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Women's International League for
Peace and Freedom, British Section

WILPF 2/20



Thirty-Fifth Annual Report

MARCH, 1950—FEBRUARY, 1951

Address: FLAT 16, 144 SOUTHAMPTON ROW, W.C.1.

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

Head Office:

12, Rue du Vieux Collège, Geneva, Switzerland.

International President—Miss Emily Greene Balch.

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.

At present we have National Sections or Correspondents in Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Israel, Nigeria, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.S.A.

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM, BRITISH SECTION

Address: Flat 16, 144, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

President—Lady Parmoor.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 1950-51.

Chairman—Mrs. G. R. McGregor Wood.

Vice-Chairmen—Miss Agatha Harrison, Mrs. M. Nuttall, Mrs. L. de Swiet.

Individual Members.—Mrs. E. Brailsford, Mrs. P. Cusden, J.P., Mrs. Twiston Davies, Mrs. N. Weiss.

Branch Representatives.—Mrs. Ashworth, Mrs. Ballinger, Mrs. Barber, Mrs. Beard, Miss Camfield, Mrs. Goring, Mrs. Greaves, Mrs. Lesniak (alternate Mrs. Malewska), Mrs. Malcomson, Miss McAra, Mrs. Mitchiner, Mrs. Needham (alternate Mrs. Hartley), Mrs. Schlossmann, Mrs. Sussams, Mrs. Sutherst, Mrs. Alun Llywelyn-Williams.

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Hon. Treasurer—Mrs. A. Z. Stapledon.

News Sheet Editor—Miss Amy Haughton.

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FULL MEMBERSHIP is open to all women who are British subjects, who desire to work for the above objects. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP is open to women and men of any nationality resident in Great Britain. Minimum subscription to Headquarters: Full Members 5s.; Associate Members 2s. 6d. per annum, Monthly *News Sheet* 3s. per annum, post free.

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

March, 1950 — February, 1951

Political Work and its Background

The year since our last Annual Council has been marked by increasing anxiety regarding events in Korea, and the Women's International League has taken its full share in the task of influencing policy there, but this does not mean that other problems have been neglected.

We had an unexpected pleasure at the Executive Committee in May, when the Rev. Michael Scott suddenly appeared to thank us for the help which he had received at the United Nations from WILPF under the leadership of Gertrude Baer. He also gave us most interesting information about schemes for the development of the three High Commission Territories. The problems of race relationships, as seen in Africa, may be as serious a cause of war as those in Asia, and the WIL is fortunate in having guides like Mr. Scott, and Mr. Greenidge of the Aborigines Protection Society, to keep us informed and alert.

Another matter which came up at the May Executive Committee meeting was our protest against the development of the Hydrogen Bomb which was sent to M.P.s, Church leaders, and many other prominent people. The moral challenge of modern scientific warfare is one which the WIL must press at all costs, for the alternatives in the Atomic Age are a warless world, or the end of civilisation, and possibly of life itself, for humanity. Remembering the resolution of the International Congress at Copenhagen in 1949, which reaffirmed "opposition to all forms of warfare," we must increase our efforts to bring the nations to accept universal and total disarmament.

In June war broke out in Korea, and it was obvious that our main duty was to urge a peaceful settlement as soon as possible. The meeting of the International Committee in Liverpool made it possible for the British Section to take part in international action. As British President I went with Dr. Bussey and Miss Lous-Mohr to visit some of the embassies in London of the member states of the Security Council of the United Nations in order to present our resolutions on the Korean situation which were received in a friendly spirit. The points we urged then are no less urgent now in February 1951: Cease-fire, a Mediation Commission selected preferably from Asiatic nations, and the seating of the Peking Government in the United Nations. From the outbreak of war until the moment of writing this report, the WIL has not ceased in its efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement in Korea. It is not three hours since I signed a letter to the Prime Minister from the Parliamentary Committee which has been meeting weekly while Parliament is in session, and has proved a most useful means for watching public affairs.

Whatever may be the outcome in the Korean struggle (and as I write on February 5th the situation is grave) the policy of Continuous Mediation, which has been the watchword of the WILPF since its foundation in 1915, is the hope of the world. Let us therefore take courage and remember that truth and right are with us, and the forces of peace are mightier than the forces of war.

MARIAN E. PARMOOR,
(President).

A Message from the Chairman

In WILPF propaganda a point has frequently been made that our League started as an international body—that its heart was at its centre—that it was constitutionally centrifugal.

On one occasion I felt this with some certainty. It was at the 1938 International Executive in Geneva. There were present those outstanding personalities, Lida Gustava Heymann and Anita Augsburg, both women of high academic attainments who, not bearing to live in Hitler Germany, chose rather poverty and freedom in Switzerland. And Frau Clara Ragaz, still one of our leaders, was there too. I can see her now in her black dress (with its modesty vest) looking so like the minister's

wife we knew here at that time, and yet, when a certain journey was suggested to her this quiet lady said, "I should have to go to——by plane, it would not be safe for me to go through Germany by train."

There were several delegates from a certain country in Eastern Europe; they were facing the probability of attack—with palms outstretched and tears streaming down their faces and using the most vivid imagery they appealed to us to understand the awful decision that they as members of our League would find themselves compelled to make.

These women whom I have mentioned all indicated at the time, or later, in spoken or written word that they had come to see by pressure of events that freedom must be worked for as valiantly as peace, and yet at that Executive there was a tremendous sense of unity. And next year there was war.

The historic congress at Luxembourg came in 1946; there the bond drawing delegates together was the bond of sympathy. The crack in the world's thinking between east and west showed at that meeting; the tension and nerve strain was bound to affect the close-knit weaving of the centre; leadership reflected the lack of steadiness among the delegates.

Another Executive at Geneva in 1949, and the Executive preliminary to the Copenhagen Congress, deepened the conviction that the sections (the segments of the circle) must bestir themselves and make every effort to realise the unity which earlier had been achieved through the activity of international Headquarters. If lack of funds prevent the appointment of an International organising secretary and, since in an altered social pattern it is impossible to find able women who are in a position to devote most of their time to voluntary work, the challenge must be faced by the active members of every section. There should be much more exchange of views between the sections with the object of achieving concerted international action. The League, an international body, must act as an international body, not only at international meetings but in support of national sections at politically strategic points.

IN OUR OWN SECTION we at Headquarters are only too often conscious of our inadequacy. Just after I became Chairman I received an encouraging letter from a distinguished woman expressing her hope of "vigorous leadership in WIL." Not one of us fulfils her own hopes, nor unfortunately those of her friends.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE is the centre of our national work, and I want to be allowed to give some sincere advice to all the members. It should be their aim and privilege to contribute to the discussions—to nearly all the discussions—not only to those on subjects of minor importance as happens too frequently. To do this each member, however busy, must take time to inform herself on urgent international problems.

Without this strong exchange of views our section cannot fulfil the ideal of a democratic organisation. It is also essential that a full report of each Executive be given to the Branches and the views of their committees ascertained.

We are living in tremendously anxious and exciting times. Today chronicles a big advance towards self-government in the Gold Coast; Nigeria will doubtless follow.

The first People's World Convention has met at Geneva. In April the World Federalist Congress will meet in Rome. Rearmament is not killing human kindness—USA is sending vast quantities of grain to India.

The proposed rearmament of Germany and Japan shocks us profoundly, and we must be alive to the possibility of the concerted action I have spoken of.

In all things we must go forward sure in the faith that to fight for freedom is to fight for peace, and to fight for peace is to fight for freedom.

GWEN R. MCGREGOR WOOD,
(Chairman).

International Affairs

In relation to the International, 1950 was a notable year for the British Section. The meeting of the International Executive in Liverpool in July made it possible for large numbers of the members to meet members of this Executive and also to attend the meetings of the committee. The work of the Executive was greatly helped by the comfort of the conference centre, and the excellence of the arrangements made by the local WIL Branches and reported on another page.

Members of the International Executive present were: Gertrude Baer, Gertrude Bussey, Barbara Duncan Harris, Magda Hoppstock-Huth, Andrée Jouve, Marie Lous-Mohr, Mildred Olmsted, Mary Pekkala, Agnes Stapledon and Else Zeuthen, and consultative members from several sections. The British Section was represented by Phoebe Cusden and Gwen McGregor Wood as consultants, and Marian Parmoor as proxy. Much regret was expressed that Sigrid Höjer and Lola Hanouskova were unable to be present. The committee was happy to have the unremitting and knowledgeable help of Louisa Jaques.

