

With Supplement from the World's Young Women's Christian Association.

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THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS



THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
Prevention of Venereal Disease	98	Finland—Washington Convention Ratification	107
Position of Negro Woman in U.S.A. Industry	100	Infant Welfare Training Centre	107
Woman and the Common Law of U.S.A.	100	Domestic Economy Training School	107
Australia—First Woman M.P.	101	Germany—Women Jurors' Bill	107
National Conference of Women	101	Women in Legal Profession	107
New South Wales: Children's Maintenance Bill	102	Great Britain—N.U.S.E.C. Council Meeting	108
South Africa—General Smuts and Woman Suffrage	102	Greece—Feminist Congress	97
Canada—Nationality of Married Women	102	Education Committee	108
Prohibition	103	India—Madras to Discuss Woman Suffrage	109
Quebec Suffrage Postponed	103	Petition against Prostitution	109
Denmark—Protest against Washington Convention	103	Italy—Suffrage Situation	109
Ratification	103	Survey of Woman's Movement	109
Criminal Assault on Children	106	Palestine—Jewish Women and the Rabbinical Courts	110
Copenhagen Council Elections	106	Switzerland—Women Clergy in Zurich	111
NOUVELLES FEMINISTES	104, 105, 112	U.S.A.—Sheppard-Towner Bill Defeated	111
		Civil Service Bill not Passed	111
		Agitation for Jurywomen	111
		Women Urge Disarmament	111

WORLD'S Y.W.C.A. SUPPLEMENT .. . Centre Pages.

AUSTRALIA has at last its first woman Member of Parliament. Mrs. Cowan has been elected to the Legislative Council of Western Australia. In her campaign she defeated the Attorney-General—which speaks volumes for the confidence which she has aroused in the electorate. We send her our heartiest congratulations.

MADAME PARREN, President of the Lyceum Club of Athens, has telegraphed to the Headquarters of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance that the Feminist Congress, which was deferred on account of the Greek elections last November, is to open on April 10, under the Presidency of the Queen of Greece. A hundred women's associations have signified their adherence to the Congress, whose first business will be to urge the Greek Government to grant woman suffrage and to enact various laws protecting women and children. We join in that petition, and wish it every success.

"UPHILL WORK." So writes Dr. Rosa Welt Strauss of the labours of the Palestinian Jewish Women's Equal Rights Association. It is doubtless very uphill, but it is also very splendid. No one can read Dr. Welt Strauss's report without emotion. So recently formed, this association, faced with the possibility of Jewish women being subjected to the authority of the Rabbinical courts—courts which apparently scarcely recognise that a woman has a separate existence at all—immediately approached the Government, and the Government, to its

credit be it said, asked the Association to submit to it the views of Jewish women on the subject. The women of Jerusalem, Jaffa, Haifa, Judea, and Galilee *have* views as to whether a woman can be a witness, whether she can be the guardian of her children, whether she can inherit property, whether the money she has toiled for shall be her own, and their views are the views of feminists the world over. We are glad to remember that Mrs. Fawcett is in Palestine. She will be a tower of strength to the Jewish women in their fight against reaction.

In the United States, Germany and Great Britain the question of women jurors is very much to the fore. In Germany the Government are introducing a Bill which will make all men and women over 30 years of age eligible for service. In the United States women are pressing vigorously for equality with regard to jury service. In Great Britain scarcely a week passes without women jurors being challenged and replaced by men—and this generally happens in a case which concerns sexual offences against women or children. Or the women jurors never reach the point of being challenged, as in more than one case of this sort the judge has used his discretionary powers to exclude women from the jury. The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship has drafted a Bill which will make the eligibility qualification equal—and which will also make it impossible for a judge to rule that a case shall not be tried by a mixed jury.

LAST month we were able to announce the appointment of Mrs. Wicksell to the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations. We cannot announce another appointment this month, but we can and do announce the need for the appointment of women to other Conferences and Committees of the League of Nations. The League has called a world conference on the Traffic in Women and Children in June. Every Government is asked to send a representative, who may be accompanied by a technical adviser. The problem of the Traffic in Women and Children has been with us far too long. The ratification by many Governments of the Berne Convention has not solved it. Failure to deal with this question in the past has been in no small measure due to the fact that the advice and evidence of experienced women has not been sufficiently called into requisition. Organised women will be able to gauge the sincerity and seriousness of Governments in connection with this problem by the appointments they make to this Conference. There should be a majority, and not a small minority of women appointed to it. Pending the constitution of the International Health Commission the League of Nations proposes to set up a Temporary Standing Committee on Health, which will act as an advisory body to the Council of the League. All feminists are agreed that there should be women on the International Health Commission—they will likewise be agreed that there should be women on this Standing Committee.

PREVENTION OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

(Reprinted by courtesy of "The Woman's Leader.")

THE National Council of Public Morals has just issued in one volume the Report of the Birth Rate Commission's Special Committee on the Prevention of Venereal Disease, together with the evidence. The terms of reference were as follows:—

"To consider the following questions:—

"1. Whether sexual continence before marriage is consistent with normal health.

"2. Whether self-disinfection as a method of preventing the development of venereal disease in persons who have exposed themselves to the risk of infection is more efficient or less efficient than medical treatment at Venereal Clinics and Early Treatment Centres.

"3. The possible advantages and disadvantages of various suggested methods of self-disinfection: (a) before, (b) after sexual intercourse.

"4. Whether methods of self-disinfection involve any serious disadvantages of a moral kind, that is to say, whether they are calculated to weaken moral control, and thereby to lead to an increase in promiscuous sexual intercourse; and, if so, to what extent these disadvantages should render the use and advocacy of self-disinfection undesirable when considered from the point of view of ultimate national welfare."

The subject with which the Committee was really concerned was the question of "Self-disinfection," and the decisions arrived at on the *m.d.cal* side may be summed up briefly as follows:—

(a) No difficulty should be placed in the way of the spread of knowledge as to the use and value of disinfectants or the obtaining by individuals of approved disinfectants from authorised chemists, which disinfectants should be sold on the recommendation of the Ministry of Health or Local Authority, with an enclosure giving full instructions as to use.

(b) Ablution centres (such as in Manchester) should be continued for a time as an experiment, and that then their medical and moral effects should be inquired into.

(c) That the immediate or early application of a solution of permanganate of potash and calomel ointment is recommended for self-disinfection after exposure.

(d) That self-disinfection for women is very difficult, if not impossible, even under medical supervision.

(e) That it is not desirable to make it legally obligatory for all persons contemplating marriage to produce health certificates, but that the gravity of the results of an infected marriage should be made generally known.

On the *moral* side, the Committee recommends that in any propaganda to prevent the spread of venereal disease the first place should be given to the appeal for chastity as itself a moral obligation, as consistent with good health, and as the most certain safeguard against venereal disease.

All the members of the Committee signed the Report, but no less than seven members (six of whom were eminent doctors) added notes of reservation, not only on moral grounds, but on the definitely medical ground that the public advocacy of self-disinfection for the civilian population would fail to arrest, and might increase, the prevalence of venereal disease.

I do not think it is an unfair criticism to say that the Report, in its recommendations as to approved disinfectants being sold with the *imprimatur* of Public Authorities, is going contrary to the weight of evidence received. The Report admits that if the communication of knowledge about disinfection should give the impression that the prevention of disease is regarded as more urgent and important than the avoidance of wrong-doing it would be a moral disaster and must by every possible means be avoided. We must presume that the members of the Committee who signed the Report without reservation have really been convinced that the advantages of teaching self-disinfection outweigh all the obvious disadvantages, but the Committee evidently felt somewhat anxious on this point and the Report ends with these words:—

"The Committee recognise that its constructive proposals in respect of moral instruction and influence can alone justify the proposal made regarding the prevention of venereal disease. The Committee accordingly recommend that, in view of the serious situation, parents, teachers, ministers of religion, social reformers and medical practitioners, legislators and administrators, should combine in a national effort to assert the moral obligation of chastity, the sanctity of marriage and parenthood, the equality of the moral standard for the two sexes, the disastrous moral and physical consequences of any lowering of standards in regard to sex relations."

The whole point of the Report lies in the recommendation referred to above as (a) and (c). Other recommendations deal with the instruction

"personally, or by posters, or by printed leaflets," which may be provided by or with the sanction, or under the control of Public Health Authorities. In all these instructions, "along with instruction in the value and the method of disinfection, the greatest importance should be laid on chastity, not only as the right way of life, but also as the only certain means of preventing venereal disease."

The recommendations on other points are not acutely controversial. We can all agree with the need for more effective public propaganda as to chastity, personal responsibility, and chivalry to women. What is extremely doubtful is, first, whether such propaganda would not be fatally undermined by the psychological effect of teaching self-disinfection and, secondly, whether such teaching is really going to help materially in reducing venereal infection. Let me take these two points separately.

MEDICAL RESULTS OF SELF-DISINFECTION.

Of the twenty-three witnesses who gave evidence no less than seven medical men and two medical women were opposed to instruction in self-disinfection for the civil population. Six experienced non-medical witnesses were also opposed to it. Only eight out of the twenty-three were in favour. Let us admit that a few instances have been brought forward by Sir Archdall Reid and others, where a marked reduction of cases in the Forces seems to have been produced by self-disinfection. Against this we may put the following statements: Mr. Charles Gibbs, surgeon to the Lock hospitals, "that self-disinfection for males is not an effective means of preventing infection, and that the teaching of it will increase promiscuous intercourse"; and the statement of Dr. John Robertson, M.O.H. for Birmingham, "I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that in the (army) units where the largest number of packets were issued there was more venereal disease than in the other units."

Then we have Col. Harrison's evidence. Col. Harrison was the official Adviser in Venereal Disease to the War Office. He bases what he says on experience in regard to nearly five million men, and was personally responsible for introducing Irrigation Rooms in 1916 into the army, and later, in 1918, the packet system. He believed these methods would enormously reduce disease and practically empty the venereal hospitals. What was the result? I quote his own evidence:—

"The rate did not go down, and it was bitterly disappointing to me, because I had hoped for a good deal from self-disinfection, and up to the time that I left the work at the end of 1919 the rate had not been reduced at all."

Col. Harrison adds that in some units, where the M.O. "almost individually instructed the men," a small reduction followed, but in other places, where instruction was by poster, there was no reduction whatever. He continues:—

"Some people say, 'But if the rate were reduced by one per thousand, surely it would be worth while?' In regard to that question, I do not think so, because you have a certain price to pay for introducing such a system as this. For instance, I certainly myself think that the introduction of such a system would lead to an increase of exposure to venereal infection. How much that increase would be, I cannot say, absolutely. I grant that this is a matter of opinion, but I think it is a matter of common sense, that the offering of safeguards would

lead to an increase of exposure. In this case the protection afforded in individual instances might easily fail to compensate for the increased number of infections resulting from the increased number of risks taken with failure of protection."

In the face of that evidence, I think, we are fully justified, even on the purely medical side, if we continue to remain somewhat sceptical in regard to the alleged wonderful results of self-disinfection in reducing venereal disease.

THE MORAL ASPECT.

When we come to consider the possible effects on sex-morality if the recommendations of the Report were carried out, the question becomes more difficult. The maximum incidence of venereal disease in the male is found to be between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five, and in the female between sixteen and twenty-three. These are then the people it is essential the instructions shall reach, and reach effectively. We may leave the young women out of the question; self-disinfection is practically no use to them, and there is nothing in this scheme which will protect any woman, wife or otherwise, from infection by an infected man. All efforts must, therefore, be directed towards the thorough teaching of men, and especially young men, in self-disinfection.

The prevalence of disease does primarily depend on the amount of promiscuity in any community; what effect is such teaching likely to have in promoting or reducing promiscuity? We can perhaps see more clearly by an illustration of a similar thing. Suppose the public authorities, alarmed at an increase in illegitimacy, decided to put up posters in all women's lavatories, etc., calling attention to the serious problem of illegitimacy, stressing the fact that chastity was the only remedy, but concluding with minute and detailed instructions in the use and value of contraceptives in preventing illegitimate conceptions. What would be the effect of a few years' teaching of that kind? I think there would be a great increase of illicit intercourse, not so much because the fear of pregnancy is removed (although this would have considerable influence), but because such instruction, given by public authorities, would act as a continuous suggestion to young women that they were not expected to abstain from illicit intercourse, but that they were only expected to prevent conception. Such a propaganda would also tend to remove all sense of moral responsibility from men, and I believe that the teaching of self-disinfection will enormously lessen any scruples that infected men may have in exposing women to infection. They will conclude, vaguely, that women can protect themselves in a similar way and will take no trouble on their account.

As women are supposed to be peculiarly biased in their views as to the probable psychological effect of this propaganda which the Report desires public authorities to undertake, I will quote from Dr. Coutts, evidence, as representative of the Ministry of Health, rather than give my own opinion. He said:—

"It would be easy to put up posters or to issue leaflets giving more or less precise instructions showing how to use certain disinfectants. . . . Assuming that it were possible, and the matter were pushed so energetically that every boy got a leaflet, and that every boy understood what the leaflet meant, and was able to carry out the precise instructions so as to make self-disinfection effective, what is the next

step? That boy, if he is going to use it, must of necessity carry the material with him. Then you come to this point. You are encouraging every boy, whether he has any intention or not of having irregular intercourse, to make a practice of carrying these materials for self-disinfection. There you are up against the opinion of the moralist, who says, 'If you do anything of that kind you are encouraging exposure to risk.' I think it is common sense, that if you do anything which encourages every youth and boy in the country to carry these materials in his pocket, it is likely to lead to a greater number of exposures to infection. We must go further. . . . You would not get entire success with this self-disinfection, because some would fail to carry the materials with them. . . . The next step would undoubtedly be a demand that the materials should be provided by the Government—that is, the universal adoption of the packet system for the civil community as a policy officially sanctioned by the Government."

