

JUS SUFFRAGII.

# The International Woman Suffrage News

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11, Adam St., Adelphi, London, W.C. 2,  
to which all communications should be addressed.

Telegrams: Vocorajto.  
Telephone: 4255 Regent.

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“The International Woman Suffrage Alliance, by mutual consent of its auxiliaries, stands pledged to preserve absolute neutrality on all questions that are strictly national.”

**FEATURES OF THE MONTH.**

**SEX DISQUALIFICATION (REMOVAL) BILL.**

This Bill passed its third reading in the House of Commons on October 29th, and has been sent up to the House of Lords. The latter House has already passed the Bill in its first form, and now has to pass it again as amended by the Commons. There is little doubt that it will go through; but though it is better than nothing, it is a very incomplete Bill. The franchise question has not been touched, but the Commons passed by a large majority an amendment giving the right to peeresses to sit in the House of Lords. So we shall have (if the Lords accept this amendment) the anomaly of peeresses of over twenty-one sitting in the House of Lords and legislating for the country, while women of under thirty are still debarred from the vote. In next month's issue we hope to give the main provisions of the Bill and discuss its defects.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS.**

The returns for the Local Government elections in England and Wales have not yet been completed, but from the first reports it seems that a large number of women will be returned to London Borough Councils and Town Councils.

**INDIA.**

Mrs. H. A. Tata and her daughter, Miss M. A. Tata, who represent the women of Bombay Presidency, and the Women's Indian Association and its forty-five branches, are in London to urge the Government to include women in the franchise clause of the Indian Reform Bill. Miss Tata contributes a special article in this issue.

**JAPAN.**

Miss Miyo Kohasi, who has been reporting the International Conference of Women Physicians in New York for two Japan papers, is on her way to London. We hope through her to get into closer touch with the women of Japan who are working for their emancipation.

**BURMA.**

It is interesting to note that though the Burman Reform Scheme excludes women from the franchise, they have for many years enjoyed a freedom and equality which some of their Western sisters have yet to obtain. It is no less than a tragedy that a British Government refuses to the women of India and Burma the enfranchisement which the enlightened men of those countries wish to be conferred on their country-women.

**CONTENTS.**

Page.

Features of the Month .....	17
Indian Women and the Vote .....	18
Position of Women in Burma .....	19
The Ministry of Women .....	20
Venerable Prevention: The Prophylaxis Controversy .....	21
Local Government Elections .....	22
Australia: Minimum Wage in South Australia .....	23
Women J.P.s in South Australia .....	23
Denmark: Women as Priests .....	24
Equal Pay in Copenhagen Municipality .....	24
Washington Labour Conference and Relation to Government .....	24
France: The Senate and Woman Suffrage .....	25
Women and the Fédération du Livre .....	25
Germany: Women Admitted to Hamburg Chamber of Commerce .....	26
Women and Legal Professions .....	26
Great Britain: Local Government Elections .....	26
N.U.S.E.C. Report .....	26
Plymouth Election—Woman Candidate Adopted .....	26
Women's Freedom League, Report .....	26
Italy: The Suffrage Bill—Political Situation .....	27
Netherlands: Education of Women Voters .....	27
Women Citizens' League .....	27
New Zealand: Eligibility Bill Rejected .....	27
Norway: Municipal Elections .....	27
Norse Women's Meeting at Sandvik .....	27
South Africa: Prime Minister Supports Suffrage .....	28
Woman Councillor Appointed .....	28
Woman Factory Inspector .....	28
Sweden: Equal Pay .....	28
Woman Advocate .....	28
Switzerland: Swiss Association for W.S., Report .....	28
Illegitimacy Laws .....	29
U.S.A.: Ratification Continues .....	29
South Dakota Legislature .....	30
Woman District Attorney Appointed .....	30
Woman Magistrate Appointed .....	30
Women and the Advisory Committee on Wages .....	31
Japan: Woman Journalists .....	31
M. Venizelos and Woman Suffrage .....	31
Higher Education for Working Women .....	31
Yukon: Prohibition .....	31
Late News: London Local Government Elections .....	32
Mrs. Fawcett's New Book .....	32

## INDIAN WOMEN AND THE VOTE.

As is well known to all who are deep students of India's past history, the position of Indian women hundreds of years before Christ was very high. Women were not treated as inferior or as unfit to take part in public life, but the fullest opportunities were given to them to develop their intelligence and capacities. We know that women used to attend, along with the men, the great seats of learning which were spread all over India, and which corresponded with our universities. Women used to take keen interest in philosophical and political discussions. It is recorded that women in the villages, in those days, took part in the selection of the representatives for the village council; and they could be and were at times members of the village representative councils. Equality of opportunity was given to women as well as to men, and no legal barriers were placed in the way of their advancement.

In later days when, on account of constant invasions to which India was subjected, it was necessary that the women should be safeguarded, and hence some of their activities were curtailed, even then the Indian woman never entirely lost her high position. In the family, as the mistress of the house, she was practically supreme, and this is the case more or less even at the present time in India. In public life and administration there have been shining examples of Indian women, from Razia Begum in the 13th century to Ahalya Bai in the 18th, and even up to the present century.

Coming to the present time, the women of India are awake again to their capacities and claims; they feel that their activities should go beyond the home, which for many centuries has been their sphere of influence. This is especially the case in the big cities, where women's education is progressing, and great impetus would be given to it if education were made free and compulsory. Many girls go right up to the high schools in Bombay, and many take higher education. The number of women attending colleges increases yearly. There are more than four hundred women graduates in the Bombay Presidency, and many more women who possess a wide general knowledge, who are quite capable of exercising intelligent judgment. Women in Bombay are not hampered by many of the social restrictions with which women in other parts of the country are supposed to be hampered. The "purdah system" practically does not exist in Bombay, where women are free to move about where they like, and their social conditions would not make it impossible for them to exercise the vote.

The municipal vote has been granted to the women of the Presidency for more than fifteen years, and they exercise it intelligently along with the men; no special privileges have been granted to them, and it has not been found that their "social conditions" prevent them from exercising their right properly. On the contrary, it has made them take an interest in public affairs, and has enlarged their mental horizon. The graduates of the University have the right to elect some Fellows for the University, and women as well as men avail themselves of the right.



MRS. H. A. TATA AND MISS M. A. TATA.

### PUBLIC WORK.

The women of the Presidency, especially of the city, have been known to take great interest in social and public affairs. There are many women's associations which do good educational social and civic work—e.g., the Seva Sadan, the Women's Indian Association, Gugerati Stri Mandal, Bhagini Samaj, Vanita Vishram, etc. Many of these associations conduct educational classes for women, which are attended enthusiastically. Most of these associations are conducted by women themselves, and the secretary of the Seva Sadan is an Indian lady M.A., LL.B. The Bombay Presidency Women's Council has been started, under presidency of Lady Lloyd, to help women to take greater interest and part in civic affairs. The work done by the Bombay Presidency women during the period of the war and the last famine is too well known to need detailed statement. Suffice it to say that women of all classes co-operated heartily in supplying materials, comforts, and entertainment to the troops during the war, and thousands of rupees were collected by their efforts for the war fund. During the influenza epidemic and the famine the women of the city took part in the relief, and helped to gather funds.

The women of the Presidency are strongly of opinion that they should not be debarred from political rights, as they believe that the world has moved far enough to recognise that those who pay taxes should at least have a voice in the administration of the country. Requisitions were sent up to the Provincial Conferences and the National Congresses, and when the Southborough Franchise Committee visited Bombay, a requisition, signed by about 800 educated women from the big cities of the Presidency, was submitted to them, as expressing the desire of the women to be included in the Reform Scheme. The women are very much alive to political questions, they attend public meetings in large numbers, and they take a keen interest in what is going on around them, as can be seen from the different events which have happened not only in the cities, but also in the rural districts.

### SOUTHBOROUGH FRANCHISE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The report of the Committee has caused bitter disappointment among the women of India, and especially in Bombay Presidency. The women of Bombay met in a protest meeting in many hundreds, and there were speeches in five different languages. A resolution of protest was unanimously passed, and eleven cables were sent to prominent people in England, including the Secretary of State for India.

The arguments brought forward by the Committee are untenable in the light of criticism; enough pains have not been taken to do even bare justice to women, but preconceived notions of women's inferiority have been the cause of the total rejection of the Indian women from the electorates.

### WHY DO WE DEMAND THE VOTE?

1. We claim it first on grounds of principle. Women of India form just as important a half as men, and their sex merely should not disqualify them from taking part in public

life when they possess other qualifications required of the men. It has been recognised now in all progressive countries that the sex barrier has been a great mistake, is out of date, unworthy of the times, a relic of past days when might was above right; all progressive nations are throwing down these artificial barriers, and inviting women to co-operate with the men for the welfare of the State. Why should India lag behind others in this respect, create a legal sex barrier where one does not exist, and thus brand Indian women as inferior to their sisters in other countries?

2. The Government ought not to commit the same mistake as was made in England at the time of the Reform Bill of 1832, and the later bills, of excluding women from political life, a course which led to great bitterness and created great disparity between the political education of men and women. We in India are now in the happy position of being able to start our political education on terms of equality. There is no reason whatever why women should not also be given that political education along with the men, instead of having to wait an indefinite number of years, falling behind the men, and possibly starting a fresh campaign of agitation which might ruffle the progress of responsible government in its initial stages—such a step would, in our opinion, be a grievous mistake. According to the proposed qualifications—which are based on property,—at the most a million women would be enfranchised, but that number would be quite enough to begin with. We are of opinion that if literacy had also been made a qualification there would have been a substantial number of women voters, and it would also have been a great impetus to acquire education. As matters stand at present even graduates are excluded from voting.

It is maintained in the Southborough Franchise Committee's report that the "social conditions of India make the grant of the franchise to women premature and unpractical." But the "social conditions" are not the same in the whole of India. The "purdah system" does not exist in the whole of India, only in some parts, and it is not right or just that women in one part of India should be made to suffer because women in other parts of the country are supposed not to be ready yet for the vote. We are of opinion that even in the purdah districts the social conditions are not so stringent as to make it impossible for women to take an intelligent interest in public life. Indian women are noted for their common-sense and judgment, which is developed by constantly managing large families with tact. The very fact that a woman lives in purdah does not prevent her from taking intelligent interest and part in public life. Who would say that the Begum of Bhopal is not capable or does not take an interest in political affairs? This lady is in purdah, but she rules her State with great ability and attends the ruling chiefs' conference and makes speeches there. This is not the exception; there are many women estate-holders in their own right who manage their business with great capacity, though remaining in purdah. We are strongly of opinion that the purdah is not such an impassable barrier as the report states. As to its being "premature," it is no more so in the case of women than in the case of men. It is not premature in the case of women who already exercise the municipal vote, and there would be no difficulty in their exercising the higher right.

