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

CENTRE PAGES

Mrs. WINTRINGHAM, M.P.

THE SECOND WOMAN IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS.

IN Great Britain reforms move slowly—slowest of all, the equality reforms for women. We are still without equal Suffrage, and the last Parliamentary Session witnessed the defeat of several important Bills when they seemed within an ace of success. Still we move, and every woman's reform has without doubt received a big impetus by the return to Parliament of Mrs. Wintringham. British women are as happy in the second woman M.P. who will take her seat at Westminster as they are in their first. The whole civilized world knows what a valiant fighter for women Lady Astor is. How often in the midst of her overwhelmingly heavy work she has cried "Send more women into the House to help me." Well, we have sent Mrs. Wintringham, and though she belongs to a different party Lady Astor rejoices in her election, for they are at one on those many social reforms, and particularly on those equality reforms for women, which cut across all party lines.

A few days before her election *The Vote* published a contribution from Mrs. Wintringham.

If I were M.P.

"If I were M.P. I should work for such reforms as the League of Nations and Disarmament; the health of the nation; education; housing; child welfare; and full equality between the sexes. Peace comes first on my programme. Two of the biggest evils to-day are traceable to war—the appalling famine in Russia and the increasing army of unemployed, the latter owing to a large extent to the disorganization of foreign trade. We need greater power for the League of Nations, the best instrument at present to end war. Money is needed for education, housing and health, but in the current year we have spent three times as much on the Army, Navy and Air Force as on education. The money spent on Egypt, Mesopotamia and Palestine would sweep away most of our slums, and half the amount spent on armaments in the ten years before the war would almost exterminate the scourge of consumption.

"As an ex-member of the Grimsby Education Committee I am keenly interested in education.

Equality of opportunity as between rich and poor, boy and girl, should be striven for. By best education I mean 'The training of the physical, intellectual, artistic and moral faculties to their highest capacity.' The ideals of citizenship—the service of each individual to the community, and the right of the community to protect each individual—should be taught in all our schools.

"I should strive for sufficient, well-planned houses for the workers. My recent work among the women in our Lincolnshire villages makes me welcome a saying from one of our Labour leaders that no man has a right to an eight-hour day when his wife is sentenced to a fourteen, sixteen or eighteen-hour day in the house. As a woman I realize how a woman's work is lengthened and her days shortened by an inconvenient, badly-planned house, and this is especially apparent in the rural districts. A healthy, contented agricultural population stops the supply of casual labourers, among whom unemployment is most rife in large towns. A big effort should be made to brighten the lives of the agricultural labourer and his wife, and well-planned houses are a big step in the right direction.

"I should work to destroy many of the existing legal and economic anomalies between the sexes. My canvass here strengthens my conviction that Adult Suffrage is reasonable and right. The mother should be recognized as the equal guardian of her child. The grounds for divorce should be the same for women and men. Many women workers are still shockingly underpaid, and 'equal pay for equal work' is fair and just."

Happily, there is no "if" now. Mrs. Wintringham is M.P., and while we congratulate her heartily on her splendid victory, we congratulate ourselves more heartily still on having another woman's equality champion in the House.

Before the polling day the Press indulged in a good deal of nonsense, writing about the prevalence of sex prejudice in the constituency, and questioning whether the agricultural population would think of voting for a woman. But after the result of the poll was announced the papers, whatever their party colour, were united in favourable comment on Mrs. Wintringham's election. In short, everyone is pleased, and we agree with *The Times* that "there can be no question that Louth has chosen the best and most capable of the candidates."

The British Auxiliary of the I.W.S.A., the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, threw all its force into work for the woman candidate, and Miss Elizabeth Macadam, Hon. Sec. of the N.U.S.E.C., sends us the following account of the Louth election.

"Work for the return of women to Parliament occupies a high place on the immediate programme of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. The candidature of Mrs. Wintringham, widow of the late Member for Louth, for the seat vacated through the death of her husband, provided the National Union with an admirable opportunity of putting our principles into practice. Mr. Wintringham, though his career in the House of Commons lasted little over one year, was a good friend of the causes we have at heart, and Mrs. Wintringham is in every sense 'one of ourselves.' She was formerly Vice-President of the Grimsby Women's Suffrage Society, and is now President of one of our affiliated societies. She has attended our Council meetings and is closely in touch with all our work. Apart from this her remarkable record of public service

as a Justice of the Peace, as member of Education and Housing Committees, and many other organizations for social welfare, as well as the intimate knowledge of Parliamentary business gained by close association with her husband's interests—all combine to make Mrs. Wintringham a candidate exceptionally fitted to carry on her husband's work.

#### The Louth Campaign.

"Louth is a name probably up to the present unknown in other countries. It has now attained the distinction of returning the second British woman M.P. It was comparatively unknown to many of ourselves before the terrible flood of 1920 which swept away houses and streets and caused much loss of life in the town. The Louth constituency consists of the attractive market town of Louth itself, with a fine church and picturesque old red brick houses, two or three other small market towns, Grimsby with the comparatively new port Immingham, one or two seaside resorts and a wide agricultural area.

"The fact that for the first time a third candidate stood for the vacancy handicapped Mrs. Wintringham's chances heavily by splitting the progressive vote, and her successful return was a real triumph for women. Her rivals in the field were an Anti-Waste candidate who claimed to support the Coalition Government but reserved for himself freedom of judgment on questions of finance; and, for the first time, a Labour candidate.

"The N.U.S.E.C. worked, of course, from an entirely non-party platform. An appeal for workers was issued and in a very short time a band of about 25 canvassers and speakers were scattered in different parts of the district with motor cars and bicycles, working hard for Mrs. Wintringham's return.

"Most of our workers were town dwellers, and the experience of this September campaign in this quiet prosperous country district in the wonderful 'Indian summer' weather will not soon be forgotten.

"A mass meeting, organized by the N.U.S.E.C., at which the Town Hall at Louth was crowded, was addressed by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Mrs. Oliver Strachey and Miss Helen Ward. But successful as this great meeting was, the real work was done at the cottage doors, in the farm-yards, on the sea sands and in the market place.

#### The Victory.

"The results have just been issued and Mrs. Wintringham has been returned by a majority of 791 to Westminster. Lady Astor, though belonging to the opposite camp in politics, not only wrote to wish her success but was among the first to send a message of congratulation when the news first came through. Readers of this paper may remember the list of disappointed hopes contained in the survey of the Parliamentary Session in the September Notes. Lady Astor was fearless in their defence. We are profoundly thankful that she will have the help of a woman colleague in the coming Session, and, as Mrs. Fawcett said in a letter of good wishes to Mrs. Wintringham, the fact that the newcomer is of a different party is a positive advantage.

"It is perhaps too soon to sum up our impressions of the campaign in the first flush of victory, but we cannot refrain from referring to the remarkable absence of sex prejudice. This, we think, was due to the respect and love felt throughout the constituency for the woman candidate. As a country

labourer said, in his broad Lincolnshire dialect, to one of our workers, 'Some folks are all heart and some are all head, but Mrs. Wintringham is both heart and head.'



Photo by E. C. Woods, Louth.

MRS. MARGARET WINTRINGHAM, M.P.

#### AUSTRALIA.

##### NEW SOUTH WALES.

##### Sixty-one Women J.P.'s Appointed.

At last the recognition long overdue to women under the Women's Legal Status Act has been given. Sixty-one women Justices have been appointed in New South Wales, the third State in the Commonwealth to appoint women. In this respect South Australia was first and West Australia second.

Some correspondence on these appointments has appeared in the daily Press. One gentleman, like a voice from out of the old and decayed past of things, has raised an objection, on the old lines of repetition of parrot-like phrases—"Woman will be unsexed" and "Woman's sphere is the home." The same parrot cries were raised seventy years ago against girls receiving any education beyond the purely elementary or ornamental subjects. Men with the mould of the ages on their brain are not fit to be in places of power where the affairs of a nation composed of both men and women are arranged.

Objection has been raised to the appointment of justices by nomination through the Member of Parliament. This procedure may be objectionable from the standpoint of the community in general, but up till now no serious opposition has been made to the method of appointment. It is not the best of all possible systems to hand out commissionerships to party supporters on purely party lines, but while the system continues for men, it is only fair and just that women should receive these honours on an equal scale.

We believe that one woman in a position of administration is worth a score without that lever, in working for the public good. The women who in the past have given time and energy to put men

into public offices are now in a position to get themselves put there.

Just now the City Council elections are being discussed. If ever woman's influence and power were required anywhere, it is required in our City Council. The woman's view-point is needed sorely in all public administration, and we feel sure that some women have sufficient courage and faith to brave the storm of criticism and even abuse which is sure to be the lot of the pioneer woman, and stand for the wider citizenship of women on Council and in Parliament.

*The White Ribbon Signal, July, 1921.*

#### SOUTH AFRICA.

##### Woman Suffrage Shelved Again.

THE Session of 1921 has ended, and once more history has repeated itself; the Woman's Enfranchisement Bill has taken its place among the slaughtered innocents—and this in spite of the encouraging words spoken by the Prime Minister at the beginning of the Session, when he said in reply to the great deputation of women, "Those members of the Government who, like myself, are in favour of this measure will help it, and see whether it is not possible to carry it through this session. I say it depends on the length and exigencies of the business of this session. We will give the Bill which is going to embody your cause every chance and every opportunity. That is all the Government can do and that will be done." The Government have not given time, neither can it be said that they have made any real effort to do so. The 500 women who carried the monster petition to the House had every reason to expect that the demand by their leaders, namely, that some measure of enfranchisement should be granted to the women of South Africa, would at least have the serious consideration of the House, and the necessary time granted for a reasoned conclusion to be reached before the session ended. Supporters of Woman Suffrage were determined that the new Government should not shirk the issue. We all know how this demand has been received by the majority of members—with evasion, silence, hasty promises given to-day and broken to-morrow, by all the subtleties of Parliamentary procedure; such procedure seems to be inseparable from our present party system, but is none the less to be deplored and condemned; it is time such methods gave place to others which would commend themselves to the thinking public.

There is no hope whatsoever of the Bill coming on again during this Session. It is difficult to realize the justice of this position, when one remembers that eight Cabinet Ministers are pledged to Woman's Suffrage; that the S.A. Party adopted the principle as long ago as 1919, at the Bloemfontein Conference; that it is an issue on which many members of Parliament have been returned as acquiescent in the principle. On that account they had received the whole-hearted support of many women owing allegiance to the S.A.P. The Nationalist Party have shown marked hostility to the enfranchisement of women, with few exceptions.

The present situation should surely be an object-lesson to women to refrain from working at elections until they are enfranchised, and thus more able to hold members to their promises made before the election.

The thanks of the Association are due to the House Committee and the chairman, Mr. D. M. Brown, who have worked gallantly and done all in their power to forward the Bill in all its stages, and in this respect I particularly wish to emphasize the debt of gratitude due to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Mullineux, who has been unflinching in his work, interest and sympathy.

If all the so-called friends of Woman Suffrage in the House had shown as much zeal as the House Committee the Bill would not be dead, but well on its

way to become a permanent statute. The opposition to the Bill is based principally on party expediency, fear of the coloured woman vote, and the insistent statement made by members that the Dutch-speaking women do not want the vote, and in many cases are actively opposed to it. This statement, which we know to be untrue, must be actively refuted once and for all. One method of doing this would be to organize petitions in favour of Woman Franchise in all those constituencies where members are known or suspected of being anties. This would be a most effective piece of evidence and would put a strong weapon in the hands of the Parliamentary Committee.

So far the women of South Africa have worked patiently and constitutionally to obtain their freedom; it is to be hoped they will not be compelled to use other methods.

August, 1921. LAURA RUXTON.

#### Parliamentary Work. A Splendid Record.

THE following report deals with the various reforms our Association stands for. Every effort has been made to bring these in an effective manner before the Government during the Session. The Parliamentary Secretary has co-operated with the National Council of Women and the Child Life Society in cases where similar resolutions existed.

A deputation of women led by Lady Steel interviewed the member for Rondebosch, Mr. Close, and requested him to take action regarding the deletion of the clause in the Girls' Protection Act, which nullifies the age of consent by branding a girl under 16 as a prostitute. A Bill is now before the House, introduced by Mr. Close, which provides for the deletion of this clause. It has met with the same fate as the Suffrage Bill, and must wait for next Session to proceed on its course. In the meantime women's organizations who are interested in this question should make an effort to obtain evidence which would be valuable to the mover of the Bill, in proving his case. Records of cases should be secured proving that men have escaped punishment by pleading that they had reasonable cause to believe the girl was a prostitute. Action has also been taken to try and obtain the appointment of a woman on the Native Affairs Commission. This is not possible at present, because the personnel of the Commission is complete, and the Prime Minister will not contemplate adding an additional member. It is hoped, however, that it will be feasible to get an educated native woman on one of the Advisory Boards, who will be able to express the views and grievances of the native women.

The Parliamentary Secretary took part in a deputation to the Minister of Justice, organized by the President of the Bantu Women's Association, Mrs. Mayika. The deputation asked for the commutation of the death sentence on a native woman, and that adequate punishment should be administered to a farmer who had unmercifully beaten a young native girl of eight years old, thereby causing her death. The penalty inflicted had been a fine of £15.