With the evidence of Col. Harrison and Dr. Coutts before us, I think women will do well to take long views in this matter. At its best, self-disinfection is medically a very doubtful experiment; at its worst, it may do more harm both to health and morals than almost anything else which has yet been proposed. Let us take to heart that part of the Report which calls for a vigorous new moral effort, and instead of basing our hopes on prophylaxis try to win the allegiance of youth to a high moral standard, based on knowledge, equality, and justice.

March 18, 1921.

ALISON NEILANS.

THE POSITION OF THE NEGRO WOMAN IN INDUSTRY IN U.S.A.

By LILLIAN A. TURNER.

(Reprinted by courtesy of "Life and Labour.")

ONE hundred and fifty delegates, representing sixty-seven organisations, attended the Fifth Annual Conference of the National Urban League in Newark, N.J., October 20 to 23. This number included twenty-two executive secretaries of Urban Leagues from various cities, their industrial secretaries and employment secretaries; personnel men from many large factories, employers of labour, manufacturers, educators and social workers, representing and touching the lives of more than 500,000 Negro workers.

Great interest at the convention was centred on the status of the Negro in industry in the present and his prospects for the immediate future.

The discussion brought out the fact that the coloured woman's place in industry—newer and more uncertain than the coloured man's—is more precarious still. In the first place she suffers from the natural prejudice against women in industry; and in the coloured woman's particular case there is the greater prejudice to overcome—that of the white woman against coloured women, which far exceeds that of white men against coloured men. A second difficulty of the coloured woman industrial workers (also greater than that of men) is that of finding a place to live. It is well known that there is more reluctance on the part of those taking lodgers, especially in private homes, at taking women because necessarily they are more trouble, due to the manner of their dress, to their habit of

spending more of their leisure time at home, and often their habit of being more exacting than men about order in the home. To these difficulties, especially in the pending unemployment problem, we must add another fact: there are more women involved. The number of women migrants from the South has always exceeded that of men. Thus she suffers more from the results of a housing congestion which, according to the recent reports of League secretaries in ten large industrial cities, has been often directly located as the cause of many alleged complaints of inefficiency. A recent Board of Health survey in New York City shows that overcrowding in one Negro section of the city is 25 per cent. greater than in any other part; 8,000 coloured people in one square block investigated live in quarters originally intended to house about 3,500 people.

Miss Emma V. Carter, employment secretary for the Armstrong Association, the Philadelphia representative of the Urban League, reported another disadvantage under which the coloured woman is working: that of lower wages. She called attention to the minimum subsistence weekly wage of \$16.76 as placed by the Consumers' League last year, and adds that 50 per cent. of the coloured women workers in Philadelphia were making less than that. A different wage scale was used in some plants, she said, according to "efficiency," but investigation showed that the coloured girls working were using the old machines discarded by the white girls, who in addition to longer training had the advantage of the new and up-to-date machines.

P. R. Edwoods, of the State Employment Bureau, New York City, reported in this connection that while the weekly rate for factory work has been \$23.10 for women, the records show the rate for coloured women to be \$14. Mrs. Gertrude McDougald, vocational counsellor for Public School No. 119, New York City, commended efforts to open up opportunities for workers, especially for women. Her work in the public schools is to direct pupils into vocations for which they show greatest aptitude. Mrs. McDougald felt, as a result of some years of experience, that those interested in opening opportunities for coloured workers should not restrict them to those avenues most accessible or to those already open, but that coloured women workers should feel that opportunities to work will be found in any trade for which they fit themselves.

One of the points emphasised at the Conference was that coloured women must hold the ground they have gained in industry just as men are to make the effort, and the standards of wages, hours and environment are in no measure to be lower in their case.

WOMAN AND THE COMMON LAW OF THE UNITED STATES.

By SUE S. WHITE.

DURING the last days of the fight for suffrage, it was frequently said that "everything except the ballot had been won." This is not true. There are still sex discriminations present in the law which can be remedied by legislative or Congressional action. There are still discriminations in the political organisations which can be remedied by pressure. There are still discriminations in the educational and economic fields for which women can and will find some redress.

Aside from the positive discrimination, there is the lack of protection from discrimination. This was very

clearly shown by a recent report of the Woman's Bureau of the Department of Labour, which pointed out that women were excluded from 60 per cent. of the civil service examinations in the six months from January 1, 1919, to June 30, 1919, and a further discrimination in salaries paid to women. The whole question of woman's employment in civil service is left to the discretion of heads of departments. Whether examinations are opened to both sexes or closed to either sex, lies entirely with these heads of departments. There is a statute, passed in 1876, which shows even more clearly the attitude toward women. It says: "Whenever in the judgment of the head of any department, the duties assigned to a clerk of one class can be as well performed by a clerk of a lower class, or by a female clerk, it shall be lawful for him to diminish the number of clerks of the higher grade, and increase the number of clerks of the lower grade."

Coverture Not a Fiction.

A married woman, under the common law, was absolutely under the control of the husband, and, although the law has been gradually modified through the slow development of centuries, the theory has not changed, and jurists recognise it to-day when called upon to decide cases involving the rights of women, where the theory has not been specifically abrogated by statutes. Lawyers speak of the disability of coverture as a "fiction of the law," yet they speak of it, and it is a theory that prevails and persists.

The husband has the right to fix the place of abode, implied from his duty to provide a home. A refusal on the part of the wife to live in the home which he selects because of a difference of choice between them, constitutes her a deserter in the meaning of the divorce laws. This is the common law rule now in force in all States.

There is a California statute expressly providing that for the purposes of voting, the residence of the husband is the residence of the wife. The Attorney-General of Texas has ruled to the same effect, and the same is no doubt true everywhere. It would also affect the wife's right to contract, if living separate and apart from her husband in a different State where the laws as to her right to contract vary. It is this common law rule of domicile that is at the bottom of the federal statute casting upon American women who marry foreigners the nationality of their husbands.

It is often said that this is not a discrimination, because it is offset by the duty of the husband to provide a home and support his family. However, the tendency of pauper legislation is to place upon the wife a responsibility for the support of the family. A Georgia case held: "The house in which the husband and wife live is the house of the husband, though the wife pays the rent and supports the husband." And in such a case the husband could invite whom he pleased, or close the door to whom he pleased, regardless of the wife's wishes. Such instances might arise that would be embarrassing to her without amounting to legal "cruelty" on his part.

Most of the States have equal guardianship, but underneath the statutes the courts recognise the common law rule that the father is the natural guardian of the child. By statute in Alabama the father may appoint a guardian by will, but the mother is entitled to the custody of the person (as against the testamentary guardian) until the ward is 14 years of age.

In Delaware the statute is: "A father may, by deed or last will, name a guardian for his child, who shall be appointed if there be no just cause to the contrary." There is a statute also in Delaware as to apprentices, which is especially interesting in view of the order in which the parents and guardian are named: The father, or if there be no father residing in the State, the guardian, or if there be also no guardian, the mother of a minor, shall have power to bind him as an apprentice.

In Florida, fathers may appoint guardians by deed or will, but mothers may not. The States of Maryland, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia, also give the father a right to appoint a guardian by will, even though

the mother survives him. Georgia, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wisconsin give the mother some right only provided she remain a widow.

The laws as to succession and as to property and contractual rights are so varied that it is not practicable to go into details. The changes have been made not only State by State, but also piecemeal in the respective States. The "married women's bills" have often but not always been a material advancement. In Florida she has her separate estate under the statute, but it remains in the "care and management of the husband." In Arkansas the wife can contract for many things, but not for labour or services in certain instances, unless approved by the husband. In Indiana she may not be surety, although she may contract generally. There is a Georgia decision to the effect that in case of an injury which affects her earning capacity the husband, and not she, has the right to sue for her earnings.

The discrimination in holding office is in most instances one of practice, but there is at least one State, Georgia, which has a statute declaring women shall not hold any civil office nor perform any civil function unless especially authorised by law. On the other hand, California has written in her fundamental law, as Article XX., Section 18 of her constitution: "No person shall, on account of sex, be disqualified from entering upon or pursuing any lawful business, vocation or profession."

Such a provision should be written into the constitution in every State in the Union.

Three Needed Reforms.

Because of our forty-eight written State constitutions, it is impossible to plan reforms by identical laws. For instance, to make women eligible for jury service in one State might require an amendment to the State constitution, while in another, only a statute, and in another, their eligibility may be the automatic result of the suffrage amendment.

There are, however, a number of general propositions which can be defined as meeting the situation, if applied by the proper method to the existing laws in each State. These propositions are:—

Complete removal of the disability of coverture.

Eligibility to office and jury service without regard to sex.

Equal rights of guardianship and control and custody of children.

Since the suffrage amendment is a part of the federal constitution, it is possible that the National Congress could pass a statute giving the married woman the right to fix her own place of residence as it affects her right to vote. Undoubtedly Congress should change the law in regard to the citizenship of women, and protect their rights in the civil service.

The Suffragist, February, 1921.

AUSTRALIA.

First Woman Member of Parliament.

The Times of March 14 reports that Mrs. Cowan has been returned to the Legislative Council of Western Australia. She defeated the Attorney-General in her election campaign, and is the first woman member of Parliament in Australia.

National Conference of Women.

THE Women's Service Guild (W. Australia) and the Women's Non-Party Association (S. Australia), have sent a call to all societies in Australia affiliated to the British Dominions Women's Citizens Union, and to other Australian societies, calling a Conference in Melbourne (Victoria) for May 12, and following days if required. The purpose of this Conference is to organise a Federated Australian Branch of the British

Dominions Women Citizens' Union. If successful, the affiliation of Australia, through this Federated Australian Branch of the B.D.W.C.U., with the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, will become really representative of the women of the whole of the island-continent. The Conference is timed to follow immediately upon the Triennial meeting in Melbourne of the Australian Women's Christian Temperance Union, in order to secure representatives from the far-distant parts of the country.

H. NEWCOMB,
B.W.D.C.U.

March 7, 1921.

New South Wales.

The Children's Maintenance Bill.

THE National Government over eighteen months ago brought forward the Children's Maintenance Bill and succeeded in putting it through the Assembly in spite of the opposition of the Labour Party. The Legislative Council endorsed the opposition and the measure was lost. The National Party made the question a permanent feature at the last election, and the Labour Party put forward a grandiose scheme which succeeded in placing them in office. The Government is now being asked to honour a pledge which the Labour Party gave during the last electoral campaign, and which aided materially in winning them the election, but all they have thought of is—raising their own salaries! So far back as 1916, when the Labour Party was in power, Dr. Arthur (Nationalist), who is the father of the scheme, moved in favour of Motherhood Endowment, but neither Mr. Stacey nor his fellow members gave any support to the proposal. The whole question hinges on the basic wage which the Labour Party wishes to be equal for all workers, married or single. Dr. Arthur has prepared a table showing the difference between wages under the Board of Trade award and under the Children's Maintenance Bill. The Board's flat basic wage was £3. 17s. for single or married men. Under the Children's Maintenance Bill the wage for the childless man would be £3, with an increase of 10s. for the first child, and of 7s. for each succeeding child. This in the case of a family of eight children would bring the wage up to £5. 19s. This, Dr. Arthur argues would pay for the benefit of real children and would be far better than paying an increase of 17s. to single men to support imaginary wives and children. It is better to pauperise the real children than the young single men's children who only exist in the imagination of Government statisticians. The deficiency in the case of real children is to be made up by the State—not by the employer. Dr. Arthur proposes meeting the expense by taxation of luxuries, Mr. Stacey by a State lottery, to which the W.R.L. is strongly opposed. The latter was urged to fulfil his promise of bringing in the Bill before his departure for England, but he turned a deaf ear. The Bill is again hung up till his return. Cannot Englishwomen interview him on the subject?

I must explain that the basic wage of £3. 17s. is based on the cost of living for a family of husband, wife and two children, and this involves paying between four and five millions to the single men to support imaginary wives and children. Moreover the rise in wages will be immediately followed by a rise in the cost of living, necessitating a fresh award, and this will mean that young men of 21 years and upwards will have another four or five millions to spend on the racecourse, while the mothers of several children will be poorer than ever. Dr. Arthur maintains that his scheme is the only rational substitute for the continual increase in the basic wage.

LAURA BOGUE LUFFMAN,
President Woman's Reform League, N.S.W.

January, 1921.

SOUTH AFRICA.

General Smuts and Woman Suffrage.

THE following correspondence is published by the Women's Enfranchisement Association in view of the conflicting statements which are current regarding the attitude of the South African Party towards the Enfranchisement of South African Women:—

Potchefstroom.
December 9, 1920.

To the Rt. Hon. Lieut.-General Smuts, P.C.,
Pretoria.

SIR,—As Vice-President of the Women's Enfranchisement Association for the Transvaal, I have been requested to inquire from you whether it will not be possible for you to receive a deputation of representative men and women in the immediate future.

We are anxious as an Association to ascertain definitely what attitude the new S.A.P. will adopt towards Woman Suffrage. We feel that a party which claims as its policy wide democratic principles cannot deny a hearing to a body of earnest-minded men and women.

In your great endeavour to mould the white races of the Union into a noble nation we beg that women may be given an opportunity of adding their quota of assistance. To stem the abilities and stifle the energies of such women we consider to be an injustice to the nation in the making.

Trusting that you will kindly accede to our request,

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) ALETTA NEL,
Vice-President (Transvaal).

