a completed record but a beginning of a campaign on the part of women determined to end war. The organisations represented on the deputation were:—

British Commonwealth League	Miss Gray.
Christian Endeavour Union of Great Britain and Ireland	Rev. E. R. Squire.
National Adult School Union	Mr. George Peverett.
National British Women's Total Abstinence Union	Mrs. Randolph Clarkson.
National Union of Public Employees	Mrs. Sancett.
National Union of Women Teachers	Miss Jones.
North Wales Women's Peace Council	Mrs. Thoday.
Presbyterian Pacifist Group	Mrs. R. J. Arnott.
Women's Co-operative Guild	Mrs. Benton.
Women's International League	Miss Edith M. Pye.
Women's Peace Crusade	Miss Karleen Baker.
Women Public Health Officers' Association	Miss Gray.

Members of the Hon. Council present included Mrs. Hughes Griffiths, Miss Doris Lester, Mr. J. Howard Whitehouse, and Mr. E. Harcourt Williams, while a letter supporting the deputation was read from Mr. Noel Baker, M.P., a member of the Hon. Council.

The Rev. Henry Carter spoke for the deputation.

Mrs. Duncan Harris presented the Mandate to Lord Cranborne, who signed the Golden Book containing it as a record of its presentation.

In September the Golden Book, containing records from all the countries which to date had taken part in the Mandate, was presented to the President of the Assembly at Geneva, Mr. Saavedra Lamas. At the September Executive of the W.I.L.P.F., Madame Drevet was asked to continue work for the Mandate for another six months. The work is also being carried on very actively in U.S.A. and has had as one of its effects the formation of new W.I.L. Sections in States in South America.

Status of Women.

The question of the Equal Rights Treaty was discussed at a Conference of representatives of women's organisations called by the Women's Freedom League in October. Mrs. Duncan Harris and Miss Sheepshanks attended for the W.I.L. They submitted

the point of view that while the W.I.L. is in favour of political equality, it holds that the question of protective legislation is one for the women concerned—the industrial women, who have overwhelmingly, through their organisations, supported certain protective legislation for industrial women. It does not seem right that non-industrial women should take a line opposed to the expressed views of the organised workers on this point.

Our representatives voted against the Nationality of Married Women resolution, as the W.I.L. does not believe that "blanket" legislation in the form of an Equal Rights Treaty which claims that women shall be in exactly the position of men with regard to nationality, would meet the needs of women. They instanced the United States as an example of the danger of such legislation. There, a woman of foreign origin does not acquire American nationality by reason of her husband's naturalisation. The W.I.L. view on this point is that a woman should be entitled either to acquire automatically her husband's nationality or to contract out and retain her own nationality.

The Branches.

We have already mentioned that the difficulties of the international situation seem to have encouraged people to rally to the work and the formation of Branches. We welcome the growth of Worthing into a good sized Branch, the formation of a flourishing Branch in Leicester, with many local affiliations, and the formation of Branches in Shrewsbury and Church Stretton. The initiative and co-operation of the Branches have been most helpful throughout the year, and the reports we have received have been encouraging to the Executive. Among the most interesting events of the year have been splendid parties to celebrate the coming of age of the W.I.L.P.F. in Manchester, where Mrs. Duncan Harris spoke, and in Glasgow, where Mrs. Innes spoke.

Many meetings have been held throughout the country, among the subjects studied being The problem of Sanctions, The abolition of Fighting Aircraft and our attitude to Air-Raid Precautions, and the Economic Causes of War and the approach to peace through the remedying of grievances. One interesting meeting had an American speaker on "The American contribution to the peace of the world." The Stockport Branch took part in a Poster parade for a week in July, when 100 "Sandwich men" went to different areas where open air meetings were held.

The Headquarters are very grateful to Branches for their generous financial support throughout the year.

Meetings in London for our Central members have been addressed by the following :—

Mrs. Esther Fahmy Wissa, of Alexandria, on The Present Situation in Egypt.