Mr. Webber, member for Turffontein, was approached and asked to introduce a measure to amend the illegitimacy laws in accordance with the resolution passed at the last Conference. This is a very controversial question and will take some time to pass through the House; evidence should be secured from other countries proving how legislation has worked in practice.

The Parliamentary Secretary took part in a deputation organized by the Child Life Society to the Minister of the Interior, Public Health and Education on the following questions:—

1. "That the Government be asked to make immediate provision for the teetotal-minded." The Minister said he realized the urgency of the problem, but feared that financial support from the Government this Session for new establishments could not be contemplated.

2. "That the Minister of Public Health be asked to appoint women with medical or special sociological training upon the Council of Public Health." The Minister replied that at present there were no vacancies on this Council, but that he realized the necessity for such an appointment and would bear it in mind.

3. This resolution asked for the more adequate inspection of institutions, and for women as well as men inspectors. The Minister expressed his sympathy with this. It was also urged that more accommodation should be provided for in industrial schools, and that something should be done in this respect for coloured children. The Minister replied that the difficulty was again a financial one, but he fully realized the necessity. The question of mothers' pensions was then discussed, and in this respect it was satisfactory to learn that the Minister proposed to introduce a Bill dealing with this matter; this has been done. Early in the Session Mr. Feetham moved for the appointment of a Select Committee on the Tokai Reformatory, a matter which has been the subject of agitation by women's organisations for some time past. The report of the Committee which has just emerged proves how urgently such an inquiry was needed; public opinion has been roused by the terrible revelations of the report, and it now remains for the public to see that real reforms are initiated on humane and modern lines—the old methods are utterly condemned for their brutalizing and destructive effect upon the young lives which they set out to improve.

The Government were also approached by the N.C.W. and the W.E.A.U. to appoint women representatives to the Conference called by the League of Nations on June 30 at Geneva, on the exploitation of women and children; also to the Labour Conference. In the first case Lady Phyllis Pensonby, President of the Women's Reform Club, Johannesburg, has been appointed to represent the Union. As regards the Labour Conference, no appointment has been made so far, and we have little reason to hope that a woman will be appointed.

Every effort has been made to support such measures as the Minimum Wage Bill, the Apprentice Bill, the Juvenile Advisory Board Bill, and the Amending Bill to the Child Life Protection Act. The Labour Party were requested to ask a question in the House as to whether the Government intended to bring the Factory Act, in regard to the employment and remuneration of women before and after childbirth, and the age at which a child may be industrially employed, into line with the convention adopted at the Washington Conference in 1920. The Minister's reply was in the negative.

A deputation of the W.E.A.U. and the N.C.W. went to the Minister of Agriculture to ask that the facilities for women in agricultural education promised by Mr. Malan in 1920 during his office as Minister of Agriculture should be fulfilled. It will be remembered that Mariendahl was definitely promised as a college for women, and a statement to this effect was made in the House—nothing has been done, however, to carry this into effect, and the deputation which waited upon Sir Thomas Smart received a great deal of sympathy, but very little satisfaction, beyond a vague statement that provision would be made for women if and when funds were available. There were difficulties, the Minister said, regarding Mariendahl being used for this purpose owing to the unsuitability of the building and expense involved in necessary alterations and extra furnishing. In view of this statement a small committee of women from the N.C.W. and the W.E.A.U. went to inspect Mariendahl, and found that there would be no difficulty in adapting it for women at very little expense. The real difficulty lies in the official mind, which does not think any facilities should be granted to women until all the men who desire such facilities are provided for! It may be said that this has been quite the most difficult Session since Union for reform measures, which is due in the first place to the unsatisfactory financial situation, which entails drastic curtailment of all expenditure in view of the enormous deficit; in the

second place it is due to the lack of strong and active opposition in the House—the presence of an effective and organized opposition is as essential a part of the Parliamentary institution as the presence of a Ministerial party; it serves to clarify public opinion by stating alternative policies, providing the essential criticism, and thus educating the country; the absence of these factors is nothing less than a calamity—Parliament at present does not fulfil its deliberative and critical functions.

There are few questions dealt with by Parliament which are not of interest to women, and none which do not in some degree affect them. But in spite of this we cannot actively take part in the forwarding of some measures, interesting and important though they may be, because our activities as an Association must necessarily be limited to questions upon which we are all agreed; we have unlimited scope in the work required for the political, industrial, and economic emancipation of women, in the elimination of race, class and political bitterness, in a wider understanding of the world's problems, which are also our problems of to-morrow, if not of to-day.

The woman's movement, international and all-inclusive as it is, has the power within it of bridging gulfs and healing breaches which are beyond unimaginative politicians or political machinery. Disastrous blunders have impeded human progress for so long, for the sake of the youth of the community, if for no other reason, it is time the women of South Africa had a direct voice in the making of laws which make or mar the lives of people.

August, 1921

L. JOHNSTONE-SCOTT.

#### The Dutch Reformed Church and Woman Suffrage.

IN relation to the letter given in the INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS from the Dutch Reformed Church: "The advice, relative to Woman Suffrage, which was penned in such an unprogressive and undemocratic spirit comes from a section, and a small section, of Dutch Church opinion in South Africa. The opposition to the extension of women's political rights and privileges is not looked upon favourably by any one of the three Dutch Reformed Churches in South Africa, but the section which embraces the largest and most influential following of Dutch-speaking people contains many supporters of Woman Suffrage among its clergy, and has at no time issued an advice adverse to women's claims to justice and wider responsibilities similar to the document given in last month's issue of the JUS SUFFRAGIL."

#### Demand for Woman Delegate to International Labour Conference.

At the yearly Conference of the W.E.A.U. in Pretoria, in July, it was decided: "That South Africa be represented by a woman delegate or adviser at the coming International Labour Congress at Geneva." In accordance with this resolution a deputation consisting of Lady Steel, President of the W.E.A.U., and Mrs. Greenlees, President of the Pretoria local branch, and others, waited, in the absence of General Smuts in England and of the acting Prime Minister from Pretoria, upon the Secretaries of the Department of Industries to urge the claim of South African women as delegates or advisers in the consultative capacity—designated under the League of Nations—and put forward the names of Mrs. Ruxton (Organizing Secretary, W.E.A.U.), and Mrs. Wybergh, suggested by Conference as a guide to the Government in their choice. As Mrs. Ruxton is on a visit to Europe it is hoped that the Government will accept her services as adviser to the Government delegate, which would be exercised in a definitely feminist direction. Mrs. Ruxton hopes to attend, as well, the International Working Women's Congress, which precedes the official Labour Congress, in order to have wider knowledge of the trend of opinion relative to the position, of women and children in the world's industries.

September, 1921.

#### CHINESE DELEGATE TO INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF WORKING WOMEN.

WE had an interesting interview with Miss We Tsung Zung, who is on her way to the International Congress of Working Women, to be held in Geneva this month. Miss Zung is a fraternal delegate sent by the Y.W.C.A. of China.

Miss Zung was educated in America and speaks English fluently. She is a keen suffragist and told us the interesting and important news that 500 members of the Chinese Women's Suffrage Society had in May this year been in procession to the House of Assembly in Canton in order to present their petition, but the doors were shut against them. The leaders in this procession were two progressive Cantonese women, Mme. Wu Tse Mé and Mme. Dunn Wei Fong. The women, however, are not disheartened, they have friends amongst the leading men who are prepared to uphold their demands that a deputation shall be received.

The Chinese journals are asking for Western suffrage news, but apparently it depends which party is in power how much that is sent will get into the papers.

Miss Zung told us that though the women of China are still far behind Western women in education, every year sees progress. They are gradually coming into the professions; many are studying secretarial work, and recently a considerable number entered for a Civil Service examination.

September 21, 1921.

#### BELGIUM.

##### Senate and Chamber disagree on Provincial Suffrage for Women.

THE *Morning Post* of September 22 reports that on September 21 a Bill giving the vote to women for provincial elections was passed through the Belgian Senate by 58 to 44. The Chamber was opposed to the proposal. The conflict between the two Houses of the Belgian Parliament has lasted several weeks, and the only way out lies in dissolution.

The General Elections will take place in the first days of November. It is curious to notice that the vote for women was chiefly asked for in Belgium by the Conservative Party. Their Liberal and Socialist opponents say that the Catholics hope that, thanks to the influence of priests on Belgian women, they will regain the majority lost in 1919.

##### First Belgian Mayoress.

Mlle. Keignaerts, of Gheluelv, is the first woman burgomaster in Belgium. She will administer the affairs of Gheluelv, the little village near Ypres, which was entirely destroyed during the war.

September 6, 1921.

#### GERMANY.

##### The Fight against Venereal Disease.

TO meet the special wishes of the Editor I have to report to-day on the position of the movement for an equal moral standard, prostitution, and the fight against venereal disease in Germany. In view of the terrible increase of the latter after the war, it is a most important and burning question with us—as it is everywhere at present—and, as already mentioned in former issues, the draft of a Government Bill "to fight venereal disease" (*Zur Bekämpfung der Geschlechtskrankheiten*) was laid before the Reichsrat in the spring of 1920 and will come to a definite decision in the Reichstag very soon.

This Bill is entirely based on the suggestions of a committee of experts, called together in 1919 by the Society for the Combating of Venereal Disease (Gesellschaft zur Bekämpfung der Geschlechtskrankheiten), which is the German branch of the large international organization for the same purpose and whose board of executive is mainly composed of medical authorities and of leading women of the Abolitionist Federation, the latter being, I am sorry to say, until now looked upon as a purely feminist movement in Germany. The Society for the Combating of Venereal Diseases, having for long years, under its famous first president, Herr Neisser, advocated strictest regulation on their platform, has adopted gradually the principles of abolition, and in so far the new Bill, which marks a great progress in all directions, means also a wonderful success, not only for the influence of the few woman members of the committee, but for the whole feminist and abolitionist movement, as it entirely does away with the system of the Regulation of Vice. This system is to be replaced by sanitary, prophylactic and protective measures which will not be applied only to a caste of prostitute women, as hitherto, but to all men and women who, by their state of health, may be suspected to be dangerous to the community.

Soon after the revolution, in December, 1918, an order of the Reichsgovernment came out, that any person suffering from venereal disease was bound to put himself or herself under the care of an officially acknowledged medical doctor; and further, that anybody who, knowing himself or herself to be contagious, endangers others by cohabitation shall be punished with imprisonment, up to three years. These orders are taken up as main principles in the new law, after which, in future, it shall not be the professional character of the vicious but the extent of danger they represent for others which shall be the deciding factor for all measures on their behalf. Though, as clearly can be seen, the compulsory medical care will, in practice, be applied in the first place to prostitute women, they will no longer be put under a shameful exceptional law and police control, but will be treated just as all other infected men and women. The co-operation of the police can, of course, not be dispensed with entirely, but will be limited to such cases where public morality, order or decency are offended—by men or women.

To carry out this new system the Bill provides for several important reforms and new institutions on different lines, for instance, protective measures for nurses and children, severe punishment of the treatment of venereal disease by unqualified people, prohibition of advertising, obligatory instruction of the patients by the professional physicians, advisory bureaux for the public and obligatory notification by the physician. On behalf of this notification (at the advisory bureaux) a different standpoint is still held by the women's organizations and the Society for Combating Venereal Disease. The former claim a general notification of every patient, referring to the necessity for general compulsory medical treatment; the latter point out that, for many reasons, such general notification by the physician (or the patient himself or herself, as has been suggested) would be ineffective, and even impossible; they only wish its application to . . . \* patients. The Bill provides for the limited measure which will, as it is supported by the medical authorities, most probably be adopted in the Reichstag.

We hope the whole Bill will be carried and become law, but we are also well aware that some articles,

\* Word illegible.—Ed.

and even its main principles, will meet with strong opposition. In view of this opposition the National Council of Women has started a campaign and called up its organizations to join in it, to instruct the women about the enormous importance of the matter and to express their wishes from the women's point of view. When the Bill is dealt with in the Reichstag the women members of all parties who have done their best to initiate the reform will, we are sure, also unite to use their influence that it may be carried in the right spirit.

MARIE STRITT.

Schässburg (Transylvania), September 15.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

#### National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

##### West Lewisham (South London) By-election

BY-ELECTION has followed by-election with uncomfortable rapidity, and we had hardly finished in the Abbey Division of Westminster, reported in last month's notes, when we had to begin work in West Lewisham (South London). Our task in this contest was, however, much simpler than in Westminster. All three candidates gave fairly satisfactory replies to our questions, so that there was no reason to discriminate in any way between them. A meeting of women voters was, however, arranged by the N.U.S.E.C., which all three candidates were invited to attend. Each candidate spoke for ten minutes and then an opportunity was given for questions, which came in a steady flow and dealt with such questions as International Policy, the League of Nations, Divorce Reform, Temperance Legislation, Equal Franchise for Men and Women, Women in Parliament, the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, the Equal Guardianship of Children, Equal Wages and Equal Work. On the whole the questions did credit to the intelligence and keenness of women voters, and we are glad to learn that an unprecedentedly large number of women went to the poll.