Prime Minister's Office,
Pretoria.
December 15, 1920.

Mrs. J. P. Nel,
Vice-President (Transvaal),
Women's Enfranchisement Association,
Chenaia,
Potchefstroom.

DEAR MRS. NEL,—I thank you for your letter of December 9 on behalf of the Women's Enfranchisement Association, asking me either to receive a deputation from the Association or else to state my views on the question of Women's Enfranchisement.

As the position is quite clear I do not think I need trouble you to send a deputation to me.

I am personally in favour of the great cause your Association champions, and have repeatedly given public expression to my view that in the new post-war world order women should take their place by the side of the men in the public life of the country. The South African Party at its last Annual Congress at Bloemfontein also expressed itself as in favour of that policy by a very large majority. I have no reason to think that the new members who have joined us in the recent expansion will have any other effect than that of strengthening the party in its clearly expressed policy.

The actual legislation should, I think, be left to the discretion of our Parliamentary Party under all the circumstances of the case. I am aware that there are some formidable difficulties to be overcome. But my hope is that in the long run they will disappear, and a reform which has already been adopted in almost every civilised country on earth, will also take its place on the statute book of the Union.

Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) J. C. SMUTS.

CANADA.

Nationality of Married Women.

DEAR MRS. ABBOTT,—Your letter and enclosures of February 18 came too late for me to answer in time for

DENMARK.

THE Bill concerning "Equal admission for women and men to all State offices and charges," has passed both Houses, and was ratified by H.M. the King on March 4.

This is a big step forward for Danish women, who may now in principle gain the highest charges in the State with the only exception of military ones and of offices claiming clerical ordination. Time will now show if there be capable women in Denmark, and if they will really be treated equally with men in cases of promotion.

All political parties voted for the Bill. The debate in the Landsting was nearly exclusively carried on on the question about women's admission to clerical offices. Each of the parties had a woman as spokesman, but they all followed the lines of their respective political party on this question. Consequently Mrs. Marie Hjelmer (Radical), and Mrs. Nina Bang (Social-Democrat), advocated women's admission to ordination, whilst Mrs. Inger Gautier Schmit (Moderate) and Miss Karen Ankersted (Conservative), in accordance with their parties, were strongly opposed to women's ordination, as long as the Danish Church was not in favour of it. However, both last-mentioned members of the Landsting declared themselves in favour of utilising women's special gifts for parish work, i.e., as paid—but unordained—chaplains.

During the last months several questions concerning women have been discussed in the Rigsdag, where the women-members seem to have taken up more party views than those of their sex. This seems to indicate that the existence of women in Parliament will not always be a guarantee for the safeguarding of women's special interests.

Prohibition of Women's Night-work.

A Bill concerning the ratification of the Washington Convention about women's night-work was read in the Folketing on January 21. According to the proceeding in 1910 and 1912, when this question was before the Rigsdag in connection with a revision of the Factory Law, Dansk Kvindesamfund sought co-operation with the Women's Labour Union and the Women Printers' Trade Union, with the result that these three organisations sent in the following petition to each of the political parties of the Rigsdag:—

"The undersigned women's organisations address the following petition to the honoured party on account of the Bill presented at the Folketing concerning Prohibition of Women's Night-work."

"This question has, as it is well-known, already several times previously been placed before the Rigsdag, and, as it will also be remembered, the demand of prohibition of women's night-work was each time met with the most energetic opposition from working, organised women, and from the organisations working for the women's cause.

"This opposition still prevails in quite undiminished force. We are more than ever convinced that such a prohibition for women alone will prove a detrimental encroachment on women's right to work, a restriction of women's opportunity of securing their economical position in the trades, and therefore by no means a protection for the women or the family. We are still of the decided opinion that both will be protected in the most effective way through good wages for women, free admission to the trades, strong organisations, and not through such encroachments and restrictions on women's field of work, which will force them into work more badly paid, but in no way more healthy, and bar them the free way to pull themselves through independently under tolerable economic conditions.

"We furthermore find the prohibition in the Bill in question (No. 70)—evidently proposed out of theoretical international reasons—quite unnecessary for our country. It may safely be said that it

(Continued on page 106.)

the March Jus, so I put off writing until after a meeting of the National Council of Women's Executive which met last week, and at which I brought up this nationality question, and after tracing the history of it from 1870 to the present day, asked them to do three things—which were agreed to,—viz. : (1) send a resolution to the Government and Parliament now in session at Ottawa, asking for a re-insertion of the all-important clause; (2) asking that our delegates to the Imperial Conference in London in June be instructed to bring up this matter and urge the married women's point of view; (3) to write a letter to the British N.C.W., encouraging them in their stand on this matter, and saying that Canadian women will co-operate in every way.

Now, as far as women are concerned in the Nationalisation Law. The whole of the 1919 Act was repealed, and the old 1914 Act reinstated with certain amendments—so now the law with regard to married women is as follows:—

The wife of a British subject is a British subject and the wife of an alien is an alien, provided that—

(1) Where the British husband changes his nationality after marriage, his wife may declare her desire to retain her British nationality.

(2) Where the alien husband of a British-born wife dies or is divorced, she may regain her British nationality by immediate declaration.

(3) When the alien-born but naturalised husband forfeits his British naturalisation papers by disloyalty, etc., the wife and children shall not be denaturalised unless by the express order of the Secretary of State, and, in the case where the wife was of British birth, the Secretary of State shall not so order, unless the wife has herself been guilty of disloyalty.

(4) If the alien husband of a British-born wife belongs to a country at war with His Majesty the British-born wife may regain her British nationality on declaration of her desire so to do.

These really are the Clauses, as far as I remember, which are already in the British Law.

Prohibition.

By the time you get this, we in Ontario, shall be in the throes of what we hope will be the last referendum on the liquor question. You probably know that although each Province can vote itself "dry," as far as having or selling liquor, it cannot control Inter-provincial traffic. All the Provinces (except Quebec) had voted to make it illegal to have liquor in any place other than a private residence, but could do nothing to prevent private citizens from ordering liquor in Quebec and having it delivered at their homes for their own private consumption—Inter-provincial trade is a Dominion matter—and what the Dominion Government did was to pass a law which stated that any Province having Domestic Prohibition might ask through its Legislature for the Dominion Government to take a further referendum on the No-importation issue, and that is the referendum before us on April 18. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia have already taken their second referendum, and all have voted for No-importation except British Columbia. Quebec is still in the stage of having only wine and beer licences. But they have no Provincial woman's vote yet!

Yours cordially,

EDITH LANG.

Toronto, March 1, 1921.

Quebec Suffrage Postponed.

THE possession of provincial suffrage for the women of Quebec has become a forlorn hope as far as this session is concerned. According to information received indirectly by the Suffrage Committee of the Montreal Women's Club, and in the opinion of Henry Miles, M.L.A., who was sponsor last year for the Bill proposing to admit women to the practice of law in the province, neither the measure championed by him last season, nor the Suffrage Bill will have a hearing this session.

The Suffrage Committee of the Montreal Women's Club stated, through the chairman, Mrs. John Scott, that they would continue to carry on an educational campaign in favour of both Bills.

Montreal, February, 1921.

NOUVELLES FEMINISTES.

ITALIE.

La situation suffragiste.

Madame la Directrice de *JUS SUFFRAGII* me fait des aimables reproches parce que je ne lui envoie pas des nouvelles sur la situation et les événements suffragistes de ces derniers mois. J'accepte les reproches, mais je dois avouer que mon devoir de correspondante est très difficile, puisqu'il n'y a pas eu d'événements suffragistes et cela pour des raisons politiques qu'il n'est pas facile d'expliquer aux étrangers, et même aux italiens, avec cette impartialité qui est dans le programme de *JUS SUFFRAGII*.

Après les élections politiques de 1919 et le retour au pouvoir de M. Giolitti, les socialistes et le nouveau parti populaire (catholique) étaient tout-puissants en Italie; le parti populaire avait dans son programme le suffrage des femmes, et le parti socialiste avait toujours été suffragiste.

M. Giolitti, qui a été toujours un antisuffragiste, mais qui est un opportuniste, ne fit pas d'opposition au projet de loi pour la concession du vote municipal, et promit la neutralité du gouvernement dans la question du suffrage politique, puisqu'il y avait un projet de loi déposé par les députés socialistes et un autre déposé par les populistes (catholiques), c'est-à-dire par les deux partis tout-puissants dans la Chambre et dans le pays.

Mais pendant les élections municipales et surtout après la période des mouvements ouvriers et les occupations des usines par les socialistes, il y eut un changement dans le pays: une forte réaction contre les socialistes surgit partout et la jeunesse bourgeoise, organisée avec les partisans de D'Annunzio et les ex-combattants, dans les *fasci di combattimento*, opposa son organisation à l'organisation socialiste.

Les *fasci* ne sont pas (ou pas encore) un parti politique; ils ne sont pas conservateurs ni antisuffragistes (quoiqu'ils soient formés par un très grand nombre de jeunes garçons entre 16 et 20 ans, qui, comme tous les jeunes garçons, ne sont pas féministes!); mais ils ont changé la situation politique du pays, même au point de vue suffragiste.

Il y a un an, les socialistes et les populistes (catholiques) étaient sûrs d'avoir la grande majorité des voix; ils souhaitaient de voir s'augmenter le nombre des électeurs, c'est-à-dire qu'ils étaient sincèrement suffragistes, puisque personne ne doutait que les femmes auraient voté pour les deux grands partis qui seuls les avaient organisés. Maintenant il est impossible de savoir si les femmes, au dehors du petit nombre des organisées, voteront pour les catholiques, pour les socialistes ou pour ces partis moyens qui paraissent bien morts il y a quelques mois.

Les députés de tous les secteurs de la Chambre ont une peur bleue des élections, qui sont, paraît-il, très proches, et, n'étant pas sûrs des anciens électeurs, ils ne songent pas à ajouter aux difficultés de la campagne électorale les nouveaux *x* de 11 millions d'électrices. Ajoutez à cela que M. Giolitti n'a jamais été suffragiste et vous verrez qu'il n'y a aucune chance que les femmes puissent voter en Italie en 1921!

Même le suffrage municipal est bien incertain; si la Chambre allait être dissoute pendant les vacances de Pâques, c'est-à-dire avant que le Sénat eut discuté et approuvé le projet de loi qui a été voté par la Chambre il y a quelques mois, ce projet ne pourrait plus être pris en considération par le Sénat. Cela nous est arrivé déjà en 1919 pour le projet déposé par MM. Martini et Gaspacotto et qui tomba, après avoir été approuvé par la Chambre des Députés, lorsque la Chambre fut dissoute. Nous jouons vraiment de malheur!

Une question s'impose maintenant: puisqu'il n'y a pas de chance que nous ayons le vote avant les nouvelles élections, qu'est-ce que nous allons faire pendant la campagne électorale? Il n'y a pas de parti antisuffragiste à combattre; mais tous les partis nous ont trahies. Au point de vue suffragiste il faudrait faire une campagne contre tous les partis, et surtout contre tous les députés en charge. Mais depuis 1919 les femmes s'intéressent beaucoup à la politique; il y en a un grand nombre dans les partis, ou dans les associations politiques, et il est impossible qu'une campagne suffragiste négative soit populaire. La condition du pays est très grave, et les femmes ont autant d'intérêt que les hommes au résultat des élections. Il est donc presque sûr qu'elles feront ce qu'elles ont fait pendant les dernières élections, c'est-à-dire qu'elles travailleront pour les candidats de leur parti, qui les bafouèrent, s'ils sont élus, tout comme leurs prédécesseurs qui siègent actuellement à la Chambre.

A TURIN, le Conseil municipal a appelé à siéger dans les conseils des œuvres d'assistance et de charité plusieurs femmes, parmi lesquelles il y a bon nombre de suffragistes,

notamment Mlle Jacchia, la très active secrétaire du Comitato pro voto.

A VÉRONE, une nouvelle association féministe a été formée par les femmes de la ville.

M. CROCE, ministre de l'Instruction publique, a essayé de s'opposer à l'application de la loi Sacchi; mais le Conseil d'État a rejeté la demande du ministre et il a jugé que les femmes soient admises à enseigner dans toutes les écoles. Le ministre a été obligé de signer les bandes pour les nouveaux concours aux places de professeurs dans les écoles moyennes de garçons et filles, en admettant les femmes qui pourront être élues et avoir les mêmes places et les mêmes appointements que les hommes.

PLUSIEURS FEMMES ont passé les examens d'avocat et d'avoué et sont entrées dans la nouvelle carrière ouverte avec la loi Sacchi.

DANS LE DERNIER CONGRÈS SOCIALISTE DE LIVORNO, une femme bien connue, Mme Argentina Altobelli, a présidé à une des séances plénières.

M. ANCONA.

Le 19 Mars.

SUISSE.

La situation suffragiste.