The discussions, presided over by the three international chairmen, Gertrude Bussey, Marie Lous-Mohr and Agnes Stapledon, were overshadowed throughout by the conflict raging in Korea. Various resolutions were passed, but the outstanding work of the sessions was the following resolution on the Korean situation:—

The International Executive Committee of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom assembled at Liverpool, England, July 25th-31st, 1950, recognises the necessity for localising, and ending as soon as possible, the military action in Korea.

1. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom urges that the Security Council work vigorously for an immediate cease fire in Korea, and that the UN Temporary Commission in Korea be charged with observing the compliance with this order and with reporting its observations immediately to the Security Council.
2. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom urges the Security Council to invite the Korean people to present their differing points of view to the Council through their own representatives.
3. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom urges the Secretary General immediately to appoint a Mediation Commission to secure a basis for a general settlement in Korea. This Commission should be selected preferably from member nations in East and Southern Asia.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom further urges upon the Secretary General and the Security Council its conviction that no satisfactory or stable settlement of the Korean problem can be secured without:

- (a) The seating of the Peking Government of China on the Security Council, thereby enabling the full functioning of the Council and the participation of the Chinese People on problems in Asia, and
- (b) the holding of free elections for the whole of Korea under non-military supervision of a United Nations Commission of powers neutral in this conflict, in order that the Koreans themselves may work out their problems, political, economic, social and educational.

After the meetings, two of the International Chairmen, Dr. Bussey and Miss Lous-Mohr, were in London, and, with the President of the British Section, Lady Parmoor, they took this resolution personally to the Foreign Office and the Embassies of France, Norway (at that time one of the non-permanent members of the Security Council), USA., USSR. They also took it to the High Commissioner for India who was putting forward far reaching suggestions for the ending of the Korean Conflict. Most interesting interviews resulted in some cases, and it was felt to be a very worth-while undertaking.

At the close of the International Executive Meetings the following resolution was passed:—

The WILPF . . . protests with all its energy against the pronouncements of the responsible statesmen discrediting in advance recent proposals for peace. Such statements, coupled with preparation for mobilisation, decrease the possibility of a peaceful solution and hasten the drive towards war.

All idea of final victory rests on a vain illusion, and all appeals to the people to sacrifice for the common good, through war, are based on a tragic blindness to the ultimate outcome.

In the conviction that modern warfare threatens all that men hold dear and may even destroy the human race,

we urge the UN to examine objectively all proposals for peace from whatever quarter these come, considering such proposals in the light of the profound obligation to maintain peace and save mankind from the scourge of war.

The Executive also had to deal with many matters of administrative detail. The most important was the transfer of Gertrude Baer from Lake Success to Geneva. Mrs. Bloch had left the post of International Secretary at the beginning of the year, and Mrs. McCorkel had filled the post for a few months. Miss Baer did not take up the post of International Secretary, but remains our liaison officer with the UN, and the International Consultant with the Economic and Social Council, and is able to follow in Geneva much of the work of the various organs of the UN. Every international member of the WILPF will appreciate the living contacts with international affairs which are reflected in the international letters that Gertrude Baer sends out, wherever she may be stationed; letters which are one of the most valued privileges of international membership.

When it was known that Agatha Harrison would be working at Lake Success with a Quaker group during the autumn months, she was asked to hold a watching brief for the WILPF, and she agreed to do so. The USA Section has a devoted and efficient liaison officer in Gladys Walser who works at Lake Success. Agatha Harrison was able to co-operate with her and with Annalee Stewart in this task.

Another development that followed the International Executive was the appointment of a New Sections Committee to watch for growing points in countries where there was not yet sections. This work is already bearing fruit in the emergence of groups in Nigeria and Israel, and in a growing interest among Indian women.

The examination of the International Constitution is evoking widespread interest in Sections as far apart as Australia and Canada, and is revealing unity of thought in the WILPF around the world.

BARBARA DUNCAN HARRIS,
(*Ex-President*).

The Far East

The year has been marked by the startling emergence of Asia into world affairs that caught the Western world unprepared because of its lack of appreciation of what has been termed a "tidal wave" in the Far East. Accustomed to reading of the persistent unrest in Indo-China, Malaya, etc., it was not until June last, when the Korean situation came to a climax and the United Nations took collective action, that the world was stabbed awake.

Brutal war has been waged in Korea for many months; the plight of Korean men, women and children is beyond imagination. WIL members have watched the swiftly moving events with deepening concern; the representations we have made are given on another page. Similar action has been taken by our American colleagues, and Dr. Bussey and Mrs. Walser are doing valuable work at Lake Success.

Of outstanding importance is the rôle India has played and is playing. As the Chinese People's Republic is unrepresented at the United Nations, it has fallen mainly on India to provide first-hand information from China through her Ambassador in Peking. Mr. Nehru's courageous stand and the persistent line of mediation taken by Sir Benegal Rau at Lake Success prove the truth of what the Women's International League has always said—that India's freedom would contribute vitally to world peace.

At the moment of writing this report the world is under the dark shadow of the United Nations resolution branding China as an aggressor. How will the historian of the future assess this grave decision? May he not find in the action of the United States in regard to Formosa; the help given to Bao Dai in Indo-China; the crossing of the 38th parallel and all that followed by the United Nations forces; another kind of aggression?

Western unawareness of the great changes in Asia in recent years and our lack of information and human contact should lie heavily on our minds. Should we not

be giving more attention to Hongkong and Malaya, and the future of Japan? Asia has suffered much humiliation at Western hands, and is now in revolt. What a pity the WILPF has not been able to follow up the good work done by Edith Pye and Camille Drevet when they went on a goodwill mission to the Far East over twenty years ago. The report they made at that time is most significant reading at this juncture. Mr. Nehru commented recently, "There has been reluctance and hesitation to accept the great changes that have come over Asia. Yet the major fact of the age is the emergence of this new Asia. This must be recognised if we are to deal realistically with the world of today. Because the United Nations did not recognise it difficulties arose and continue to trouble us."

India has striven to bring this realisation of a New Asia before the world. In spite of rebuffs and advice unheeded we hope and pray she will persist, in the spirit that characterised her leader Mahatma Gandhi, to find a way of peace between East and West.

AGATHA HARRISON,
(Vice-Chairman).

INDIA AND PAKISTAN

After the World Conference of Religious Pacifists, Miss Agatha Harrison stayed on in India for several months. She travelled about on special missions, and helped the young members of the Friends Service Unit in their difficult work at the time of the Bengal riots. On her return she gave a moving account to the WIL Executive.

Meanwhile the agreement signed by the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan on April 11th, 1950, had been proclaimed, and letters were sent to the High Commissioners expressing our satisfaction at and admiration of the courage and statesmanship shown by the two Premiers.

The Women's Council co-operating with women of India, Pakistan and Ceylon (formerly Women's Council on Indian Affairs) organised most successful receptions at the Overseas League, and a number of WIL members had the pleasure of meeting and hearing Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Mrs. Hannah Sen, and Begum Liaquat Ali Khan.

The following message was sent to the All India Women's Conference meeting in January, 1951, at Mysore:—

"With friendly greetings the British Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom sends sincere good wishes to members of the All India Women's Conference for a successful 22nd Session, and hopes that 1951 will provide fresh opportunities to work for the welfare and progress of their country.

"It appreciates greatly how India 'has laboured with all earnestness of purpose in the cause of peace,' in particular the important part she has played and is playing at Lake Success, and assures the Conference of its heartiest co-operation and continued efforts in this cause so vital for all peoples."

The Liaison Group of British Women's Societies of which the WIL has been one of the most active members since its formation in 1934, and which has worked in co-operation with the All India Women's Conference, has decided that the rather specialised work of the Group is no longer needed, and that further activities can be carried on by the Women's Council with its larger and more important organisations. The disbanding of the Liaison Group means also the end of the "Bulletin of Indian Women's Movement" which it has issued for so many years. It is very satisfactory, however, to announce that the Women's Council will publish a new bulletin twice yearly, and thus former contacts with Indian women will be maintained, also contacts with the women of Ceylon and Pakistan. Miss Harrison, Mrs. Lankester and Miss Dickinson are on the Executive Committee of the Women's Council.

MAUD DICKINSON.