##### Visitors at N.U.S.E.C. Headquarters.

We have had the great pleasure of visits from several distinguished women from other countries at the Head Office of the National Union during the summer, including Mlle. Gourd, of Geneva, Présidente de l'Association Suisse pour le Suffrage Féminin, Mrs. Schoemaker of New York, who is engaged in the teaching of citizenship to women voters, and Miss Lucy Johnstone Scott, Parliamentary Secretary to the Women's Enfranchisement Association of South Africa.

We only regret that most of these visits were in August, when many of the members of our Executive were out of town and our Societies comparatively inactive. We hope that friends in other countries who propose to visit us next year will try to let us know in advance so that we may arrange meetings and social gatherings in their honour. We would particularly welcome their presence at our Council meetings in March or our Oxford Summer School which it is proposed to hold during the last fortnight of August, but at any time if we know beforehand we will try to arrange opportunities for our members to have the pleasure of meeting them.

ELIZABETH MACADAM.

September 26, 1921.

### LATE NEWS.

#### The Municipal Vote in Santa Fé.

News has just reached us with the August number of *Nuestra Causa* that the Santa Fé (Argentine, South America) Convention has given the municipal vote to women. This is the first feminist triumph for the women of Argentina.

### HUNGARY.

THE July issue of *Life and Labour* publishes the following very interesting letter from a woman trade unionist in Hungary showing the part Hungarian women have taken and are taking to-day in the trade union movement:—

"For two decades Hungarian working women have been taking their part in the trade union movements. The war increased their number, as it did everywhere. But after the war we lost our greatest industrial towns; many tobacco and sugar factories, ironworks, mines; and the natural result of these losses was also the diminution of the number of working women in Hungary.

"In the Hungarian trade unions and in each of the workers' organizations women workers are organized with the men, and they have representatives in the committees in proportion to their participation and interest in the work, and numerical proportions. The trade unions had in the last year, in 1919, among 212,408 members 30,415 (14.32 per cent.) women members. This number would be much greater if some of the trade unions (those of tobacco, domestic, communal workers) were not omitted.

"When the work ceased in the different industries of war the number of working women diminished again. For instance, in the iron trade there were, during the war, 22,000 organized working women; now, since the conclusion of peace, 2,944 work there. In the saddler and harness-maker trade there were 500, and now 40 working women. In the canning factories there were 1,500 and now 150 organized women workers. With these numbers we think we have illustrated the terrible circumstances of unemployment which reign here to-day. And this results not from our rich stocks (on the contrary, we need everything), but from want of raw materials.

"In regard to our social politics, the eight-hour work-day is not yet fixed in a bill, but Hungarian workers do not work more than this as the result of the efforts of our trade unions. The months of revolution brought a bill about it; but, of course, this is of no validity to-day. The free Saturday afternoon, introduced in some trades (shoemakers), is also the result of workers' organization.

"Now something about the wages paid. Women workers get 60 per cent. of the wages of the men workers, even where they do the very same work. Certainly, the unemployment of working women is greatly exploited by the employers, especially among those women who are not yet organized.

"Unfortunately we cannot but state the deplorable condition of unemployment among so many organized women workers, and what results from it—the terrible misery among workers' families. And here, before the comrades of the whole world, we will pay thanks to our Austrian comrades, who, though their situation is equally not enviable at all, made a successful collection for the aid of the suffering families of the Hungarian working women, fallen into calamity."

### INDIA.

#### The Bombay Woman Suffrage Debate.

(IMPRESSIONS OF A MEMBER OF THE LADIES' GALLERY.)

SUCH an historic event as the extension of the Legislative vote to the women of the Bombay Presidency needs a special article written by one of the sex concerned, so that the public may have some idea of the effect of the debate on the large number of ladies who came day after day to hear their fate being discussed. The vote has been won, but from the hearer's point of view, not easily. Three sittings of the Legislative Council in Poona were devoted to thrashing out the subject, and some of us feel as if we had been included in the thrashing. Women are not yet trained to the "detached" attitude towards public debate (neither are some of

the men, we noticed), and when we feel the subject keenly the nervous barometer rises and falls rapidly at the contact of support or opposition. Thus the first day's debate, which lasted full five hours, chiefly weighted with big gun speeches of opposition from a persuasive and poetical Mr. Rothfield, fiery and denunciatory Marathis, eloquent Mohammedans and conservative Sindhis, was not for us a case of "linked sweetness long drawn out." The Hon. R. P. Paranjpye returned a hot fire, especially against the reactionary tone of the English speakers, declaring that if Englishmen in the past had taken similar views to former demands for reforms, the British would not have been as long in India as they have. Other less powerful supporters of women's claims tried to stem the rising tide of opposition, but it seemed to us that our side had a knack of doing wrong things which brought down the censure of the President on them, so that being called to order on one point or another took all the force out of their arguments. The President and our leader, Rao Saheb Harilal Desai, seemed to have taken it too much for granted that the House would be in favour of the resolution, and special chances were given to the opposition to make out their case. We became depressed. Then we grew impatient. We chafed at being unable to go down and plead for ourselves. We longed for a fluent English speaker, preferably an Englishman, to controvert the words that rankled in our breasts, as spoken by a former English speaker, "Women are reactionaries always and everywhere. Give a vote for this resolution, and you give a vote for reaction." But that day no great champion relieved our hard-pressed position.

We went home feeling we had been assisting at a mental tug-of-war, and everyone knows the sense of strain and exhaustion one feels after even a half-an-hour's watching of a physical tug-of-war.

#### The Lighter Side.

There was a lighter side even in that day of growing gloom, for there had been a half-hour's recess for tea, and though the Mohammedan seconder of our resolution had gallantly invited Mrs. Cousins to tea on the terrace, where she was very kindly made to feel at home by the Bombay members, the social instinct did not spread further, and it was funny to see the ladies picnicking off His Excellency's hall table on tea and cakes which had, with lightning speed, been imported from an adjacent college. This proved a time when we were able to lobby a few members and so help to adjust forces that a specially good speech was made by a Sindhi member in our favour just before the adjournment, later.

Owing to a garden party for the Councillors the resolution was debated only for an hour and a-half the second day; but the forceful, sympathetic and logical speech of the Hon. Mr. Lawrence in our favour gave us great hopes. A less tense atmosphere in the House, that had been created so thoroughly by the opening speech of Mr. Pahalajini, could not be dissipated even by the Jeremiah-like forebodings and closing warnings of the Hon. Mr. Hayward. The two Western speakers were to us an interesting study in contrasts—the cheery, rosy optimism of the one and the "melancholy Dane" pessimism of the other.

Needless to remark, the ladies did as much canvassing as possible outside Council hours, and it was felt that a growing amount of support was evident, so when we took our places on the third

(Continued on page 10.)

## NOUVELLES FÉMINISTES.

**Grande-Bretagne.** — Nous avons une seconde victoire parlementaire à noter. Mrs. Wintringham, candidat indépendant libéral pour Louth, dans le comté du Lincolnshire, a été élue pour la Chambre des représentants par une majorité de 791 voix. Deux autres candidats lui faisaient opposition.

Mrs. Wintringham favorisera les réformes en faveur des femmes et quoique appartenant à un autre parti politique que Lady Astor, elles travailleront ensemble à ces réformes. Son élection est très populaire, et la presse s'en réjouit. Le *Times* de Londres confirme en ces mots : " Il n'y a aucun doute que Louth a choisi son meilleur et son plus intelligent candidat."

**Australie.** — Soixante et une femmes ont été nommées Juges de Paix dans la Nouvelle-Zélande. C'est le troisième État de cette république (Commonwealth) qui nomme des femmes Juges. L'Australie du Sud a été la première à faire ces nominations, et l'Australie de l'Est la seconde.

**Suède.** — LA PREMIÈRE FEMME MEMBRE DU PARLEMENT. — Les femmes ont voté pour la première fois, et en grand nombre, aux élections générales qui eurent lieu le dimanche 13 septembre.

La première femme membre du Parlement suédois (Riksdag) fut élue à Gothembourg, c'est Madame Kusten Hasselgreen, inspectrice commerciale. Elle fut élue à la première Chambre du Riksdag et elle est aussi candidat pour la seconde Chambre de Stockholm. Nous offrons nos sincères félicitations à Mlle Hasselgreen et nous espérons qu'elle aura bientôt des confrères féminins au Riksdag.

**Belgique.** — Une loi donnant aux femmes le vote dans les élections provinciales a été votée par le Sénat belge par 58 voix contre 44. La Chambre se refusait à cette proposition.

La discussion entre les deux Chambres du Parlement belge a duré pendant plusieurs semaines et le seul moyen de sortir de cette difficulté serait la dissolution du Parlement.

Mlle Keignaerts, de Chaluvelt, est la seule femme bourgmestre en Belgique. C'est à elle que revient le devoir d'administrer les affaires de Chaluvelt, le petit village près d'Ypres qui fut entièrement détruit pendant la guerre.

**Allemagne.** — Une loi sur la prostitution et les maladies vénériennes sera déposée devant le Reichstag allemand. Cette loi a été rédigée par un comité choisi parmi les membres de la Fédération abolitionniste et la Société pour combattre les maladies vénériennes. Cette loi supprimerait entièrement l'enregistrement des prostituées et remplacerait l'ancien système par des moyens sanitaires prophylactiques et des mesures protectrices, qui ne seraient pas seulement appliquées à une certaine classe de prostituées mais à tout homme et femme qui seraient soupçonnés être dangereux pour la communauté. Cette loi demande aussi que la notification soit obligatoire.

**Terre-Neuve.** — La loi pour l'affranchissement de la femme, déposée en août, n'a pas été votée. Nous n'avons pas lieu de féliciter le premier ministre de Terre-Neuve sur les moyens qu'il a employés pour arriver à cet échec, quoiqu'il soit lui-même un anti-suffragiste. Sir Richard Squire, le premier ministre, donna la promesse formelle aux femmes de la Ligue suffragiste qu'il ferait passer la loi par le Gouvernement aux conditions suivantes :

1. Exclure les cas pas éligibles ;
2. 30 ans comme limite d'âge ;
3. Le pouvoir de voter ne commençant qu'aux élections générales.

Le premier ministre fit comprendre à la députation qu'il ferait voter la loi pendant la session. Après avoir

donné cette promesse formelle, il renia toute responsabilité et la loi fut suspendue dans la Chambre d'assemblée en attendant un comité.

Quand enfin la loi se trouva en comité elle fut présentée à la Chambre dans des conditions très peu favorables, et mise entre les mains d'un comité spécial se composant de cinq membres dont trois se trouvaient ennemis du suffrage.

La presse de Terre-Neuve a publié en détails l'histoire de cette duplicité de la part du premier ministre, et la Ligue des femmes suffragistes continue sa tâche avec un nouvel élan et est confiante qu'en dépit de cet échec elle finira par réussir.

**Chine.** — L'Association Chrétienne des Jeunes Filles de la Chine a envoyé une déléguée, Mademoiselle We Tsung Zung, au Congrès international des femmes professionnelles qui doit se tenir à Genève ce mois-ci.

**Japon.** — Sept femmes japonaises ont été élues prêtres (Elders) de l'Eglise presbytérienne à Tokio.

**Etats-Unis d'Amérique.** — La Ligue nationale des femmes électeurs demande que l'on nomme une femme pour assister à la Conférence de Washington sur le désarmement.

Le Président Harding reçut très cordialement une députation de femmes et leur exprima son désir de voir leur intuition et leur influence utilisées pour la Conférence. Il ajouta qu'il était certain que le problème serait résolu à la satisfaction générale.

Le procureur général de Massachusetts a déclaré que les femmes étaient inéligibles pour la législature. Les femmes du Massachusetts vont tâcher de le faire revenir sur cette décision.

Madame Helen Gardner, cinquième vice-présidente de la Société nationale des femmes suffragistes, a été priée par le Président Harding de garder sa place comme membre de la commission de l'Etat-Civil des Etats-Unis. C'est la première femme qui a occupé un poste semblable.

## ITALIE.

## Recherche de la Paternité.

Monsieur Lollini, un membre socialiste de la Chambre, a déposé une nouvelle loi sur la recherche de la paternité dont voici les clauses principales :

1° Non seulement la mère, tuteur de l'enfant, mais l'enfant lui-même ainsi que ses héritiers peuvent procéder contre le père ;

2° La sentence de la cour qui décide la paternité suffit pour rendre le père responsable du maintien de la mère. Si cette dernière se trouvait être pauvre, le père serait obligé d'entretenir la mère pendant son accouchement et sa convalescence et, dans certains cas, après ;

3° Si la mère était légalement mariée quand l'enfant illégitime serait conçu, aucune action ne pourrait être prise avant que l'enfant ne soit déclaré illégitime.

Cette loi est plus généreuse que celles proposées par le passé, mais il n'est pas probable qu'elle sera discutée par le Parlement pour le moment.