It would not be "unpractical" for women to exercise the vote; there would be no difficulty whatsoever in non-purdah districts; no special arrangements need be made for women voters. Even in places where the purdah prevails, women who hold land and pay taxes will not be slow to avail themselves of the right. This is a permissive, not a compulsory, measure, and only those women who wish to have the facilities will avail themselves of the vote. But how can the women be declared unfit without even being given a trial? If women are given the opportunity they will rise to the occasion and show their fitness.

It has been already stated that the purdah system does not exist in the whole of India. The vote at first will usually be exercised by women who possess high qualifications and education, and usually these women have broken the purdah; others will soon give it up—the vote will be an impetus to do so.

It cannot be said that in non-purdah districts the vote "will hardly be a reality." Women in big towns, especially in Bombay and Madras, are taking a keen interest in the affairs of the city, and they are sure to exercise the higher vote intelligently.

The Government need not look only to the conservative feeling, for there is a strong feeling among the educated and thinking men of the country that it is necessary to extend the right to women at this juncture. This has been fully demonstrated in many national assemblies—Provincial Conferences, Indian National Congresses. Educated opinion ought to count as much as conservative opinion. The extension of the franchise will not create religious antagonism, and will not infringe the Government's attitude of religious neutrality; for if religious antagonism would be roused it would have been so more in the case of the extension of the franchise to the depressed classes than in the case of women who belong to the castes and are essential parts thereof. This question must be settled by the Parliament now, and not be left over to be dealt with by the future Legislative Councils, however favourable they may be supposed to be towards the cause of women; procrastination will only cause bitterness and hinder progress.

Women are awake to their rights and desire to have them. There is great desire in many parts of India, and many women's associations have been started and take interest in what is happening in the country. The educated women and property holders are very keen that their rights should be safeguarded, and they know that the possession of a vote gives them the power to do so.

It is the duty of every true government to make a reform which is good for the country, whether there is little or no demand for it. Educated Indian men and women feel the time is fit, and that women should be included at present in the Bill on the same terms as the men.

MITHIBAI A. TATA, B.A., Cobden Gold Medallist.

## THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN BURMA.

BY MAUNG PU, B.A., BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

If anyone were to ask an average Burman what is the position of women in Burma he would be not a little surprised. He would say that men have certain advantages over women in some respects, and that women have some advantages over men in other respects. The writer will, however, try to answer the question to the best of his ability in the time and space at his disposal. The subject may be dealt with from five aspects—viz., Social, Educational, Legal, Religious, and Political.

### SOCIAL ASPECT.

From time immemorial Burmese women have enjoyed freedom and equality with men in all social matters, unlike most of their sisters in other Oriental countries. Practically in most semi-religious functions they take a prominent part on an equal footing with men.

Boys and girls mix freely. They see each other in their daily lives. They become acquaintances, acquaintanceship ripens into friendship, and friendship very often ends in love. Among well-to-do classes there is a certain amount of restraint placed on the social intercourse between the two sexes.

Child-marriage is unknown in Burma. A woman generally gets married between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five years. In some Oriental countries widow-remarriage is strictly prohibited, but it is not so in Burma. It is left entirely to her to decide whether she wishes to remarry or not.

### EDUCATIONAL ASPECT.

General education is appreciated by women. In the past we had examples of women of great social standing, whose high literary attainments made their names immortal. It is recorded in our literature that one of the royal princesses—Princess Thanbyin—was so well versed in Buddhist Scriptures that even Buddhist monks had to attend her discourses on Buddhism.

There is another well-known figure, Hlaing Htaikkaung, a Crown Princess, who was greatly admired for her poems and dramas. Her dramatic works, such as "Einda Wuntha," "Wijaya Kare," etc., are full of literary beauty, pathos, humour, and insight into human nature, and are well known throughout the length and breadth of Burma.

Thanks to the indigenous system of education, Burma possesses many vernacular schools, even in small villages and townships, where young boys and girls are taught the "three R's." Large towns have, besides these vernacular schools, Anglo-vernacular schools for both boys and girls. There are

also separate Anglo-vernacular schools for girls, but these are not sufficiently numerous yet. Recently, however, a great effort has been made by various Buddhist associations to open more of these schools for girls wherever it is practicable.

Buddhist monks, and sometimes learned Buddhist laymen, deliver discourses on Buddhist literature to both men and women. Lectures on social, religious, and political subjects are given by Burmese women at the present day.

Home training plays an important part in Burma. Girls assist their parents and guardians at home not only in domestic work, but also in the management of the business in which the family is engaged, so that when they grow up they are equipped with some sort of business training to fit them in life. Most of the retail business of Burma, and some wholesale businesses, are in their hands.

#### LEGAL ASPECT.

Marriage is purely a civil contract. There are three ways in which marriage can be brought about—

- (1) Where the parents make the arrangements.
- (2) Where it is brought about through a go-between.
- (3) Where the parties arrange among themselves. The consent of the girl is essential in each case.

The Census Report of Burma for 1911 says that the third form is responsible for 90 per cent. of the marriages. A woman, whether married or unmarried, can enter into a contract.

As regards property, there are three kinds—

- (1) Property belonging to the husband or wife before the marriage.
- (2) Property acquired during coverture.
- (3) Property received as gifts at the time of the marriage.

On divorce the husband or wife takes back his or her property mentioned in (1), and the property mentioned in Nos. (2) and (3) is divided equally where the divorce is by mutual consent; but if there are certain serious faults on either side, then the party at fault loses his or her interest in such property.

Since marriage is a civil contract, it can be dissolved by mutual consent. Even without mutual consent it can be dissolved on certain specified grounds. At present a woman can obtain divorce on the following grounds:—

- (1) Failure to maintain the wife.
- (2) Cruelty to the wife.
- (3) Taking a lesser wife without the consent of the wife, except in certain specified cases.

It may be noted here that polygamy is against the spirit of Buddhism and public opinion.

A man can obtain divorce from the wife if she is proved to be unfaithful.

The Census Report of Burma for 1911 notes with satisfaction that in spite of the extreme freedom of divorce there is a high standard of family life.

#### RELIGIOUS ASPECT.

There are separate orders for men and women. The rules and regulations for Buddhist monks are more exacting than those for Buddhist nuns. If a Buddhist nun is well versed in the Scriptures, and observes the rules of the order conscientiously, she is highly revered and respected. The name of Mai-Kin is a household word in Burma. She was a learned Buddhist nun.

According to Buddhism the highest attainment is Buddhahood, and the one next to it is Arahatsip (saintship). A woman can attain Arahatsip, but as a woman she cannot become a Buddha. Since, however, Buddhists believe in the law of transmigration, she can be reborn as a man in a future existence, and then it becomes possible to attain Buddhahood.

#### POLITICAL ASPECT.

Women played an important part in political spheres during the Burmese régime. They exercised great influence over the State Councils. Burma had queens who ruled over certain kingdoms with great statesmanship and ability.

Coming to the present times, women are found even in the lowest spheres of political life enjoying equal rights with men. They can vote at the election of village headmen. They have equal franchise with men at municipal elections.

His Majesty's Government made the memorable announcement on the 20th August, 1917, regarding the future policy of the Government of India. Since Burma is a part of the British Indian Empire, this announcement applies to Burma as well. However, in carrying out this announcement, Burma's case was left out. A separate scheme was framed by the Local Government of Burma, which is very reactionary, and falls far short of the provisions made in the Government of India Bill now before Parliament. Under the scheme of the Local Government, women will enjoy equal franchise with men only in urban areas, but in the rural areas they will lose their rights, since they will be allowed to vote only for the primary electoral unit. Hitherto women have enjoyed equal franchise with men. This scheme of the Local Government will place women at a great disadvantage in rural areas and retard their progress. The whole country is, therefore, strongly opposed to the scheme of Sir R. Craddock, and it is earnestly hoped that this scheme will be rejected by the Secretary of State for India and the British Parliament.

### THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN.

BY EDITH PICTON-TURBERVILLE, O.B.E.

Some three years ago the Archbishop of Canterbury appointed a committee to issue a report, from an historical standpoint, of the Ministry of Women in the Church. The committee has published its report under the title of "The Ministry of Women." It is a solid volume of over 300 pages, and deals, with greater completeness than has yet been done, with the evidence of the past on this subject. Before reviewing the book it will be of some interest, perhaps, to our readers to know how it was that the book came into being. In the year 1916 the Church of England organised what was called a National Mission of Repentance and Hope. For many months services were to be held all over the country calling the nation to repentance. A great number of clergymen were in France, and it occurred to the Bishops of London and of Chelmsford that women should be used as hitherto they had not been used, and that specially selected ones should preach—or give addresses—in the churches during the Mission. Both Bishops announced their intention to make arrangements for this to take place. The announcement created a perfect storm in a certain section of the Anglican Church known as the English Church Union, many of whom deliberately announced that if women were allowed to speak in churches they would take no share in the Mission, and it would be wrecked. The Bishops withdrew their permission, and women did not speak in churches during the Mission. The incident brought the whole question very much before the public, and a book\* was published at the same time claiming that lay women should be placed on the same footing as lay men, many of whom spoke in the churches at the time of the Mission.

The Archbishop of Canterbury was approached again and again. At last he called a committee together, asking them to issue a report, not on present-day needs, but on the Ministry of Women in the Church from the earliest days.

Hence this full and exhaustive report that has just been published by the S.P.C.K.

The book is of first-class historical importance. It is therefore disappointing to find on page two the statement: "The Apostolic Commission recorded in John xx. 19-23 was given to men"—implying, of course, to men alone. This is directly contrary to such an authority as Bishop Westcott, who says the words of the Great Commission were "addressed not to the apostles alone—others were assembled with them,—but to the Christian society, not to any special order in it."

This may appear a detail, yet it is not so; and that a book of such value should make so dogmatic a statement on what, to say the least of it, is an open question, is distinctly disappointing and apt to shake the reader's confidence.

The whole subject of deaconesses is most thoroughly and exhaustively dealt with from the earliest days of the Church down to the so-called "revival" of the order some sixty years ago. Two facts emerge, and emerge clearly. The primitive deaconess ranked with the deacon, and performed the same functions; it must be remembered, however, that a deacon, though an order in the Church, did not, as in these days, become a priest, but remained a deacon throughout.

\* "Women and the Church." By Canon Streeter and Edith Picton-Turberville. (Fisher Unwin.)

his life. The other fact that emerges is that the modern deaconess has no real place in the Church, and is unable to perform any function that an ordinary lay woman cannot perform.

There is a great deal of interesting research on the subject of nuns and canonesses in the past, but though they read the gospel and recited offices, it does not touch the real present-day issue, for they ministered in these ways within the cloister and not to mixed congregations in parish churches. Dr. A. J. Mason deals with the subject of St. Paul and women with great sincerity. Few, however, will, we think, accept his conclusions as to the Divine intention of perpetual subjection of women; in reading his chapter one seems to be suddenly in an atmosphere of some sixty or seventy years ago. Miss Alice Gardner, in writing on the same subject, recognises the difference between instructions given for a special time in a special place, and principles laid down for all time.