The International Executive Committee, July, 1950

The International Executive Committee held its Annual Meeting this year in Rankin Hall, Liverpool, thus giving enormous stimulation and delight to the Liverpool and Childwall Branches in having the very heart of the WILPF in their

midst for a week. It was a proud privilege and experience to meet delegates and visitors from nine countries—Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States—and to attend some of their most strenuous sessions. Here one watched "women of different political and philosophical tendencies" united in friendly determination to resolve apparently irreconcilable differences of opinion, and to work constructively for peace.

In the middle of the week Liverpool offered civic hospitality to the committee and visitors in the form of an afternoon reception at the Town Hall where the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress dispensed tea, and then conducted us round the civic reception rooms, and Council Chamber, and explained to our interested visitors the procedure of the Council.

This was followed by a well-attended Public Meeting in the evening, chaired by our British President, Lady Parmoor. A most responsive audience listened to stirring speeches on "The World Situation" from delegates of eight countries, and passed a resolution calling upon the Secretary General of the United Nations to use all his authority to secure mediation in the Korean conflict, and to appoint a committee for mediation, preferably from among the member nations of East and South Asia.

The following day Gertrude Baer gave a detailed and most impressive account of her work at Lake Success—a report almost breath-taking in its range and scope and in its independence of action. This was followed by Madame Jouve's report of her work at UNESCO.

On Saturday another break from work was provided by a visit to Mrs. Malcomson's garden party in aid of the League of Coloured Peoples, where the Committee met many prominent coloured citizens.

This was followed by a social evening for members of our own and neighbouring Branches, and at which for a time we watched the Executive Committee in active session.

Warm appreciation was voiced on all sides and in many accents of the strenuous efforts of Mrs. Stapledon and Mrs. Holmes to ensure the comfort of the visitors, the smooth working of the machinery of the Committee and the arrangement of those lighter moments to leaven the whole.

Many of us felt, with Mildred Olmsted, that this had been a momentous week in the history of the WILPF for its "high and courageous and intelligent handling of current issues" and with Lady Parmoor that its "happy fellowship" had "brought comfort and strength to us all in these difficult days."

A BRANCH MEMBER.

All Nations Group

The monthly meetings of this Group have been an unqualified success and have filled a very real need. One pleasing development has been the increase in the numbers of English members who attend showing their interest and sympathy with the strangers in their midst. This side of WIL work appeals specially to new and younger members as it is recognised as a practical expression of "internationalism."

There are times when some of our foreign friends leave for America or Canada and then they take with them the knowledge of the WIL, and the possibility of making similar contacts out there, as well as the feeling that they have left behind English friends with whom they can keep in touch.

On one such occasion we said goodbye to the Nagy family from Hungary, who were emigrating to Canada, and had a crowded Hungarian evening with music and speeches on the culture of the Hungarian people.

Some meetings have been small and intimate, when political subjects were introduced and questions asked and answered. Miss Grabelaas from South Africa was much appreciated when she spoke of her native country, and Mrs. McGregor Wood when she gave an account of her visit to America.

The Group has four secretaries: Mrs. Cumft (Polish), Mrs. Palmer (Esthonian) Mrs. De Swiet, and Mrs. Dennis.

LYDIA DE SWIET,
(Vice-Chairman).

Polish WIL Group Attached to the British Section

The officers of this Group are as follows:—

Chairman and Secretary: Countess Teresa Lubienska.
Vice-Chairman: Dr. Halina Sukiennicka.
Treasurer: Countess Natalia Chodkiewicz.
Assistant Secretary: Mrs. Cumft.
Executive Delegate: Mrs. Lesniak.
Alternate: Mrs. Malewska.

Meetings have been held and a well thought out statement prepared showing their interpretation of our peace aims. This document is for presentation to the Council.

On March 1st the Polish members invited members of the British Section and their friends to a showing of Polish films. Tea was provided by the hostesses and a most instructive evening was spent.

News Sheet

The number of *News Sheets* issued monthly during 1950 has been close on 1,500. A total profit of £44 has been made on them this year.

Our helpful printer, Mr. Mather, has warned us that, owing to widely publicised printing difficulties, he will be compelled to make an extra charge of 10 per cent. during the coming year. It is hoped that members will endeavour to secure more subscribers to the *News Sheet* and thus prevent any drop in the aforementioned profit which, as will be realised, is both useful and encouraging in these difficult times.

During the past year we have received a number of letters from readers expressing appreciation and stating that the *News Sheet* has been of help to them in their peace efforts. The Editor is very grateful for these letters, as also for the numbers of publications sent at regular intervals from British sources, and also from other countries, including India and USA.

A. HAUGHTON,
(*News Sheet* Editor)

Membership

Throughout the year we have pursued the two-fold object of increasing our membership, and improving our contacts with members who are not attached to any Branch.

All provincial members have been asked to consider calling together small groups of members and friends, who live within a reasonable distance, so as to promote and stimulate their interest. Some members have been able to respond to this suggestion, and I am glad to report a few budding groups which may well grow into Branches.

Hitherto Headquarter members have suffered from the lack of any provision for them to vote at Annual Councils. A suggested remedy for this state of affairs will be seen among the proposals submitted to the 1951 Annual Council for the amendment of the rules and constitution.

Several meetings have been arranged for London Headquarter members. In June the Hon. Mrs. Franklin entertained about 40 members, including some of the All Nations Group, to tea at her home. Greetings were read from many different overseas visitors. The principal speaker was Mrs. Cecil Heath. In December Lady Mayer welcomed several members to her home and an informal meeting followed during which appeals were made for renewed efforts to increase our influence and membership, and a few valuable new workers disclosed themselves.

On January 8th a party was held to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the founding of the League. Mrs. McGregor Wood and Miss Harrison, both of whom had recently returned from America, were the principal guests and speakers. It was splendid to find a few of the pioneer members present. They recalled the paths by which the League had arrived at the maturity of 35 years of age.

While the birthday cake was being cut the candles, which had been artistically arranged on a side table, were lit by the guests in a pleasant little ceremony.

Miss Chatfield kindly provided a delightful piano recital. The total membership is now 1,159, of whom 1,335 are Branch members and 324 Headquarter members.

Resignations have been few, and are due to financial stringency rather than disagreement with our objects.

I hope that all members will continue to send me the names of people who are interested in the League, and will in addition never lose an opportunity to make known our beliefs and objects, which are given so little publicity by any other means.

OLIVE SUTHERST,
(*Membership Secretary*).

Committee Work

EXECUTIVE.—During the year ten meetings have been held under the Chairmanship of Mrs. McGregor Wood and in her absence under that of the three Vice-Chairmen. Four of these meetings have been outstanding.

In May a surprise visitor was welcomed in the person of the Rev. Michael Scott whose address to the Executive has been recorded by the President under "Political Work."

In November the Extended Executive was held in London. A record number of Headquarter members attended, as well as delegates from fifteen Branches and representatives of two affiliated societies. Miss Vera Brittain gave an inspiring address. Letters were received from America sent by Mrs. McGregor Wood and Miss Agatha Harrison which formed the basis of discussion and action on world affairs. Much time was given to domestic problems, particularly finance and membership.

In January the Executive had the pleasure of listening to reports given by the Chairman and Miss Agatha Harrison on their experiences in America. Ties between the British and US Sections have been greatly strengthened by the Chairman's visit, and fresh ways of working together have been made possible. Miss Harrison stressed the responsibility that rested on Non-Governmental Organisations such as ours in having Consultative Status with the United Nations, and the immense possibilities open to them.

In February Mrs. Brailsford reported on her visit to Yugoslavia and gave a brilliant analysis of the present régime there. She stressed the importance in world affairs of the decision taken by Yugoslavia in 1948 to preserve her independence.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.—This Committee has met weekly throughout the year with very few breaks. Our President, Lady Parmoor, is now its Chairman, and the members, other than the Officers, are: Lady Mayer, Mrs. Brailsford, Mrs. Holland, Miss Hargreaves, Mrs. Cusden, Miss Nightingale, Dr. Lloyd Pritchard and Mrs. Dayan. Any member of the WIL is now entitled to attend as an observer.

The Committee functions in three ways:—

1. It prepares the way for the Executive to take action on important matters. This it does by studying the international situation week by week and by passing on information gained by interviews and correspondence with experts.
2. It takes action when emergencies arise. It makes known our views to Government Departments by letter and telegram and, when possible, Members of Parliament are lobbied at the House. Hansard is closely studied and encouragement given to those members who speak in Debates in the House on the side of "peaceful negotiation."
3. It passes on to the Branches suggestions for parallel work which they can do in their own locality.