Mr. Francis Williams on The Refusal of Financial Assistance to Germany.

Mr. T. Balogh on International Finance in the Crisis Years.

Miss Stoitcheva on Bulgaria's struggle for freedom and national unity.

Miss Marshall on her impressions gained while in Czecho-Slovakia and Germany.

Lady Barton on the Ethiopian women and their work.

Two very successful Sandwich Lunch Meetings were held in the Office, the first of which was addressed by Mr. Horsfall Carter on the Spanish Civil War and its meaning, and the second by Miss Edith Pye on her visit to Spain, where she went to look into the possibilities of relief for refugee children on behalf of the Friends Service Council and the Save the Children Fund.

Publicity.

The Press and Publicity work, the News Sheet, and the production of leaflets remain in the hands of Miss Karleen Baker, supported by a special Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Clark. In addition to the national work this year Miss Baker has taken over the editorship of our international paper *Pax*. Her devoted and efficient voluntary work is deeply appreciated by the Executive.

Friends of Peace and Disarmament.

The work of the Friends of Peace and Disarmament has continued on its usual lines. The following leaflets have been issued to distributors :—

- (1) Back to Disarmament;
- (2) We are determined to end War;
- (3) Psychology and Peace.

Financial Report.

Only once before in the lifetime of the W.I.L. has the balance at the end of the year been so low as it is this year. Our donations, including the results of our Bring and Buy Sale in November, are reduced by nearly £36 over last year's figures, but our subscriptions have somewhat increased. Yet we close the year with a sense of thankfulness that we have not to record an adverse balance, in spite of the fact that, as mentioned elsewhere, our Hon. Treasurer has had to be out of the country for several months. Unemployment at home and the calls for help over relief work during the year in Abyssinia and Spain have made many demands on our members.

The Committee's first Bring and Buy Sale not only provided over £50 to the Funds, but gave an opportunity to many members and friends to assemble together in the Office to talk over old times, and to discuss the events of the day over a cup of tea, and from that point of view alone was much appreciated.

Many of our Branches have sent us generous contributions, though the raising of funds for their own work has been a serious problem.

The Statement of Accounts will be found on page 26.

As regards *International House*, we still have private tenants on the upper floors, and the Japan Evangelistic Band is on the first floor. A partition on the ground floor has given us two rooms for our main office, and in the large room in the basement the Women's Peace Crusade, to which we are affiliated, has hospitality. The Statement of Accounts for International House is on page 27.

The Office.

The Staff has remained unchanged this year and consists of Miss Horscroft, Miss Stroud, and Miss Florrie Chapman. Their continued interest and loyal devotion to the work contributes more than can be expressed not merely to the smooth running of the Office, but to the effectiveness of the work as a whole. We have again to thank Miss Gill for constant assistance.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS.

February 23rd, 24th, and 25th, 1937.

AT THE Y.W.C.A., GREAT RUSSELL STREET,
LONDON, W.C.1.

The following resolutions were passed:—

Spain (1).

“This Annual Council of the Women’s International League urges that the representative of the British Government to the League of Nations shall be empowered to press for the appointment of an International Commission on the lines of other Refugee Commissions that have been appointed by it, with the object of assisting the evacuation of the civilian population from bombarded areas, and of averting the famine with which certain parts of Spain are threatened. This Commission should be empowered to raise an international fund for purposes of relief.”

Spain (2).

“This Annual Council of the Women’s International League holds that the armed assistance given by Germany and Italy to the Insurgents is an act of international aggression and a danger to world peace; and that the delays and secrecy of the Non-Intervention Committee have been tantamount to acquiescence in continued violation of the Non-Intervention Agreement.

While believing that non-intervention should have been carried through by the League of Nations, it welcomes the Agreement at length reached by twenty-seven nations to extend non-intervention to include a ban on volunteers and to institute a system of frontier control to supervise the observance of the Agreement.