## Congrès Abolitionniste à Rome.

Un congrès très important doit se tenir à Rome cette année, du 3 au 5 novembre, par la Fédération Abolitionniste Internationale. " Toute une séance sera consacrée à l'abolition et à la position de la femme ; au traitement forcé des maladies vénériennes, aux moyens de se désinfecter soi-même, et bien d'autres sujets importants."

Parmi les orateurs se trouveront le professeur Santoliquido, Madame Avril de Sainte-Croix et d'autres experts connus de l'Italie, de la Hollande, de l'Angleterre, de la France, de la Suisse et de l'Allemagne.

La municipalité de Rome recevra le Congrès dans le magnifique bâtiment du Capitole. Parmi les attraits offerts aux membres du Congrès on a organisé une tournée dans les environs magnifiques de la ville et une

(La suite à la page 9.)

réduction de 50% sera faite par le Gouvernement sur le tarif ordinaire des chemins de fer à partir de la frontière jusqu'à Rome.

Les étrangers peuvent, en s'adressant à la Fédération Abolitionniste Internationale, 3, rue Vieux-College, Genève, obtenir le programme et la carte du Congrès pour 20 livres (20 francs).

Le comité italien pour les arrangements est à Rome, 98, via in Arcione.

## Conseil International des Femmes.

Le Bureau du Conseil international des Femmes a siégé les derniers jours d'août à Genève, sous la présidence de Mme Chaponnière-Chaix, présidente. La présidente honoraire, Lady Aberdeen, a assisté également aux séances. Celles-ci ont été surtout consacrées à préparer la réunion du Comité exécutif, qui aura lieu à La Haye en mai 1922. Le Bureau a aussi examiné la situation des pays à change bas, et a décidé que les cotisations de ceux-ci au Conseil seraient payées selon la valeur monétaire d'avant-guerre. Enfin, il a décidé d'envoyer aux délégations de la S. de N. une lettre demandant instamment la nomination d'une femme médecin dans le Comité d'Hygiène qui va être organisé.

## SUISSE.

## La campagne suffragiste à Genève.

Mercredi 21 septembre, le Grand Conseil de notre canton s'est prononcé, à une voix de majorité, en faveur du suffrage féminin.

Ce vote revêt une moins grande importance qu'on ne pourrait le croire par le fait que, demandé par initiative constitutionnelle, le suffrage féminin devait, que notre Parlement cantonal le voulait ou non, passer en tout cas à la barre du verdict populaire. Le Grand Conseil n'avait donc ici qu'un avis à formuler, et non pas un veto à opposer, comme cela avait été le cas le 8 juin 1918, quand en trois petits quarts d'heure le suffrage féminin municipal avait été ajourné indéfiniment. Mais même en restreignant ainsi la portée, nous saluons avec une profonde satisfaction cet événement qui nous permet d'affronter le scrutin avec l'autorité morale du Grand Conseil derrière nous, et sans les complications, dans lesquelles s'égarent souvent les électeurs, de deux textes différents et opposés l'un à l'autre, et soumis en même temps à la votation populaire. C'est un atout dans notre jeu, c'est la première manche de la partie qui est gagnée.

## Une victoire dans le Tessin.

Le lundi 1<sup>er</sup> août—date fatidique !—la Constituante tessinoise, siégeant à Airolo, s'est prononcée par 23 voix contre 2 pour l'électorat féminin en matière communale, et par 21 voix contre 4 pour l'éligibilité des femmes en matière communale également. Une votation sur la reconnaissance des droits politiques cantonaux aux femmes a groupé 12 partisans de notre cause contre 12 adversaires exactement, si bien qu'une nouvelle votation devra intervenir pour trancher définitivement la question.

## La police des mœurs chez nous !

A Lausanne, quand un individu (du sexe masculin, s'entend) est en traitement à l'Hôpital cantonal pour une maladie vénérienne et déclare que c'est la femme X. qui l'a infecté, on donne ordre à cette femme de se présenter à l'hôpital et si elle refuse, on la fait chercher par la police. Il arrive qu'après examen, on constate qu'elle est indemne, malgré toutes les recherches du médecin... un peu ennuyé et qui dit : " Il faut absolument qu'on lui trouve quelque chose !"

A Genève, n'importe quel individu (toujours du sexe masculin !) peut dénoncer une femme en l'accusant d'être contagieuse... et on la fait venir de gré ou de force à l'hôpital.

De quel droit ? demandons-nous aux autorités vaudoises et genevoises. On a beaucoup écrit, parlé et agi contre l'arbitraire de la réglementation. Que dire de cet arbitraire qui n'a pas pour lui le moindre règlement ?

Les femmes honnêtes attendront-elles d'être victimes d'une erreur de cette nouvelle police des mœurs pour protester et agir ? Car, sous le règne de l'arbitraire, personne n'est à l'abri.

M. V.

## BELGIQUE.

A la séance d'installation du Conseil communal d'Aisemont, la présidente de la Ligue Agricole, Mlle Parent-Lambot, a été nommée échevin — une pétition d'un grand nombre d'habitants a été envoyée au Roi demandant sa nomination en qualité de bourgmestre.

Mme Jane Brigode est désignée pour remplir les fonctions d'échevin de l'Instruction publique à Forest.

## BRÉSIL.

## Discussion suffragiste au Sénat brésilien.

Je viens de lire dans le *Diario Official* des États-Unis du Brésil le compte rendu d'une partie des séances dans lesquelles le Sénat discuta la proposition de loi déposée par M. Justo Chermont, sénateur pour l'Etat du Para, " pour l'extension aux femmes majeures de 21 ans de la loi électorale en vigueur." Cette proposition avait été reçue favorablement par la Commission de la Constitution et Diplomatique. Dans la discussion qui eut lieu pendant la première semaine du mois de juin, il ne fut presque pas question des droits de la femme, mais de la légalité du procédé par lequel on voulait changer la Constitution par une simple loi. M. le Sénateur Marcilio de Lacerda, dans un très important discours, tout en acceptant le principe du suffrage féminin, dit que la Constitution brésilienne ne peut pas être considérée au seul point de vue de la lettre de ses articles, et que l'esprit de l'art. 70. qui donne le droit de vote à tous les citoyens âgés de 21 ans s'oppose à l'électorat des femmes. En effet, lorsque la Constitution fut rédigée en 1891, plusieurs représentants proposèrent des amendements dans le but de donner le droit de vote à certaines catégories de femmes (les femmes veuves ou utiles, diplômées ou exerçant une profession libérale, ou dirigeant des établissements d'instruction ou de commerce, jouissant de leur bien, etc.). Les amendements, aussi bien qu'un autre proposé par des délégués qui voulaient donner le vote aux seules femmes mariées, furent discutés longtemps par l'Assemblée; la discussion fut close par un discours féministe de Costa Machado, qui eut un grand succès oratoire, mais les amendements furent rejetés trois fois par l'Assemblée. C'est donc, dit M. Marcilio de Lacerda, que les législateurs, en fixant le texte de l'art. 70, avaient l'intention de donner le vote seulement aux hommes ; l'exclusion des femmes du nombre des électeurs est dans l'esprit, sinon dans la lettre de la Constitution. Une simple loi ne suffit pas pour la changer.

Voilà le point de vue de l'opposition au Sénat brésilien : il ne s'agit pas (s'il faut croire aux déclarations de M. de Lacerda) de discuter la capacité des femmes, mais de respecter l'esprit de la Constitution.

Une discussion très bruyante suivit le discours de M. Lacerda et fut close par un discours tout à fait notable de M. le Sénateur Lopes Gonçalves qui s'efforça de démontrer la légalité du projet déposé par M. Chermont, puisque la Constitution ne parle pas des femmes et que dans une autre occasion le Brésil opéra une grande réforme sans toucher à la Constitution, lorsqu'en 1865 l'esclavage fut aboli par une simple loi. " Pourquoi le Brésil," dit M. Lopes Gonçalves, " resterait-il en arrière de la République de Saint-Domingue, le premier pays américain qui donna le vote aux femmes après les États-Unis ?"

Il faut espérer que le Brésil ne restera pas en arrière, puisque le projet de M. Chermont a passé en première lecture.

M. Q.

(Continued from page 7.)  
 day not much apprehension of defeat remained. We women also had got better into the swing of Council procedure, and "division fright" (parallel of "stage fright") had left us. One of our party had on the first day of the debate felt her heart go double its rate as each speaker had sat down, so nervous had she been that the vote would then and there be taken!

#### Parsi's Stirring Speech.

The debate on the third day opened with a stirring speech by a Parsi, who maintained that the Parsi community was solid in backing up this desire of women for enfranchisement, with a few exceptions who represented nobody but themselves. He also very ably met the objections brought forward the previous day by the Hon. Mr. Hayward. Womanhood could not be divided so glibly into only two classes, the home women and the public woman, for many of the most public-spirited and busy women in political and philanthropic work were women whose home-serving capacity and homely natures could compare favourably with any of the most domesticated women in the country. The right to have a vote or the time spent in exercising it would not destroy the nature of our women nor upset their home duties.

This speech made a very good effect on the Council, and after a couple of other short speeches, including one by Mr. Laurie, Director of Public Instruction, ably defending the desirability of votes for women, it was with a sigh of relief that we saw the President rise to ask if the closure was desired. Even then some men wanted still to speak, though already over forty had been heard. "Have you any new arguments to bring forward?" asked the President. "I want to read some quotations about ancient India," replied the member. "We are not living in ancient India," retorted the President, and called on Mr. Desai to close the debate. In doing so he marshalled much evidence of the good effects of Woman Suffrage in other countries. We were so anxious to know how the voting would go, that we could hardly bear to listen to him. The bell rang to stop him as if it also was impatient. At last we had come to the voting. "All who are in favour of this resolution say Aye," called the President. A loud blare of sound in reply. "All who are against say No." To our strained ears an equally loud blare of sound, and then the unexpected judgment of the President, "The Ayes have it!" It was glad news, but we could not yet afford to believe it. A division was called for. Members made for undignified curtained cabinets to have their vote recorded. The evidence of our eyes could not be denied—THE AYES HAD IT. The "Noes" cabinet looked thinly uncomfortable, while the curtains of the "Ayes" cabinet bulged with occupants. The President had instructed that the tellers for the winning party should walk first from the cabinet end of the room to bring him the numbers. How delighted we were to see the blazing pink turban of one and the great beard of the other of the tellers for our side proceed proudly in advance up the floor of the Chamber. The vote, indeed, was ours. Sudden silence to catch the numbers of the pool—52 for, 25 against. Loud applause, in which the gallery joined in against all rules. Congratulations and rejoicings all round.

#### The "True Brother."

At once Mrs. Ramabai Ranade met Rao Saheb Desai with thanks for his great services. "You are

a true brother to all women," she quaintly expressed it. And then the party of seventy-five ladies for whom the gallery had been reserved, and who had attended so faithfully, streamed away full of gratitude to the noble fifty-two who had done them knightly service.

The women's cause had united Hindus, Parsis, Mohammedans, Christians, Western and Eastern women, at the meetings during the "Women's Month," and as they left the Chamber, one overheard plans being made for consolidating that unity by forming some society for the continuation of the civic and political education that had been speeded up so greatly by the campaign.

"Now for plans to better human conditions through the vote by the time we are registered and asked to elect someone." Thus spoke Mrs. Ranade, Mrs. Bhat, Miss Sorabji, Miss Gordon, Mrs. Cousins, Mrs. Khedkar, and other prominent leaders, realizing the day marked a responsible beginning rather than an end.

August 3, 1921.

#### Mr. Gandhi and Indian Women.

THE Indian organ in the United Kingdom, *Hind*, quotes Mr. M. K. Gandhi as follows: "I passionately desire the utmost freedom for our women. I detest child marriages. I shudder to see a child widow. I deplore the criminal indifference of parents who keep their daughters utterly ignorant and illiterate, and bring them up only for the purpose of marrying them off to some young man of means. Women must have votes and an equal legal status. But the problem does not end there. It only commences where women begin to affect the political deliberations of the nation."

#### Woman Suffrage Defeated in Bengal.

A REUTER'S telegram of September 7 announces that the Bengal Legislative Council has rejected by 56 votes to 37, a resolution in favour of the enfranchisement of women.

#### ITALY.

##### Illegitimate Infants Bill. (Recherche de la Paternité.)

MR. LOLLINI, a Socialist M.P., has promoted a new Illegitimacy Bill.

The principal features of the Bill are as follows:—  
 The action for the declaration of paternity may be taken by the child and, after its death, by its legitimate descendants or by illegitimate descendants who have been duly recognized.

The action must be taken within five years from the day on which the child will have attained its majority, or would have attained it in the case of death.

During the minority of the child the action can be taken by the mother or, failing the mother, the action can be taken by a special guardian.

When notifying the birth of an illegitimate child, and up to three years after the birth, the unmarried mother can declare to the Office of the Civil State the name of the father. Also during gestation a similar declaration on the part of the mother is admitted. In this case, besides the name of the father, she must indicate the time of conception.

An authentic copy of the declaration shall be notified in *persona propria* to the person who has been indicated as the father.