Valuable background material for the study of Race Relations was contributed by the Committee and sent to the Branches for use in their meetings or study groups.

Three meetings were held of special interest. On May 8th Mr. Greenidge, of the Aborigines Protection Society, gave an informal talk to the Committee on the international position of South-West Africa and on the three High Commission

Territories. He suggested that we should join in a Joint Statement, with other interested societies, and appeal to H.M. Government not to hand over the High Commission Territories to South Africa without the *consent* of the inhabitants.

In June the Committee met at Friends International Centre and invited four West African women, Mrs. Solanke, Mrs. Wright, Miss Annie Baeta and Miss Lily Baeta, to discuss the life and problems of women in West Africa. A most interesting discussion took place and the Committee learnt a great deal from its visitors.

In August the Committee welcomed Mrs. Hannah Sen and Mrs. Swaminathan from India. The former had been at UN working with the Equal Status Commission, and the latter at the Economic and Social Conference at Geneva. The question of an Indian Section was shortly discussed, but most of the time was taken in reviewing the present situation. Both Indian women felt that little was known in the West of the strength of opinion in Asia. They stressed the horrors of bombing and asked what women over here were doing to try to bring about mediation.

ORGANISATION COMMITTEE.—This Committee has met several times in the year and has given consideration to pressing problems of membership and finance. The day before the Extended Executive Mrs. Sutherst presented to the Committee a scheme to increase interest and gain members which was discussed. The findings of the Committee were presented to the Executive on the following day.

The London Group of this Committee has been greatly handicapped by the deeply regretted illness of its Secretary, Mrs. Twiston Davies. Some progress has been made which, now that she is fortunately in action again, will form a basis for fresh enterprise.

London meetings are reported elsewhere by the Membership Secretary.

EDITH F. INESON,
(Hon. Secretary).

Combined Commission on Current Questions and United Nations

During the year the Commission dealt with vital international issues as they arose.

Following an announcement at the beginning of the year on the development of the hydrogen bomb, the Commission drafted a resolution which was adopted by the Executive Committee and sent to all Members of Parliament, the Prime Minister, the heads of all Government Departments, the heads of the churches in the United Kingdom, and to all national sections of the WILPF.

German affairs were kept under observation. In May a letter was sent to Mr. Bevin asking that an unarmed and united Germany be brought into the family of nations. Recommendations were also made to the Executive regarding the Colour Problem in South Africa, Mr. Trygve Lie's twenty-year peace programme, the Schuman Plan, Korea, Conscriptio, Genocide, and the Prime Minister's visit to Mr. Truman. During this visit a cable was sent to Mr. Attlee in Washington to support his peace initiative and urge the desperate need for a quick end of the Korean war on the basis of immediate negotiations, and the strengthening of the UN by seating the Peking Government therein. Copies of this cable were sent to Mr. Bevin and (by cable) to the American Section.

PHOEBE E. CUSDEN,
(Chairman of Commission).

Colour Discrimination Commission

A letter of congratulation was sent by the Commission to the B.B.C. on the choice of a Nigerian to introduce H.M. the King's Christmas Broadcast in 1949.

A letter was sent to the British Council to express our confidence that, as it was now responsible for the Hostels for Coloured Students, these students would be adequately represented on all internal committees affecting their welfare, and also that efforts would be made to provide food suited to the various nationalities.

The Resolutions passed by the Annual Council on Seretse Khama and Colour Discrimination were formally acknowledged.

The London Missionary Society was approached about the welfare of Mrs. Khama.

The Rev. Michael Scott's efforts to put the case of the Hereros before the United Nations have been vigorously supported; several relevant letters have been written, and members attended meetings in London and Liverpool, also the Conference on African Relations held in London. From this Conference an African Relations Council, on which we are represented, was formed. The Rev. Michael Scott visited the May Executive and assured us that Gertrude Baer had been of the greatest assistance to him at Lake Success.

Throughout the year the Committee has received reports on the difficulties that have been overcome in the running of Stanley House, the only Community Centre for coloured people and their friends in this country.

GRACE MALCOMSON,
(Chairman of Commission).

Action Taken on Vital Issues

RECOGNITION OF CHINESE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS.—In March, 1950, the Parliamentary Committee expressed the hope that the Annual Council would frame a resolution urging H.M. Government to press for the recognition of the Chinese People's Government at the United Nations.

In May a letter, signed by the President, Lady Parmoor, was sent to the Prime Minister, who replied that a change-over in Chinese representation could only be brought about by collective action based on decisions taken in consultation.

The WIL continued to press this matter and in November a cable was sent to Mr. Attlee while he was in America which included a further plea for the "strengthening of the United Nations by seating the Peking Government therein."

THE WAR IN KOREA.—In accordance with our aims, it has been our policy in this situation to call for a cease fire and negotiations. In June we sent the following cable to the American Section: "Support all efforts you are making to restore peace in Korea."

In July Mrs. Duncan Harris was a member of a deputation to the Soviet Embassy on this issue arranged by the NPC. On receiving her report the following cable was sent to the American Section: "British WILPF supporting National Peace Council which today urgently appealed by deputation to Soviet Embassy to convey to Soviet Government plea for influence on North Korea to withdraw. Have also urged on British and American Governments their responsibility to settle deadlock by peaceful means. If North Korean troops withdraw is essential American and British Governments guarantee to use all influence dissuade South Korean troops from hostilities or reprisals and do all possible bring whole issue to immediate and genuine international mediation. Urge parallel action by American WIL."

The calling of the six non-permanent members of the Security Council to consider the possibility of mediation had been suggested. As Norway was included on this Council a letter was sent to the Norwegian Section to express our anxiety and our hopes.

A letter was also sent to the American Section to ask them to convey in person to Sir Benegal Rau our appreciation of his peace initiative and our hopes that the method of negotiation would be continually followed until it met with success.

In August a letter was sent to Mrs. Ganley and Mrs. Jean Mann, the two M.P.s who are members of the WIL, and to others to beg them to emphasise human values when war debates took place in the House.

The statement on the war situation passed by the International Executive, held at Liverpool in July, is quoted under "International Affairs" on another page. This statement became the basis of future action in the British Section and was sent to all our representatives at the United Nations with a covering letter. It was also sent to Government Departments.

The October Executive passed its own statement on the altered situation:—

The Women's International League Executive Committee welcomes the emphasis laid by H. M. Government on the need to approach the problem of Korea, not as a question of North and South, but with a view to securing a settlement which will establish a unified and independent nation, free from the domination of any great power.

Now that the situation in which the United Nations took military action in Korea is changed and North Korean forces are no longer operating south of the 38th parallel, the Women's International League would again urge that the actions of the United Nations should not be determined by the arbitrament of force. It is urgent that a "Cease Fire" be again called for, so that an impartial tribunal may begin the work of mediation and settlement. We believe a prerequisite to be the seating of the representatives of the Peking Government in the United Nations and its organs, and the participation of the nations of Asia at all stages of the settlement including arrangements for the holding and supervision of free and genuine elections throughout the country.

We would again urge that all proposals designed to achieve a peaceful settlement should be impartially examined and that the peoples of Asia should be associated with the United Nations in the immediate formulation of long term plans for the relief and rehabilitation of Korea as a truly self-governing country.

We cabled Sir Gladwyn Jebb:—

WIL urges need for immediate cease fire order from both sides of the conflict in Korea and immediate appointment of impartial body to mediate and propose settlement for united and independent Korea.

We also cabled Mr. Attlee in Washington:—

British Section WILPF supports peace initiative, urges desperate need quick end Korean war on basis of immediate negotiation,

and we sent a further cable to Sir Gladwyn Jebb:

The British Section WILPF urges use presence of Peking delegates as opportunity secure settlement of Korea and issues threatening world peace.

In December and January support was given to two emergency public meetings arranged by the National Peace Council on Korea—China—and Peace, which resulted in the formation of the "Peace with China Council," an inter-party national committee to co-ordinate the efforts of those who felt that Britain should use her initiative to stop the drift to world war, and should base her efforts on the following five points:—

1. We should emphasise our conviction that the Cairo and Potsdam decisions on Formosa are binding on the signatories.
2. We should, in concert with the Commonwealth and other members of the United Nations, press for the admission of China to the Security Council.
3. We should explicitly oppose any extension of the Korean conflict.
4. We should seek an early and equitable settlement in Korea, and, in accordance with the intention and function of the United Nations, make proposals for the creation of a united independent Korea.
5. We should press for the fullest collaboration with India, Pakistan, and other Asian countries in a renewed effort by the United Nations peaceably to solve outstanding political problems and to consider comprehensive means for the economic rehabilitation of Korea.