It urges His Majesty’s Government, in order to render this control effective:

- (1) to insist that the supervision of all coasts should include neutral observers, that in no case it be left to the Germans and Italians alone, and that there should be frequent public reports on the results of supervision;

- (2) to press for agreement on the withdrawal of foreign soldiers now in Spain, and when this is accomplished, to propose to the League of Nations that means should be sought, consonant with the dignity of the Spanish people and their Government, to bring about conditions under which avenues to peace could be explored;
- (3) if intervention is continued, to appeal to the League Council to recognise this as aggression and to apply a financial and economic boycott against any Governments violating the non-intervention agreement.”

World Conference on Economic and Other Grievances.

“This Council of the Women’s International League records its dismay that His Majesty’s Government appears to have no constructive peace policy.

It urges the Government to initiate action through the League of Nations for the setting up of an International Commission to make practical proposals for meeting grievances, whether economic, territorial, financial, or of any other kind, such as the problems of migration, with a view to the calling of a new World Peace Conference as soon as the preliminary bases have been satisfactorily established.”

Reduction in Trade Barriers.

“This Annual Council of the Women’s International League welcomes the assertion made recently by the Foreign Secretary that policies should be based on the fundamental fact that in the modern world nations are all members one of another, economically if not politically, and believing that such an agreement as was reached with regard to currency by the democratic countries of U.S.A., France, and Great Britain must further the cause of peace as one of the first steps towards free co-operation:

urges His Majesty’s Government

- (a) to work for the reduction of the barriers that hamper international trade, and for the removal of the grievances of

other nations with regard to access to raw materials, and in furtherance of this end to refuse a renewal of the Ottawa Agreements when they come up for consideration;

- (b) to put into practice the principle of the Open Door in all Crown Colonies and Protectorates, and
- (c) in the meantime, to take every opportunity to co-operate with countries which are endeavouring to lower tariffs and to extend freedom of trade, and to this end to agree to waive its claim to most-favoured nation treatment in such cases."

Profit on Arms Industry.

"This Council, while believing that the vicious circle of the rise in profits from the arms industry caused by and contributing to every increase in armaments can only be abolished by nationalisation, such as the French Government is now progressively carrying out,

urges His Majesty's Government in the meantime:

- (a) to apply forthwith the stricter policy and measures of control of the licensing system for the export of arms and munitions recommended by the Royal Commission, and
- (b) to press for international adoption of the measures of control put forward in the American Draft Articles of November, 1934, which were discussed by the Commission of the Disarmament Conference in February, 1935, as a basis for a Convention."

Government Policy and the League of Nations.

"This Council of the Women's International League, profoundly distrusting the policy of security based on bilateral conversations with partial pacts and alliances, urges His Majesty's Government to make the League of Nations once more the pivot of all negotiations.

This Council believes that only by such a policy will the Government hold the confidence of the youth of the country."

Defence Estimates.

"This Annual Council of the Women's International League profoundly regrets the vast expenditure in armaments announced by His Majesty's Government.

It believes that in planning such increases the Government is:

- (a) stimulating a dangerous race in armaments, which is bound, if continued, to lead to the disaster of war, and
- (b) signifying in deed if not in word its abandonment of a League of Nations policy, and reverting in fact to the pre-war system of the Balance of Power and Military Alliances.

It recognises that rearmament is the inevitable result of the Government's failure to promote a general policy of disarmament, and insists that only by a reconsideration and reversal of its present policy, and by the adoption of a genuine League of Nations and Disarmament policy, can peace and security be achieved."

Conscription.

"This Annual Council of the Women's International League reaffirms its continued opposition to all forms of conscription, both military and industrial, and its determination to resist any attempt to introduce it or to force men and women to participate in the preparation for, and conduct of war."

Armistice Day.