The non-repudiation on the part of the notified person of the paternity attributed to him by the mother within 60 days following, and through a declaration of receipt thereof by the official of the Civil State, will be equivalent to recognition of the child as his own.

If such repudiation takes place the mother, within the limit of 60 days from the day on which the notification was made in *persona propria*, can move to secure

a trial in order to make a declaration that the child born or about to be born is the child of the person indicated in her original declaration.

The sentence of the Court which establishes the paternity has the same effect as acknowledgment; and the sentence will also give right to the mother who finds herself in state of need to obtain from the father the means of sustenance and assistance during the gestation and nursing, and also afterwards, if and so far as the economic conditions of the mother and the particular circumstances of the case render this opportune in the judgment of the competent magistrate.

If the mother is legally married when the illegitimate child was conceived, the action for support may only be brought after the publication of a Court Order declaring the child to be illegitimate.

#### NEWFOUNDLAND.

##### HISTORY OF THE WOMAN'S FRANCHISE BILL.

##### Unparalleled Duplicity of the Prime Minister. Signed Statement on behalf of the Woman's Suffrage League.

IN answer to numerous inquiries we find it necessary to give a brief account of the history of the Woman's Franchise Bill in connection with the present session. There is no need to refer further back than to the opening of the House, when we began to canvass the members for the different districts.

From the very first Sir Richard Squires was opposed to Woman Suffrage, and we soon became aware that our fate hung in the balance between the influence of Dr. Campbell (opposed to Woman Suffrage) and Mr. Coaker, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, whose influence seemed to be in our favour.

The signatures to our petition represented every district in the Island, and numbered about 10,000 when we secured the promise of Mr. Warren, Minister of Justice, to present it in the House on our behalf, which promise he in due time fulfilled.

He refused, however, to table our Bill, and informed us that no other member of the Government would consent to do so either.

This, however, proved to be incorrect, for the following day we called on Mr. Coaker, who expressed himself as being favourably disposed towards our cause, though he would not himself table our Bill, and suggested that we should ask Mr. Jennings, Board of Works, to do so.

The following day we called on Mr. Jennings, who told us that our visit was not unexpected, and he gladly agreed to table our Bill. We cannot go into details concerning the many deputations of women to the Executive Members of the Government; suffice it to say that we felt Mr. Coaker's influence to be most promising, and we continued our canvassing quite hopeful as to the success of our Bill as a non-party measure. In fact, we were getting on too well! We next called on Mr. Foote, who informed us that there had been a meeting of the Executive the evening before, and that it had been arranged that the Premier should table our Bill as a Government measure.

Mr. Foote advised us to see Mr. Jennings again before proceeding further, adding, in connection with our Bill: "You get the whole thing!"

This surprised us, as the Premier had shown such consistent hostility to the Woman Suffrage campaign here.

However, we straightway repaired again to Mr. Jennings's office, and were there informed of the Premier's intention of offering to put our Bill through as a Government measure himself in place of Mr. Jennings.

We assured Mr. Jennings that we were perfectly satisfied to leave our Bill in his own hands. However, according to prearrangement between Sir R. Squires and himself, Mr. Jennings then accompanied us to the Prime Minister's office, where an appointment was made for an interview on the following morning.

Before leaving the Court House we overheard that Mr. Coaker was at the time in Sir R. Squires's office, so we decided to waylay him and inquire as to the reason for this incomprehensible change of attitude on the part of Sir R. A. Squires. When Mr. Coaker at last appeared he gave us every assurance of good faith, and, referring to both the Premier and the Woman Suffrage Bill, his parting words to us were: "Your Bill goes through all right. He has his orders."

Next morning, at the appointed time, and accompanied by Mr. Jennings, a deputation of seven women waited on Sir R. A. Squires. Having taken our seats at the table, Sir Richard asked us if we wished to speak with him.

We replied that we understood that he wished to speak with us. According to foregone information, this interview resulted in an offer by Sir R. A. Squires to table our Bill and put it through as a Government measure himself, in place of Mr. Jennings, the Premier telling us that a Government measure goes through as a matter of course.

Of this we were already aware, and what gave the offer of a Government measure greater appearance of sincerity was the fact that certain conditions were imposed, i.e.:

- (1) Non-eligibility.
- (2) Age limit 30 years (with the Premier's promise to induce the Government party to reduce the age limit to 25 years).
- (3) No voting power until the next General Election.

The acceptance of these conditions under the circumstance would mean a decided step gained, where the uncertainty of a non-party measure might result again in total failure.

(In other countries, where Woman Suffrage has passed as a Government measure, eligibility has followed in due course.)

The Premier impressed upon us the fact that our Bill would now go through, declaring that he "would pass it this Session, whether the House closed early or late, in one month or in three—what I say, goes!"

In view of this definite promise from the Prime Minister to the deputation of seven women, in the presence of Mr. Jennings, and together with Mr. Coaker's previous assurance, we considered that our Bill was safe, and discontinued our canvassing. Shortly after this we noticed in an account of the proceedings of the House, in answer to a question put by a member of the opposition, that Sir R. A. Squires asserted that our Bill was not a Government measure, whereupon we wrote the following note to him:—

"Sir Richard Anderson Squires,

Prime Minister.

"DEAR SIR,—In the account of the proceedings of the House this last week we noticed that, in answer to Mr. Bennett's question *re* the Woman Suffrage Bill, that you stated it as being a non-party measure.

"This surprised us, as you must have forgotten that you definitely promised to ensure the successful passing of our Bill this session by offering to introduce it as a Government measure yourself, in place of Mr. Jennings.

"The Woman Suffrage Committee feels that to remind you of your promise offered to the deputation is all that is necessary. On behalf of the Woman Suffrage League,

"Faithfully yours,  
(Sgd.) "FANNIE McNEIL,  
"Cor. Secretary."

To this note we received no reply.

We decided to see the Premier again and ask for an explanation. Having secured an appointment, we once more repaired to the Prime Minister's office, taking Mr. Jennings with us.

On being ushered into the Presence we found the self-constituted arbiter of our destinies seated at the table with his back to us, smoking a cigar.

He omitted to rise, or to greet us in any way, continuing to enjoy his cigar, and we seated ourselves at the table.

When questioned as to why he stated in the House that our Bill was not a Government measure, according to his pledge made to us at our previous interview, the Premier gave what we considered to be most unsatisfactory and evasive answers. He admitted that he had offered to put our Bill through as a Government measure, yet at the same time denied all responsibility for it after its second reading!

This attitude of the Prime Minister gave the women of the deputation just cause for indignation, and foundation for the belief that there had never been any intention on the part of the Premier to fulfil the pledges made by him.

At this interview we protested against the suggestion that we heard had been made by Members of the House, of putting the Woman Suffrage Bill to a plebiscite.

In fact, we ourselves proposed that to put our Bill into "Select Committee" (which is equivalent to again giving it the objectionable six months' hoist) would be preferable to such an alternative.

In no case of the extension of the franchise to men has the plebiscite ever been used. We protested against such a proceeding as this—as being neither just nor democratic, in that it represents the views of men only, who constitute but one-half of the community. The further suggestion (of having our Bill go to the electorate in connection with the Liquor Bill) we felt to be not only unjust, undemocratic and injurious to our cause, but a gratuitous insult to every woman in Newfoundland!

The Prime Minister refused to see our point of view, lightly remarking that "wine, weeds and women are the three great factors in the world of men!"

Further comment on this interview is unnecessary. Meanwhile our Bill was "hung up" in the House of Assembly, on the order-sheet day after day, pending its going into Committee stage.

We at last decided to again see Mr. Coaker in the faint hope of obtaining a more satisfactory outlook.

Our interview was all to no purpose. Mr. Coaker, while declaring himself strongly in favour of Woman Suffrage, was non-committal regarding the possible fate of our Bill, and we came away from this interview convinced that the Government had no intention of keeping faith with us.

When the Bill (at long last) came up in Committee,

the insincerity on the part of the Prime Minister was manifest, in that it was brought before the House under the most unfavourable conditions, put into Select Committee—of which, out of the five members chosen, three are opposed to Woman Suffrage.

All opposition to the Woman Suffrage Movement is of no avail. We press forward with fresh determination to the new era which is dawning, strong in our conviction as to the righteousness of our cause and confident of its ultimate success.

Signed on behalf of the Woman's Suffrage League.

A. N. GOSLING.  
AGNES AYRE.  
ANTONIA HUTTON.  
HELEN BAIRD.  
MAUDE HUTCHINGS.  
EMILIE FRASER.  
MARY KENNEDY.  
FANNIE McNEIL.

August 18, 1921.

## SPAIN.

### Suffrage Societies Meet in Valencia.

THE third general meeting of the Spanish League for the Progress of Women took place in June in Valencia.

All the affiliated societies were represented at the meeting, some by their own members and others by delegates resident in Valencia.

The meeting was well attended and a keen interest displayed throughout the whole proceedings.

The executive body, finding the work to be steadily increasing, has decided to form various committees to deal with special questions; amongst them are those on Moral Standard, Hygiene, Women's Suffrage, and Civic Education.

The Secretary's report shows that the programme of the Association throughout the past year has been rigorously adhered to—politicians have been constantly urged to amend the civil law, acknowledge the juridical capacity of woman, and compel the investigation of paternity.

In conjunction with the societies composing the supreme Feminist Council, a petition has been presented to the legislative commission (La Comisión de Códices), begging the reforms as stated above.

The report includes congratulations to the American suffragists and likewise to Dr. Señora Elisa Soriano on her appointment as Clinic Professor in the University of Madrid, and lastly, to the Republican Union Party for having included in their programme the giving of the vote to woman.

The Secretary reported with great pleasure the formation of a society called "Juventud Feminista" by some of the younger and highly intelligent women in Valencia; a representative of the League was present on inauguration day, and there is little doubt but that this society will increase the interest and bring much animation to the Valencia feminist cause.

An urgent call was made to the women of all feminist parties to rally to the cause, stand together and keep the flag flying until victory was gained.

The report here ends with "gracia" compliment to the workers for women's suffrage in other lands.

AMALIA CARVIA.

### What Distinguished Men think of Woman Suffrage.

In reply to the following question, "Do you believe that the Spanish women should be electors and eligible for election under the same conditions as men?" M. Azorin, a well-known writer, says, "In my opinion the women ought to be entirely and absolutely equal to man—equal in law, in politics, in social economy, in work and in the remuneration for work done."

P. M. Ramoneres, chief of Liberal Party, says: "We were pleased some years ago (the Liberal Party) proclaiming we had obtained universal suffrage! Universal! When somewhat more than half of the human race are excluded!

"Woman ought to be elector and eligible for election, there can be no room for doubt about it; the doubt may arise in the moment of estimating whether the admission of woman and the electoral census might not be prejudicial to the Liberal principles at the present moment, since to-day, in Spain, woman politically is not very independent, though I acknowledge that the same may be said of man."—*Heraldo de Madrid*.

August, 1921.

## SWEDEN.

### First Woman M.P. Elected.

WOMEN voted for the first time, and in great numbers, in the Swedish General Elections, which were held on Sunday, September 13.

The first woman member of the Swedish Riksdag was elected at Gothenburg. Her name is Kerstin Hesselgren, and she is a trade inspector. She was elected to the First Chamber of the Riksdag, and is also a Liberal candidate at Stockholm for the Second Chamber.

We offer Miss Hesselgren our very hearty congratulations, and hope that she will not long be the only woman member of the Riksdag.

September 26, 1921.

## SWITZERLAND.

ON Monday, August 1, the Constituent Assembly in Session at Airolo voted in favour of communal suffrage for women by 23 votes against 2, and for communal eligibility for women by 21 votes against 4. A division on the subject of political suffrage for women resulted in a vote of 12 for and 12 against, so the matter will have to be considered afresh in order to reach a definite decision.

On Wednesday, September 21, the Grand Council of Geneva canton passed a resolution in favour of women's suffrage.

### The Unequal Moral Standard in Switzerland.

At Lausanne, when a male patient is treated at the cantonal hospital for venereal disease and makes a declaration that a certain woman has infected him, this woman is asked to present herself at the hospital for examination, and if she refuses, the police are given power to arrest her.

In Geneva any man may denounce a woman and accuse her of being a source of infection, with the result that she is compelled to attend the hospital for examination.

Under such a regime no woman is safe, and this system of compulsory examination is simply regulation in another form.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

### DEAD WRONG.

By CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT.

THE Attorney-General of Massachusetts has rendered an opinion that women are ineligible to sit in the legislature. The word male is not used to define the qualifications of members of the Assembly. The qualifications of candidates are described under the caption of the Senate and also the House of Representatives. Such candidates must be possessed of a small amount of property, but they are described as persons and inhabitants, and nowhere does the word male occur. Under the caption of the Senate occurs the following:—

"And to remove all doubts concerning the meaning of the word inhabitant in this constitution, every person

shall be considered as an inhabitant for the purpose of electing and being elected into any office or place within this State in that town, district or plantation where he dwelleth or hath his home." Electors, however, are described as male inhabitants of twenty-one years and upward. That word male was eliminated for all practical purposes by the Federal Amendment. That the Attorney-General can twist the Massachusetts constitution into a denial of the right of women to sit in the Assembly is only another demonstration that lawyers invariably disagree.