In writing of "double" monasteries, Mr. Hamilton Thompson points out very clearly that though men formed a part of the community, the men were there not as a part of an equivalent community, but so as to perform functions the women could not do. This doubtless was the case with Barking, Whitby, and other monasteries to which he refers. It is to be regretted that no mention is made of the early mixed monasteries in Ireland, in Kildare for instance, where men appear to have formed part of an equivalent community. When all is said and done, the report is a painstaking and remarkable research into the past. Does it give any guidance for to-day? Practically none; but then it must be remembered that it was not intended to do so. We read it with interest mostly, sometimes with a little weariness. Much of it is of little living value. Hares are started here and there and never run to earth. It was not to be expected that such a book, dealing only with the facts of the past, could help us in the problems of to-day. The past alone cannot guide us, and those who are always guided by tradition are apt to lose sight of the inspiring fact that the Holy Spirit LIVES to-day. There are certain truths that lie latent, as Bishop Westcott tells us, in the treasury of the Church waiting for some crisis which they will be fitted to meet. The ministry of women in Holy Orders is, we believe, one of these truths that has hitherto been latent: the crisis has come in Church life which it is fitted to meet, and it is possible that generations to come will look back and know that it was the inclusion of women within the ministry of the Church that enabled the Church in the twentieth century to become a power for truth, beauty, and righteousness throughout the land.

### Venereal Prevention: The Prophylaxis Controversy.

BY ALISON NEILANS,

Secretary, Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

As the subject of venereal diseases prophylaxis is one which is of interest and importance to women all over the world, the Editor of this paper has asked me to summarise the controversy in regard to it which is now being carried on in England, chiefly through the medium of the *Times*, and to add some comments thereon.

For clearness it may be well to say first that "prophylaxis" in the sense in which the word is now being used in regard to venereal disease does not mean prevention by self-control or other moral means, neither does it refer to the provision of treatment for persons already infected. These means of prevention or curing venereal diseases are freely advocated and desired by all parties; there is no controversy upon them. I may add, too, that the provision of free confidential treatment at general hospitals was advocated by Abolitionists so long ago as 1877, while most of the medical profession were still muddling about with Contagious Diseases Acts. Prophylaxis may be described under the following heads:—

1. Provision of centres where disinfective irrigation and other disinfective treatment may be given to persons who have exposed themselves to infection, as soon as possible after such exposure, and before any symptoms of disease have developed.

2. Provision of packets to persons applying for them before exposure to infection, for use both before and after such exposure. It is also suggested they be placed in automatic machines, in telephone boxes, and other places where readily and secretly obtainable.

3. Provision of printed information in public lavatories, etc., in easily understood terms, of the reputed methods and chemicals necessary for self-disinfection after exposure. It is also suggested this information should be given in public lectures, by advertisements, and in other similar ways.

The first method of prophylaxis—provision of irrigation centres for disinfection after exposure—is that advocated by the (British) National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases. This Council has opposed the provision of packet prophylactics on the grounds that (a) such provision to persons before exposure would tend to increase immorality; and (b) that, in view of the fact that men are often slightly drunk when intercourse takes place, or neither in the condition nor environment to make careful and effective use of the packet if they use it at all, the object of supplying the packet (*i.e.*, prevention of infection) would not be attained.

The second method—provision of packets before exposure—has been used in the Canadian and Australian armies during the war, by the British Navy, and generally throughout the Continental armies. It has been strongly advocated in England by a number of eminent doctors and military men, notably Sir Bryan Donkin, Sir William Osler, Sir Rickman Godlee, Dr. Otto May (ex-Secretary National Council for Combating Venereal Disease), Colonel Adami, C.A.M.C., and others. It has been equally strongly condemned by eminent doctors and military men, including Sir Thomas Barlow, Sir Malcolm Morris, Mr. E. B. Turner, F.R.C.S., Colonel Snow (United States A.M.C.), and Mr. Daniels, Secretary for U.S. Navy.

I will refer to the third method presently. As a public proposal it has only quite recently been put forward by a new Committee—the Venereal Prevention Committee. I will deal now with the public discredit which has fallen upon the first and second methods.

#### (1) Irrigation Centres.

The N.C.C.V.D. recommended the public provision of irrigation centres to be continuously open day and night. This was considered by County Councils and Hospital Committees, and the London County Council, in September, 1919, passed the following resolution:—

"That, in connection with its scheme for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease, the Council is not satisfied that the public provision of early preventive treatment, as suggested by the National Council for Combating Venereal Disease, is desirable; and that the National Council be informed accordingly."

The Health Committee further state they are advised that, with one exception, hospital committees have expressed the opinion that it would be impossible for them to introduce early preventive treatment; and inquiry has shown that in provincial towns no special provision of this nature is in operation.

I may expand this by quoting from a well-informed article in the *New Statesman*, October 11, 1919, which gives the reasons behind the resolution:—

"... local authorities generally, and the great voluntary hospitals, are finding quite impracticable the scheme that is proposed. Let us be quite candid and tell the truth—that adequate provision of such centres is unthinkable; they have not been, they never will be, and they cannot be, provided; there are no resources adequate for such provision; there are not medical men and women available; no scheme has been seriously set forth that would deal with the rural problem; the patients would not and do not come as they should even where the centre is open, as it necessarily must be, *all night*, with a skilled attendant in waiting (and in how many places in all the land is there such provision, in being or in contemplation?). Briefly, the official scheme is impracticable, and already the evident failure that it always must be."

#### (2) Prophylactic Packets.

A Government Committee—the Inter-Departmental Committee on Infectious Diseases—took evidence in 1919 from many medical and medical-military men on the whole subject of packet prophylaxis, and reported strongly against its provision for civilian populations. The recommendations are too long to be quoted in full, but the Committee state "they are not satisfied that there has been sufficient evidence put before them of the beneficial results gained by the distribution of prophylactic 'packets' in various forces to prove the value of the system, or to justify them in recommending its official encouragement among the civil population."

From the appendices to the Report I may pick the following testimonies from the official medical representatives of the Canadian, Australian, and American armies.

Colonel Adami, in Appendix 4, forwards a report for 1918 from the Canadian Special Hospital, Etchinghill, which states:—

"Careful records have been kept with a view of determining the efficiency of prophylaxis and early treatment. The conclusion reached has been that antiseptics used immediately before exposure are of little value. Of 2,728 men examined, 2,132 used prophylaxis in this way, and in spite of this contracted venereal disease."

Colonel Raffan, for the Australians, says:—

"It is hardly practicable to judge of the effect of any single one of these combined measures. He believed that without these measures venereal disease would be enormously greater. But how far they are kept down by prophylactic measures, by early preventive treatment, or by abortive treatment, it is impossible to say. The figures for hospital admissions have, no doubt, been greatly influenced by the growing adoption of abortive treatment. Although the results of prophylaxis did not show a very marked diminution in the number of hospital cases in the past two years or thereabouts, he thought the methods are of value, because the number of men attending the Blue Light depots had greatly increased, and the number exposed to infection is probably much larger. Men are now more reckless." [Italics mine.]

Colonel Whaley, for the Americans, says:—

"A higher venereal disease rate had been noted when calomel tubes were used than when sole reliance was placed on centres. Colonel Whaley was strongly of opinion that for the civil population good propaganda and centres would be of considerable value, but he was decidedly not in favour of the issue of packets for self-disinfection. He realised that to meet the needs of the civil population large numbers of centres would be necessary. He considered that the centres could be established in towns and places where exposures were likely to take place. In spite of the fact that two-thirds of the failures of prophylaxis were due to the length of time that had elapsed after exposure, he considered centres preferable to self-disinfection."

"He was of opinion that every effort should be made to promote morality among men, and to do away with the arbitrary differences of moral standard which existed between girls and young men in the same class of life."

These official condemnations give the death-blow to the first and second prophylactic methods of dealing with venereal disease. What about the third (*i.e.*, providing public information as to methods and chemicals for self-disinfection after exposure)?

### (3) Public Information re Self-disinfection.

It is obvious that if any group of persons choose to give the public such information, at their own risk and their own expense, it is not possible, except by legal coercion, to prevent them doing so, and it is open to question whether it would be right or expedient to attempt to suppress, by legal process, such giving of information. Speaking as an individual, and only for myself, I am of opinion that we have no right to try to keep information from those it may concern. I do not believe in using immoral means even for moral motives. If, therefore, the members of the new Venereal Prevention Committee choose to take the responsibility upon themselves of making this information public, they may do so, but the real question at issue is: *Shall public money and publicly owned places be used for this purpose?*

In making a decision, what are the essential points to be considered? I may state them as follows:—

1. Will the making public of this information tend to encourage immorality or to suggest that illicit sexual intercourse is normal and to be expected?
2. Are the methods and chemicals reliable, and can they be authoritatively guaranteed to prevent venereal infection if used according to directions?
3. Will the use of these chemicals have any bad effect apart from a moral effect?
4. Is this the best way to spend public money for the prevention of venereal disease?

It is only fair to say that the Venereal Prevention Committee, as a committee, disclaim any wish for the issue of prophylactic packets to the civilian community in the way in which they were issued to H.M. Forces. The Committee point out that the chemicals they recommend (potassium permanganate and calomel ointment) can be easily obtained from any chemist; nevertheless, individual members of that Committee have advocated the packet system, and it must be kept in mind that if public funds are used for this propaganda it will almost certainly follow that a "guaranteed" packet, stamped by some authority as being up to standard, will be put on sale. As people will not care to go to a reputable chemist for such packets, they must be obtainable elsewhere, as their only value—if they are of value—is in their being

generally used. I may be wrong, but I think this will lead to packets being on sale in automatic machines in public lavatories, etc.

This, in my opinion, is an improper use of public authority, publicly owned places and public money, and likely to be subversive of good morals.

If, however, we have only to consider the question of public notices as to the methods and chemicals for self-disinfection, we come back to our four points of consideration, and on these again I speak for myself only, and not in any official capacity.

If it were possible to give the information in general terms under a heading such as "Prevention of Contagious Diseases," dealing briefly with disinfection after exposure to sore throat, influenza, diphtheria, syphilis, gonorrhœa, etc., I think its suggestive effect would be eliminated. All such notices should add that these disinfectants are not infallible. It ought to be compulsory that all notices *re* disinfection should appear side by side with a notice signed by eminent doctors exhorting to continent, clean living, giving terse medical testimony in favour of it, and saying definitely there is no other known reliable safeguard. If this were done I am of opinion that moral harm might be avoided.

As to the reliability of the methods and chemicals, I do not think the proposals of the Venereal Prevention Committee have been sufficiently tested, nor that sufficient regard has been paid by that Committee to the fact that the circumstances of illicit intercourse are rarely favourable to an immediate sponging of the sexual organs after exposure. Even in the rooms of "prostitutes" few men would care to resort to this procedure, and I understand that unless the disinfection takes place within an hour at latest it is likely to be ineffective.