Après les débats au Grand Conseil de Genève, deux autres encore de nos Parlements cantonaux se sont occupés du vote des femmes. Dans le canton de Vaud, d'abord, où la question traîne, sous prétexte d'étude, depuis novembre 1917. Le Conseil d'État (gouvernement), qui avait été chargé de présenter un rapport sur ce sujet, l'a fait de façon tout à fait défavorable aux femmes, affirmant entre autres qu'elles sont incapables d'organiser ou de créer quoi que ce soit de façon durable! Il serait facile de répondre en mettant sous les yeux de ces messieurs tout ce que les femmes ont accompli par leur seule initiative et de leurs propres forces en fait de travail social ou philanthropique. Mais les élections pour le renouvellement du Grand Conseil approchant, les députés vaudois songeaient surtout à leur siège pour la prochaine législature; si bien que les partisans du suffrage se sont rendus compte que, si des débats s'engageaient à fond actuellement, on risquerait un enterrement général du sujet. Leurs efforts ont donc tendu à faire remettre la décision à plus tard, alors que nos adversaires demandaient au contraire la discussion immédiate. Ce sont les partisans du suffrage qui l'ont emporté, et la question sera donc reprise plus tard et, on peut l'espérer, dans de meilleures conditions. Ajoutons qu'au début de la discussion, le Grand Conseil avait pris connaissance d'une lettre signée par trente-trois sociétés féminines vaudoises demandant le droit de vote — une belle réponse à l'argument souvent mis en avant qu'en Suisse les femmes ne veulent pas de ce droit.

Dans le canton de Glaris, la question se présente différemment. Glaris est en effet un des cantons qui a conservé la tradition ancienne des "Landsgemeinde." Une fois par an, le dernier dimanche d'avril, généralement, tous les électeurs se rassemblent en cortège pour se rendre en plein air dans un endroit spécial, où ils discutent et votent sur les affaires du canton. Ce système ne peut naturellement être pratiqué que par des cantons à population peu nombreuse, sans cela l'assemblée serait si vaste qu'il serait impossible de s'y faire entendre. Mais il a un cachet de poésie et de grandeur extrêmement impressionnant. Voir, par une belle matinée de printemps, dans le cadre pittoresque d'une vieille ville ou d'une prairie entourée de montagnes, un peuple qui discute lui-même et directement de ses propres affaires, avec sérieux et conviction, avec compréhension et jugement — ce spectacle fait véritablement comprendre quel est l'esprit fondamental de la démocratie suisse.

Mais on se rend compte d'autre part de l'innovation bien plus révolutionnaire que partout ailleurs que constitue la proposition de donner aux femmes le droit de vote dans ce milieu patriarcal! C'est pourtant ce qui vient d'être fait à Glaris. Droit de vote un peu restreint cependant, et qui ne donnerait pas pour débiter aux femmes la possibilité de siéger à la Landsgemeinde, mais seulement celle d'y présenter des propositions et de les y défendre. Un motif d'ordre tout pratique est en effet à considérer: les nécessités de

(La suite à la page 105.)

l'acoustique, si le nombre des participants à la Landsgemeinde venait à être doublé brusquement! D'autre part, la proposition faite reconnaît aux femmes les mêmes droits exactement qu'aux hommes, en matière communale, en fait de votations et d'élections cantonales, et son auteur, M. Leonhardt Jenni, se déclare prêt à abandonner cette restriction si cela est demandé.

Primitivement, il avait été décidé que la question du suffrage des femmes serait tranchée à la Landsgemeinde d'avril 1921. On s'est assez vite rendu compte que c'était beaucoup trop tôt, que l'on n'avait absolument pas le temps de mener campagne en faveur du suffrage des femmes, de le faire connaître et comprendre aux habitants de petits villages, perdus dans la montagne, qui n'en avaient jamais entendu parler. C'est pourquoi, au Grand Conseil, nos partisans ont demandé et obtenu le renvoi à la Landsgemeinde de 1922, alors que, comme au Grand Conseil vaudois, nos adversaires insistaient pour que la question fût tranchée cette année déjà. Il paraît d'ailleurs se dessiner un mouvement favorable au suffrage des femmes à Glaris, où plusieurs membres du Grand Conseil se sont exprimés en sa faveur. Notre Association suisse a déjà envoyé des conférenciers, de la littérature, etc., mais doit agir avec beaucoup de tact et de réserve, étant donné l'individualisme des Glaronnais qui entendent être maîtres dans leur canton et n'acceptent pas volontiers les idées qui leur viennent d'ailleurs!

Femmes-pasteurs.

Le Synode (Conseil d'Église) de l'Église protestante nationale de Zurich a voté, le 5 mars, après de longs et chauds débats, l'admission des femmes célibataires au pastorat. C'est une grande victoire féministe en Suisse.

En effet, aucun de nos cantons n'a encore reconnu officiellement les femmes-pasteurs. Exceptionnellement, certaines Églises leur ont ouvert leur chaire, comme cela a été le cas pour Miss Royden dans la cathédrale de St. Pierre de Genève. Les femmes peuvent faire des études de théologie au même titre que les hommes, mais sans aucune certitude de trouver ensuite des postes. A Zurich, il a fallu la longue maladie d'un pasteur, qui a été remplacé à la satisfaction générale de toute sa paroisse par une femme, Mlle Pfister, pour poser nettement la question. En effet, Mlle Pfister, ayant tous ses grades théologiques et parfaitement capable de remplir son poste, ne le faisait que sous la responsabilité du pasteur qu'elle remplaçait et n'avait pas, par conséquent, droit au traitement complet de pasteur, ni à une charge définitive. La décision du Synode vient de la mettre, elle et sa collègue, Mlle Gutknecht, et toutes les autres femmes-pasteurs à venir, sur le même pied que les hommes, c'est-à-dire qu'elles toucheront les mêmes traitements, seront élues de la même façon, garderont leur poste sous leur propre responsabilité, etc.

Une grave restriction cependant a été formulée: celle du célibat des femmes-pasteurs. Des journaux catholiques n'ont pas manqué de faire remarquer la similitude avec le célibat des prêtres, mais on peut affirmer que ce n'est pas pour un motif de cet ordre que le Synode a exigé que la femme mariée quitte son poste. C'est tout simplement parce que ces messieurs sont hantés de cette idée que je signalais ici même dans un précédent article: c'est que la femme ne peut pas avoir deux vocations, et qu'il lui faut absolument choisir entre celle de mère de famille et sa carrière extérieure. On l'a vu pour les maîtresses d'école, on le voit maintenant encore.

Nous protestons contre cette mesure d'exception. Il sera peut-être difficile à une femme de se consacrer à la fois à sa paroisse et à sa famille, mais nous pensons que son sens moral lui dictera au moment voulu le choix à faire si elle l'estime nécessaire. Et nous ne pouvons admettre que l'on impose à la femme, sans la consulter, une différence pareille d'avec ses collègues masculins.

Il est piquant de relever en terminant que le canton de Zurich, le premier donc de nos 22 cantons, à admettre officiellement les femmes au pastorat, est d'autre part l'un de ceux où elles ne possèdent pas même le droit d'être ces pasteurs! Nous avons en effet l'électorat

ecclésiastique dans les cantons de Vaud, Genève, Bâle-Ville, et dans certaines communes du canton de Berne, mais pas à Zurich! Il y a là une anomalie et un illogisme qui devront disparaître promptement!

EMILIE GOURD.

Genève, le 16 mars 1921.

Australie.—Mrs. Cowan a été nommée membre du Conseil législatif de l'Ouest de l'Australie. C'est la première femme membre du parlement.

Canada (Québec).—Le Québec est la seule province du Canada où la femme ne possède pas le vote provincial. (Chaque province du Canada a son parlement.) La loi du suffrage ne sera pas discutée pendant cette session.

Danemark.—La loi donnant aux femmes accès aux emplois civils fut ratifiée par le roi du Danemark le 4 mars. Cette loi donne l'égalité complète comme nominations et comme salaires, les seules exceptions étant faites pour les postes militaires et ecclésiastiques. Les organisations féministes continuent à protester avec énergie contre la ratification de la convention de Washington, qui défend le travail de nuit aux femmes. . . . Douze femmes ont été nommées au Conseil administratif de Copenhague. . . . L'Association des Femmes Danoises fait appel au Rigsdag pour renforcer la loi concernant les tentatives de viol sur les enfants.

Finlande.—Le parlement de la Finlande a ratifié la convention de Washington. Le gouvernement se réserve 600.000 marcs pour établir une école pour l'enseignement du bien-être des enfants en bas-âge. . . . Le gouvernement ouvre aussi une école pour enseigner l'économie domestique. Pendant la prochaine session la loi concernant les enfants illégitimes sera probablement adoptée. Il est aussi question de réformer la loi sur le mariage.

Allemagne.—Le gouvernement a promis de présenter immédiatement une loi donnant aux femmes le droit de s'asseoir au banc du jury. . . . A Bade et à Dantzick la profession de notaire et d'avocat est ouverte pour les femmes sans aucune restriction, et il est probable que cet avantage sera bientôt général en Allemagne pour les femmes.

Les Indes.—Le Conseil législatif de Madras doit considérer la question du suffrage pour les femmes vers la fin du mois de mars. La Société du I.W.S. a envoyé une lettre au président du Conseil demandant que cette réforme soit acceptée de suite.

Palestine.—Quoique douze femmes furent élues pour l'assemblée qui fut convoquée au mois d'octobre dernier, aucune femme ne fut nommée pour le comité permanent. Le Juif orthodoxe, qui se refuse encore à se trouver en concile avec les femmes, fut cause de ceci. Il a été question que toute matière ayant rapport à la position personnelle, telle que la tutelle, les relations de famille, l'héritage, etc., serait à l'avenir sous la juridiction rabbinique, pour autant que la population juive de la Palestine serait en question. Les cours de justice rabbiniques ne reconnaissent pas le droit des femmes. Elles ne peuvent être ni témoins, ni tutrices de leurs enfants, ne peuvent ni hériter ni même posséder l'argent qu'elles gagnent. En somme, la femme est pendant sa vie sous la tutelle soit de son père, de son mari ou de son frère. Le gouvernement a consulté à ce sujet les organisations féministes de la Palestine, et la Société des Femmes Juives pour Droits égaux a soumis un mémorandum signé par leurs différentes branches, du Jaffa, du Haifa, de la Galilée et des autres provinces de la Palestine.

(La suite à la page 112.)

(Continued from page 103.)

would be highly overrating the effects of the prohibition with regard to social hygiene to think that it would, as presented, become of any importance worth mentioning for the coming generation, even if it be taken for granted—which is by no means the case—that the women forced away from their actual work would pass to healthier, easier and better circumstances.

"Besides, we beg to point out that the Bill seems to be very feebly grounded, because we presume that the actual working conditions in trades, where women work after 10 o'clock in the evening and before 5 o'clock in the morning, have absolutely not proved to be detrimental to the health of the race.

"Perhaps the prohibition may be necessary in countries where women are still oppressed and misused in their working conditions, and where they lack the protection afforded by civil rights in more civilised countries, but it is not necessary in our country, where women are themselves certainly able to prevent misuse through their whole social and political position and through their very strong trade unions.

"Of course, we are not partisans of night-work in general, and we participate in the wish for abolishing this work to the farthest possible extent for men as well as for women, yet we strongly maintain that the abolition must not take place on sex lines, but along the lines which have already been taken up in this country, through abolition of night-work in single trades (bakeries), consequently an abolition on trade lines, but simultaneously for men and women.

"For the above-mentioned reasons we, the undersigned, protest on behalf of our members against the proposed prohibition.

"We protest against the accomplishment—for theoretical international reasons, having no relation to our circumstances—of an arrangement which will probably have no other consequences than to put large crowds of working women out of their trade, where they have attained professional skill, and where they have worked for many years, whilst at the same time it will act as a detrimental encroachment on women's right to work."

The petition was signed by Mrs. Sofie Rasmussen, President of the Women's Labour Union (head organisation of about 15,000 women of different trade unions), by Mrs. H. Gram Petersen, President Women Printers' Trade Union, and by Mrs. Julie Arenholt, President of Dansk Kvindesamfund.

During the first reading of the Bill nearly all the speakers mentioned the petition, and it is to be hoped that the arguments set forth in it will prove strong enough to prevent the Bill from passing.

LOUISE NEERGAARD,
Secretary of Dansk Kvindesamfund.
Copenhagen, March, 1921.

Criminal Assault on Children: Appeal to the Rigsdag.

At the meeting of the Joint Council, the Chairman of Dansk Kvindesamfund (Danish Association of Women), held at Copenhagen January 22 and 27, 1921, it was decided to approach the Government and the Rigsdag with the appeal set out below.

"Again and again the public have been alarmed at the ever-recurring violation of children; again and again the Public's sense of justice has been outraged by the verdict given in such cases, the lenience of which stands in the sharpest contrast to the general conception of the particularly revolting character of a crime of this nature, and moreover one feels horrified at the fact that the existing criminal law does not prevent the constantly recurring cases in which offenders once punished repeat their crime. The existing penal clauses relating to this crime are too lenient, and are quite ineffective in protecting our children against bodily and mental injury by individuals sexually tainted.

"Dansk Kvindesamfund is therefore urging the legislative pioneers to introduce as soon as possible, the following changes in the existing criminal law:—

"(1) That Society be safeguarded against the repeated crimes of the assaulter.

"(2) That the punishment for criminal practices with and obscene conduct towards children—boys the same as girls—be made much more severe, and in such a manner that the crime be branded as an outrage of the worst kind by making away with the established punishment of a fine or simple confinement ('simpelt Fangsel'), this to be changed to imprisonment or hard labour.

"(3) That sexually abnormal persons who have committed the above-mentioned crime be isolated under medical supervision as long as a cure is not ascertained, so that incurably abnormal persons be confined for life."

A law made by men and executed by men which administers to a human beast—infested with sexual disease—sixty days 'simpelt Fangsel' (common imprisonment) for violating a little girl 7 years old—such a law Danish women cannot tolerate any longer without protesting. Can one imagine a greater insult than to read in our days in the one column of one's paper the account of such a verdict, and then in the following column about women's equality with men!

ELLEN BANG,

Kvinden og Samfundet, February 15.

City Council Elections.