Many WIL Branches have organised similar joint meetings in their own locality in support of the Peace with China Council.

GERMAN REARMAMENT.— In April a letter was sent to Geneva Headquarters to ask for the findings of the Committee set up at Copenhagen to study German neutrality. We stated the views of the British Section that Germany should be unarmed and united.

In May a letter was sent to Mr. Bevin to "express the hope that a way may be found to bring a united and unarmed Germany into the larger family of nations."

In December when the Foreign Ministers were meeting in Brussels a further letter was sent to Mr. Bevin to deplore the proposed rearming of Western Germany.

The February Executive passed the following resolution:—

The Executive Committee of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, British Section, calls the attention of H.M. Government

to the alarm of people in Britain and elsewhere at the proposals for the rearmament of Western Germany. We are of the opinion that this will increase the international tension and therefore the general danger of war.

We naturally deplore the encouragement of the revival of German militarism, and of the forces which found expression in Nazism. We feel moreover that such rearmament, accomplished at it would be against the expressed will of the great part of the German people, would undoubtedly tend, not only further to separate Eastern and Western Germany, but possibly to provoke civil war.

The world as a whole, as well as Germany, looks forward to peaceful reconstruction as an alternative to harmful rearmament. We hope, therefore, that H.M. Government will take steps to secure the place of Germany among the free and independent people of the world, and we trust that such steps will include a conference on general disarmament.

This statement was sent to the Prime Minister, the Foreign Office and the War Office. Copies were sent to all Branch Secretaries who were asked to approach their M.P.s on this subject.

AFRICA.— On June 8th and 10th the WIL co-operated with the NPC to arrange a Public Meeting and a Delegate Conference on "The Human Crisis in Africa—a Problem of Peace." Both meetings were held under the guidance of the Rev. Michael Scott, who also spoke at both of them.

The conference passed a resolution to support the maintenance of the international status of S.W. Africa and to oppose the incorporation of this territory into the Union of S. Africa; to support the contention of the three High Commission Territories that they should not be handed over to the Union of S. Africa without the full consent of the indigenous people; to support the demand that there should be no further alienation of native lands in East and Central Africa; and to support the proposal of the Rev. Michael Scott that the welfare of Africa could best be achieved through the full and equal co-operation of the Africans in all schemes of development.

The conference asserted its faith in the "moral principle and practice of racial equality" and called upon all "people of goodwill" to support the Africans in achieving their freedom on a basis of equality.

The conference resulted in the formation of the African Relations Council of which Mrs. Muirhead is Secretary and Mrs. Malcomson our elected representative.

In July we wrote to Mr. Gordon Walker, Minister for Commonwealth Relations, to ask what steps H.M. Government were taking to convey to Dr. Malan the strong feeling in this country against the action taken by the Union of South Africa in trying to incorporate S.W. Africa before the decision of the Hague Court on the subject had been announced.

A reply from the Commonwealth Relations Office stated that no representations had been made on this subject to the South African Government as this Government had denied that the South-West Africa Affairs (Amendment) Act, 1949, of the Union Legislature provided for the incorporation of S.W. Africa into the Union.

Later in July the following Resolution was presented by the British Section and passed by the International Executive:—

The International Executive Committee of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom assembled at Liverpool, England, July 25th—31st, 1950, records its support of the action undertaken on behalf of the oppressed people of South-West Africa and elsewhere.

It urges the Government of South Africa to agree to the request of the United Nations that the Mandated Territory of South-West Africa be brought under the Trusteeship Council.

It asks the United Nations to continue to do all in their power to secure for the inhabitants of this territory all the safeguards envisaged under the Trusteeship system and in the Charter of Human Rights.

Further, it would urge the United Nations to press all Governments administering non-self-governing territories to accept the principle of international accountability by submitting reports of their administration to the General Assembly and by co-operating in supplying information requested thereby.

The extended Executive in November sent a further letter to Mr. Gordon Walker in which they quoted the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice at the Hague on the affairs of S.W. Africa that:—

“ In view of the result at which the Court has arrived with respect to the exercise of the supervisory functions by the United Nations and the obligation of the Union Movement to submit to such supervision, and having regard to the fact that the dispatch and examination of petitions form a part of that supervision, the Court is of the opinion that petitions are to be transmitted by that Government to the General Assembly of the United Nations which is legally qualified to deal with them.”

and we

“ Urged H.M. Government to instruct its representatives at the UN to press for the consideration of the Hague Court's decision by this Assembly and to endeavour to secure its acceptance during the present session.”

In reply the Commonwealth Relations Office quoted Mr. Attlee's answer to a question in the House on September 14th. “ It is . . . the general policy of the United Kingdom Government to support the authority of the Court . . . but it would not be in accordance with normal practice to disclose in advance the actual instructions to our delegation to the UN General Assembly.”*

*The Assembly accepted the findings of the International Court of Justice. Michael Scott's memorandum on the present position with regard to S.W. Africa is now being studied.

THE HYDROGEN BOMB.—The Parliamentary Committee passed the following Resolution in March:—

In view of the present grave situation, which has been thrown into even sharper relief by recent announcements regarding the Hydrogen Bomb, the WILPF (British Section) urges H.M. Government to press Mr. Trygve Lie to summon a special Emergency Conference of the General Assembly of the United Nations to discuss the problems common to all member nations in the light of any such constructive suggestions as the proposals of Senator McMahon and of the newly established Technical Assistance Board.

This Resolution was sent with a covering letter to the Prime Minister, and to all M.P.s and many replies were received.

STATEMENT ON POLICY.—In July the Executive adopted a statement for presentation to the International Executive urging the need for “ A More Effective WILPF.” Copies of this statement are available on application to the office.

GENOCIDE.— We pressed the Government many times to give their reasons for not signing or ratifying the Genocide Convention. We also wrote to Mr. Janner, M.P. for Leicester, who had raised this question several times in the House.

In his reply Mr. Janner referred us to the answer given to him in the House on November 20th. “ H.M. Government must take into consideration, and are therefore carefully studying, the effects of the reservations (attached by certain signatures to the Convention) in the light of the debates on this subject in the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly, and the subsequent reference of the whole question to the International Court of Justice. At the same time I must remind my Hon. Friend of the implications which our accession to the Convention might have on our traditional policy of granting asylum to political refugees. These present considerable difficulties and are still being studied by experts.”

The matter is still being watched.

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND— Early in 1950 the Parliamentary Committee wrote several times to the Foreign Office to urge that the United Kingdom should renew its subscription to UNICEF. (The last subscription had been given in 1948.)

On May 11th the Committee wrote to all women M.P.s and to many women's organisations to mention the possibility that the work of UNICEF might be about to stop, and to ask what they thought would be the best way to work for its continuation. As we go to press we hear that Mr. Ernest Davies said, in a written answer, that H.M. Government proposed to ask Parliament for authority to make a further contribution of £100,000 to the funds of UNICEF.

Letters of Congratulation were sent During the Year To

DR. RALPH BUNCHE on being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 1949.

DR. SUBANDRIO, wife of the Indonesian Ambassador, on the election of her country to the United Nations.

MRS. BARBARA CASTLE, M.P., on her courageous stand for peace and constructive policies in political and international affairs.

MR. VICTOR YATES, M.P., on the formation of a new Peace Group in the House of Commons.

MR. JAMES HUDSON, M.P., on the part he took in the Parliamentary debate on Korea.

SIR BENEGAL RAU on his persistent work for mediation at the United Nations.

PANDIT NEHRU, the Prime Minister of India, on his untiring efforts for peace in the United Nations, at the meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers, in his broadcast in this country and in his public utterances on many platforms.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR, Minister of Health for India, on her election as President of the World Health Organisation and later on her election as President of the United Nations Association inaugurated at Delhi.

MADAME SUN YAT SEN on the progressive nature of the new Chinese Marriage Laws.

MISS C. A. LEJEUNE on her stand against the showing of cheap sensational war films.