The difficulty of adjusting the matter is another evidence of the inconvenience of living under two kinds of constitutions. They are continually failing to square with each other, and legal minds are continually lining up on the two sides and a controversy ensues. To get around the Attorney-General's opinion, in Massachusetts the constitution must be amended by popular vote, thus eliminating the word male, or a test case must be brought to the Supreme Court of the State from which it may be appealed to the Federal Supreme Court, and in the possible course of years a final decision rendered.

"What a time it takes to cut the old useless lumber out of a State constitution!" exclaims the *New York Times*. No one knows that fact better than suffragists. What a time it takes, we might add, for attorney-generals to interpret State constitutions in accord with changing conditions in the Federal constitution.

The invariable "hitch" between State and Federal constitutions shows itself whenever a Federal amendment has been adopted.

After the adoption of the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments it was held by the Federal Supreme Court that those amendments practically eliminated the word white from all the State constitutions. From time to time as State constitutional conventions were held, amendments dropping the word white were submitted to the voters in order that no inconsistency between Federal and State constitutions should remain. Thus new constitutions which did not contain the word gradually replaced the old. However, a curious exception is found in the constitution of Ohio, where the term "white male" still defines the qualifications of voters. A constitutional convention as late as 1912 submitted the usual amendment. There was no known objection to the removal of the word white, and no contention that it should remain, yet the voters of the State voted against the amendment and there "white" still stands to this day.

Nevertheless, negroes hold office in Ohio. Hamilton County has kept a negro representative in the Assembly for some years, and there was a great hue and cry when he was defeated in the last election.

The right to hold office has always been considered to be a liberty included in the right to vote, and although the fifteenth and nineteenth amendments do not specify that voting includes office holding, it has been so interpreted in all States in respect to the fifteenth amendment and in most in respect to the nineteenth.

The women of Massachusetts should not accept the ruling of the Attorney-General. He is dead wrong. Listen:—

"The citizens of each State shall be entitled to all the privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States." (Article 1, Section 1). Yet the Attorney-General proposes to enforce a law which will abridge the privilege of citizens to hold office. It cannot be done legally.

"The United States (that is, the Federal Government) shall guarantee to every State (that is, the people of every State), in this Union a Republican form of government." (Article 4, Section 4). What is a Republican form of government? One wherein citizens elect and may be elected representatives. Yet the Attorney-General of Massachusetts denies to half the citizens of the State a Republican form of government.

"This Constitution and the Laws of the United States . . . shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every State shall be bound thereby,

anything in the constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding." (Article 6, Section 2.) Yet the Massachusetts Attorney-General finds a little adjective in the constitution of the State which he declares makes the Federal constitution in that respect not the supreme law of the land.

*Woman Citizen, August 13.*

#### A Woman Delegate Wanted at the Disarmament Conference.

THE first delegation to press for a woman on the Disarmament Conference was from the National League of Women Voters. It was received by the President August 17. Those in the delegation were: Mrs. Maud Wood Park, President of the National League of Women Voters; Mrs. Richard Edwards, First Vice-President; Mrs. Gifford Pinchot, Finance Chairman and member of the Committee on Reduction of Armament by International Agreement; and Mrs. Minnie Fisher Cunningham, Executive Secretary of the National League of Women Voters.

"Our delegation to-day is the logical development of the resolution passed by our Convention last April, which asked that the President 'recognize women as an integral part of government and a contributing power for the betterment of humanity by the appointment of women on all boards and commissions dealing with or investigating international relations,'" said Mrs. Park. "In July, after the President's action in calling the Conference, the Executive Board of the National League of Women Voters requested that a 'thoroughly qualified woman familiar with woman's interests and experienced in international affairs' be appointed a member. We have never asked the impossible. We have waited in making our requests so that the President need not be embarrassed, nor the cause for which we were working be jeopardized."

#### President Harding Anxious to have Women at Conference.

President Harding received the delegation with his characteristic cordiality, Mrs. Park making the presentations. In accepting the resolutions passed by the National Conference in April and by the Executive Board in July, President Harding said that he was very anxious to have the intuitions and influences of women utilized in this Conference and he was confident the problem would be worked out satisfactorily.

#### A Woman Civil Service Commissioner.

MRS. HELEN H. GARDENER, who is fifth vice-president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, has been asked by President Harding to remain in her place on the United States Civil Service Commission. She is the only woman who has occupied such a post.—*Woman Citizen, Aug. 27.*

#### Two Useful Codes.

MISS ALICE NELSON DOYLE, of Montgomery, Alabama, chairman of Unification of Laws for the State League of Women Voters, has completed a "Woman's Code" or summary of the laws that relate to women. She is now preparing a "Children's Code." Both of these she is planning to place in the hands of the League upon completion. Miss Doyle is a brilliant young lawyer who holds an important position at the State capital. She is an enthusiastic member of the League of Women Voters, and has given a great deal of time to her work on the committee on Unification of Laws.

*Woman Citizen, August 13.*

#### Miss Lathrop's Successor.

MISS JULIA LATHROP has resigned her place as chief of the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labour, a post which she has occupied with great competence since the creation of the Bureau under President Taft. Miss Grace Abbott, formerly of Hull House, Chicago, has been nominated by President Harding as Miss Lathrop's successor.

#### What a Woman has done in the League of Nations' International Labour Office Library.

MISS LAKE, who was formerly Librarian of the Ministry of Labour at its headquarters in Whitehall, is now in charge of the Library of the International Labour Office. This Library is purely technical, since it is confined entirely to matters relating to labour and cognate subjects. It is organized on the workshop system, and aims at putting all new additions at the disposal of the members of the office within a few hours of receipt, urgent matter being given precedence and nothing being delayed longer than twenty-four hours at the outside. This in itself is no mean achievement, since the average growth of the Library amounts to 3,600 items a week, of which 700 are books, pamphlets and official material, 900 are periodicals—largely issued by trade unions—and 2,000 are newspapers from all parts of the world. In addition to this extraordinarily heavy growth, however, the Library has taken over, and is steadily absorbing, the material formerly contained in the Library of the International Association for Labour Legislation, of which the work is now being carried on by the International Labour Office. This Library consisted, at a rough estimate, of some 50,000 items, this number not including a pile of about 40,000 unbound periodicals, which alone took the equivalent of one clerk's time for a year to enter up. Although the Library of the International Labour Office was entirely non-existent less than eighteen months ago, practically the whole of this vast accumulation, which arrived uncatalogued and unclassified last September, now occupies an orderly position on the main shelves of the Library, with author and subject references in the catalogue. The small remainder is sorted into close order, and is instantly traceable on demand. This work has been done in addition to the heavy daily growth, in spite of continual short-staffedness, and such difficulties as supervising the work of a largely unskilled staff of six different nationalities working on material in twenty-four different languages.

The Library is further responsible for keeping the records of all material on order for any part of the office. This refers not merely to books and periodicals—of which latter some 2,000 varieties reach the office regularly, mainly by gift or exchange, while 6,000 varieties are already represented in the Library—but also to the official material relating to labour, sent by the forty-nine countries which support the International Labour Office.

#### International Council of Women.

THE Bureau of the International Council of Women met in Geneva at the end of August, under the chairmanship of its President, Miss Chaponniere-Chaix. The Honorary President, Lady Aberdeen, was also present, and Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, J.P., D.Sc., attended from Great Britain.

The principal business of the Meeting was the preparation for the Meeting of the Bureau at the Hague in May, 1922.

A letter was also sent to the Delegations to the Assembly of the League of Nations, asking for the immediate nomination of a woman Doctor to the League of Nations Health Committee.

#### International Congress of Working Women.

THE Second International Congress of Working Women will convene in Geneva, Switzerland, October 17, 1921, and it is expected that delegates from women's labour organizations of forty-nine nations will be in attendance. The Agenda for the Women's Congress closely following that of the International Labour Congress which will be held a week later.

#### JAPAN.

##### Women Elders in Presbyterian Church.

THE Presbyterian General Assembly in Japan not long ago acknowledged women as the equal of men in the Church, and eight women-elders—seven of them Japanese—have been chosen by a Presbyterian church in Tokyo. This is said to be the first election of women to such a post among the Presbyterian churches of the world.

*Woman Citizen, August 13, 1921.*

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ABOLITIONIST FEDERATION.

## THE NEXT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ABOLITIONIST FEDERATION.

ROME, NOVEMBER, 3, 4 & 5, 1921.

THE International Abolitionist Federation, whose principal object is the abolition of prostitution specially regarded as a legal and tolerated institution, will meet in international conference, November 3, 4, and 5 next, in Rome. It is probably not necessary to tell the readers of this paper who founded this international society in 1875. English readers know well who Josephine Butler was, know what was the work to which she consecrated her energy, know how she went through France, Switzerland, England, Holland, Germany, Italy, and how her eloquence opened the eyes of innumerable men and women who ignored or refused to see the abject condition in which thousands and thousands of women were held by governments and the police, to serve as *chair à plaisir* for the passions of men. Rebuked in the beginning by old-fashioned and fashionable people, scorned by doctors and moralists, she persisted in the work which her heart and conscience imposed upon her. Her pioneer work was hard, very hard, but she succeeded. Everywhere she found some men and some women willing to hear her appeal and stand by her side. In the beginning but a few dozens, now the Abolitionists can be counted by thousands. Mrs. Butler is dead, but her life-work lives, and is perhaps more living than when she was amongst us, because now most of the pre-eminent doctors and sociologists recognize the justice of her arguments, viz., that the regulation of prostitution is an illusion; and moralists and lawyers agree that prostitution is a matter which concerns the conscience but does not constitute a legal offence.

We said that the work of her life succeeded. This is true, but only in a certain sense. Public opinion is everywhere in favour of abolitionist principles, save in a few countries as France, Austria, Italy, Spain and the Balkan States, but we can say that everywhere else in the world, in America as well as in Australia; in the British Colonies and Dominions as well as in the Dutch Colonies, public opinion is with the abolitionists. That is to say, it repudiates the forced slavery of women for immoral sexual purposes. Public opinion has even forced the governments in those countries to change the laws, and now we see that the brothels that were formerly officially protected, not only are no longer protected, but even prohibited. But as we already said, some countries, especially France, go on in the wrong way in which they have already gone for a hundred years, and by permitting in that way the syphilization of their country, are slowly but surely preparing their own downfall.

But these are questions too complicated to be treated for the moment, and we prefer to draw the attention to the next conference at Rome. That will be the Second International Conference of the Federation held since the war. In 1920 the Abolitionists met in Geneva, Austria, England, France, Germany, Holland, Norway, Switzerland, and Uruguay sent delegates. The Austrian Government and that of Uruguay were officially represented. The late General Henderson represented, in his position of Director-General, the League of the Red

Cross Societies. Some famous institutions, such as the Rescue Association of Zetten (Holland), and the "Institut Prophylactique" of Paris, had also special delegates. How can such a universal interest in moral questions be explained in these times of universal preoccupation with the political and financial reconstruction of the world? It can be explained by the fact that the world has more than ever become aware of the value of the moral factor in its evolution. Certainly all countries, the neutrals as well as the belligerents, have suffered, and have suffered immensely, through the outburst of sexual frenzy, not only amongst the soldiers, but even, and perhaps more, amongst the civilians. It is perhaps true that God guides humanity to perfection by suffering; in any case, suffering awakens the conscience, and the awakening of the conscience produces new actions. And because all the countries have been suffering, everywhere the public conscience has been shaken, and everywhere people are yearning for a total transformation of the world, therefore, perhaps, so many countries sent their delegates to Geneva last year, at the call of the Federation, in order to look together for a solution of the moral sexual problem. And this year again the Abolitionists and their friends will meet this time in Rome; again they will examine the actual situation of the world concerning its struggle against prostitution and its consequences, viz., venereal diseases.

Madame Avril de Sainte-Croix, known all over the world for her work in favour of a single standard of morals for the two sexes, and for her rescue work of minor prostitutes, will again deal with her favourite subjects. Dr. von Düring, the well-known German professor, will speak about the compulsory treatment of V.D. Dr. Douglas White will inform the Conference of the actual state of self-disinfection propagated by nearly all the military and civil authorities during, and even after, the war. M. Paul Bureau, Professor at the "Faculté libre de Droit," at Paris, will speak about the moral influence possible to women in sexual affairs. Italy itself will naturally be represented by a set of prominent men, Professor Montessano of the Rome University, Professor Mibelli of the Florence University, etc. Professor Santoliquido, formerly director of the sanitary services of Italy, actually occupying a very high position in the Red Cross League, will also collaborate. Several doctors and persons interested in the question of morals, from Holland, England, Austria, Switzerland, etc., have already announced their intention to be present. We should like to emphasize the importance of this meeting, and to urge everyone interested in the moral relief and reconstruction of the world to come to Rome, or, if this is impossible, to help the Abolitionist Federation financially. M. J. D. Reelfs, secretary-treasurer of the International Office of the Federation, 3, rue du Vieux Collège, Geneva, will gratefully receive any gifts in favour of the Conference, and will gladly send a detailed programme to those who desire one.