Concerning other bad effects following the use of the chemicals, we know that douching with potassium permanganate is likely to prevent conception in women, while the use of calomel sometimes produces inflammation of the genital tract.

These considerations do, I think, make us once more ask ourselves the question as to whether, after all, it is not better to spend public money for the prevention of venereal disease in less questionable and uncertain, if not harmful, ways. As a matter of medical fact, potassium permanganate is probably no more effective for venereal disinfection than the immediate application of soap and water. This at least is the opinion of Mr. Macdonagh, surgeon at the London Lock Hospital. I believe in the end that even the Venereal Prevention Committee and all its medical dignitaries will be forced to the same conclusion we "muddle-headed moralists" have always held, that there is only one preventive of venereal disease—namely, a fastidiously clean and controlled mind, resulting in a fastidiously clean and controlled body.

Meantime, in view of the considerations set forward above, I think the Venereal Prevention Committee should not receive any subsidies from public funds, or any State support, for its propaganda. If it believes in its proposals, let it do as most other propaganda committees have to do—raise the funds from those who can wholeheartedly agree with its objects.

October 29, 1919.

### Local Government Elections.

To all those who have striven for greater citizenship for women the Local Government elections which take place on Saturday, November 1, represent a hard-won goal. It is true that in previous elections of the kind there have been opportunities for women both as candidates and electors, but this is the first occasion on which the greatly increased electorate has had an opportunity of expressing an opinion. Thoroughly to appreciate the significance of this election, two important points have to be considered: the peculiar character of the new electorate and the undertakings which face the new Councils, and the relation of one to the other, should be noted. On the old Local Government register there were very few married women as such; now the married woman, albeit not till she has attained the great age of thirty, has a vote by reason of her state as the wife of a man who is himself on the Local Government register, and this emphasises her interest as wife and mother in the proper conduct of local matters. The administrative work which is in the hands of our Town and Borough Councils deals with the matters which closely affect the lives of women as wives and mothers—Housing, Education, and Health—with all the issues connected with them, such as street cleaning, refuse collection, registration of births, the

care of mother and babe, the establishment of nursery and continuation schools, the provision of libraries, wash-houses, baths, open spaces, allotments, etc. What are all these matters but the wide extension of home work and family problems, and who so fitted to help in wise administration as men and women together, acknowledging the dual responsibility for good "Home" or "Local" Rule? There have been, and unfortunately still are, numbers of men and women who consider these questions dull and uninteresting, but we are glad to note a growing sense of what we once heard described as "Borough Patriotism" even amongst young people; clubs, either mixed or of one sex only, listen eagerly to talks on Housing, Education, and Health, and are quick with suggestions and discussion. Since the last elections in 1912 some very important Acts of Parliament have been passed, on Education, Housing and Public Health. The greater range of activity and responsibility created by these Acts makes participation in Local Government, whether as an elector or an administrator, one of the greatest privileges and duties which have been conferred on English women for many years. It is clear that a great deal lies before girls in civil work, both professional and voluntary. Municipal authorities employ Doctors, Health Visitors, Sanitary Inspectors, and these are all posts which can be well filled by women. As women are also qualifying as architects and accountants, there are many professional ways of joining men in public life. It is difficult to over-estimate the importance of this election; on the Councilors sent in now, be they men or women, will depend the lives and comfort of thousands of people. Good laws have been made, but lax or vacillating administration will be disastrous: more than material good is in the hands of our civic authorities; their inaction can foster discontent and create bitter and angry feeling; unselfish and far-seeing work can create peace at home and develop the best characteristics of our citizens, young or old. It is not an easy task: study, patience, humility, and sympathy are all needed before the finest service can be rendered. Apathy is due more to ignorance than to real indifference, and a common desire to learn and to serve should unite all classes of the community in this great public work.

The Local Government Act is already forty-four years old; we have had thirty years of rural local government by County, District, and Borough Councils, and the London Metropolitan Boroughs superseded the old Vestries twenty years ago. Yet up to now these great reforms have only very partially succeeded in awaking real interest and responsibility in Local Government matters. The destruction of an over-centralised system which gave to bodies impartial, because they were uninformed and indifferent, the decision as to matters vitally important to our towns and villages, should have been followed by a determination by those who now had their well-being in their own hands, to put their best efforts into the management of their local affairs. This did not happen. Nor did the Boroughs, now endowed with a passably democratic franchise, take their position much more seriously. The constituents of local bodies of all kinds have shown a quite surprising indifference to their composition and their proceedings. A constituency which is uninterested is never truly represented; it is spoken for and governed by persons who merely happen to it, being the chosen not of the locality but of the few enfranchised inhabitants, whom public spirit, self-interest, a desire to lower the rates, or a party allegiance, prompt to record their votes. A body which affects to be representative but is not so in fact seldom does even the poor best of which it is capable, and its large measure of incompetence in turn reacts upon that apathy of the electors which everyone deplors. During the seven years just past, the already unrepresentative have become more than ever alien from their constituents by mere lapse of time without elections. And during the last year the electorate has been so immensely increased that in London alone the number of women on the municipal register has increased from 120,000 to 800,000. This is the time to make a new start in local government, and to reap some of the harvest which twenty years' half-hearted attempt to rule our own towns ourselves has left still ungarnered.

The women local government electors before 1918 were almost all unmarried or widowed. The enfranchisement of the wives of local government electors, even though it excludes married women under thirty, not only gives women much

greater numerical weight in local affairs, but puts an end, once and for all, to the always unjustifiable assertion that the female municipal vote was a crank vote, an anti-man vote, the vote of women without the normal interests and normal experience of life. It also immensely increases the proportion of women of an age to interest themselves in public welfare, and decreases the proportion of aged and infirm widows who under the old franchise seemed to account for about half of the woman's vote in many boroughs, and exercised their privileges little more than men of the same age. The new franchise makes impossible a repetition of the Southwark Guardians' elections, when a total of two hundred and forty-six voters, male and female, took part in an election in which twelve thousand persons were entitled to have a voice. The new women voters of London and the provinces are not merely six or seven times more numerous than at the time of the last borough elections; they are now almost as fully representative of their sex as the male electors are of theirs.

The great increase of married women voters does not necessarily mean that the candidates supported will be themselves married women, but in the list of London candidates single women are, as a matter of fact, much in the minority. Camberwell, for instance, has only one spinster to ten matrons, and Hampstead two out of eighteen. A considerable number of candidates desire to speak especially as representatives of home-staying women, but the lists contain a very good proportion of women with special qualifications in the way of special knowledge and experience, which will enable them to give an expert opinion upon the business of any Council to which they may be elected.

In previous Local Government elections a good many women have stood as Independents, both because they were seldom adopted by the party organisations, and because they were themselves unable to take a sufficiently marked party standpoint. The drawbacks to being an Independent candidate were two-fold: such candidates had less chance of success than those who stood on the party ticket, and, if elected, were less certain of a backing inside the Council. This year the situation is somewhat altered. A good many persons are so convinced of the need for women on the Councils that they are willing to sink party prejudices; consequently it is quite common for a woman recommended by a Women Citizens' Association or by the Women's Local Government Society to be supported by both Liberals and Conservatives. The Labour Party, with great enterprise, is attempting to obtain an equal number of male and female candidates for the many seats it is contesting. The Independent women candidates will, therefore, be at little disadvantage this year, and the Local Government elections will tend to revert to what they were in earlier years, when politics, strictly so-called, played a less important part in local contests than in 1912.

—Common Cause, October 24.

### AUSTRALIA—South Australia.

#### Women Assessors of Minimum Wage.

We have just had a very interesting case in our Industrial Court to institute a basic living wage for women. Last time the matter was brought up, Mr. President Brown fixed it at 27s. 6d. a week; this time the girls of the cardboard-box and paper industries are asking for £2 5s., and for the first time Mr. President Brown has sat with women assessors. Miss Muriel Farr was appointed as representative of the employers, and Miss Mitchell, the Secretary of the Women's Socialist League, to represent the girls. The judgment has not yet been delivered.

A. B. WITHAM,  
Secretary, Women's Non-Party Association of South Australia.

August 10, 1919.

#### Women J.P.s.

One of our correspondents in South Australia writes: "Some of our women J.P.s are doing good work sitting on the Bench when cases concerning women and children are being tried. After a long case in the Children's Court the presiding justice asked his colleague, Mrs. A. K. Goode, to address the Court. And once Mrs. Goode and another woman took a case without any men justices."

Communicated by Harriet C. Newcomb, Hon. Sec. British Dominions Women Citizens' Union.

## DENMARK.

## Women as Priests.

As was to be expected, the Conservative party in the Landsting has rejected the idea of women as priests. We give the two proposals, and the Landsting's reason for their proposal:—

**PROPOSAL OF FOLKETING.**  
Women are to be admitted under the same conditions as men to all the statutory posts and emoluments under the State or Commune (military posts only excepted); therefore women in the same manner as men shall be bound to undertake all citizen duties.

**PROPOSAL OF THE LANDSTING.**  
Women and men are to be admitted under the same conditions to all statutory posts and emoluments under the State or Commune, and are equally bound to undertake all citizen duties.

This law does not refer to admission to military posts or to ecclesiastical offices for which ordination is necessary

## THE REASONS OF THE LANDSTING MAJORITY.

The minority, the Radical parties, brought the Bill forward unamended. The majority thought it best to amend the Bill in two paragraphs. The amendment in (1) is based on the fact that the aim of the law is to equalise men and women's right of admission, that this aim is not attained in the unamended Bill. There are certain positions, especially in schools, which are reserved for women, and it would be an injustice to men if they should have to give up their special rights while women kept theirs.

With reference to (2), the majority wishes to put the admission to ecclesiastical offices for which ordination is necessary outside the scope of this law. As the Bill always excepts women's admission to military offices, it seemed best to class these two exceptions together without in both instances forestalling an eventual later discussion of the matter in the Rigsdag.

In the case of the army there is an easily imaginable possibility that women's work should be utilised in the spheres best suited to them—*e.g.*, office work, work in depots, hospitals, and so on. On the side of the Church no one wishes to set limits which can be looked on as disqualifying women, but we must be sure that a reform within our National Church of so wide a scope and so unprecedented a character in Lutheran countries should not take place unless the Church and the parishes, after the necessary consideration and investigation, themselves take the initiative in wishing for it. The passing of the Bill in its first shape must at the moment seem like an attempt on the part of the State to interfere in Church matters, and as such would most likely provoke a conflict in the Church, which should be avoided.

—*Tidens Kvinder*, October 4.

## Women Teachers' Equal Pay.

With the wage regulation of September 2, 1919, the Municipality of Copenhagen followed the principle introduced by the State in the new wages law, and began to pay the same work with the same wage in the case of men and women. Women teachers in Copenhagen are, in accordance with the above-named wage regulation, placed in the 6th wage class, and begin at 4,200kr., mounting by increments every third year up to 7,000. Moreover, at the moment there is a bonus for the high cost of living—720kr. for the married, 480 for the unmarried.