Annual Council, 1950

The Annual Council was held at Folkestone from March 24th to 27th. Lectures were given by Mr. B. R. Davidson, Secretary of the Union of Democratic Control, on “ Introduction to World Truce,” Miss Vera Brittain on “ The World Pacifist Conference in the Light of World Truce,” Miss Kathleen Gibberd on “ Germany and World Truce,” and Mr. B. B. Thomas, Permanent Secretary of the Welsh Department of the Ministry of Education, on “ The Work of Unesco and World Truce.” Miss Fortey, a member of the Leicester Branch, also lectured on “ Esperanto.”

Sixteen resolutions were passed. One expressed our conviction that the primary objects of the WILPF remain:—

- (a) Total and universal disarmament.
- (b) The abolition of violent means of coercion for the settlement of all conflicts.
- (c) The substitution in every case of some form of peaceful settlement.
- (d) The development of a world organisation for the political, social and economic co-operation of peoples.

Others asked for:—

- (a) The repeal of the National Service Act.
- (b) Reduction in armaments as an immediate step.
- (c) The suspension of the death penalty for five years.
- (d) Equal pay and equal opportunity.
- (e) Establishment of a World Food Authority.
- (f) Encouragement for the abolition of Racial Discrimination.
- (g) Acceptance of International Accountability.
- (h) The right of petition in Trust Territories to Trusteeship Council.

The League was asked to make contact with refugee workers in this country and to study the subject of Race Relations during the year. With regard to Esperanto the Council decided in favour of its introduction into the school curriculum in Great Britain.

Arrangements for the Council were made by the Folkestone Branch and were greatly appreciated.

Voluntary Workers

We say again with conviction that the work of the office could not possibly be carried on without the much valued help given by voluntary workers. This year our thanks are due to Miss Alexander, Miss Ruth Harrison, Miss Orr-Paterson, Miss Gill, Mrs. Mitchiner, Miss Crocker and Miss Hargreaves.

The accounts are now kept by Mrs. Holden, a member of the Croydon Branch, who attends the office once a week for this purpose.

Office

On the grounds of economy we very regretfully accepted the resignation of Miss Wilkinson who left us at the end of December. Mrs. Dennis now carries on the work with voluntary help.

In January we moved into two rooms belonging to the National Peace Council at Flat 16, 144, Southampton Row, W.C.1.

We appreciate the closer co-operation with the N.P.C. which our proximity makes possible, and are grateful for the use of the committee room. The promise of a room in the Peace House, when it materialises, keeps up our spirits when we mount the stairs.

Activities Outside London

BRIGHTON— A combined meeting of the WIL, International Women's Day and United Nations Association, was held at Brighton on March 8th. About 250 people heard Lady Parmoor, Miss Mildred Farhni, President of the Vancouver WIL and Miss M. A. Clark, headmistress of a secondary school in Peckham, speak on "Peace or Destruction." A resolution urging H.M. Government to abolish all atomic warfare, and to make this a step towards complete disarmament, was carried without a dissenting voice.

A second very successful meeting was held on May 31st, the Eve of International Children's Day, the organisations responsible for running it being the WIL, International Women's Day, the United Nations Association and the Society of Friends.

The speakers were John Hoyland and Dr. Ralph Tuckman, who had lately returned from working with a medical mission in China and was able to give us a first-hand account of the changes which had taken place under the new régime. A large audience listened with great interest to both speakers.

ELSIE GORING,
(Branch Secretary).

CHILDWALL—The Childwall Branch has established contact this year with two former members of the WIL—Madame Pateva, of Bulgaria, and Frau Hoppe Freund, now living in Dresden in the Eastern Zone of Germany. Both write guardedly but are very pleased to have linked up again with WIL members.

Mrs. Tiller has co-operated with Mrs. Maud Muller of the Drexel Hill Branch in America in her "Art for World Friendship" project, and Mrs. Brooke who visited the States this summer was the guest of honour at a special meeting of the Pittsburg Branch.

In March the Childwall Branch is being responsible for a fortnight's visit of Fraulein Dr. Schmollada, solicitor, of Hamburg, to study the Legal, Educational, Social and Hospital Services on Merseyside.

N. GREAVES,
(Hon. Secretary).

LIVERPOOL— The most outstanding event this year was the visit of the International Executive Committee to Liverpool. Our members much enjoyed the privilege of meeting these talented and gracious women who are the brain cells and heart of our movement.

Two of our members, in conjunction with the East and West Friendship League, take it in turns to meet the boats from West Africa that bring coloured students to this country. This work started in response to an appeal from the Bishop who knew that these young people were coming under undesirable influences when they first arrived in Liverpool.

We concern ourselves particularly with the young girls and have given the London Headquarters address to a good many who were going to live in London.

At Christmas the committee gave a most enjoyable party for the rest of the members. Mrs. M. Scott brought along some Chinese girls, and an Indian girl who lent a glorious touch of colour in her beautiful sari.

In November our secretary met two social workers from Trinidad who were anxious to start a branch of the WIL in their own country. She gave them literature, information and useful addresses.

Miss Lee, our Vice-President, heard that we were getting short of funds so she asked all the members to send in their favourite recipes and compiled an excellent cookery book that has sold very well indeed. We much appreciated the originality of this idea.

In June last year a subsidiary branch was formed at West Kirby from which we hope for great things.

E. SUNNERS,
(Hon. Treasurer).

NOTTINGHAM— In March the WIL helped to organise a World Government meeting at which Lord Boyd Orr spoke. He mentioned the WILPF Copenhagen Congress and said that when he was there he heard more sense spoken about world affairs than he had ever heard in Parliament.

B. WILDE,
(Hon. Secretary).

GLASGOW— In December the Glasgow Branch held a most successful joint meeting with the Edinburgh Branch in Edinburgh, at which we discussed "The Colour Problem in Britain" and "Refugee Problems." Glasgow has taken part in joint meetings with the "Stop War Committee" and the "Peace with China Council." The latter meeting, held on February 9th, was attended by more than 1,500 people.

A. SHANKS,
(Hon. Secretary).

OXFORD— The Oxford Branch has adopted Lubeck in the British Zone of Germany. We have had a New Year Party, a summer Garden Party, two Bring and Buy Teas and a series of interesting Lunch Hour Meetings. One of these meetings was held conjointly with UNA on Korea and the Committee Members of the Reading Branch came to another.

We had three election meetings, at one of which each of the three candidates, Liberal, Labour and Conservative, spoke.

We have welcomed three speakers from Headquarters: Mrs. McGregor Wood, Miss Mosa Anderson and Mrs. Nuttall.

HAZEL M. NAPIER,
(Hon. Secretary).

WORTHING—The Worthing Branch, with help from the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations and the Worthing Council of Churches, organised a meeting in the Assembly Hall on October 12th. Ritchie Calder spoke on "Feeding the World for the next Fifty Years"; the second speaker being Mr. Le Gros Clark, Secretary of the Children's Nutrition Council. We were honoured to have Lady Parmoor as Chairman.

At the close of a most successful meeting the collection amounted to £12 16s., of which £3 3s. was sent to the local Refugee Fund.

DOROTHY GUNDRY,
(Hon. Secretary).

CROYDON—On the initiative of the Croydon Branch an *ad hoc* committee consisting of representatives of local societies was formed to organise a meeting on the subject "You and the Chinese Crisis." This was held on February 15th, the speakers being the Rev. Henry Carter, C.B.E., Lady Parmoor and Mr. Zilliacus. There was a large and enthusiastic audience and a request was made for further meetings of this kind.

BIRMINGHAM.—A lunch hour meeting, "The Challenge to Peace," was held on March 13th and addressed by Lady Parmoor. Bishop Barnes, whose wife is a member of the Birmingham Branch, was in the chair. The meeting was well attended and new members gained.

E. BALLINGER.

Affiliations

Organisations to which we are affiliated, or to which we send observers, and the names of our representatives:—

Abyssinia (Ethiopia) Association—Miss Maud Dickinson.
British Commonwealth League—Mrs. L. de Swiet, Mrs. Twiston Davies.
Equal Pay Campaign Committee—Mrs. L. de Swiet.
Joint Standing Parliamentary Committee—Miss Edith Hayler.
Crusade for World Government—Mrs. McGregor Wood, Miss Amy Haughton.
National Peace Council—Mrs. Duncan Harris, Miss Agatha Harrison, Miss Amy Haughton, Mrs. McGregor Wood.
Liaison Group of British Women's Societies working in co-operation with the All India Women's Conference—Miss Maud Dickinson, Miss Agatha Harrison.
No Conscription Council—Mrs. Mary Nuttall, Mrs. Needham.
Status of Women Committee—Mrs. Mary Nuttall, Deputy, Mrs. McGregor Wood.
UNA Women's Advisory Committee—Miss Maud Dickinson.
Women's Council Co-operating with the women of India, Pakistan and Ceylon—Miss Maud Dickinson, Miss Agatha Harrison, Mrs. Grace Lankester.