THE City Council Elections for Copenhagen took place on March 15, with the result that 12 women and 43 men were elected by proportional election. Among the four parties who got some of their candidates elected, the Social-Democrats have 6 women of 33 members, the Conservatives 4 women of 16 members, and the Radicals 2 women of 4 members, while the fourth list, the Moderates, had put the men in the front and got only 2 candidates elected.

As the statistical material for the elections all over the country has not yet appeared, I cannot tell the number of women elected in other municipalities. The papers give only the figures for the different political parties, and do not care for the question of men or women members. A fact which makes it evident that these thirteen years since the first election have accustomed everybody to women councillors.

SARAH ORTH,

Secretary of Dansk Landsforbund for Kvinders Valgret.
Copenhagen, March 18, 1921.

FINLAND.

IN these times of economic disorganisation and unrest the idealists have not a good time. People's minds, and the Parliaments of the so-called civilised world are absorbed by the financial difficulties felt everywhere, by the conquerors and the conquered, and by the neutrals as well. The taxpayers groan, and see no end to the increase of taxes. Nobody seems to have learnt anything by this terrible disaster—the war which was to make an end to war for ever! Under the ashes of the ruins, national hatreds are as alive as ever, and the nations prepare for new wars, which certainly will come automatically if this goes on. Surely the next generation is the receiver of a heavy inheritance. No wonder, then, if other than economic questions receive slight attention by the lawmakers, because balancing the Budget is the most pressing need of the moment. Reforms have to wait because there is no money to carry them out.

And the women who sit on the bench of the lawmakers, and are confronted by all these immense difficulties, feel that they cannot do much in the feminist line.

Also, we in our country have the same burden, and so the debate on the Budget was the most important question of a session that has lasted nearly seven months.

The session of Parliament was closed on March 12, and there is nothing of great interest for women to report. The question of prohibition for night-work for women came under debate in connection with the Budget. A woman member, Mrs. Gebhard, drew the attention of the House to the fact that when the International Washington Conference is ratified, provisions must be made in consequence of the unemployment amongst women industrial workers which it is likely to bring about, and asked the Government to attend to the matter in time. Though Mrs. Gebhard spoke very cautiously on this burning question, the Social Democrats, both men and women members, took the challenge and accused the bourgeoisie women of adherence to a theoretical standard of equality between man and women workers, and spoke most vigorously for the prohibition of night-work. It remains to be seen how the women will look upon prohibition when it becomes reality.

For the first time, a sum of 600,000 Finnish marks has been appropriated on the Budget for a training school for teachers for the care of babies or small children. This is the result of a private member's bill signed by both men and women M.P.'s asking Government, in view of the high percentage of mortality amongst newly born children in the country, to see that duly qualified teachers should be available.

Moreover, a grant is appropriated on the Budget of 1921 for the organisation of four-week courses in sewing for unemployed women. Each woman receives 15 Finnish marks a day, of which one-half is paid by the State and the other half by the County Council, who also have to provide for rooms, heating and lighting. Half of the teachers' pay is also paid by the State. The planning out of these short courses and also the supervision is entrusted to the Government Committee on Household Economy.

We have, up to this time, not had a proper training college for teachers of domestic economy. For many years women M.P.'s petitioned for the organisation of such a college, but the money for it was never found. Now it is going to be a reality. The school is going to be opened on January 1, 1922, for 75 pupils with two years' training. In connection with the debate on the Budget, Mrs. Gebhard pointed to the fact that no money had been appropriated for the costs of organisation, and proposed a sum of 460,000 Finnish marks for this purpose, which was carried.

This is about all affecting women's interest to report from the last session of our Parliament.

Parliament is convened for March 30, and we hope the bill on children born out of wedlock will pass through this session; also a new marriage bill, petitioned for at least 10 sessions and promised by as many different Governments.

ANNIE FURUHJELM, M.P.

Helsingfors, March 23, 1921.

GERMANY.

SINCE my last letter to the I.W.S.N., the state of things on the question of *Woman Jurors* has considerably changed, in consequence of a motion brought in by the Independent Socialists and Communists. When a Bill to disburden the professional law-courts by enlarging the efficiency of the lay-jurisdiction (*Gerichtsentlastungsgesetz*) was discussed in the Reichstag in the first days of March, these two parties moved to insert a clause that the jurors shall be men and women possessing "the German nationality." This would, of course, have settled the question at once in principle, but not at all

practically, as long as the admission of women was not made obligatory, which can only be done by the Law mentioned in the March issue of this paper (*Gerichtsvorfassungsgesetz*), or by a special Bill. As it is most uncertain whether the former will be passed in the Reichstag during this session, a member of the Democratic party, Judge Brodauf, moved that the Government should be asked to submit to the House as soon as possible a special Bill concerning women jurors. This motion was carried, the amendment of the Independent Socialists and Communists was withdrawn at the third reading, and the Minister of Justice, upon the energetic appeal of the Democratic member Dr. Elizabeth Lüders, declared in the name of the Government that such a special Bill would be prepared and brought before the House. So most probably we shall have the first women jurors everywhere in Germany by the time of the next elections in Autumn.*

The readers of the I.W.S.N. know that an important question for the German women is at present not only the admittance of lay-judges but also the opening of the official law-career. It is an old claim of the National Council of Women, of the former Suffrage Societies, and other large organisations that woman law-students shall be admitted to the last qualifying examinations and the preparatory service which is obligatory for lawyers as well as for the judiciary and administrative career. But on no other point—not even against woman suffrage—the resistance, especially of the professional circles, has ever been so hard and stubborn as on this one. It seems, indeed, as if the idea of women with judicial powers and functions was quite unbearable to men in all lands. As the decision of the question in Germany lies with the Ministries of Justice of the different States, a great many petitions were sent to these in the last years—only to meet with more or less courteous refusal. But according to the new German Constitution also this question had to be faced from a new standpoint. When first a sort of negative catch-ball politics on behalf of competence was played by Reichstag and State Parliaments, several of the latter have already decided in favour of the women's demands, and the others will follow. The Governments, however, are not yet inclined to face the whole consequences—i.e., to open the law profession freely to women—as, for instance, showed the decree of the Prussian Minister of Justice, mentioned in the February issue of I.W.S.N., though according to a decision of the Prussian Diet, woman henceforth will be admitted to the qualifying last examination and the preparatory service, the Minister declared that this did not involve any right to the higher ranks of the law. Very soon after this the woman members of all parties in the Reichstag joined in a motion to have the matter settled by the National Parliament. The motion was very effectively introduced by Dr. Lüders, and was carried without debate.

So we may say the important question is—at least in principle—settled according to our wishes, and it can be hoped that the practical results will soon follow. In two cases we can already state such results: in Baden some time ago, a woman was admitted to the preparatory service at the Civil Court in Mannheim (as "Referendar"); and the same has just been reported from the Republic of Danzig, where, in the last days of February, a resolution was carried unanimously by the Constitutional Committee of the Diet to open the law offices of all ranks, without restriction, to women.

MARIE STRITT.

Dresden, March 19, 1921.

GREAT BRITAIN.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

THE Annual Council Meeting of the N.U.S.E.C. was held on March 8, 9 and 10, at King George's Hall,

* I must correct here a statement of my last article, to avoid misunderstandings: not all "adult" women, only the women—and men—over 30 years will be, according to the new Bill, eligible as jurors.

London. The attendance of delegates was larger than last year, and the discussion the liveliest since Woman Suffrage was gained: since there was a very distinct cleavage of opinion on two important resolutions before the Council. The first of these dealt with the interpretation of *Equal Pay for Equal Work*. The second with the principle of the National Endowment of Motherhood. By a large majority the Council adopted that interpretation of Equal Pay known as the *occupational rate*—the terms of the actual resolution being as follows:—

"(a) This Council declares that the only interpretation of 'Equal Pay for Equal Work' which is acceptable to this Council is that men and women shall be paid at the same rate, whether this be computed by time or by piece, in the same occupation or grade."

By a three vote majority the Council rejected the National Endowment of Motherhood as one of the equality objects of the Union; but a recommendation to societies to discuss the question was passed, as was a resolution urging the appointment of a Royal Commission of Inquiry on the subject.

The debate on the Equal Moral Standard resulted in the passing of some important resolutions. Two of these are of especial interest, since they will appeal to the women of every country who are working for a really equal standard of morals, and who are aware that much of the "social hygiene" that is being preached at present is fundamentally unsound:—

Solicitation Laws.

"Having regard to the report issued December, 1920, by the Joint Select Committee on Criminal Law Amendment, this Council re-affirms its demand for the repeal of the Solicitation Laws, which are solely directed against women, and vigorously protests against any attempt being made to extend the scope and operation of these laws, or to increase the penalties available under them."

Regulation of Prostitution.

"That this Council declares itself firmly opposed to all proposals which under the pretext of being health measures, tend to establish one or the other following conditions, these conditions being invariably the distinctive characteristics of regulated prostitution:—

"(a) Makes women or any class of women subject to special penalties or to special health regulations.

"(b) Tends to place women or any class of women under medical control different from that commonly exercised on all persons equally.

"(c) Permits police or medical officers to impose a compulsory medical examination for venereal diseases on women or any class of women."

Other important resolutions were passed on Equal Franchise, the Candidature of Women for Parliament, Equal Guardianship, Women in the House of Lords, Women Jurors, Equality of Opportunity in Industry and the Professions, Women Police, Assaults on Children. An urgency resolution was passed welcoming the appointment of Mrs. Anna Wicksell to the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations; and Madame Girardet Vielle's appeal for Hon. Associate Members for the International Woman Suffrage Alliance was read to the Council.

March 29, 1921.

GREECE.

Summary of the Activities of the Committee on Education of the Greek League for Women's Rights.

THE Greek League for Women's Rights considering it necessary, before beginning to work intensely for the acquisition of the vote, to give its attention to the question of the education of Greek women, has organised a series of conferences with the purpose of studying carefully the actual conditions of women's education in this country and proposing to the Govern-

ment the necessary changes and improvements to be made in order to bring it to the level which civilisation demands.

Until now little attention has been given to women's education. The law for compulsory education, both for men and women, has been existing in Greece for many years, but the application of it, owing to lack of organisation, has been slow. The average illiteracy of women is as high as 62 per cent., and in certain localities goes up higher, while that of men averages 30 per cent. Greek women, before raising any claims on their rights, must become enlightened in every question concerning them, and then, with intelligence guided by a thorough knowledge of the responsibilities they are to undertake as the co-operators of men in social and public activities, not only ask for those rights, but insist on getting them intact.

For this purpose the League has appointed a committee whose work has been the study of women's education in all its aspects. Judging, however, that only a few persons could not take decisions on such an important subject, the League has authorised the committee to appeal to those people among several professions who, either by their training or occupation, were best able to offer their help in the discussion. And, in fact, the most wonderful results have been obtained. For the first time in Greece men and women came together in a perfect understanding of their mission and exchanged their ideas. Local conditions, as well as the systems adopted in the education of women by the most civilised countries, were taken into consideration.

One of the problems that seriously occupied the committee was whether boys' and girls' education ought to be entirely assimilated, and, if so, whether co-education would be the best form of providing it; or whether other reasons, such as physiological, psychological, mental, and even local, imposed simply an analogy between the two and not complete assimilation. The more conservative minds, exaggerating the value of the physiological and mental differences between men and women, based their opinion on them and demanded a somewhat different education for boys and girls. The more liberal recognised no potential difference between the two sexes, and insisted on making no distinction between boys' and girls' training. Others, emphasising the fact that the emancipation and work of women is a necessity imposed by social evolution, wished for a liberal education which would enable women to be the equals of men in earning capacities. Most conceptions, however, were compromising between the extremes, and advocated the double ideal which must govern every effort in bringing about reforms in women's education—women mothers and women active members of society.

In the last meeting, the Chairman (Mr. Glynos, ex-General Secretary to the Ministry of Education), drawing conclusions from the different views held, indicated the decisions to be made, and formulated a number of requests to be presented to the Government for action. Mr. Glynos considered each form of education proposed as representative of a certain set of social ideals, and education must conform to that of the age.

Even now women in Greece are looked upon as belonging to no other place but the home. But to what kind of a home that is not clearly defined. In Greece there are still found three kinds of it: the remains of the patriarchal home, which disappears slowly as time and social developments go on; the middle-class home, in which the woman is more or less filling the rôle of a doll and receives a superficial education that tries to emphasise only her outward qualifications; and the workman's home, where the woman contributes to the support of the family by working outside it. For which of these homes must we prepare women? And concluding that education must keep pace with the actual social development of a country and that it must prepare people to live in it, and not ahead or behind it, Mr. Glynos gave three general statements as to the way Greek women's education ought to be reformed:—

INDIA.

Madras Legislative Council and Woman Suffrage.

WE understand that a Woman Suffrage measure is to be brought before the Madras Legislative Council at the end of March. The Women's Indian Association (provisionally affiliated to the I.W.S.A.) has arranged a deputation to the Legislative Council, and the Overseas Committee of the I.W.S.A. has addressed a letter to the President of the Legislative Council urging the granting of woman suffrage.

Indian National Liberal Federation.

The Indian National Liberal Federation has passed the following resolution: "The Federation requests the Council of State, the Legislative Assembly and the Provincial Councils respectively, to remove the sex disqualification in their respective franchise from women otherwise duly qualified."

Indian Women Petition against Prostitution.

The *Social Hygiene Bulletin* reports that a Bill to deal with prostitution has been prepared for submission to the Imperial Legislature of India by Dr. Tej Bahadur Sapru, of Allahabad. In support of this act, a petition has been addressed to the Viceroy of India from the women of the country, more than 7,000 names having been already secured.