For a whole generation many of our foremost women have worked for this cause. When women received the municipal and political vote the day dawned, and in the last wage campaign all the women representatives have united to gain the victory for our claim. This has been successful, and we owe them grateful thanks. Special thanks are due to the only woman member of the Wages Commission, Miss Thora Petersen.

HEDWIG BAUMGARTEN.  
—*Tidens Kvinder*, October 4.

## Equal Pay in Practice—A Possib'e Danger.

When the new law comes into force and women are on a political equality with men, a new situation is created which may set its seal on future legislation.

This showed itself with the passing of the new wages law, wherein the principle of "equal pay for equal work" was introduced.

It was under consideration to introduce the principle of a bonus for dependents, but this met with opposition, and was accordingly dropped. I am sorry that this principle was not introduced into the law, for I think it would have been a good thing, for it can be easily imagined that the supporter of a family in the service of the State has not such full control over his earning power for the advantage of his family as if he were in the open market.

In theory everything is now most beautifully arranged. The State has recognised equal pay for equal work without distinction of sex; but what will happen when the law is translated into terms of livelihood? Yes, is the answer, women will get turned out, for they cannot make good in the competition.

It almost looks as if this will prove true, for there is a tendency in the schools to take men in place of women now that the law has passed. The ground of this is not that women's work is less good intellectually than men's—examination results prove this,—but that women are dearer in the end owing to their higher sickness rate, and that lessons suffer if there is any large use of substitutes.

As a member of a municipal council I have had opportunity to protect the interests of women, and I here maintain that we women can claim that we should not be shut out of teaching posts on the ground of often very misleading health statistics. It would be unjust and hasty to decide at once. The law must be in operation for some time, and we must wait till women teachers have been for some years on a financial equality with men. As things were, women teachers could not rest after their work, and had not the means to make themselves a decent home, with all its advantages. It is only when women have obtained these advantages that any parallel can be drawn.

Now we hope that women have their eyes open to the danger lying in the higher sickness rate. In the future, if the theories here advanced are sound, this danger should disappear and the differences be levelled. We can claim that only when we have equal status can the statistics be just. I hope the best from the women of the future. The matter lies in their hands.

OLGA KUNDSSEN,  
Teacher-Member of Landsting.

—*Tidens Kvinder*, October 4.

## Petition to the Government and the Rigsdag on the Labour Conference in Washington.

With reference to the present Workers' Conference at Washington the following petition has been sent:—

As we are informed that at the International Workers' Conference held at Washington this autumn, the question of special laws for the protection of women will be discussed, we respectfully draw attention to the attitude on this question taken up by the organisations which we represent.

When, in 1911, a Bill was brought into the Rigsdag forbidding night work for women—in agreement with the Berne Convention of 1906,—the Danish Women's Society (Kvinder Samfund), in conjunction with the Women Workers' Union and the Woman Printers, raised a movement of protest against such a restriction on women's liberty in the labour market. The Bill was, as is well known, rejected.

Lately the Danish Women's Council (member of the Women's International Council), which, beside the Danish Women's Society, embraces forty-six unions with a membership of 40,000, passed a resolution against special laws for women's protection, with the exception of a special leave for childbirth. We wish now respectfully to urge the Government and Rigsdag that in spite of all future demands they will abide by the decisions of 1912.

We wish to express our conviction that it is not possible by a special embargo to protect women against the misuse of their work. Restrictions will only have the effect that women will be forced to sell their work cheaper, and will be excluded from the better paid businesses included under the Factory Acts, while the badly paid work not within the scope of the Act will be left open to them. Their health will not be benefited by a reduction of their economic status and general conditions of work, therefore consideration for the health of women and their children both before and after birth does not favour a special regulation for the protection of women. Therefore such a law should apply only to pregnant women and cases of childbirth.

We hope and expect that this conviction will be considered in the discussions which must ensue as to Denmark's attitude towards this question at the Workers' Conference in Washington, a conviction which we know to be shared by many women's organisations in all civilised countries.

For Dansk Kvinde Samfund—

JULIE ARENHOLT.

For Danske Kvinders National Raad—

HENRY FORCHHAMMER.

—*Kvinden og Samfundet*, October 15.

## FRANCE.

## The Senate and the Woman Suffrage Bill.

Public opinion, above all in foreign countries, has apparently not realised the actual situation with regard to woman suffrage and the French Parliament. It will perhaps be useful to make this point quite clear. On May 20, 1919, the Chamber of Deputies decided by a huge majority to give the suffrage to women on the same terms as to men. Since then the Commission on Adult Suffrage in the Senate has succeeded, by means of delays which we can hardly look upon as honest, in evading any public discussion of the Bill by the Senate. In spite of every effort on the part of the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes and other feminist societies, in spite of personal visits to the senators, in spite of deputations and petitions, M. Alex Berard, the reporter, found some means of not distributing his report to the members of the Senate until the moment when the two Houses rose.

The Commission on Adult Suffrage, whose unfavourable opinion was quite well known, has publicly expressed that unfavourable opinion. But *public discussion in the Senate itself has not taken place*, in spite of all our efforts, and the Senate has not had an opportunity of giving a public expression of its opinion.

At our express demand one last effort was made by our friends in the Chamber of Deputies, who laid before the Chamber the following proposition:—

"The Chamber invites the Government to bring pressure on the Senate to put among its orders for the day, with as little delay as possible, a discussion on the Women's Suffrage Bill voted by the Chamber on May 20, 1919."

The Bill on that occasion was passed by 340 votes to 95, and once more the Chamber confirmed by a huge majority its opinion given on May 20. But the Government has not taken action with regard to the Senate, as the Chamber of Deputies demanded. The Women's Suffrage Bill has not been discussed, and the most reactionary and selfish elements in our country have succeeded once more in depriving France of the strong help and devotion that her daughters could have given in the services of relief and reconstruction. They have little to be proud of, for the result of their efforts is contrary to the best interests of the country.

MARGUERITE DE WITT DE SCHLUMBERGER.

October 18, 1919.

## Women and the Fédération du Livre.

The Congress of the Fédération du Livre was held at Nancy from the 8th to the 13th September.

The Congress had, among other questions, to take up a definite position with regard to the admission of women to the Fédération.

Let us remember that of all the Syndical organisations, the Fédération du Livre had always shown itself most hostile to women's work. Some years before the war the Couriau case was a striking proof of this. Couriau, a member of the Fédération, was excluded from the Lyons Committee because he had made no opposition to his wife working in a printer's workshop.

The thing the printers fear is the competition of women, and their principal reproach that women always work for less pay. They do not seem to understand that the only means of remedying this danger is not to shut women out of the Fédération, but, on the contrary, to draw them into it. To-day war has made many gaps in the ranks of printers. They have, therefore, to allow women to work, not in the name of justice, but for sheer necessity. For if many single women need work, the country equally needs the work of women.

Monsieur Keufer, the Federal secretary of the Union, in his report still maintains his old point of view; still grieves to

see woman entering the factory or the workshop; still fears for her health and for that of the unborn child, who may suffer through the mother handling leaden types. In spite of this M. Keufer proposes that women should be admitted to the Union, but on one condition, *and that is that they be given equal pay for equal work.*

"Economic reasons," he said, "which have always obliged printers to combat the employment of women in the printing industry are numerous and strong. The most serious reason for this hostility to women's work as compositors and printers is the difference in the wages paid to women and those paid to men, and the result a disastrous competition even under normal circumstances, but, above all, in the case of a strike."

No one could put more plainly his fear of the competition of women. But the fact is there. Women's work is necessary, and since it is necessary in the interests of men, M. Keufer demands this adjustment of women's wages.

"The wages paid in the immense majority of cases where women are employed," he continued, "give ample evidence that the ordinary motive of employers—whether the business be on a large scale or in a private establishment—is to economise on the cost of handiwork, and if now and again a more generous motive is given as justifying the work of women, such as the principle of the right to work, or the equality of the sexes, we may be pretty sure that these are only surface pretexts. If they are sincere the employers who use them should in justice pay the same wage to a woman who does exactly the same work as a man."

What praises have been addressed to the women obliged to work during the war! What a concert of mutual congratulation in recognising that women adapted themselves easily during that time to the most difficult and sometimes even most dangerous work! Why not then, for work equivalent to that of a man, give a woman the same wage?

"Many workers reproach printers for their organised selfishness in fighting against the work of women in the printing-house. Yet we have watched this curious phenomenon: that these same workers, seeing their workshops invaded by women paid less than themselves, have banded themselves together in order to combat the exploitation of woman and obtain for her the application of the formula, 'Equal pay for equal work.'"

Naturally, we women applaud this principle, which is so important to us.

M. Keufer afterwards made a proposition concerning half-time. "The material needs of life, and moral and humanitarian reasons of the most elementary kind," he said, "make it a duty that all industries should afford to women a decent remuneration, and as far as possible arrange that the work be suitable for their physique. The employers ought to organise the work of women in such a way that there is allowed to them enough time to fulfil family obligations and look after their children. All those who are interested in the building up of the French family are agreed in recommending that this problem should be met by women working as half-timers."

We note this proposition with interest, for half-time is exactly the solution suggested for certain kinds of women's work by our feminist organisations. But, as if frightened by his courage, M. Keufer, after having proposed the admission of women to the Fédération, made some reservations in the second part of his conclusions: First, that the proportion of women employed in a printing shop should not be more than one woman for five men; and secondly, that the number of women apprentice compositors should not be more in each printing shop than a quarter of the number of male apprentices.

"This understanding with the employers seems to us absolutely necessary," concluded M. Keufer, "if we are to avoid incessant conflicts, and if we are to come to a final arrangement on this complex question of women's work in the printing trades. Let us confess that it costs us something to take up this position; we have never ceased to call attention to the social danger of women in industry; but the awful cataclysm of war has so upset the whole of the social fabric, it has spread so much ruin, created so many gaps in families, that to a situation so exceptionally grave we must bring an energetic remedy in order to meet the needs of a very serious problem."

"Our proposition to admit women must have as its basis the principle of limitation of numbers and that of equal pay for equal work. This double condition is the guarantee which men in the printing trade must have."

The Congress was not altogether of the same mind. When one begins to be logical it is very difficult to stop short; and the Congress understood that fact. After having voted that women should be admitted into the Trade Union by 120 voting for it and only 39 against, the Congress decided against the restrictions on the numbers of female apprentices, and voted that conditions for them should be the same as for male apprentices.

A good deal of water has flowed under the bridge since the Couriau case!

October 18, 1919.

THERESE CASEVITZ.

### GERMANY.

#### Women Admitted to Hamburg Chamber of Commerce.

The Hamburg Senate has, according to the wish of the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce, permitted the admission of women to the Exchange.

—*Die Frauenbewegung*, October 1, 1919.

#### Women and the Legal Professions.

The Democrats have proposed to the National Assembly that women should be admitted to the Sheriff's Court and the Court of Assizes. It is certain that the proposal will be accepted.