Groups Affiliated to our Headquarters

Holiday Fellowship, Ltd.
Labour Party (Women's Section), Moreton and Leasowe.
Labour Party (Women's Section), Penzance.
London Diocesan Board of Women's Church Work.
NBWTAU East Hull Branch, Wallasey Branch.
New Malden Congregational Church, Women's League.
Norwich Women's Peace Crusade.
Winchmore Hill Women's Adult School.
Womens Co-operative Guild: Colwyn Bay Branch, Hendon Central Branch, Knighton Fields Branch, Peckham Branch, Ross-on-Wye Branch.
Women's League of the London Congregational Union.
Women's Permanent Peace League.

The Branches

The following Branches have functioned for the whole or part of the year:—

ACOCK'S GREEN, BIRMINGHAM.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Bisson, 21, Ladbrook Road, Solihull, Birmingham.
BIRMINGHAM.—Hon. Sec., Miss D. Robinson, 651, Shirley Road, Birmingham 28.
BRIGHTON.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Goring, Hatherley, Chancellors Park, Hassocks, Sussex.
BROMLEY.—Hon. Sec., Miss A. Bishop, 90, Plaistow Lane, Bromley, Kent.
CAMBRIDGE.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Schlossmann, 9, Latham Road, Cambridge.
CHILDWALL, LIVERPOOL.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. N. Greaves, 60, Woolacombe Road, Childwall, Liverpool 16.
COVENTRY.—Hon. Sec., Miss A. Underhill, 28, Holyhead Road, Coventry.
CROYDON.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Dora Holden, 60, Norbury Cross, London, S.W.16.
EDINBURGH.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. J. D. McLaren, 1, Spylaw Park, Edinburgh 13.
FOLKESTONE.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Sussams, 36, Alder Road, Folkestone.
GLASGOW.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Shanks, 32, Crompton Avenue, Glasgow, S.4.
HARROW.—Hon. Sec., Dr. M. Swoboda, Langdale House, London Road, Harrow.
LEICESTER.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. S. J. Pick, 80, Letchworth Road, Western Park, Leicester.
LIVERPOOL.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Holmes, 33, Vernon Avenue, Hooton, Cheshire.
LONG EATON, NOTTS.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Beard, 142, Derby Road, Long Eaton, Notts.

MANCHESTER.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Needham, 11, Windsor Avenue, Flixton, Manchester.
N. WALES.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Alun Llywelyn-Williams, Pep-y-Lan, Belmont Road, Bangor.
NOTTINGHAM.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. B. Wilde, The White House, Lambley, Notts.
ORPINGTON.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Sutherst, 8, Clarendon Way, Marlings Park, Chislehurst, Kent.
OXFORD.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Napier, Windrush House, Shotover Hill, Oxford.
READING.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Mitchell, 19, Kidmore Road, Caversham, Reading.
SHEFFIELD.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Wood, 10, Norwood Road, Sheffield, 5.
WARRINGTON.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Davies, Bleak House, Heath Road, Penketh, Warrington.
WEST DERBY, LIVERPOOL.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Pearson, 19, Lydford Road, Liverpool, 12.
WEST KIRBY.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Mason, 2, Victoria Road, West Kirby, Wirral, Cheshire.
WORTHING.—Hon. Sec., Miss Gundry, 7, Cissbury Road, Worthing.

NEW BRANCHES.

(1) WEST KIRBY BRANCH.—This is an offshoot of the Liverpool Branch and was formed in June. Congratulations are due to Liverpool for this achievement.

(2) PLYMOUTH BRANCH.—We are able to announce the opening of a Branch at Plymouth in February, 1951, as we go to press. This good news has been made possible by the persistent efforts of a small group of Headquarter members. Congratulations to them!

BRANCHES CLOSED DOWN.

We regret to announce that three Branches have been obliged to close down during the year owing to unfortunate circumstances: Folkestone, Harrow and West Derby.

The number of existing Branches is now twenty-four.

Obituaries

MRS. BRUCE GLASIER.—Mrs. Bruce Glasier was one of the earliest members of the WIL and remained to the end a loyal supporter of its efforts to establish peace between the nations. She was a woman of devotion to one cause, socialism, which to her meant the brotherhood of man, and it was from this predominant passion that her peace convictions derived.

Lives of utterly selfless devotion, such as hers, are rare. The movements to which she gave her energies and warm-hearted support are the richer for her example.
K. E. INNES.

MRS. OLGAR MISAR.—This year has seen the passing of another of our oldest members. Olga Misar was one of the founders of the Austrian Section immediately after the first world war, and worked vigorously with the WIL for the rest of her life. Many of us will remember her especially for her work for human rights and for those who bore witness against war.

When she came to this country as a refugee from Hitler she came in close touch with the British Section of the WILPF and was present at a meeting of the Executive a few days before she died. Her death is a loss not only to this section but to the International also, for she was a valued member and worker at many Congresses and other international gatherings.

MRS. SKINNER, of Harrow, was an ardent worker for the WIL, and her home the scene of frequent meetings of the Harrow Branch. She was a member of the Organisation Committee and her helpful presence is greatly missed at Headquarter meetings.

Annual Council, 1951

READING, MARCH 16TH TO 19TH

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION ON FOUR POWER CONFERENCE.—We, the Annual Council of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, British Section, implore you, the deputies assembled in Paris, not to leave the conference table until a formula acceptable to you all has been found. We are convinced that your tireless patience can achieve this. (Sent to Paris to all the Deputies who were preparing the Agenda for the Four Power Conference.)

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION ON KOREA.—We, the Annual Council of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, British Section, feeling that in the breaking of the Korean deadlock rests every hope of peace, not only for Asia, but for the whole world, welcome the statement made by Sir Benegal Rau in Ottawa on March 18th, that India was willing to use its good offices in Peking, provided that basic proposals for a peace settlement were put forward.

This Annual Council therefore urges the immediate consideration of the following points by all those who bear responsibility for decision and action.

- (a) The response by the Powers concerned to initiate negotiations between the warring Powers on the basis of concrete proposals.
- (b) A declaration on the part of the United Nations to the anxious peoples of the world that under no circumstances will their armed forces again cross the 38th parallel into North Korea.
- (c) The instant promotion on the widest possible scale and without discrimination of international relief and rehabilitation throughout Korea.

RESOLUTION ON COLOMBO PLAN.—This Annual Council of the Women's International League, British Section, meeting at Reading on March 16th to 19th, welcomes the Colombo Plan, believing that the peace of the world depends upon the removal of want, and not upon military weapons, and urges H.M. Government not only to implement the Plan at the earliest possible moment, but to reduce rearmament expenditure and make use of the resulting savings on greater assistance under the Plan.

RESOLUTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS.—This Annual Council of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, British Section, meeting at Reading, March 16th to 19th, declares that in any dispute, no consideration of prestige or advantage of any nation, or even of the United Nations, should take precedence over the human needs and self-determination of the population concerned.

MESSAGE TO THE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE.—At this moment of tense world anxiety, we have remembered the aims of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and we remember too that we are an international body of women with special responsibility for the guardianship of human life.

We contemplate with horror the increasing commandeering of the energies, the raw materials and the organised industry of the world for the purposes of death. The arms budgets of the nations have already achieved astronomical proportions. We see great areas of human devastation—uprooted millions in Europe—human beings, women and children, driven to and fro before the tide of war in Korea.

These are the facts which confront our members throughout the world, and we find it to be a situation which lays upon our League the grave responsibility to consider by what means we can compel the governments to reverse this policy of death.

The resources thus released would make possible the restoration of the ravages of war, the relief of gross poverty in many lands, and the moral and orderly sharing of the world's abundance.

Finance and Treasurer's Statement

The most spectacular financial event of 1950 has definitely been the response to the End-of-Year Emergency Fund, which was combined, at Miss Dickenson's happy suggestion, with the 35th Anniversary Celebration Fund.