"That in view of the fact that the ceremonial of Armistice Day, which is so closely connected with the fighting forces, can only be changed by the Royal Prerogative, the Executive of the Women's International League be asked to approach His Majesty King George VI with a view to securing the laying of greater emphasis upon constructive peace in the commemoration of Armistice Day."

Constitution and Rules.

I. TITLE.

“Women’s International League” (British Section of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom).

II. OBJECT.

- (1) To work for that peace between nations, races, and classes which is based on justice and goodwill.
- (2) To work for the acceptance of the belief that war is a crime.
- (3) To substitute Conference and Law for Coercive Force.
- (4) To secure full rights of citizenship to women.
- (5) To co-operate with women in other countries who are working for the same ends.

III. MEMBERSHIP.

(a) *Members.*—Membership shall be open to all women who are British subjects, who accept the above object, whose purpose it is to work for its accomplishment, and who pay an annual subscription either to a local Branch or direct to the national headquarters.

(b) *National Headquarters Members* shall pay a minimum subscription of 2s. 6d. in January each year.

(c) *Associate Members.*—Women resident in Great Britain, other than British subjects, who accept the above object shall be accepted as Associate Members.

Men resident in Great Britain who desire to become associated with the work of the League shall be accepted as Associate Members.

Associate Members shall pay an annual subscription of not less than 2s. 6d. and shall be entitled to all privileges of members except the right of election to Council or Executive Committee and the right to nominate and vote.

IV. BRANCHES.

(a) *Formation.*—Branches shall be formed in consultation with the Executive Committee. They shall consist of not less than ten members who support the object of the League, and shall pay an affiliation fee of 3d. per member annually to Headquarters. Branches may make their own rules and by-laws, subject to the general rules and constitution of the League.

(b) *Affiliation to other Organisations.*—Branches of the League are free to co-operate with other societies in their neighbourhood, but before affiliating to any other organisation, they shall obtain the sanction of the Executive Committee.

(c) *Affiliation of other Organisations.*—Branches of the League shall have power to accept for affiliation any local organisation of women in their district which supports the object of the League and pays an annual subscription of the same amount as the annual subscription of two individual Branch members. Such an affiliated organisation shall be entitled to send two voting delegates to general meetings of the Branch, such delegates to have the same power as members of the Branch.

V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A.—Constitution of Executive Committee.

(a) *Committee.*—The Executive Committee shall consist of the Hon. Officers and twenty-three members, who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Council. Each Branch shall be entitled to send one representative to the Executive Committee meetings with power to speak, but not to vote, the Executive not being responsible for such representatives’ expenses.

(b) *Offices.*—The Officers shall be a President, Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretaries. The President, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretaries shall be elected by the Council at its Annual Meeting. The Chairman shall be elected by the Executive Committee from among its members. An assistant Treasurer shall be appointed when necessary by the Executive Committee.

(c) *Co-option to fill Vacancies.*—The Executive Committee shall have power to co-opt members to fill vacancies that occur during the year.

(d) Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for one year, and at the end of that term shall be eligible for re-election without nomination.

Members of the Executive who have not attended 50 per cent. of the meetings during the year shall not be eligible for re-election unless some specific reason for absence can be offered, such as illness or absence from the country, and there is good reason to suppose that they will be able to attend in the future.

B.—Powers and Duties of Executive Committee.

(a) The Executive Committee shall meet, if possible, once a month.

(b) The railway fares of country members shall be paid so long as funds are available for this purpose.

(c) The Executive Committee shall carry on the business of the League between the meetings of the Council in accordance with the policy agreed to thereat.

(d) It shall administer the funds of the League and direct the organising work.

(e) It shall have power to appoint special Committees for carrying out the work of the League.

(f) It shall have power to appoint and dismiss all paid officials.

(g) In all things on which the rules are silent, the Executive Committee shall have power to decide, subject to appeal to the Council.