The text of the petition is:—

"We, women of all classes resident in India, humbly pray for legislation which shall penalise commercialised vice and make it illegal for a man to buy and for a woman to sell womanhood for immoral purposes. We believe that such a law would result in abolishing the prostitute, in staying contagion from venereal diseases, in closing markets of vice, in shutting up disorderly houses, in destroying vested interest in immorality, in killing the traffic in women. Publicity and penalty would be deterrents to vice and a great gain to public health."

March 24, 1921.

ITALY.

THERE is no hope of women's suffrage being achieved before the next election; nor are the chances of the municipal vote very rosy. This is chiefly due to the complexity of the political situation—of which Dr. Ancona gives a vivid account in the French pages of this number. . . . The Municipality of Turin has nominated several women as members of Welfare Councils, among them Miss Rita Jacchia, the secretary of the Suffrage Society. . . . In Verona a suffrage society has just been formed. . . . The Minister for Education has been obliged, in spite of resistance, to put into force the Sacchi Law, which gives women equal rights and equal pay as teachers, etc. . . . Several women have passed their Law examinations and have begun to practise (another right accorded by the Sacchi Law).

March 29, 1921.

A Survey of the Woman's Movement.

It is perhaps with somewhat hesitating steps that the various Women's Associations in Italy are moving towards their goal in the political arena. The period of vaguely outlined feminist aspirations, with loosely knit programme, must now cease if women are to make themselves felt in the economic, social and political life of the country. The realisation that responsibility must be bravely assumed is making itself felt, and the feminist forces tend to combine in increasingly distinct groups, each with its definite programme; and the Catholic, Popular, Liberal and Social Democratic parties now emerge into prominence, dominated by the Socialist group, which has its origin in the Syndicalist Movement.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S UNION.—This association, under the special patronage and guidance of the Holy See, has largely increased its membership, and at the Congress held in Rome recently, put forth a well-thought-out programme, giving prominence to the urgent necessity for the training of women to take their part in schemes of public benevolence and by a close study of State institutions to fit themselves for the franchise.

The consolidation of family life and the resistance to divorce are points also urged, as is the importance of all matters touching education.

First, that the Government should begin to think seriously about education and how it must be organised, in order to prepare Greek men and women to live a contemporary civilised life.

Second, that women being the equals of men in all human and social rights, must be prepared for all the activities of life in the same way as men are. Therefore women's education must be equivalent and parallel to that of men.

Third, that education must take into consideration the differences in personality and constitution that exist between men and women, respect and provide for them.

It will probably be interesting to note that only a few years ago the first public schools of secondary education for girls were established in Athens and a few other cities in Greece, while in smaller places the necessity for work has pushed the girls into the boys' schools. No law forbidding such a combination existed, consequently, the Government has passively accepted it without further consideration. In this way a form of co-education came fatally about without bringing with it the benefits of real co-education, for neither the teaching staff nor the individual minds were given any preparation for it.

After the discussion was ended, the League adopted the following programme concerning the education of women:—

(1) Communities as well as the Government must found kindergarten schools for children from 4 to 6 years of age, especially in industrial districts.

(2) Compulsory education must be enforced both for girls and boys for at least six years.

(3) Elementary education schools must be co-educational, with mixed teaching personnel or one consisting only of women. Attention must be given that the programmes contain whatever subjects are necessary to be taught separately to boys and girls.

(4) Elementary vocational schools must be established, common for those trades open to men and women and separate for the others. Continuation, evening and Sunday schools must be established.

(5) Secondary education of boys and girls must be reorganised. Three or four years of general knowledge must follow the elementary teaching for the middle-class children, and six years of gymnasium for those intending to enter the university or the higher vocational schools. Girls must remain at school as many years as boys. But as there are serious reasons, both general and local, which do not seem to favour co-education at that age, at least for the present, the programme must be taught separately to boys and girls, either in the same school building or in a separate one. The programme must serve the same general purposes, but the distribution of the subject matter may differ. Domestic science courses must be given to girls. Besides, the Government is requested to establish a few co-educational secondary schools for experimentation.

(6) Vocational secondary schools must be co-educational. Common normal, commercial, agricultural, art and trade schools, separate naval and military schools for boys, and home economics normal schools for girls.

(7) Hygiene, child care, and sex education must be taught to girls at the appropriate time, and in accordance with the mission of women as mothers.

(8) The instruction of civics (rights, duties and responsibilities of citizens) must be introduced in all boys' and girls' schools.

(9) The higher vocational schools, universities, polytechnic, commercial, agricultural, etc., except military and naval, must be co-educational and open with the same requirements for admission and same privileges to both men and women.

(10) Teachers, whether men or women, must have the same qualifications and admitted to all degrees of education.

(11) Equal payment and opportunities for advancement for both men and women.

(12) School boards must consist of both men and women.

Athens, February, 1921.

M. MATSOUKI.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ITALIAN WOMEN, on the other hand, rather hangs back, losing itself in a cloud of wordy generalities, and apparently reluctant to take any decided line; all the more to be regretted, as at one time this organisation showed real vitality.

THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL UNION and THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION demonstrate their interest in matters especially bearing on the care of children, education and popular instruction. The latter association more especially, perhaps, identifies itself with the working-classes, and is urging on the question of divorce.

As to the formation of a purely political feminist party in Italy, the *Giornale della Donna*, has referred the question to its readers; from the answers received to this referendum from well-known men and women, it would appear that opinion is, on the whole, against the likelihood of any such development of the Women's Movement, and is by some deprecated as likely to inaugurate a sex-war.

The three following points have been made the subject of another referendum by the same paper:—

(1) What is the best preparation for Italian women for the exercise of their political rights?

(2) What influence will the entry of women into politics be likely to have on ideas in general and in practical matters?

(3) Will the exercise of political rights bring about changes in the sentimental and practical relationship of the sexes?

As to (1), opinion shows that organisation is needed, and a realisation of the dignity of the State and of individual responsibility. Women already possessing culture and education must guide and educate their less fortunate sisters.

On point (2), it is felt that feminine influence will be salutary and elevating, not necessarily revolutionary in the wider sense.

Nor is it felt, as regards (3), that the granting of political rights to women need affect sex-relationships and family life in a way otherwise than beneficial.

The Bill on the Juridical Capacity of Women on passing into law, has proved somewhat of a disillusionment, and that on account of the many exceptions and disabilities as set forth in the by-laws. What has been given with one hand has been taken away with the other. The exclusion of women from the post of emigration officers is felt to be especially invidious, considering the hundreds of thousands of women emigrants that leave their country every year. It is felt also to be incongruous that although a woman has been nominated to a seat on the General Council of Emigration, it would not be possible for her, even had she the legal right, to compete for a post as inspector of emigration, as she is debarred from exercising the functions of a police officer.

The by-laws were issued before the Women's Franchise Bill passed the Chamber, and the Commissioners can have had little confidence that it would become law, thereby finding themselves in an *impasse*; for how to admit to the exercise of essentially political functions those ineligible for the fundamental privilege of the franchise?

The battle on the burning question of divorce rages to and fro: the various women's associations arguing for and against with great bitterness, thereby risking that it should become a mere party-cry in the hands of political agitators and wire-pullers.

Owing to the insistence on the need for supervision of cinema-films, the Government has appointed delegates from the women's associations to serve on the commission of inquiry recently appointed.

The question of prostitution has given rise to much discussion, and many recommendations have been formulated. Interest has also been shown in agricultural matters and the various schemes in connection therewith.

To sum up, it may be said that the Women's Movement in Italy shows signs of great vitality and an honourable determination to assert the right of Woman to make her voice heard in the Councils of the Nation.

L'Almanaca della Donna, 1921.

PALESTINE.

(Dr. Welt Straus writes: "My dear Mrs. Abbott,—Long ago I received your letter of January 12 telling us of Mrs. Fawcett coming to Palestine. We shall, of course, welcome Mrs. Fawcett, and I hope she may be willing to address us as frequently as we want to hear her. We have arranged to have her address translated into Hebrew and also into Arabic, so that all the audience understand her. The women of Jaffa are also very anxious to do honour to Mrs. Fawcett, and we hope that we shall

be able to prevail upon her to address them, as well as our women of Haifa, where she will find a progressive and appreciative audience.

I have not answered your letter sooner for two reasons. The first was the death of my mother in Geneva on January 9. She went so suddenly that there was no time to go to her and see her beloved face once more.

Under these circumstances the reason two—hard work—came as a blessing. You will see from the accompanying sheet what the situation here was and still is.

I shall be very glad to send you a report of Mrs. Fawcett's stay here. We hope it may be long, and needless to say, we shall do all in our power to make it pleasant."

THOUGH twelve women had been elected to and were sitting in the Assefat Hanivharim (Elected Assembly), that convened on October 12, 1920, none were elected to the permanent committee consisting of thirty members. This was due to the resistance of the Orthodox, who refused and still refuse to sit in council with women. It was a very great disappointment, as we had hoped that the Progressives, who were in the majority, would resist this superannuated and untenable demand. They were, however, afraid of a split and submitted and still submit.

In the meantime another question arose. All matters touching personal status and family relations, such as inheritance, guardianship, etc., had hitherto been under the jurisdiction of the Sheria, the Moslem Court. The Jewish Rabbinical Courts had been referred to very largely by the Jewish population, but had no executive power. The various religious courts now asked for that executive power, and it was proposed to leave to the Moslem Courts the jurisdiction for the Moslem population, to give it to the Patriarchate for the Christian (very largely Greek Orthodox) population, and to the Rabbinical Courts for the Jews. We no sooner heard of this demand than we sent an inquiry to the Government. The Government answered by asking us officially to express "the views of Jewish women on the suggested transfer to the Rabbinical Courts of jurisdiction in matters of personal status and specially on the question of inheritance." This was an historical occasion, as certainly for thousands of years, and probably never, had such a request been sent to any group of women in this country. *To know what this transfer would mean we must bear in mind that as far as the Rabbinical Courts are concerned a woman cannot be a witness nor the guardian of her children, she does not inherit. She does not own her earnings, etc., in short, she is and remains all her life under the tutelage of her father, brother or husband.* The Palestinian Jewish Women's Equal Rights Association drew up and submitted to the Government a memorandum, a copy of which, translated from the Hebrew, I shall forward to you soon. So far these resolutions have been accepted by our societies of Jerusalem, Jaffa and Haifa, and the Judean colonies. They are being passed on now to Galilee—that is, Tiberias, Saffed and the colonies—where no doubt they will also receive the signatures of all progressive women. I shall advise you of the decision of the Government as soon as we know it.

There is another matter which greatly occupies our attention: child marriages. Not infrequently children twelve years old—and younger—are married and often to men twice and three times and more as old as they are. We find these marriages among the Yemenite Jews, and still more frequently among the Arab population. These little victims, cheated of their childhood and very often of their lives, have so far been undefended. In conjunction with some of the hospitals, we are now working

on a medical and social report on this question, and shall ask the Government to raise the age of consent to sixteen years.

All this is uphill work; still we hope to be able to tell you of results in our next report.

ROSA WELT STRAUS.

Jerusalem, February, 25, 1921.

SWITZERLAND.

IN the Vaud the Government Commission which has been studying the question of Woman Suffrage since 1917 (!) has reported unfavourably on it. . . . The Landsgemeinde of Glaris will discuss the question of Woman Suffrage at the end of April. Several members of the Grand Council are sympathetic, and the Swiss Suffrage Society have sent literature and speakers to help with the preparatory campaign. . . . The Synod of the Protestant Church of Zurich, after a long and heated debate, decided, on March 5, to admit unmarried women to the pastorate of the Church.

March 29, 1921.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

IN a number of ways which American women never could have anticipated, they are finding their path to political equality still blocked. The sixty-sixth session of Congress has just adjourned without passing any of the six Bills which the National League of Women Voters endorsed, and which most of the national organisations on the Joint Congressional Committee, representing ten millions of American women, also sponsored.

The greatest disappointment to the women was the failure of the Sheppard-Towner, Maternity Protection Bill, which passed the Senate, was reported favourably by the House Committee, but failed in the Rules Committee to secure an allotment of time for consideration on the floor. It seems practically certain that if it had been brought to a vote it would have been passed. While the burden of blame rests with the Rules Committee as the last group to cause the defeat of the Bill, still there is little doubt that its progress was delayed all the way through in accordance with a well-defined plan to block all of the measures which the women wanted.

Various political considerations entered into the adoption of the programme of obstruction at the opening of the last session of Congress in December. Chief of these was the slight majority of the Republicans which made them hesitate to consider any Bills lest others more embarrassing be forced upon them, and the fact that it seemed desirable to the Republicans to delay the passage of creditable measures to the new Congress, which will be overwhelmingly Republican, and the new administration, which is Republican.

Whatever caused the obstruction in the beginning, the tremendous pressure brought by the women, and the failure of that pressure to get the desired action, is leaving a bad effect. The men, having been victorious in the first skirmish with the enfranchised women, are indicating their intention of continuing their opposition. But the women are thoroughly aroused and will make a vigorous campaign.

One of the Bills to die in the last session of Congress was the proposed reclassification of the civil service employees of the Government. The Bill has been up to this time in the control of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Senator Sterling, chairman of the Civil Service Committee, has announced that he will press for a new Bill to be referred to the Civil Service Committee in the incoming Congress.

With the Reclassification Bill not passed, added importance is attached to the proposed reorganisation of the Federal Departments, for which a special committee has been appointed by Congress. A reorganisation commission has been suggested, and a movement is under way to secure the appointment of a woman to the commission.