J. S. R.



Programme of the International Abolitionist Conference.

(According to the latest modifications, August 21, 1921.) THURSDAY, Nov. 3 (Morning).—General Assembly of the International Abolitionist Federation. THURSDAY, Nov. 3 (Afternoon).—Development of the Italian Health Services in relation to venereal disease, and in comparison with Health Authorities of other countries. Speaker: Prof. Santoliquido. FRIDAY, Nov. 4 (Morning).—Abolitionist principles and the legal position of women. Speaker: M. Comandini, former Minister of State. Abolition and the moral influence of women. Speaker: FRIDAY, Nov. 4 (Afternoon).—The detention in educational institutions or reformatories of persons convicted for public immorality. Speaker: Madame Avril de Sté. Croix (France). Miss Neilans (England) will present a report on the same question.

National Reports.—Germany: Mlle. Buchner (Munich). Holland: M. le pasteur Lammerts van Buren. Italy: Mlle. Thérèse Labriola, lawyer (Rome). Austria: M. le Prof. Ude (Graz). SATURDAY, Nov. 5 (Morning).—The compulsory treatment of venereal diseases. Speaker: Dr. von Düring. National Reports.—Switzerland: Dr. R. Chable. Italy: Prof. Nibelli. England: Dr. Helen Wilson. Holland: Dr. Heldring. Germany: Dr. von Düring. SATURDAY, Nov. 5 (Afternoon).—Should civil and military authorities assist and recommend the teaching of self-disinfection? Speaker: Dr. Douglas White. National Reports.—Switzerland: Dr. R. Chable. Holland: Dr. Veldhuysen. Germany: Dr. von Düring. Italy: Reports from the Health Authorities of the Ministries of the Interior, of War, and of the Admiralty. SATURDAY, Nov. 5 (Evening).—Public Meeting. Speakers: M. A. de Graaf, Holland; M. le Prof. J. Ude, Austria; M. Egilberto Martire, Deputy. Other speakers announced later.

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LECTURES:

Wed., Oct. 12th. "Post-War Problems of Rural Reconstruction." 8.15 p.m. COLONEL J. MALCOLM MITCHELL. Wed., Oct. 19th. "Self-expression through Poetry." 8.15 p.m. Mr. R. DIMSDALE STOCKER. Wed., Oct. 26th. "The Role of Women in the Revolutionary Movement." 8.15 p.m. Mrs. NESTA WEBSTER.

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



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THE INTERNATIONAL EMIGRATION COMMISSION AT GENEVA.

IN the city of Geneva at this moment is being tried the greatest experiment the world has yet seen in applied Christianity, under the leadership of men of many nations who have unbounded faith in and enthusiasm for the value of common ideals among nations as the only solid foundation for any spiritual or material prosperity.

A recent example of this was in the Emigration Commission which met in the early part of August in the International Labour Bureau, to discuss together the whole problem of emigration and immigration. At their opening meeting the Commission granted requests in person from the representatives of three organizations interested in the general question of the welfare of migrants, to be permitted to listen to the proceedings of the Commission. Among them was the World's Y.W.C.A. Migration Secretary, accompanied by the Director of the Immigration Department of the United States National Y.W.C.A.

The World's Y.W.C.A. and the Migration Problem.

The International Y.W.C.A. interest in the question is over a year old, and grew out of the Emigration Commission which was held in the summer of 1920 with representative women from the leading countries of the world, who there accepted responsibility for making an international study of the whole question of the welfare of migrants, and for promoting practical service programmes as rapidly as possible in countries particularly concerned, along the lines of the experience of Canada, Japan and the United States, where port work is some years old. In the furtherance of this plan a trained and gifted young woman, Miss Mary Hurlbutt, was called to the World's Y.W.C.A. Staff to begin a study of the problem. At the end of six months her report was published under the title "The Welfare of Migrants," containing not only an account of the experiences of travel and the Government machinery at frontiers and ports observed at first hand, but also constructive suggestions for educational propaganda on matters which need international agreement, with the object of promoting good-will among nations.

The World's Y.W.C.A. and the American Y.W.C.A. had sent their representatives on the strength of having an accurate report of migration as a human experience which might add vividness to official reports which the Commission possessed, in order to be in touch with the thought of the various nations on the whole question. It was with some surprise that they found themselves two of a group of only five privileged listeners—the Y.M.C.A., the National Catholic War Council, a Jewish

Society, and one other person representing no organization, but making a semi-official report in an official quarter.

The International Labour Conference and the Migration of Workers.

A review of the history of the Commission shows that the Peace Treaty gave the International Labour Conference, at its first session, responsibility for the question of preventing or providing against unemployment. The Organization Committee of that Conference sent a questionnaire to Governments on the relation of emigration to unemployment. As a result of the replies showing the importance of the question, two resolutions were presented at Washington and adopted, as follows:— (1) Resolved that in connection with the problem of unemployment a special section of the International Labour Office shall be established, to be especially charged with the consideration of all questions concerning the migration of workers and the situation of foreign wage-earners.

(2) Resolved that the governing body of the International Labour Office shall appoint an International Commission which, while giving due regard to the sovereign rights of each State, shall consider and report what measures could be adopted to regulate the emigration of workers out of their own States, and to protect the interests of wage-earners residing in States other than their own. Such Commission to present its report at the meeting of the International Labour Conference in 1920.

These two resolutions were adopted by the Labour Conference with an amendment providing that the representation of States in the European countries on the Commission shall be limited to one-half the total membership of the Commission. These resolutions were the basis of the work of this Commission and of the organization of an Emigration and Unemployment Section in the International Labour Office.

It was finally decided by the governing body of the International Labour Bureau that the Commission should consist of a chairman and eighteen members, one-half of whom should represent European States, and one-half States outside Europe, and that the delegates should be so divided that six should represent Governments, six should represent employers' organizations, and six should represent workers' organizations, with the additional proviso that Italy should be represented by a vice-chairman without the right to vote, and that the representation of Great Britain should have the right to vote. Great Britain chaired the Commission through Viscount Ullswater.

The countries who sent Government representatives were: Brazil, Canada, China, France, India and Japan.

Countries invited to send employers' representatives were: Argentine, Czecho-Slovakia, Greece, South Africa, Spain and Switzerland.

The countries invited to send workers' representatives were: Australia, Germany, Italy, Poland, Sweden and the United States.

The Polish delegate did not arrive, although the reason was not discovered. The Argentine representative did not come because the two Employers' Associations could not agree upon a delegate. The United States delegate sent word at the last moment that he would not be present. There was no official explanation given of his absence, so no one represented the United States, either officially or unofficially, prepared to speak for her. It was grievous that a country with such wide experience of immigration should have failed to give its contribution.

#### Questions before the International Emigration Commission.

Much preliminary work had been done for this Commission. Confidential reports, studies and other pamphlets based on the replies to the questionnaires of various Governments, with conclusions summing up the points that were considered vital for discussion, were given to the delegates.

These included:—

(1) State provision or prohibition of contracts involving deductions from wages in respect of money advanced for travelling or otherwise.

(2) International co-ordination of the measures concerning the protection of emigrants.

(3) Linking up national systems of employment exchanges in the countries of emigration and immigration.

(4) Effective supervision of hygiene on board ship and train.

(5) The adoption of measures allowing the medical or other examination of emigrants to take place before embarkation.

(6) Recruiting of bodies of workers in one country with a view to their employment in another.

(7) State supervision of all agents engaged in permeating information to be supplied to emigrants.

(8) Equality of treatment of foreign and national workers.

(9) Insurance of emigrants on the journey.

The work of this Commission was preliminary, and no final authority is attached to their resolutions. They were clearing the ground through international discussion to draw out the special phases of the migration problem needing to be brought up at the International Congress in 1922, whose main subject is to be migration. The Commission was therefore informal. There were no sub-committees, and the voting was by show of hands, not by nations.

The Commission attacked the question from the point of view of the protection of workers migrating from one country to another, as a human problem, and not as a buying and selling of privileges between countries, as is so often the case in official international conferences. There were frequent flashes of real international feeling, sympathy and understanding and remarkably little national self-interest.

The work of the Commission aimed, of course, at searching out such particulars of the great problem of emigration and immigration, upon which nations could conceivably at this time discuss the possibility of common legislation and regulation. To-day the laws and regulations in the different countries vary so much, that what is against the law in one country is a requirement under the law in another. Even methods of keeping statistics are so unlike, that accurate common deductions are impossible.

#### Resolutions for the International Labour Conference, 1922.

To assist the International Labour Conference of 1922 in its work along this line, twenty-eight resolutions were passed, emphasizing the points upon which study could profitably be made and draft conventions offered at that conference. One of these resolutions provided

for a small permanent commission, assisted, if necessary, by experts to give a moral backing and force to the Labour Bureau staff in the work of preparing this material.

The Y.W.C.A. was especially interested in those resolutions which directly affected the welfare of the general stream of women migrants, a large proportion of whom could not be described as labourers seeking work in a new country in the same way as that which characterizes the stream of male emigrants. One resolution provides that measures for the protection of emigrants shall apply equally to men, women and children. Another recognizes the necessity for a full consideration, by members of the International Labour Conference, of the question of protection of women and children emigrants, and provides that this subject should be added to the agenda of that Conference in 1922. This resolution was of very great interest to the Y.W.C.A., because the only mention of women on the agenda of the Commission was in connection with the report of the International Conference on White Slave Traffic, which seemed to create the impression that the question of the migration of women was mainly involved with that of vice and disease. A study like that provided for will show that white slavery is a very small, although an important, part of the whole question. Another resolution suggested that special arrangements should be made between States on agreement of matters of conditions under which emigrants may be admitted to a country; and another emphasized the necessity of every member striving to reduce the chances of rejection of its emigrants by an immigrating country.

The wording of the resolution appointing a committee of experts to assist the Labour Bureau in the presentation of its report to the Labour Conference of 1922, says that this committee shall prepare a report "on matters of general agreement in conditions affecting the safety and comfort of passengers, in accordance with the requirements of civilization and human dignity." The spirit of the Commission is exemplified in this wording. This also opens the door for the possible employment of a woman to study the women's question. Provision was made for an arrangement to hold employers of agents or sub-agents, avowed or secret, responsible for obligations entered into in their names by land or sea.

Other resolutions, referring especially to migrants as workers, provided for methods of furnishing immediate employment in the new country; of providing for equality of treatment of workers; for the State supervision of emigration agents; measures for protecting both countries and the emigrant in the matter of collective recruiting of bodies of workers; protection in the matter of deductions from wages; insurance of emigrants, and general and technical education of emigrants in the new country.

When a resolution was passed with some enthusiasm, providing that in the event of a State making a considerable modification in its legislation with regard to emigration or immigration, that precautions might be taken to avoid the grave difficulties which might occur from too sudden an application of such laws, Americans present all felt very self-conscious.

A full report of this Commission will be published in the autumn, after it has been accepted by the governing body at its October meeting. The report will show the breadth of sympathy and humanitarian ideals toward which the nations are working together. Slow as the process may seem, and imperfect as the result is, there is still cause for much hope and encouragement in that at least something has begun and nations are working together toward common ideals.

The Y.W.C.A. representatives came away frankly enthusiastic about the personnel at the International Labour Bureau, which is a converted boys' school in a suburb of Geneva. It is teeming with life and industry, and one has the feeling that it is very much overcrowded. Every employee, from the least to the greatest, is absorbingly interested in this great experiment, and has a profound faith in the ultimate effect of the ideals toward which they are working, even

though the path to them may be rocky and failures extremely prominent. One left every conversation with the Director and his staff, feeling uplifted, even though the subject of the conversation might have been the insurmountable difficulties toward attaining a much-desired goal. All of them frequently referred to the obligation, which is so especially one belonging to women's organizations, to help carry forward the ideals that the International Labour Bureau represents. The obligation that rests upon women, as the group in society with the most experience in educating for ideals, is a great challenge and one which we dare not ignore.

It is to be hoped that many women's organizations will charge themselves with the study of the problem of the welfare of women who migrate, and that each will carry its part in creating a public opinion upon which the International Labour Conference may lean. A year is a very short time in which to face a responsibility as grave as this, and it behoves us all to apply ourselves industriously and with speed to the welfare of our sisters of many nations who travel from one country to another, and to aid in making that stream of migration a force in promoting international brotherhood.

ELIZABETH CLARK,  
Migration Secretary, World's Y.W.C.A.

#### THE GERMAN Y.W.C.A. NATIONAL CONFERENCE AT MARBURG, SEPTEMBER, 1921.

IN Germany, as in many other countries, the work of the Y.W.C.A. has developed greatly during the years of the war; and the period of reconstruction, which is now beginning, expresses itself in this work for young girls by increased activity along many lines. Being closely attached to the Lutheran Church, the German Y.W.C.A. has been for many years a real force in the community, but this year's conference shows a marked and encouraging advance both in outward growth and in the deepening of the spiritual work of the Association. The membership now exceeds 300,000, and the work penetrates in one way or another into all classes of society. The country is divided into as many fields as there are provinces, and every one of these fields has one or more travelling secretaries, who act as organizers and liaison officers, helping in the formation of new branches and organizing group meetings, camps and provincial conferences for the more developed centres.