—*Die Frauenfrage*, October, 1919.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

#### Plymouth By-Election—Woman Candidate.

The Unionist Association of Plymouth have adopted Viscountess Astor as their candidate in the Parliamentary by-election caused by her husband's succession to the peerage.

October 22.

#### Local Government Elections—Large Number of Women Candidates.

The elections for the Town and London Borough Councils take place on Saturday, November 1. The Women's Local Government Society and Women's Municipal Society inform us that in London, where there are twenty-eight Borough Councils and one City Council (Westminster), there are between 230 and 250 women candidates, and about half that number for the Town Councils throughout the country. In the election of 1912 there were only 54 women candidates in London.

October 28, 1919.

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

##### N.U.S.E.C. SEX DISABILITIES (REMOVAL) BILL.

Although the British Parliament has only now reassembled, the past month has been a busy one for the National Union. For when Parliament arose towards the middle of August it left behind it a political situation which demanded energetic effort on the part of women's organisations. Readers of the *Women's International News* will remember that the Women's Emancipation Bill, which proposed to extend the woman's franchise and open to women all professions directly or indirectly under the Crown, was shelved by the Government, after it had passed triumphantly through the House of Commons, to give place to the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill, which the Government introduced in its stead—a Bill infinitely less satisfactory to the women of the country.

The Sex Disqualification Bill provides for no extension of the woman's franchise, makes no mention of the right of peeresses to sit in the House of Lords, and limits the opening of Civil Service posts to women. As soon as the Bill was introduced the N.U.S.E.C. arranged for amendments on these points to be moved, which would make the present Bill more like the Women's Emancipation Bill. But the Government gave no time for these amendments during last session.

Between last session and this, therefore, the Union has been occupied in organising support for its amendments, and a campaign to compel the Government to give time for the passage of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill. The societies of the Union are passing resolutions in favour of the amendments and their speedy consideration, members of Parliament are being interviewed by the women of their constituencies, letters are being issued to the Press from headquarters—in fact the whole machinery of the Union has

been put into action to bring pressure to bear on the Government. It is impossible as yet to estimate the effect of the agitation, but by next month we hope to be able to report that the House of Commons is showing some consideration in this matter towards the women voters who helped to elect it.

#### MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Great interest is being at present aroused among women by the municipal elections. The county council elections took place last spring, and their results were satisfactory in so far as that an unusually large number of women were elected to the various county councils throughout the country. Possibly because they were encouraged by these results, possibly simply because woman's citizenship is in this country becoming every day a stronger and more vital force, an unprecedented number of women have offered themselves as candidates at the present town and borough council elections—so much so, in fact, that woman's candidature has become the predominant feature of the elections.

There are 100 women candidates standing as municipal reformers alone, a great many others with varying party and independent programmes. To the National Union not only is the extensive candidature of women in itself encouraging, but even more so the fact that a large proportion of the women candidates have been nominated by societies or groups of women, and are being supported by women speakers and canvassers. This is a sure indication of the spread of interest in public affairs among women, and we realise that the much-talked-of education of the woman voter is at last becoming translated into actual fact.

#### POSTPONEMENT OF HALF-YEARLY COUNCIL.

Great disappointment has been caused in the Union this month by the postponement of the half-yearly Council meeting. It had been arranged with the Glasgow Society to hold the Council in Glasgow, since it is long since there has been a meeting of delegates in Scotland. A most attractive programme of conferences and debates on the programme of the Union, and classes in organisation, had been arranged to take place in Glasgow at the time of the Council. Unfortunately at the last moment the railway strike made travelling impossible, so all arrangements had necessarily to be cancelled. The Glasgow Society has since arranged to hold two of the proposed conferences—namely, one on Widows' Pensions and one on the establishment of an Equal Moral Standard. The postponement of the Council is particularly to be regretted, as this would have been the first reunion of delegates since the revision of our constitution, and consequently an interesting opportunity of comparing the experiences of societies in the Union when working under the new scheme.

October 23, 1919.

INEZ M. FERGUSON, Secretary.

#### The Women's Freedom League.

During the past month we sent a deputation to the Home Secretary with a petition for the release of Elsie Smith, the W.R.A.F. clerk who was sentenced to four months' imprisonment for attempting to smother her illegitimate baby. Our deputation was unsuccessful, and we are arranging protest meetings in London and the country against her continued imprisonment. We are also asking the Government to pass legislation so that in future cases of this kind the father of the child shall appear in Court and be held equally responsible with the mother for the care of their children.

Two days before Parliament reassembled we held a meeting at Caxton Hall, and passed the following resolution unanimously, proposed by the Rt. Hon. Sir Willoughby Dickinson and seconded by Miss Kate Raleigh:—

"That this meeting demands the immediate passing into law of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill, with the amendments proposed by Lord Robert Cecil and Sir Samuel Hoare, the effect of which would be to confer on women the same voting rights as men; the right of women to equal opportunities with men to secure the higher posts in the Civil Service; the right of women to serve on juries and on the magistrates' bench; the right of women to qualify for and to practise as solicitors and barristers; the right of peeresses in their own right to a seat and a vote in the House of Lords."

At this meeting, too, we urged the necessity of securing at least 100 women candidates for Parliament at the next General Election.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### ITALY.

#### The Woman Suffrage Bill—Political Situation.

The dissolution of the Italian Parliament has to all appearances dealt a terrible blow to the Woman Suffrage Bill passed by the Chamber of Deputies on September 6, since it has deprived it of the chance of being sent to the Senate for the approval which must precede the Royal sanction. But are those Bills whose process of development is thus cut short to be deemed annulled as a logical sequel to Clause 48 of our Constitution, which, by decreeing that the period of duration of the two Chambers should coincide, admits as valid only the measures passed *simultaneously* by the two bodies? Should it be so, the Woman Suffrage Bill would have to be introduced afresh and go through all its stages from the very beginning, just as if it had not already received an overwhelming and indisputable recognition from the country and its representatives. But it is by no means to be taken for granted that such must be the course to follow without an alternative. We know that the contrary is upheld in our country by authoritative thinkers. Their argument is twofold. First they bring forward the example of countries having a constitution similar to ours. In Belgium the new Chamber resumes the consideration of the Bills which were under discussion before the dissolution. In France the Senate at the beginning of a new Parliament deals straight off with the Bills passed in the previous session. Secondly, they maintain that in Italy itself there is no lack of precedents in the same direction—i.e., of cases in which the Senate on resuming work took up the consideration of Bills which the dissolution of Parliament had left in the stage of discussion at the very point at which either of the Chambers had left them, in some instances to the extent even of reappointing the very same Commission which had previously dealt with them. Italian women, then, have here food for consideration. There is no doubt that the best line of activity for them at the present moment lies in the direction of claiming from the Senate that with the re-opening of Parliament they should proceed with the discussion of the Bill without referring it back to the new Chambers of Deputies.

*Voce Nuova*, October 12.

### NETHERLANDS.

#### The Women Citizens' League.

On September 27 the women of the Netherlands celebrated the triumph of their old claim to full citizenship, as well as the twenty-five years' existence of their National Woman Suffrage Association. It was a grand festival, and delegates had come from all parts of the country, filling the great Concert Hall in Amsterdam, where the I.W.S.A. held its congress in 1908, to rejoice together in the new political equality with men, and pay a tribute to the suffrage leaders, especially Dr. Aletta Jacobs, the president of the Dutch W.S.A.

Congratulations by wire had come from many countries, and Denmark was represented by a teacher from the Copenhagen University, a Dutchman who happened to be in Holland.

The background of all this rejoicing was the consciousness that the Association is not going to disband, but to be changed into a *Women Citizens' League*, which will continue the international relations and will stand for the feminist claims in the Netherlands. Its principal object will be to secure to women their rightful place in the laws of the country, and their share in public life and social activities. Moreover, it will further the enlightenment of the new women citizens concerning their political duties.

Whether it will ever take action in elections remains to be seen. Its neutrality as to the different parties seems to prevent such action, but possibly circumstances may dictate another course. We are anxious to see what our sisters in other enfranchised countries will do in this respect, and we hope to read about their progress in the pages of *Jus Suffragii*.

MARTINA KRAMERS,  
Speldoorn, October 10.

#### Education of Women Voters.

As you all know, the first Chamber of the Dutch States General passed the Bill on Woman Suffrage on July 10.

This Bill extends to women the same democratic voting rights which before were only granted to men. The Dutch right of suffrage is not bound by any property qualification,

and the passing of the Bill was a direct consequence of the action of the Government taken nearly a year ago, when it promised several democratic reforms. From this point of view, therefore, it is not an exclusively feminist success, such as the women in Holland had looked for. Nevertheless, it means great progress, though it will still be about two years before women can exercise their right. Then the first thing to be done will be the insertion of women's equal rights in the constitution, which is a stronger guarantee than the law.

As the aim of the "Bond" for woman's suffrage has always been to educate women so that they should be ready for their new task, the next years will find us working as hard as possible to inform the many uneducated voters of what they ought to know and which laws must be changed in the future, when they, too, will have the right to exert their influence on the government of our country. In order to attain that end the "Bond" decided at its last big assembly to join, if possible, with other societies working along the same lines, hoping that by this means the result may be equal to the expectations.

J. WESTERMAN,

*Nederlandsche Bond Voor Vrouwenkiesrecht*, October, 1919.

### NEW ZEALAND.

#### Legislative Council Rejects Eligibility Bill.

The *Times* of October 25 reports that the New Zealand Legislative Council has rejected the Government Women's Parliamentary Right Bill No. 2, granting women admission to the Council.

### NORWAY.

#### The Municipal Elections and Women.

Again Norwegian women are going to the poll. This time it is the Communal elections. It is obvious that women have been poorly represented in the years they have had the vote—not in quality, but in quantity. The few there were—in many cases one member (some none at all)—have been able to do little or nothing for our special women's causes. We must have many more women in municipal government, that we are all agreed on. There are so many social things for women to work on. Those who were not previously convinced of this must have had their eyes opened by the five years of trial we have experienced. And the coming, nay, the present time, with its difficulties as to housing and the cost of living, makes large claims on women's strength. Our many capable housewives and our clever teachers of domestic economy must help in municipal management, and help to solve the many difficult questions now before us.

Norse mothers of families must have their lives made easier. Our homes want reforming. The kitchen, the cellar, the brewery, the drying loft, all need improvement. Electricity must come to their aid. This is all the more necessary now so many housemothers have to rely on their own resources. Women feel and understand all this, because the defects are such a curse. Our conditions as to housing and service need a thorough revision. He who feels most talks best. Therefore women should have the opportunity to come forward personally with their experiences and advice.

Our different orphanages, institutions for sick people and children, and asylums, all need women's initiative and experience, and above all the warmth of affection which the mothers of their race alone can give.

Therefore women must find a place in much larger numbers than hitherto on the lists of the different parties. We must demand this of the parties. And women must put all their energies into getting these women candidates elected. Lay all party spirit aside when we have to get good women elected. Politics don't belong to municipal life. All that matters is to get a good sound, healthy basis of life for everybody.