VI. AFFILIATION OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.

(a) *Central Executives.*—The Executive of the League shall have power to accept for affiliation the Central Executive of any national women's organisation which supports the object of the League and pays an affiliation fee of 5s. a year. Affiliated Central Executives shall be entitled to send two voting delegates to the Council Meetings of the League, such delegates to have the same powers as Branch delegates.

(b) *Branches.*—Headquarters shall have power to accept for affiliation any branch of women's organisations or women's groups within mixed organisations in districts where no Branch of the Women's International League exists. Such Branches shall pay an affiliation fee of not less than 2s. 6d. per annum, and shall be entitled to send one delegate to Council Meetings. Such delegates shall have the right to vote on all resolutions other than those dealing with the Constitution, with the election of the Hon. Officers and the Executive Committee.

VII. GENERAL COUNCIL.

(a) The Council of the League shall consist of the Executive Committee, Delegates from Branches and Affiliated Bodies, and the Vice-Presidents. The Vice-Presidents shall be nominated by Branches or by the Executive Committee members, and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Council.

(b) Each Branch shall be entitled to one delegate and one card vote for every twenty-five or part of twenty-five members for whom the affiliation fee for the previous year has been paid. This must be paid not less than a month before the date of the Council in the case of new Branches or increased membership. If the appointed delegate be unable to attend all sessions of the Council she may transfer her card to a proxy delegate duly accredited by the Branch or Affiliated Society.

(c) The Council shall meet at least once a year to transact the usual business of an Annual Meeting. The travelling expenses of one delegate from each Branch to the Annual Council Meeting shall be pooled, but no Branch shall be obliged to contribute to the expenses or benefit by the pool for the first Council Meeting after its foundation.

(d) A meeting of the Council can be called at any time by the Executive Committee or on demand of one-tenth of the total number of Branches.

VIII. RULES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS.

A.—Ordinary Council Meetings.

(a) Ordinary meetings of the Council shall be held at a time and place to be fixed by the Executive Committee.

(b) The General Secretary shall notify the Executive, Vice-Presidents, Branches, Headquarter members, and Affiliated Bodies two months before the Council Meeting, and all resolutions to be printed on the Agenda must reach the Secretary not later than five weeks before the Meeting.

(c) The Preliminary Agenda shall be issued to Branches four weeks before the Meeting.

(d) All amendments to Resolutions must reach the office not later than twenty-one days before the Meeting.

(e) The Final Agenda will be issued to Branches one week before the Meeting.

(f) Resolutions shall be placed upon the Agenda in the name of a Branch or affiliated organisation, or of the Executive Committee, or of any member of the Executive Committee, or of any of the Vice-Presidents.

(g) No business which is not on the Agenda may be taken at a Council Meeting, unless urgency is voted on the recommendation of the Standing Orders Committee.

(h) Delegates shall be admitted to Council Meetings on presentation of the official delegate's ticket signed by the Secretary of the Branch which she represents, or by the General Secretary.

B.—Annual Council Meetings.

(a) At the Annual Meeting of the Council, which shall be held in February or March, in addition to the ordinary business the Council shall :—

(1) Receive and adopt, if approved, the Report and Balance Sheet for the year;

(2) Elect by ballot the President, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretaries, and twenty-three members of the Executive Committee;

(3) Elect Vice-Presidents;

(4) Consider any alterations of the rules that may be proposed.

(b) Nominations for the offices of President, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretaries, and for the Executive Committee Members may be sent in by Branches, Vice-Presidents, and Members of the Executive Committee, and must reach the Secretary two weeks before the Council Meeting. Resolutions to be placed on the agenda and proposed alterations of the rules must reach the Secretary not later than five weeks before the Council Meeting.

(c) The consent of the nominees must be obtained in writing before nominations are sent in.

(d) The financial year shall end on 31st of December, and all affiliation fees must be paid before that date. Members' subscriptions shall be due in January each year.

(e) Branches which have not paid their affiliation fees before the end of the financial year will not be entitled to send delegates to Council Meetings.