This has reached, up to a date early in March, the impressive sum of £365 10s. I feel very cheered as Treasurer to be able to open my financial report with this encouraging statement, which I take to be a sign of increased vitality and interest on the part of the members.

Bearing this in mind it is disappointing to note that the figures for 1950 still show a deficit. This, of course, is accounted for by the fact that only a proportion of the "End-of-Year Fund" was actually received before the end of the year. The £192 which came in before December 31st has helped to reduce what would have been a deficit of over £400 to an actual deficit of £79. I say "helped to reduce" for we were also grateful for two legacies of £30 and £50 respectively and, among other things, for a substantial profit on the *News Sheet*. Behind these figures, and behind the unusually fortunate position in which we stand near the beginning of this financial year, there is still the urgent question of how we shall meet the future.

The income we received during 1950 from regular sources, such as subscriptions, donations and Branch quotas, and which we can more or less count on being repeated for the current year, was £629.

The expenses we incurred in 1950, of what may be called a non-recoverable kind, such as rent, salaries, printing, stationery and office expenses, were between £1,000 and £1,100.

Here is a big gap.

Though this can be bridged, to a small extent, by a reduction of expenditure where changes in administration can be effected without loss of efficiency, it is obvious that the real bridge has to be made by an increase in income, especially if we want to be able to make a determined attack on the problems with which we are surrounded.

I feel confident, as a result of this last appeal, that the WIL can do wonders, but just HOW is this increase to be achieved?

Is it by every member finding new members?

Is it by those members who can afford to do so giving more of their money?

And by what other means?

The obligation rests on us all.

AGNES Z. STAPLEDON.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1950

1949	To	EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.	1949	By	INCOME	£	s.	d.
130	Rent	...	130	0	0	234	Subscriptions	...	254	6	11
15	Lighting and Heating	...	31	11	10	175	Donations	...	161	11	3
86	Office Expenses	...	72	8	4	187	Branch Quotas and Affiliation Fees	...	212	19	6
1	Insurance	...	2	0	4	9	Sale of Literature	...	14	2	3
472	Salaries and National Insurance	...	552	3	6	93	Sale of <i>News Sheets</i>	...	151	14	7
51	Travelling Expenses	...	74	1	0	8	Meetings	...	26	19	5
6	Affiliation Fees	...	8	2	0	77	Proceeds of Christmas Appeal	...	37	10	0
56	Postage less Refunds	...	78	9	1	—	Proceeds of Birthday Appeal	...	192	6	1
21	Telephone	...	26	14	0	—	Sale of Office Equipment	...	11	0	0
84	Stationery and Printing	...	110	4	10	—	Building Society Interest	...	18	13	4
2	Literature	...	13	15	0	—	Legacies:— Miss A. R. Weiss	30	0	0	
114	<i>News Sheets</i>	...	107	12	6		Miss A. E. Tanner	50	0	0	
33	Meetings and Hire of Rooms	...	23	15	4				80	0	0
15	Audit and Accountancy	...	9	9	0		Balance being Excess of Expenditure over Income carried to Balance Sheet		79	3	5
						303					
£1086			£1240	6	9	£1086			£1240	6	9

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31st, 1950

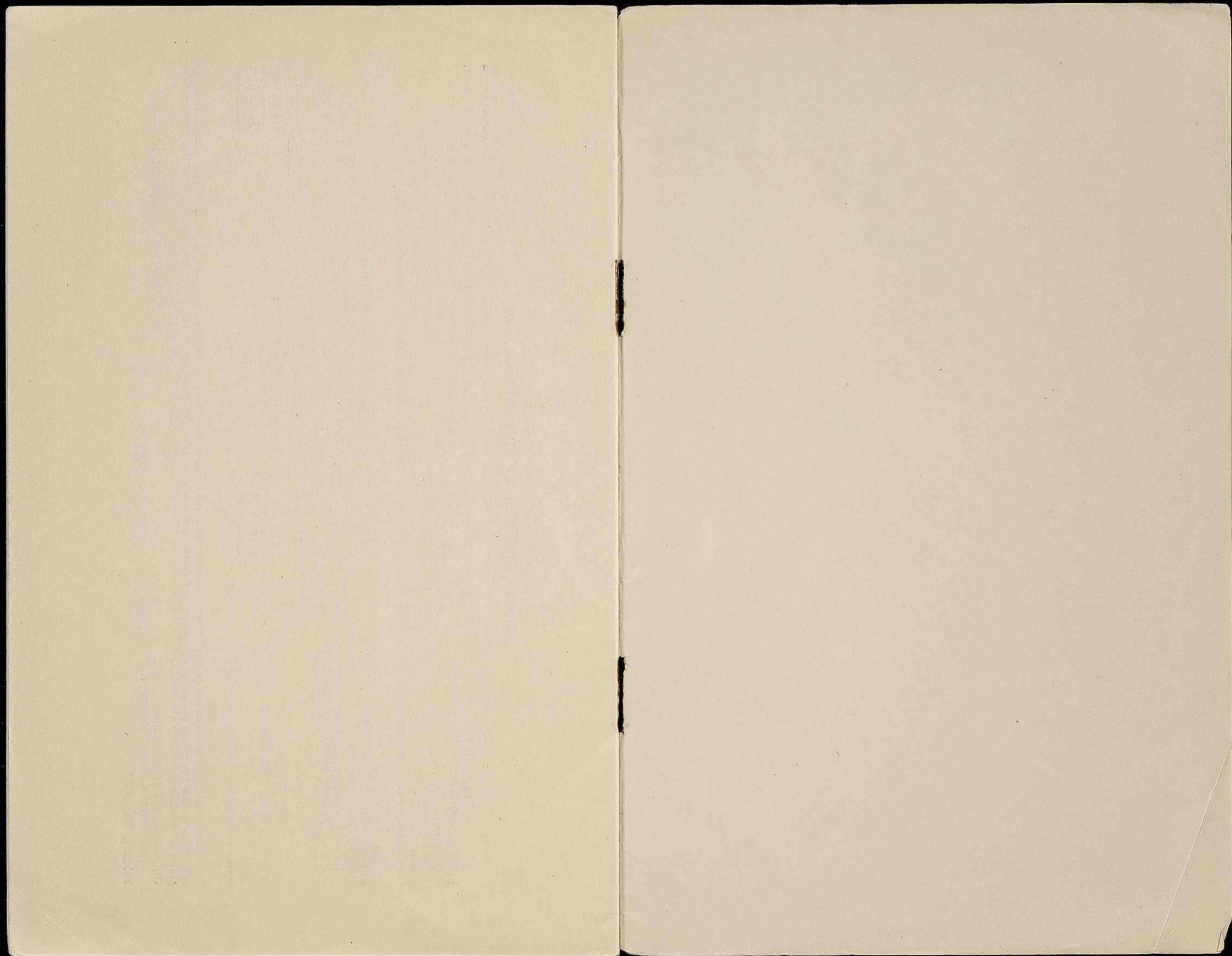
LIABILITIES		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	ASSETS		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
SPECIAL FUNDS:—								Cash at Bank	...	220	8	9				
	Congress	32	4	1				Cash in Hand	...	12	17	5				
	Ford Memorial	91	1	2						233	6	2				
	Shrewsbury	7	0	0												
	Penny-a-Week	187	14	1				Less Amount due to International Account	...	147	8	1				
					317	19	4						85	18	1	
	SUNDRY CREDITORS					39	5	5	Co-operative Permanent Building Society, as at January 1st, 1950	...	838	18	1			
	SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ADVANCE					1	14	0	Add Interest	...	18	13	4			
	CAPITAL FUND:—									857	11	5				
	Balance, January 1st, 1950	566	14	2					Deduct amount withdrawn	...	100	0	0			
	Deduct Excess of Expenditure over Income	79	3	5					Electricity Deposit	...				757	11	5
					487	10	9							3	0	0
													£846	9	6	
			£846	9	6								£846	9	6	

I have audited the accounts of the Women's International League for the year ended December 31st, 1950, and certify that, in my opinion, the foregoing accounts 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.

CLUGSTON, SELBY & ROBINS,
25, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1

February 20th, 1951

M. E. ROBINS, Certified Accountant,
Auditor



Printed by
H. G. MATHER LTD.
(T.U. throughout)
Lower Green
Mitcham, Surrey