—*Nylaende*, September 15.

#### Resolutions Adopted at the Norse Women's Meeting at Sandvik, 1919.

I.

##### To the Government.

The meeting of the Norse Women's Society urges the Government to adopt qualified women as members of the great School Commission now being formed. We ask that experts from

the secondary and national schools should form part of the Commission, but we ask also that mothers may be represented. The matter is so important for the rising generation that both women teachers and home-keeping women should make their influence felt. We feel assured that the Government will take note of our respectful request.

## II.

*To the Storting.*

The meeting of Norse women, where there are met representatives of the whole country, urges the Storting to pass a new electoral law. One-man constituencies must not be retained. We expect Norway's chosen men to show justice by passing a Bill formed on Proportional Representation in constituencies with several members.

## III.

The meeting of Norse women is in entire approval of the work of the business men who by means of their organisations are working to obtain a wage in accordance with the value of the work done. Also to a minimum wage on the same conditions for men and women alike.

## IV.

1. Needy widows who have to provide for dependents shall be assured by law of a fixed yearly contribution for each child. This help to be proportionate to their needs, and not to be regarded as poor relief.

2. The same right for widows as for widowers to retain the undivided estate

—*Nygaard*, September 15.

## SOUTH AFRICA.

## Prime Minister Supports Woman Suffrage.

The outstanding event regarding suffrage is the appeal of the Prime Minister, at the banquet speech in Johannesburg, to the men of the Union to enfranchise the women. With such a lead there should be every hope that the next session will see the enfranchisement of women under the existing qualifications, thus enabling them to take part in the election of the new Parliament, which will deal with problems of reconstruction and changes in Constitution of the Union, including, probably, a Bill for consolidating the franchise laws of the Union. Under the existing voting qualifications, wives, unless they own or rent property in their own name, would be excluded, in Natal and the Cape Province, from the franchise, as very few rent or own property; especially is this true of all classed as *wives*, and of the large mass of working girls and women. Under the lodger qualification, which provides three years' residence and an earned salary of £96 per annum in Natal, and of £50 per annum in the Cape Province, many working women would become eligible; but this qualification again does not affect wives. The conditions of voting in the Transvaal and Free State would admit women to the franchise as men, on a term of residence qualification. It is the intention of the Government, if elected to power, to make one franchise law for the Union, a task so difficult as to call for the exercise of the judgment of the whole community, not of the male portion alone.

The Unionist Party Congress in Natal has the honourable distinction of making the first official Unionist pronouncement in favour of the claims of women to franchise. In view of this, it seems certain that the general congress of the party, to be held shortly in Bloemfontein, will adopt woman suffrage as a plank in the Party platform.

Laura Ruxton.

September, 1919.

## Woman Councillor for Kingwilliamstown.

Mrs. Hamilton Roberts has been returned unopposed as member of the Town Council of Kingwilliamstown. Mrs. Roberts is the President of the newly established Women's Enfranchisement League of Kingwilliamstown, and was the candidate nominated by the League.

## Woman Factory Inspector Appointed.

Mrs. Tonkin has recently been made a factory inspector for the Transvaal.

—*The Woman's Outlook*, September, 1919.

## SWEDEN.

## Equal Pay for Equal Work.

The state of affairs in Sweden, especially in regard to the economic valuation of women's work, often gives us a sorrowful feeling that the so-called cause of women is no longer making progress. So, for example, we learn one fine day that the female employees in the service of the Municipality of Stockholm have been entirely left out of a proposal for a bonus, which was brought before the representatives of the Municipality and passed by them—to the advantage of the male employees. Other disquieting stories are reported. If such things can be done in the municipal service, what may not happen in private concerns?

Meanwhile, we from time to time get news that shows that development, in spite of everything, is running its course towards the appointed end—the economic equality of men and women.

Now it is the Danish women whom we must congratulate on winning a new position.

It is but a narrow strip of sea that separates our country from Denmark, but it seems as if the spiritual atmosphere on the other side of the Sound was many degrees warmer and more favourable to the development of the powers under which women of our day must of natural necessity live and work.

ANNA KLEMAN.

*Hertha*, October, 1919.

## First Firm of Women Advocates.

Since the first of September there has been in existence in Stockholm the first firm of women advocates in our country. It is the two well-known and clever jurists, Eva Anden and Mathilda Stael von Holstein, who have set up their own office.

We are convinced that this first firm of woman advocates has a great social task to fulfil, and we are more than glad that this work should be carried on by this particular pair of jurists, who in all circles, but more especially in our class, have through their work and learning won general respect and confidence.

—*Morgenbris*, October 10.

## SWITZERLAND.

## Swiss Association for Woman Suffrage.

In spite of all the difficulties which confront us, difficulties, perhaps, greater than other countries have had to meet, the cause of woman suffrage marches quietly on; and this autumn the question was discussed in two of our Cantonal Parliaments (*Grand Conseil*). The vote was in our favour by a majority of nine. This was a very small majority, and scarcely augurs success when it comes to the referendum which now lies ahead of us. The Zürich suffragists are perfectly prepared for a defeat, but in spite of that they carry on their campaign with much vigour by means of meetings, conferences, posters, and articles in the papers. For whenever we have to come to grips with the electorate our organisation goes forward vigorously, and even if at the end of the campaign we have to meet a defeat, there is the compensation that the referendum gives us the chance of a splendid publicity campaign.

On September 11 at Bâle the State Council presented to the Grand Council a report in favour of woman suffrage, above all favourable from motives of opportunism and prudence. The Grand Council discussed this report during October, and decided to modify the constitution in such a way as to give votes to women. This decision must, however, as every decision of the same sort, be submitted to the referendum, and as this vote will be taken in November our Bâle suffragists have not much time for propaganda work. Happily, the Canton of Bâle is much smaller than that of Zürich, and does not contain many of the peasant type, always a stubborn element, or even hostile to our claims.

By way of retaliation, as far as the Federal Government goes, we are absolutely neglected. Among the innumerable proclamations which have been published on the subject of the elections of the National Council on October 26 (it is the first time that our Lower Federal Chamber has been elected by the system of proportional representation, which gives to these elections an altogether special importance and interest), not one mentions the rights of women as a reform

for the near future, and we are perfectly aware that in this domain we have a heavy task in front of us. In order to draw attention to our work and protest against our exclusion from these elections, we have put up in every place in Switzerland with a population over 5,000 the following poster in French, German, and Italian:—

## "CITIZENS, TAKE NOTICE!"

"For the first time you have to elect the members of the National Council by a new system. That new system, however, has made no change to the injustice of representation with regard to women.

"Practically half the Swiss population are women, but they have no power to elect their representatives to those Councils whose duty it is to represent directly the Swiss people.

"AS LONG AS WOMEN DO NOT VOTE, THE NATIONAL COUNCIL WILL NOT BE ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION (Art. 72) —'COMPOSED OF THE DEPUTIES OF THE SWISS PEOPLE.'

"We wish to impress these facts on every citizen who desires to see justice done in this matter, and ask them to see that the present injustice is done away with as soon as possible.

—*The Central Committee of the Swiss Association for Woman Suffrage.*

In addition, last month we took up a similar position when the question of Switzerland joining a League of Nations was discussed for the first time in the Federal Chambers. For this question also will be submitted to the referendum, in which men alone have the right to take part, as if we women were not also as directly interested as they. We considered the possibility on this occasion of organising a plebiscite among women, but we had to abandon the idea as the practical difficulties were too great. However, we sent to the authorities the following letter, which was reproduced widely in the Press:—

"LETTER TO THE FEDERAL CHAMBER AND FEDERAL COUNCIL.

"Monsieur le President, Messieurs,

"At this moment, when the Councils of our country have to discuss the all-important question of Switzerland joining the League of Nations, we take the liberty of respectfully calling your attention to the fact that we, the women of Switzerland, will not be consulted, as male citizens will be, in the referendum, since we have not the right to vote.

"The situation in which we find ourselves, owing to the Constitution, is one which is painful to our patriotism, for just as much as men we understand that the future of Switzerland hangs upon the decision which is about to be taken, and we suffer, therefore, from this exclusion. We regret it, indeed, all the more since in the other countries of Europe, with one exception, which have been invited, as ours, to join the League of Nations, women are citizens in the same way as men, and can either directly or indirectly, through their Parliamentary representatives, make known their opinion on this matter.

"It is with the hope that at no distant date our position in this respect will be improved, and that Swiss women may soon be able as men to give their advice with regard to such matters of public interest that we petition you, etc.

"FOR THE SWISS ASSOCIATION FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE,

President: EMILIE GOURD.

Secretary: L. PENNAUD."

In addition, at our instigation, a very similar letter was sent to our authorities by the Union of Swiss Teachers (*Schw. Lehrerinnenverein*). And the National Council of Swiss Women also, during its recent Congress on October 12, unanimously authorised its Committee to take similar action.

EMILIE GOURD,

President of the Swiss Suffrage Association.

October 23, 1919.

## Illegitimacy Laws in Switzerland.

The problem of the unmarried mother and her child is not confined to the borders of any one country; and it is interesting to note how the Swiss new civil code deals with it. Under the new law the Public Guardian, as soon as he is notified of the birth of her child by the mother, or as soon as the prospective mother has given notice of her pregnancy, nominates a trustee charged with the duty of looking after the interests of

the child born, or about to be born. It is the business of this trustee to trace the father of the child and to lodge an action for paternity against him, even if the mother does not desire to do so. A married man cannot voluntarily recognise his illegitimate child, on the ground that this would lead to the disturbance of family life; but he is not relieved of pecuniary obligations towards it when his alleged paternity is well founded. If the child is recognised voluntarily by its father it takes its father's family name, acquires his rights of citizenship, and has in its father's family as well as in its mother's the same rights as those of a legitimate child. The Public Guardian can confer the parental rights either on the father or on the mother, whichever would be in the best interests of the child. The mother has the right to see her child from time to time even when the father has been given the care of the child. When the child has not been voluntarily recognised by the father it takes its mother's family name. She has to provide for its maintenance, but receives from the father, when the paternity action has been recognised as well founded, a pecuniary contribution towards the costs of maintenance and education of the child. In this case she can also claim from him the costs of her confinement and of her maintenance for at least four weeks before and four weeks after the birth of the child. The father must contribute towards the support of his child until it has reached the age of 18; and the judge, in deciding the amount of alimony, takes into consideration the social position of the father as well as that of the mother. The Swiss law provides also, in cases where the paternity action is recognised as well founded, but where the declaration of paternity cannot be pronounced because the father is a married man, for a moral reparation to be accorded to the mother in the form of a lump sum of money, the amount of which will be decided by the judge. The judge has also the power, when the paternity action is considered well founded, even before the pronouncement of judgment, to compel the alleged father to pay the probable costs of the confinement and those of the maintenance of the child for three months after its birth. By this means the mother has pecuniary assistance at the critical time when she can earn nothing.