(f) The Final Agenda and draft Annual Report shall be issued to the Branches one week before the Annual Meeting.

C.—Special Council Meetings.

(a) The Secretary shall give the Branches at least three weeks' notice of a Special Council Meeting, except in case of national emergency. Resolutions to be printed on the Agenda must reach the Secretary at least fourteen days before the Council Meeting.

(b) The Preliminary Agenda shall be issued to Branches at least one week before the Meeting, and a Final Agenda, including amendments, shall be issued before the Meeting if time allows.

(c) At special meetings of the Council no other business shall be taken except that specified in the notice calling the Meeting.

(d) Rules may be altered at Special Council Meetings, provided that notice of such alterations be given in the summons to the Council.

D.—Agenda at Council Meetings.

(a) The first business to be taken at a Council Meeting shall be—

(1) Appointment of Tellers for the votes in Council;

(2) Appointment of Standing Orders Committee;

(3) Appointment of Members of the Council as Returning Officers and Tellers for the ballot voting;

(4) Appointment of Auditor;

(5) Adoption of Annual Report and audited Statement of Accounts.

At
Annual
Meeting
only.

(b) Otherwise the order of business shall be left to the discretion of the Executive Committee, and shall include the following :—

(1) Report of the Executive Committee;

(2) Election of President, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretaries, Executive Committee, and Vice-Presidents (at Annual Meeting only);

(3) Correspondence;

(4) Amendment to Rules and Standing Orders (if any);

(5) Resolutions, of which due notice has been given to the Secretary and by her to each Branch, and Amendments relevant to the motions before the meeting;

(6) Other business.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1936.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.					
		£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.
To	BALANCE, JANUARY 1ST, 1936				By	Rent	50	0	0
	Subscriptions	429	1	2		Lighting and Heating	16	19	11
	Donations	266	8	9		Office Expenses	16	8	2½
	"Bring and Buy" Sale—					Wages	46	5	10
	Donations	£15	0	0		State Insurance	9	6	11½
	Sales	42	12	5		Travelling Expenses	35	11	3
		57	12	5		Affiliation and Delegates' Fees	7	12	7
	Affiliation Fees	31	19	0		Telephone and Postage	101	2	7½
	Proceeds of Meetings	8	16	3		Audit Fee	7	17	6
	Council Meetings	8	17	3		Press Agency	2	2	0
	Sale of Literature and <i>News</i>					Stationery	27	6	11
	<i>Sheets</i>	50	19	3		Printing (including <i>News Sheets</i>			
	Histories (French and Greek)	10	5	5		£42. os. 9d., and Annual			
						Report £26. 15s. od.)	125	15	4
	Geneva—			854	4	6			
	Subscriptions	42	4	0		Purchase of Literature	14	15	9½
	"Pax" Subscriptions	6	0	0		Salaries	432	12	6
	Jane Addams Fund	2	0	0		Expenses of Meetings	12	1	10
				50	4	0			
						Council Meetings	*34	19	11
						Grants	19	0	0
						Histories (French and Greek)...	8	7	7
									960
						Geneva:—			7
						Subscriptions	42	4	0
						"Pax" Subscriptions	9	15	3
						Jane Addams Fund	2	0	0
									53
						BALANCE, DECEMBER 31ST, 1936—			19
						Cash at Midland Bank Ltd.	33	11	4
						Cash in hand	2	1	9
									35
						Less Reserve for Sundry	35	13	1
						Creditors	1	12	1
									34
									1
									0
									£1,048
									8
									0