The appointment of women to Federal positions is another phase of the campaign still to be waged for political equality. It was hoped that the goodly number of women executives appointed by the last presidential administration might be increased by the new one. But at this time rumours have been current that women now serving would be replaced by men, and few women would be appointed to new positions. The movement to secure a woman in the Cabinet seems to be temporarily at least at a standstill,

and Miss Mabel Boardman, the one woman to have served as commissioner in the District of Columbia, is about to be replaced by a man.

Such is the situation facing the women with the new Congress to be convened in April. Impetus will be given to their campaign by the annual convention of the National League of Women Voters in Cleveland, Ohio, early in April. National legislation will occupy a conspicuous place on the programme, with speeches by Mrs. Maud Wood Park, chairman of the National League, and also of the Joint Congressional Committee, and by other members of the Joint Congressional Committee. "Pitfalls in Politics" will be presented at one evening meeting by Mrs. Harriet Taylor Upton, for many years an officer of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and now vice-chairman of the National Republican Committee; and by Mrs. A. B. Pyke of Ohio, who was elected a State delegate to the National Democratic Convention last summer, the first woman to occupy that position. Mrs. Chapman Catt will speak at a mass meeting, and, as honorary chairman of the National League of Women Voters, will occupy an important position at the Convention.

In the various States the Leagues of Women Voters are initiating movements similar to the organisation of the Joint Congressional Committee, bringing together on legislative councils, the heads of State organisations of women who will work unitedly for improved legislation.

West Virginia, which has its municipal elections in January, chose four women, two to the Richwood City Council, one to the Sutton Council and one as city school commissioner.

Women are also pressing vigorously for equality with relation to jury service. Five of the States which conferred equal suffrage upon women prior to the ratification of the Federal woman suffrage amendment, permitted women to serve without a special law. In many of the other States, as the Federal amendment has raised the question, the Attorney-Generals are rendering decisions. Some of these give women the right to hold State offices and to serve on juries by right of their suffrage. Others hold that until the State laws are especially amended in this regard that the women are debarred from both office holding and jury service. While it is in the power of the court in most cases to decide whether women shall be called or shall not be called for jury service, there have been no discriminations in States granting this privilege to women, which have roused public opinion to the belief that injustice is being done. In more than a dozen States opinions have not yet been given by Attorney-Generals, and in these, as well as in the States where women have been ruled ineligible, the campaign will continue for equality in this regard.

MARJORIE SHULER.

Washington, D.C., March 14, 1921.

WOMEN URGE INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT.

THE Brooks resolution, authorising President Wilson to call an international conference on disarmament, has been favourably reported to the House by the Foreign Affairs Committee, following hearings at which various organisations and individuals advocated the measure.

The Senate has passed the new resolution for reduction of the army, with Senator Leenroot's amendment making the number 150,000 men instead of 175,000. The House Military Affairs Committee has favourably reported the Kahn resolution for reduction to 175,000, and chairman Kahn at the hearing declared himself in favour of still further reduction. While sentiment in the Committees and in Congress in favour of these measures is apparently due chiefly to the cry for reduction of taxes, the hearings on both resolutions registered with the Military Affairs Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee a widespread sentiment against large armaments on the ground that they are a provocation of war.

Women's organisations were prominent at both hearings, their representatives insisting that the point of view of the newly enfranchised half of the American public be recognised. "We believe that the United States is in a position to take the lead toward disarmament," they told the committees.

"Fifty dollars out of every fifty-four dollars per capita tax paid by the men, women and children of the United States goes for the expenses of wars, past and future," said Miss Matilda Lindsay, representing the National Women's Trade Union League, before the House Military Affairs Committee. "In other words fifty dollars for

destruction, only four dollars for peaceable pursuits and constructive efforts. Even for peace-time years back to 1909, two-thirds of our federal taxes went to pay for the means of warfare. These figures are given us by a Government scientist who has analysed federal appropriations.

"To the women of the United States, especially the women who pay those taxes out of the earnings of their labour, this enormous outlay for agents of destruction is a shock and a menace. We wish Congress to know that we do not believe it is necessary and we know it is dangerous. Nations, like individuals, use armies and guns largely because they have them. If they do not have them, they will settle their disputes without bloodshed."

The National Women's Trade Union League representative before the Foreign Affairs Committee put squarely up to the Committee the majority party's responsibility for meeting the demand for disarmament. "The organised wage-earning women look to the majority in Congress to bring about an agreement among nations to the end that wars shall cease. Especially in view of the fact that the majority of the members of Congress and the majority of the people have rejected one international covenant as failing to accomplish that purpose, it is now peculiarly the duty and responsibility of that majority to find another way. The one thing that is unmistakable is that war is waste and agony, and the world, especially the workers of the world, want peace. We are convinced that a just and permanent peace is possible. No step in that direction, no means to that end, should be overlooked or disregarded."

National Women's Trade Union League.

Etats-unis d'Amerique.—La loi sur la maternité, dite "Sheppard-Towner," a été condamnée en comité. . . . On propose une campagne pour obtenir la nomination des femmes aux postes fédéraux. Miss Boardman, la seule femme qui a occupé un poste très important dans le gouvernement de Washington, D.C., va être remplacée par un homme. Les femmes demandent aussi avec instance à faire partie des jurys en partie égale avec l'homme. Certains Etats ont déjà donné ce droit aux femmes sans faire une loi spéciale, mais d'autres Etats prétendent que, tant que la loi n'aura pas été amendée, les femmes ne peuvent pas faire partie des membres d'un jury.

MAY ISSUE OF "JUS SUFFRAGIL"

In next month's number we shall publish a spirited answer to the articles by "Phylax" in the Equal Pay and Right to Work Section, by Miss Maud Swartz of the Women's Trade Union League of the United States.

Other features will be a special article on *Women in the Church of England*, by Mrs. Louie Acres, and an article on *Woman Suffrage in the Bermudas*, by Mrs. C. C. Osler.

May we remind Auxiliaries and individual contributors that their reports and articles should reach the Editor not later than April 24.

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LECTURES:

Wed., April 6th, "Penal Reform" . . . Miss MARGERY FRY.
 8.15 p.m. *Chairman:* Mr. W. CLARKE HALL.
 Wed., April 13th, "The Influence of the Molethi Stage" . . . Miss CICELY HAMILTON.
 8.15 p.m. *Chairman:* Miss NINA BOYLE.
 Wed., April 20th, "Some Aspects of Psychological Research" . . . Mr. FREDERICK BLIGH BOND.
 8.15 p.m. *Chairman:* Mrs. T. DEXTER.
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THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE. MEETINGS HELD IN THE MINERVA CAFÉ, 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.

April 6th. Speaker: Miss ELSIE MORTON. Subject: "Women's Playtime."
 April 13th. Speaker: Mr. FREDERICK TEMPLE, F.R.G.S. Subject: "Democratic Finance, or the Banking Combine versus the People."
 April 20th. Speaker: Miss M. COTTERELL, O.B.E. Subject: "The Licensing Laws and the Liquor Trade."
 April 27th. Speaker: Miss K. RALEIGH. Subject: "St. Paul's Teaching and His Contradicts."

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POSITIVE HEALTH.

POSITIVE health! How many women possess it?

Dr. Kristine Mann, speaking at the international Conference of Women Physicians* convened by the Y.W.C.A. in America in 1919, said that: "Speaking roughly, about 10 per cent. of people are really well, from 5 to 10 per cent. of people are really sick, while 80 per cent. endure all sorts of physical handicaps because they have grown to accept them as a disagreeable but necessary part of life." She added: "Our standards of health are atrociously low, while our tolerance of physical handicaps prevents our doing anything to better our condition . . . in an all-inclusive way, the sub-normal physical condition of men and women at the present day may be looked upon as a symptom of different kinds of misfit between the individual and his environment. His environment does not furnish him the type or amount of work, food, recreation, mental stimulus or emotional expression he needs, and in the last analysis mental and emotional starvation, though perhaps not producing just the same physical manifestations, are sooner or later reflected in bodily condition quite as truly as lack of food. Yet, we cannot blame his environment as if it were a Titanic force being applied to him from outside—for men themselves, taken collectively, have created their environment. Hence, to improve conditions, we must have not only outward change, but first, an awakening of those who create an environment, namely all of us, to the need of change, and to an appreciation of what changes we need. Man is not altogether the slave of external conditions. To apply this to our special problem, the attitude of mind of most of us towards health at the present time is such as to preclude the possibility of our seeing clearly what adaptations or environment we need to satisfy our real physical and psychical cravings. We are too accepting of illness."

" . . . What can be expected from the individual woman herself? How far can individuals keep themselves well? Here we would say: to get each individual to be responsible for her own health is our end and aim, to get her to adjust her own environment to her own needs. There is no problem in life the solution of which rests more largely with the individual than the problem of health. A girl can harm herself in one week by what she does more than anyone can build her up in three months. But in order that the individual may solve this problem, the environment must be flexible."

*Proceedings of the International Conference of Women Physicians. Vol. I., General Health; Vol. II., Industrial Health; Vol. III., The Health of the Child; Vol. IV., Moral Code and Personality; Vol. V., Adaptation of the Individual to Life; Vol. VI., Conservation of Health of Women in Marriage. Three dollars the set or 75 cents per Volume, from the Woman's Press, 600, Lexington Avenue, New York City, U.S.A.

As things are now, the individual cannot change conditions without more or less social support. If everybody wears high heels, the woman changing to the more human style of shoes has a hard time of it, not only because of the ridicule she must sustain, but because of the actual money cost of being queer. A girl appreciating that she needs gymnasium play in the evenings cannot get up a class by herself. Before the individual can be held responsible for keeping herself well, there must be a change of attitude towards health among women in general, and an opening up of opportunities. . . . Women will divide in this enterprise on the question: 'Do you want a strong, beautiful race of men and women, and are you willing for the sake of this ideal to refuse to do those things yourself that are harmful to physical well-being, things which our present social customs permit, as, for instance, wearing what is being commercially thrust upon us all, utterly regardless of its bearing on health and right physical development?' . . . The question is, have we enough women at the present time sufficiently interested? To control commercialism in those ways that make for good health and change public opinion requires an organisation as powerful as the steel and oil trusts—held together not in order to make the riches of the earth available, but by the desire to bring opportunity for health and splendid physical condition within the reach of every person, that we may have a better race of human beings."

Dr. Mann's speech is worth reading in full (as indeed are all six volumes of the report), for it is positive and constructive—a reasoned statement of the ideal of the healthy body, mind and soul which each Christian should possess.

How to make such an ideal practical is the problem various National Committees are dealing with. The Australasian Y.W.C.A. has a model centre in Auckland, New Zealand, which is almost overwhelmed with work, classes, lectures, special courses, individual cases and examinations. Auckland believes that:

"Investment in the girl of to-day brings Dividends in the National life of to-morrow." And the code of the All-round Clubs of the Y.W.C.A. of Australasia includes this sentence: "We hold on to health, because through health we serve and are happy. In caring for the health and beauty of our persons we are caring for the very shrine of the Great Spirit."

The Chinese Y.W.C.A. has a physical training school in Shanghai which sends out fully trained and certificated physical directors to every part of the great Republic. This year there are thirty-eight students, some of them preparing for posts in Government schools and colleges, some already under appointment for voluntary and missionary institutions. This flourishing training

school bears only part of the burden of responsibility that the Chinese Y.W.C.A. members feel towards their fellow-countrywomen. Baby shows carry the gospel of health to the heart of the home; Rainbow Clubs early turn the feet of little girls into the paths in which they should tread if they are to grow up a credit to the womanhood of their country; lectures on hygiene are part of each City Association's programme, and school-girls and students carry the message to their scattered village homes during the "Eight Week Clubs" which they plan at conferences. In times of pestilence the Association takes its share of work, but its goal is prevention not cure, and it is positive health for Chinese women that it is working for.

India is struggling valiantly in the same cause and can claim disproportionate results for the little it has been able to do up to the present. The Bombay Association co-operated with the Government in training teachers to take Physical Education classes at their various schools, and the present writer remembers vividly the contrast between the physique of one group at the beginning and end of their course. The five languages, and the differently draped saris and varieties of drill tunics remained, but the smiling faces and graceful vigorous movements gave one common message of health.

The Association in the United States has done the most and a special article follows on one aspect of its health work. Excellent pictorial leaflets have been published of exercises for women doing sedentary work, of right postures, of corrective exercises for certain common women's ailments, and for feet troubles, and these have proved so useful that they have been translated into French for the use of the French Association. There are, in addition, cheap pamphlets on the same lines as those published by the British Association on general health, food, mental habits, etc., and the Girls' Health League has so charmingly illustrated a prospectus that any girl would join on sight. The "Week's Food Record" booklet would alone make one think before eating next week as unwisely as one did during the preceding seven days!

Czecho-Slovakia, needless to say, has thrown itself into the health movement from the first and sculptors in search of models need go no further than the playgrounds for young and old which are a speciality of the Association there. The apparatus varies from the simplest of home-made things to the most modern and scientific inventions of several countries, but the science that lies behind equipment and supervisor is lost in the charming spirit of play, happiness and team spirit.

A girl was looking one day through a collection of photographs from most countries of the world, showing the different health experiments the Association is trying; Belgian girls, Italian girls, girls in Constantinople, Canadians, Japanese, girls of many nationalities, all of them playing, walking, drilling, out in the open for the most part; "They look happy," she said. Happiness? That means body, mind and spirit in tune, and it is precisely that harmony of life for women that underlies all the Y.W.C.A. is doing to help in those movements that stand for "positive" health.

MAKING HEALTH FASHIONABLE.

By MARY ALDEN HOPKINS.