The heart of this well-developed system is to be found in the Dahlem suburb of Berlin, in the Burckhardtthaus, the National Headquarters Offices, where an admirable staff of efficient, trained workers live and work. One of the most interesting of the departments is the Publications Department. It issues good literature, both secular, religious and educational; it publishes text-books on various subjects for study circles, and edits no less than seven periodicals for women and girls, from a monthly for leaders to a simple paper for girls in the confirmation classes. The most popular, a weekly, has a circulation of over 150,000, and the office is considering a campaign by which it hopes to treble the number of readers. In spite of the enormous cost of printing in Germany, the Publications Department not only pays its own way, but is also a revenue producer for the Headquarters Office. In addition to publishing books and periodicals, the Department runs a system of travelling loan libraries, through which even the most isolated branch can be kept in touch with modern German literature. Any visitor to Berlin should not fail to go to the Burckhardtthaus bookroom.

This year's Conference marks a new era in Association development. Previously, conferences had been for the leaders of the movement, and they were large conferences, too, bringing together representatives from a great number of parishes. This year delegations of members from local Associations were invited as well; with the twofold purpose of bringing a truly Christian

democratic element into the Association by the direct expression of the mind of the membership; and of giving the members the opportunity to experience the inspiration which comes from attending a conference of representatives from every part of a country.

The response to the invitation was overwhelming. Three hundred applications were expected, and 1,500 were received! In addition, on "Young People's Sunday," 3,000 girls crowded into Marburg and assembled on a huge recreation ground to take part in the festivities. It was an impressive sight when this great crowd of young women passed in procession through the streets of the picturesque old university town, with its grim thirteenth century castle, towering over it from its high cliff, looking down on the new generation struggling to rebuild their country after the devastating storms of the past years. The girls marched five abreast, grouped according to the provinces they came from, many of them in characteristic costumes, and the procession would like a long garland through the narrow, twisting streets, making music all the way. The programme for the afternoon was very varied, speeches and music being interspersed by folk-dancing in costume. The climax of the day was the performance of the Mystery Play of Saint Elizabeth, the patron saint of Marburg, whose tomb can still be admired in the beautiful Gothic church which bears her name. The play, which was a combination of scenes from the life of the Queen-Saint and of folk-songs, was acted entirely by Association girls, with the exception of the male characters, which were taken by students at the University. It was given on an open-air stage and was a huge success, being repeated by request on two consecutive evenings for the benefit of the townspeople, who were showing such liberal hospitality to the delegates.

Serious work was done during the next three or four days, the subjects grouping themselves round the thought of the reconstruction of the country and the contribution the Y.W.C.A. might bring to it. The hours of deliberation brought home the conviction that only in heartfelt sacrificial dedication to the will of God would be found hope for the future. On the last day the delegations were asked to take back to their centres the proposal that the Y.W.C.A. and the Y.M.C.A. should unite their movements, with the one slogan, "For the sake of the Kingship of Jesus." Enthusiastic applause accompanied this proposal, and the Conference broke up cheered and strengthened for new efforts by these inspiring days of study of their common problems and of united worship.

#### THE WEEK OF WORLD FELLOWSHIP AND PRAYER.

TENNYSON'S lines, "And so the whole round world is every way bound by gold chains about the feet of God," have become hackneyed, but their beauty glows for anyone who takes part in the week of prayer and world friendship which Y.W.C.A.'s in every country hold at the beginning of November every year. Beginning on November 13 this year, the million members and the many other girls served by the Association will have the opportunity of being thoroughly international in their thoughts, their prayers, their recreation, their education, and even, if they wish it, in their food!

To those familiar with the varied work of the Association the mere thought of the week brings a kaleidoscope of pictures—Czecho-Slovak girls out at a holiday camp, babies in Smyrna running to the waste building lots where they will find a playground, industrial girls in Australia crowding out the club canteen, girl guides in Johannesburg, Chinese girls in the physical training school, Japanese girls of all classes playing in one pageant, girls of every nationality growing up into poised, purposeful womanhood. One week seems inadequate to sum up all that they are doing and to look ahead into the future in which they will be taking, please God, an ever greater and more self-sacrificing part in the Christianizing of every department of national and international life.

LES RÉUNIONS D'ÉTÉ AU CHÂTEAU D'ARGERONNE.

Cette année encore le vieux château s'est ouvert pour recevoir des hôtes de tous les coins du monde. La Y.W.C.A. a remis son excellente organisation des congrès d'été entre les mains de l'Association des Gardiennes de France, dont le siège social est Argeronne, et tant bien que mal, cette fois-ci, nous nous sommes improvisées cuisinières, laveuses de vaisselle, économistes...

Or donc, la session commença par la Semaine des Gardiennes, semaine de retraite et de pensée, préparant l'activité de l'année suivante.

Ensuite arrivèrent les déléguées de l'Union Chrétienne de Jeunes Filles de la Seine, dirigée par Mademoiselle Bertsch, et dont les réunions furent conduites par M. le Pasteur Daniel Monod et un missionnaire du Sénégal. Ce furent des jours mémorables pour la plupart de ces jeunes filles; certaines y trouvèrent l'orientation plus sûre de leur vie, d'autres le courage de continuer la tâche entreprise. Leurs petites lettres nous ont été au cœur; il y a là une belle France pour demain.

La troisième semaine fut celle des Travailleuses Sociales, avec Mesdemoiselles Bassot et Hentsch, auxquelles se joignirent les directrices et déléguées des Foyers-Cantines, avec Madame Violet, Madame Heeley, Madame Guillon, etc. On étudia la création des centres sociaux, ou "settlements," l'extension possible de l'activité des Foyers, les collaborations entre œuvres de même type. Le soir, on s'en allait, par groupes, vers les villages par delà les bois, et l'on rentrait sous les étoiles — heureuses et en paix.

Après cela fut l'invasion de la Fédération Universelle des Étudiants, amenée par Mademoiselle de Dietrich et M. J. Médard, hommes et femmes de quinze nationalités! Nous étions soixante dans la maison, et la paix n'était plus qu'intérieure. Le "Pommier Doux" (anciennement le garage) retentissait de discussions subtiles, et les vieux tilleuls contemplaient avec stupeur ces intellectuels venus de Suède, du Portugal, de Madagascar, de Bohême, des Colonies et d'Asnières. Heureusement qu'ils étaient jeunes, et que de la "salle basse" au moment des repas montaient cris, "speeches" et hurlements de joie... la dialectique sombrait dans la bonne gaieté française.

Pour fêter l'âge avancé d'une de leurs hôtes, ils improvisèrent une jolie fête se terminant par une farandole folle à travers les salons et le parc, entraînant la jeunesse du village dans leur tourbillon bigarré! Braves enfants! Je ne sais si le sort du monde est entre leurs mains, mais je sais qu'Argeronne a pour chacun d'eux une tendresse spéciale — pour le "corps médical" surtout.

Puis l'on redevint grave d'une autre gravité; la Semaine des Régions Libérées étudia les problèmes urgents de la protection de l'enfance et la diffusion des centres sociaux ruraux, et un programme fut rédigé à réaliser dans l'année.

Parmi les congressionnistes se trouvaient les déléguées de la S.B.M., Madame du Ponton d'Amécourt, sœur du Maréchal Lyautey; Mademoiselle le Barbet de Vaux, la déléguée de l'U.F.F.; Madame Saint René Taillandier; M. Raoul Duval, conseiller général de l'Eure; Mademoiselle de Gourlet; Mademoiselle Vimont, etc.

Le château et le "Pommier" se remplirent à nouveau de jeunesse à la venue des directrices et déléguées des Foyers de l'U.C.J.F. et de quelques autres Foyers. Miss Gordon en dirigeait le travail avec son charme et sa compétence habituels. On passa en revue les difficultés spéciales aux Foyers, et je pense que de bonnes solutions

furent trouvées. Après le travail souvent ardu de la journée, on s'assemblait dans le salon blanc, et la Baronne Loche, qui fait autant partie d'Argeronne que les fleurs et les arbres, chantait à son petit monde les vieilles chansons de France. La plupart de nos petites amies de la première heure se trouvaient là, et nous étions bien contentes de les recevoir à nouveau dans leur maison. Nous les avons nommées les "Argeronnettes."

Enfin... la Semaine Chinoise. Plus de vingt étudiants de la Y.M.C.A., Chinois en France, deux étudiantes, un général chinois, un docteur, sa femme et leur bébé d'un an, nommé Victor en l'honneur de la victoire. Et ce fut un rêve... Ordre, discipline, bonne humeur, coopération, tout y était. On était tout triste de se quitter, et quelques amis chinois demandèrent si cet hiver ils pourraient revenir dans les vieux murs qu'ils aimaient pour une semaine de retraite spirituelle. Ils aspiraient à un Argeronne chinois. M. Lu et M. Tcheng sont devenus des amis personnels. Vive la Chine!

Là-dessus Argeronne referma ses volets et ses portes sur ses très divers souvenirs, et passera les mois d'hiver à songer à l'avenir. Que sera-t-il? Une des plus fécondes et des plus vivantes créations de la Y.W.C.A. en France, du génie organisateur de la première amie d'Argeronne, Mary Dingman.

Cette maison, connue maintenant et aimée par des centaines de personnes les plus diverses, sera le centre de ralliement de toute énergie, de toute volonté pour le bien, de tout service entre hommes et entre nations. Ceux qui se réuniront là devront être les porte-paroles de la plus haute conscience de leur groupement ou de leur pays, et qui en peut mesurer les conséquences futures?

RENÉE DE MONTMORT.

FROM THE CHINESE DELEGATE TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF WORKING WOMEN.

OWING to the rapid increase of modern factories in China in recent years, the question of working conditions in industry has set many a serious-minded person to thinking. The workers are not protected by any means since there is neither Government legislation on one hand, nor labour organizations on the other. Women and children, as well as men, work long hours with low wages under unsatisfactory conditions.

As one of the purposes of the Young Women's Christian Association is to "enlist the service of young women for young women in their spiritual, intellectual, social and physical advancement," the Chinese Association cannot but be keen to the welfare of the women and children workers in industry. So when the invitation came, asking for a Chinese woman delegate to the second International Congress of Working Women, the Chinese Association gave an immediate response, although it meant a great deal of sacrifice to the Association so far as the question of finance was concerned. That accounts for my being in England receiving generous hospitalities from the British Association and from those who take interest in China.

Before attending the Congress at Geneva it offers wonderful opportunity to me to study how people in England try to tackle the industrial problems from various angles. Although the industrial problems in China are comparatively less serious and the conditions somewhat different from those in the West, still the fundamental principles adopted for bettering the welfare of the worker are applicable here as well as there. By being represented at the Working Women's Congress at Geneva in October the Young Women's Christian Association in China desires to arouse the public opinion and to seek support from the Chinese people for improving the working conditions before it is too late.

W. T. ZUNG.

JVS SVFFRAGII.

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THE FIRST FIVE.

SWEDISH WOMEN'S VICTORY AT THE POLLS.

FOUR M.P.'S IN THE LOWER CHAMBER, ONE IN THE UPPER CHAMBER.

IF we knew the Swedish word for "congratulations" we should print it in capital letters. Five women members of Parliament have been returned at the recent General Elections—a really wonderful victory for the first women's vote. The Conservative, Labour and Liberal Parties are all represented in these elections of women. But we doubt not that when it comes to equality questions the new women will vote en bloc. Two very interesting reports of the elections have reached us—and we publish both; for readers will be eager to learn every detail of the Swedish victory.

Miss Ellen Klemm, of the Fredrika-Bremer Forbundet, writes:— The great event in Swedish women's history has occurred. In September the General Election of members of Parliament took place and for the first time Swedish women took part in it.

All over the country the women made use of their newly-won rights. As yet the percentage of the women electors is not known, but it is stated that everywhere the women were seen in great numbers at the election polls, so it is surely quite correct to say that the percentage will prove satisfactory. Reports have come from the country districts how, on election day, the

country women came, dressed up for the occasion, deliberate and slow, as the manners of the country folk are, but without any shyness whatever, taking their place with the men. In the towns all classes of women were seen; there came working women and servant girls, just sparing a quarter of an hour from their work—the election day in the towns being on a working day; there came the woman of the home and the grand lady of fashion, the woman artist and the woman clerk. And as a rule they knew well what they were about.

The three great political parties, the Conservatives, the Liberals and the Socialists, had all of them a considerable number of women candidates on their lists. However, not many of them had got safe places. From the beginning we knew pretty well that the women members would be easily counted. But, to be just, one must admit that it was a rather difficult thing, even for our friends, to spare places for the newcomers, since old and trained politicians were on every hand claiming their old places!

Considering this we cannot, perhaps, complain of the result of the election with regard to the women: five women elected—one, a Liberal, as member of the First Chamber; four, one Conservative, one Liberal, two Socialists, as members of the Second Chamber.