* Includes £5. 5s. od. paid in advance for 1937.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE RENT ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1936.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.					
		£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.
To	BALANCE, JANUARY 1ST, 1936...				By	Rent	225	0	0
	Rents	305	0	0		Insurance	5	8	4
	Interest—Co-operative Perma-					Rates	96	11	8
	nent Building Society	13	6	8		Land Tax	2	15	0
						Repairs and Alterations	51	14	9
						Miscellaneous Expenses	2	12	0
						Expenses of Letting Premises	41	15	0
				318					425
				6					16
				8					9
						BALANCE, DECEMBER 31ST, 1936—			
						Rates in advance	23	15	5
						Cash at Bank	30	15	2
						Co-operative Permanent Build-			
						ing Society	367	5	9
									421
									16
									4
									£847
									13
									1

I have examined the Books and Vouchers of the League for the year 1936, and certify that in my opinion the foregoing Statements are properly drawn up, so as to exhibit the position of affairs in accordance with the information given me, and as shown by the Books.

9 REGENT STREET, S.W.1.
29th January, 1937.

(Signed) M. S. CLUGSTON, Certified Accountant, AUDITOR.

Branches

The names and addresses of our Branch Secretaries are as follows:—

- Acock's Green** ... Mrs. McMurdo, 58 Douglas Road, Acock's Green.
Birmingham Miss P. Holland, 123 Poplar Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.
Brighton *Pro. tem.* Mrs. Greenwood, 8 The Terrace, Roedean, Brighton.
Bristol Mrs. Smallpage, 10 Oakfield Road, Clifton.
Cambridge Mrs. Briggs, 8 Luard Road, Cambridge.
 Mrs. Stirland, The Red House, Bentley Road, Cambridge.
Cheltenham Mrs. Major, Melita, Old Bath Road, Cheltenham.
Church Stretton... Miss L. Ellison, Beechcroft, Church Stretton.
Croydon Mrs. Savage, 27 Pollards Hill North, London, S.W.16.
Edinburgh Mrs. Matheson, 15 Dalrymple Crescent, Edinburgh.
Glasgow Mrs. A. Shanks, 84 Crofthill Road, Glasgow, S.4.
Golders Green and Hampstead Garden Suburb ... Miss Ker, 28 Hill Top, N.W.11.
Leeds Mrs. Elgie, 135 Vesper Road, Leeds, 5.
Leicester Miss D. Packham, 184 Fosse Road, Leicester.
Liverpool Mrs. Woods, Briarwood, Carnatic Road, Mossley Hill, Liverpool.
Manchester Miss Ironside, W.I.L., 1 Princess Street, Albert Square, Manchester.
Marazion Mrs. Henson, 5 Mount View Terrace, Marazion, Cornwall.
North Wales (comprising Branches in Wrexham, Oswestry and District, Rhyl, Llandudno Junction and Deganwy, Penmaenmawr, Llanfairfechan, Bangor, Anglesey County, Menai Bridge, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Colwyn Bay.)
 Mrs. Thoday, Haulfre, Ffriddoedd Road, Bangor.
Preston Miss Wilkinson, 1 Douglas Road, Lytham Road, Fulwood, Preston.
Shrewsbury Miss Bradley, Fernwood, Roman Road, Shrewsbury.
S.E. London Mrs. Blanchard Field, 165 Grove Lane, London, S.E.5.
Stockport Miss Doris Smith, Highfield, Heaton Norris, Stockport.
Tunbridge Wells... Miss Emily F. Jones, 17 Frant Road, Tunbridge Wells.
Warrington Mrs. Davies, Bleak House, Penketh, Warrington.
Welwyn Garden City Miss Edalji, 9 Brockett Close, Welwyn Garden City.
Worthing Joint Secretaries: Mrs. Darrah and Mrs. Dawson, Thur-mor, Lavington Road, Worthing.

In addition to societies affiliated to the above branches we have at Headquarters Affiliated Societies, consisting of Branches of the Women's Co-operative Guild, Women Citizens' Association, National British Women's Total Abstinence Union, Women's Sections of the Labour Party, Women's Liberal Association, Women's Adult Schools, the Women's Meeting of the Anerley Congregational Church, Wood Green and Southgate Women's Arbitration Committee, and the Women's Indian Association.