[From the *Association Monthly*, Woman's Press, Co., Lexington Avenue, New York City, U.S.A.]

IF Y.W.C.A. workers are to teach the gospel of health acceptably, they must first be healthy themselves, says the Social Education Department of the National Board of the Y.W.C.A. in America. It is not enough to be a good sport and say that one hasn't a headache when one's head is splitting. One must really feel well. Almost any intelligent individual can acquire the

commodity of health by giving attention to the matter. The emphasis must be laid not so much on evading sickness as on pursuing strength and vigour.

Acting on the theory that health begins at home, the Social Education Department has undertaken to turn the workers in the National Board building into laboratory specimens. The process is, of course, optional. No one is made healthy against her will.

This "health centre" is the forerunner of many like centres to be established in various parts of the country among different classes of women. Industrial groups,



The Y.W.C.A. Physical Training School, Shanghai, China

business and professional women, and women of leisure will be reached. From the programme already in operation in New York City one can see how valuable these centres will be in impressing upon communities the ideal of mental and physical health.

A physical examination forms the basis for the education. The candidate for higher health is dressed in a simple garment known in the department as "angel wings." "I feel like a pork chop in a ruffle," commented one secretary thus dressed.

The examination is divided into two parts. That given by the physician is full, including family and personal history, heart, lungs, skin, eyes, ears, throat, nose, glands, circulation, blood pressure, and by question, digestion, habits of eating, sleeping, headaches, backaches, and like ills. The second part is given by a physical director. An estimate is made of muscular condition by testing grips and strength of back and leg muscles; height, weight, lung capacity and general posture are noted, and also habits of exercise and recreation.

When an individual has finished the two examinations she knows a good deal more about herself than she did when she began. Sometimes the knowledge is pleasant; other times it is not. Two secretaries each claim to have the "most perfect foot on The National Board." A larger number are silently buying low-heeled shoes and learning exercises to strengthen the muscles. One secretary is delightedly boasting of a hitherto unknown excellence. Her "coastal angle" is, it seems, exceptionally wide. The coastal angle is the space between the floating ribs.

After the examination the individual is told where she stands physically. She is given suggestions as to diet, exercise, bathing, recreation and systematising of work. She has understood each step of the examination and is now in a position to comprehend what she will be doing if she continues in her bad habits. As you go through the National Board building you may notice a secretary at her desk suddenly straightening out her backbone. That secretary is remembering what the examiner said about her posture. Another is making circles in the air with her feet beneath the desk. She is building up her fallen arches. The journey back to health is a difficult one for those who have carelessly wandered downhill, but the goal is alluring.

Classes in corrective gymnastics are held in the New York City Central Branch gymnasium next door certain evenings each week. Each member is given exercises to fit her particular need. Each woman must acquire her own health. No one can do it for her.

Summer school students, conference attendants, students at the Training School, and all visitors of the National Board have access to the examining and instruction centre. Through these visitors it is hoped to open other health centres in the local Associations throughout the country. The Y.W.C.A. gymnasiums already have the equipment and the machinery for this work. We may, to advantage, ask ourselves if every Y.W.C.A. gymnasium is at present a true health centre. Is each physical director a true health leader? Does everyone who comes in contact with the gymnast receive high ideals of health? Health centres must radiate creative energy into all parts of the community.

Five hundred and sixty thousand women come under the influence of the Y.W.C.A. in America. Would it not be fine if every one of them was a vigorous disciple of health? The individual is a unit of structure of the world's body just as the cell is the unit of structure of the human body. A robust world must be made up of robust people. Five hundred and sixty thousand of them would be a worth-while contribution for the Y.W.C.A. to make to our times. The people who love health at present are those who have lost it.

"Act health and look health," says the Social Education Department. The world for health and health for the world!

MIGRATION: WHAT IT INVOLVES.

THERE are districts in Europe where there are more than 600 people to the square mile, and there are habitable parts of the lands over-seas where three individuals to the mile is the average. Hence the present extraordinary wave of unrest, if it be properly organised and controlled, should be of world benefit. It is, however, on so vast a scale that the various governments concerned are doing their utmost to stem the tide, even temporarily.



A "conducted" party of emigrants. War brides from Europe chaperoned to the United States by the Y.W.C.A.

According to the reports of the leading shipping companies, some fifteen million people are seething with determination to invade the United States. Other authorities assert that twenty-five million people are contemplating migrating from the Old World to the New. In Poland, the American Consul is now granting visés at the rate of four hundred a day. In Constantinople, 3,400 passports have been issued in three days, while as for Czecho-Slovakia, unless the present trend is stopped, the country will be completely depopulated within five years.

Leaves from the note-books of our workers show the suffering of the moving masses is acute, and that there is urgent need alike for personal service and for the collection and presentation of facts in such a way that legislation may be introduced, and the unnecessary suffering of the migratory millions, lessened.

Matters, however, have improved considerably from the standard reached 100 years ago, when a ship is recorded as having sailed with such a scarcity of food that the passengers had to live on rats and mice—rats sold at rs. 6d. apiece, and mice at 6d. Out of 150 passengers, only 48 reached the port for which they were bound.

In 1847, out of 90,000 immigrants embarked for Canada in British ships, 15,000 died on the way.

The following is an extract regarding the unloading of quarantine ships at Grosse Isle (date, 1840):—

"The only provision for the reception of these sufferers at Grosse Isle, where many of them were landed, consisted of sheds which had stood there since 1832. These sheds were rapidly filled with the miserable people, the sick and the dying, and round their walls lay groups of half-naked men, women and children, in the same condition—sick or dying. Hundreds were literally flung on the beach, left amid the mud and stones, to crawl on the dry land how they could. 'I have seen in one day,' says the priest who was chaplain of the quarantine, 'thirty-seven people lying on the beach, crawling on the mud, and dying like fish out of water.' Many of these . . . gasped out their last breath on that fatal shore, not able to drag themselves from the slime in which they lay. As many as 150 bodies, mostly half-naked, were piled up in the dead-house at a time."

Writing these things, we see that we have travelled a long way in the last 100 years, but even yet there is much to do.

Here is an extract from a report on a French-Italian frontier station, through which hundreds of immigrants pass every week—Italian, Roumanian and Jugo-Slav: "In one day 600 immigrants came in. There was literally no accommodation except the floor of the waiting room—an unspeakably dirty place practically without ventilation. This waiting room (as also are the corridors of the station) is filled with immigrants sitting or lying on their luggage, utterly exhausted. They are often delayed two or three days while waiting to exchange their steamship tickets for reservations. Those who are fortunate enough to have these in advance, must needs be delayed for a delousing process for themselves and their luggage. At this station there are no facilities for washing except one slender stream of water from a hydrant on the station. The matter of boarding the trains means first a stand of an hour or so, jammed in the enclosure, and then making a wild rush, the pushing and shoving of men and women all weighed down with luggage, the crying of children, pushed hither and thither, often separated from their mothers, and the utter demoralisation of this great crowd of helpless people, is indeed a pitiful sight. Invariably some are left behind."

Another worker writes us from Ellis Island saying that the Medical Division is sending back to the liners, barges full of immigrants, after examination. Yet these people have all been medically inspected before they sailed. "As for illiterates," says the same worker, "they are now being deported almost as fast as they come in. When one realises that too often these people have burnt their bridges behind them, sold their homes and spent the savings of years in a vain endeavour to enter the promised land, one sees the misery that must result from such action, even while one also realises the danger to a new country of a door that is set too wide."

CEMETERY HOSTESS HOUSES IN FRANCE.

THESE special Hostess Houses proved so helpful last year that it is proposed to open them again this year. In the past the Red Cross provided certain huts, furniture and motor to bring visitors from the stations to the cemeteries; the Army also helped with buildings, fuel, caretaker, etc., and the Y.W.C.A. made the huts home-like with curtains, rugs, and so forth, and provided the staff and running expenses. The American Library Association gave books and magazines.

Some of the many visitors lunched, dined, had tea or rested at the houses, or at Romagne-sous-Montfaucon stayed the night. Friends, relatives, ex-service men come to identify a comrade's grave, welfare workers and French sympathisers have been among the guests, and in addition to their work as hostesses the Y.W.C.A. secretaries have done varied services for the friends and families of the men buried in the cemeteries. They have looked up graves, sent detailed descriptions, often with photographs, they have put flowers on graves on anniversaries, and in numerous ways have helped to temper sorrow. On Memorial Day at Fere-en-Tardenois, through interesting people in the villages round about, the secretary was able to collect seven thousand bouquets which supplied this cemetery and two others. The following extract is typical of the letters received by secretaries: "I want to thank you very much for your kind hospitality to us the day we were at Bony, and to tell you that it is comforting to feel that you are near our dear honoured dead. I feel that you have an interest and loving care—and I am writing this to the mothers of the men we know there, for I am sure that it will mean much to them. I am profoundly impressed by all I have seen."

EDUCATION FOR WORKING WOMEN.

FROM all over the world comes the plaint that though in theory education is the right of every citizen of every State, in practice it is the privilege of the few. Until it is possible for the State to do all that is asked of it it is encouraging to note the growth of voluntary agencies. Among these may be counted the Y.W.C.A., for, as a matter of course, in most centres, an educational department is opened almost as soon as an Association group is formed. Extracts from secretaries' reports give glimpses into the lives of women wage-earners of every class, women who are making real sacrifices to add to their knowledge and efficiency. Thus the Singapore Association sends all the way to England for a fully qualified commercial teacher in order to be perfectly certain that her training has been thorough and complete. A worker writing from a seaport town in Italy says of the industrial women in her district: "Each day as the whistle blows five o'clock, finishing their day's work, they come hurrying into the hut. They laboriously draw letters and read words, syllable by syllable, long after one can no longer see well within the dimly lighted hut. They demand work to do at home! Whether or not they really study is another question! The amazing thing to me is that they do stick to it. After I went through the factory (a very well organised one) I found myself wondering where they found either time, strength or ambition to study after a day of tugging at heavy bundles, working in hot, noisy rooms. An average attendance of thirty-five has been kept up since the opening. The last ten minutes of the hour is spent in games. In the beginning teaching games was almost more difficult than teaching reading!" A sidelight on rural education is thrown by three sentences in another report from Italy: "The other Circolo has been formed of those interested in helping rural school-teachers, 'Friends of the Teacher' they call themselves. The girls are busy making scrapbooks and other material helpful to those who are teaching tiny children in the country, where interesting handwork and kindergarten games are hard to get."

Technical education from millinery to shoemaking flourishes in some Associations; others specialise in commercial subjects; Lahore, India, has a recognised (by Government) Art School; and whereas in the past special education or further education was offered chiefly to girls who had already something to build on, nowadays educational secretaries make special plans for purely industrial women who are in only too many places entirely illiterate. Thus in Japan, there are elementary classes for mill-girls, to which, dead-beat as they too often are, they are eager to come. (It is still true to say that some of the recruits for Japan's industrial system sign their three years' contract because they believe that all factories run well-equipped schools.) In China, every holiday numbers of schoolgirls give so many hours of their day to teaching illiterates, women whose lives are often ones of unremitting toil. The meshes of the educational net are small enough to include women prisoners, and in Canton, for example, Y.W.C.A. secretaries and members have changed the lives of women delinquents by instituting lessons in reading and writing.

A peculiarly interesting experiment in the higher education of working women has been going on for just a year in England, where a Council, with members from the Y.W.C.A., the Educational Settlements Association, the Workers' Educational Association, the National Organisation of Girls' Clubs, the World Association for Adult Education and other bodies, opened a Residential College for Working Women at The Holt, Rectory Road, Beckenham, Kent. A little pioneer group of eleven students came into residence in February, 1920, bringing with them such enthusiasm and high ideals that a visit to the house is an inspiration. Their experience of life could hardly have been more different, for they came from factory, workroom, office and domestic work, and they varied in age from eighteen to thirty-five. The curriculum, like that of the older Universities, is planned rather as a preparation for life than as training for a career, and throughout the difficulty has been not to encourage the students to work, but to keep them from working too hard. A feature of the courses is not only the mental stimulus they give, but also their relation to the actual life of to-day, social, political, religious. Members of the House of Commons debating on social questions do not realise perhaps what keen critics are sometimes sitting up in the Gallery!

Glancing down the list of students one notices that one shop assistant returns to her former work, also a jam tester, and a clerk from a Copenhagen bacon factory. A domestic worker hopes to become a probationer in a Crippled Children's Hospital; a munition worker looks forward to Montessori work; an ex-W.R.A.F. is preparing to take up Nursery School work. This year two American industrial women sent by the American Y.W.C.A. widen the international circle, and through the numerous Monday visitors the influence of this little college spreads. It is to be hoped that the Council will be able to keep it in existence long enough for a fair and public criticism of its work. Those who have watched it closely, and who are helping to shape its policy, believe that there is a large and increasing need among women workers for a sane, balanced and liberal education, carried on in healthy and beautiful surroundings, and aiming at the enlightenment and development of personality in the widest sense.

That ideal of personality, personality developed to the height of the Christian standard, and consecrated to the service of the Kingdom, is the animating force of all the efforts made by the Association, humble or ambitious, of whatever kind. A spelling-bee for coloured girls in the West Indies might even be amusing to onlookers, but it means something to the participants, English classes in Bucharest; miscellaneous lectures in Warsaw; a social workers' training course outside Prague; an informal class in an Indian village; a school for servants in Stockholm; a dressmakers' class in Budapest; a painting club in Buenos Aires; a violin class for coloured girls in Cape Town; all these sound as far apart in nature as they are geographically, but link them up to the ideal, and their common significance is clear.