—*The Vote*, October 10, 1919.

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

My last letter was posted just as the Senate of the New Hampshire Legislature was about to vote on the Federal Suffrage Amendment. It ratified by 14 to 10, the Governor himself going to the Senate chamber and using his influence in favour, as he felt anxious lest it might fail. This was the smallest margin thus far in any Legislature, as the anti-suffrage influence in New Hampshire is strong. It will be remembered that this amendment was twice defeated in the United States Senate by vote of the New Hampshire Senators. However, it now has been ratified by the Legislature, and this action cannot be rescinded. If a Legislature votes in the negative the question can come up again in that or a succeeding Legislature, but if it votes in the affirmative then this action is final.

On September 29 the Lower House of the Utah Legislature, and on the 30th the Senate, ratified the amendment unanimously. We were greatly disappointed that we did not get the eighteenth ratification before October 1, as that would have completed half of the whole number required, but there are political reasons in every State which influence the Governor in calling a special session. Most of them are possible candidates for the United States Senate, and have to be very careful that there is an overwhelming public sentiment back of everything they do. No forecast can be made at this moment of what October will bring forth, but there is little doubt of some ratifications, as strong pressure is being made in many States.

In my last letter I told of the action by the State Democratic Convention of Kentucky in demanding ratification of the amendment by its Legislature. Since then the same action has been taken by the State Democratic Committee of New Jersey, but the Republican Committee adopted a resolution that it should be referred to the voters. Ratification there will depend on whether a Democratic or Republican Legislature is elected next month, as the parties are closely balanced. It will meet in January, but it is not one of the States that we have counted on to make up the thirty-six.

The Democratic State Convention of Maryland has instructed its Legislature to vote against the amendment, but, lest it may not obey orders, a committee of prominent men has been formed to work against the ratification. The Republican Committee has called for a referendum. This is a Democratic Southern State, but we have not felt entirely hopeless of it, and we do not now. This Legislature meets next January. The Democrats are becoming considerably frightened in regard to the Federal Amendment, as thus far fourteen of the seventeen States which have ratified are strongly Republican, leaving them only three—Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri—with which to enter the coming Presidential Campaign. As stated in my last letter, no power can prevail upon the nine south-eastern Democratic States to ratify this amendment, so they must look elsewhere for their victories, and the most of the other States are normally Republican. They will try to carry Maryland and Delaware to help them out. West Virginia is more nearly Republican than Democratic, and it is expected to ratify.

In my last letter I said that the Legislatures of Georgia, Alabama, and Virginia had defeated the amendment in one House, but its friends would try to prevent any vote in the other House. They were not successful, and both Houses defeated it. The Executive of the Democratic National Committee, which is supposed to control the policy of the party, has just met in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and unanimously adopted a resolution demanding that the Legislatures in the Democratic States should be immediately called in special session to ratify this amendment. They increased the number of the Executive Committee from seventeen to thirty-four, and provided that all the seventeen new members should be women with exactly the same standing and voting rights as the men. How far this Committee can influence the Democratic States remains to be seen. They failed utterly in Alabama, Georgia, and Virginia, although the Chairman of the Committee went to them in person and President Wilson wrote an urgent letter.

The Republicans, however, are not entirely having their own way, for in Connecticut the Republican Governor has positively refused to call the Legislature in special session, although a large majority of each House has requested him to do so, and the women of the State sent him a petition of 100,000 names. He is 80 years old, and so strong an anti-suffragist himself that he would rather sacrifice the party than allow the amendment to be ratified.

Perhaps this somewhat confused statement will show the women of other countries the difficulty which those of the United States have to face with forty-eight State Legislatures to be dealt with. We would have little hope if it were not that so many women already have the suffrage that the political parties are compelled to make ratification of this Federal Amendment an issue in the Presidential Campaign which is already under way. If it should not become effective by November, 1920, the time of the general election, there would be nevertheless about 15,000,000 women already entitled to vote for the President, and the political party which was responsible for its defeat would have difficulty in explaining the reason for it to those women voters. This is why we feel certain that it will be adopted and made part of the National Constitution before the election takes place.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, National President, is extremely anxious on account of the next annual convention of the Association, which is appointed for the week in February containing the one hundredth birthday of Susan B. Anthony—the 15th. It has been the intention to celebrate it with great brilliancy and bring to an end the National Suffrage Association, which she helped to found in 1869, and which she was largely instrumental in carrying on until her death in 1906. It had been expected that at this time its work would be brought to a triumphant conclusion, and it could be merged into the National League of Woman Voters. As the birthday of Dr. Anna H. Shaw comes the 14th of February, the intention has been to celebrate both of them and also to hold a memorial meeting in her honour. Should the amendment not be ratified at that time this programme could not be carried out, and this would be a great disappointment. Not many of the leaders of the movement have shared Mrs. Catt's optimistic belief that complete ratification then was possible, but have felt that it might be delayed until next summer. It may be, however, that her faith will be justified and her highest hopes realised. We are sustained by the absolute

certainty that it is only a matter of months until the long contest is finished.

Bryn Mawr College, one of the most important for girls in the United States, is beginning a "drive" for a \$2,000,000 fund, and the first \$100,000 subscribed are to be used for an Anna Howard Shaw Memorial Chair of Politics. In making the announcement, Susan M. Kingsbury, Professor of Social Economy, said: "The Dr. Anna Howard Shaw Chair of Politics will have a great mission. We are at the commencement of a tremendous era of political development. Women statesmen are needed as well as women voters. Bryn Mawr will train the highest type of American women for public leadership and political activity. It would rejoice the heart of our splendid leader were she with us still to know that we are doing our utmost to train young women to make real use of the vote that has been so hardly won for them."

Yale University, of New Haven, Connecticut, has just announced that its Law School will hereafter be opened to women post-graduates. Its Medical School and Graduate School have been opened to them for a number of years. This is one of the oldest and largest universities in the country.

IDA HUSTED HARPER.

New York, October 2, 1919.

#### South Dakota.

The 1919 Session Laws of South Dakota show the following laws for the benefit of women:—

Chapter 199 Session Laws of 1919, Sec. 3,241 of the Revised Code is amended to read as follows:—

"When an unmarried woman, appointed executrix, marries, her authority is not hereby extinguished, but she may continue to act in every respect as a *femme sole*. When a married woman is named as executrix she may be appointed and serve in every respect as a *femme sole*." (This section was formerly No. 48 Prob. Code.)

Section 3,254, Rev. Code, 1919, now reads:—

"A married woman may be appointed administratrix and serve in every respect as a *femme sole*. When an unmarried woman, appointed administratrix, marries, her authority is not thereby extinguished, but she may continue to act in every respect as a *femme sole*."

Chapter 263.—Amendment and improvement of Mothers' Pension Law.

Chapter 134 exacts provision for a Child Welfare Commission.

Chapter 149 enacts provision for county nurses.

The guardianship law was also changed in the interest of mothers.

(Section from letter from Ita M. Anding, Legislative Reference Librarian, South Dakota.)

—*The Woman Citizen*, September 27, 1919.

#### Woman Assistant District Attorney.

A woman has for the first time been appointed on the staff of the District Attorney of New York. She will be Assistant District Attorney of the Woman's Day Court, and will have charge of the cases of women brought before the Court on the charge of disorderly conduct. Miss Rosa Rotherberg, who will hold the position, is twenty-six years old, and a native of Roumania.

—*Woman's Century*, September, 1919.

#### First New York Woman Magistrate Appointed.

The *Daily Express* of October 30th reports that Mayor Hylan has appointed Mrs. Jean Norris as the first woman police magistrate of New York City.

The appointment is for thirty days, during the illness of Magistrate Breen, and is understood to be an experimental one to determine the fitness of women for judicial office.

Mrs. Norris will sit for a week with Magistrate Marsh in the women's court to familiarise herself with the routine, after which she will occupy the bench alone in the women's court or in the Court of Domestic Relations.

#### Women and the Advisory Committee on Wages.

The National Women's Trade Union League, Washington, D.C., reports that three representatives of the organised Government employees have been appointed by the Joint Congressional Commission on Reclassification of the Civil Service to serve on an Advisory Committee on Wages. Among these representatives is Miss Ethel Smith, Executive Committee of the Women's National Trade Union League, with which local and national organisations of Federal employees are affiliated. The importance to the Government workers of having representation on the Advisory Committee is great, for the adjustment of wages of the women workers, and likewise certain occupational groups of both men and women, presents a far-reaching problem, because the wages of corresponding occupations in private industry are unstandardised. Mechanics, for example, who are well organised, have a standard wage of \$6.40 and more per day in private industry, and the Government unquestioningly pays the same wage to mechanics in its service. Stenographers, clerks, accountants, librarians, and various other groups, for whom the required education and special training are equal to or greater than that of mechanics, are paid in private industry whatever the employers dictate, for the reason that these groups of workers are relatively unorganised, and their bargaining power is weak.

The groups referred to include a great majority of women who are employed by the Government. And women doing skilled work, and very many of them are doing highly technical work, are receiving less than men doing similar work, and in many instances less than unskilled labour. The Reclassification Commission is urged to give special attention, therefore, not only to the well-organised phases of the question of equal pay for equal work, but to avoid the unintentional discrimination which might come about from comparison with unstandardised conditions surrounding unorganised workers in private industry, where the wages are disproportionately low as compared with the organised trades. In other words, it is intended by the organised Government employees that the Government as an employer should not take advantage of the weaker bargaining power of the unorganised workers, but should pay them according to their skill.

Washington, October 7, 1919.

#### JAPAN.

##### Department of Journalism in Tokio Women's College.

Miss Miyo Kohasi, who is reporting the International Conference of Women Physicians in New York City for two Tokio papers, the *Tokio Hochi* (or *Reporter*) and the *Tokio Nichi-Nichi* (daily), has been sent to America by the new Tokio Women's College, of which Dr. Nitobe is principal, and will study English for a year. Afterwards she will attend the Columbia School of Journalism and then spend a year in Europe.

Upon her return to Tokio she is to establish a department of journalism in the younger of the two women's colleges in Tokio City. This has been established but a year. Miss Kohasi herself graduated from the older women's college, which was opened 17 years ago.

—*The Woman Citizen*, September 27, 1919.

##### M. Venizelos Meets Woman Suffragists.

Among all the statesmen of different nations who received deputations from representatives of the Women's Movement in Paris this spring, none met them with more sympathy than M. Venizelos, the Prime Minister of Greece. Since he has been in England, M. Venizelos has renewed his friendly relations with them. He showed instant appreciation of Mrs. Fawcett's desire that he should meet some representatives of the British movement, and the gathering took place at her house on the afternoon of October 17. In welcoming M. Venizelos, Mrs. Fawcett spoke of the deputations in the spring and of her strong desire that M. Venizelos should not leave England without meeting some of the women who have taken a leading part here; and briefly described the course of the movement in this country.

Among those who were introduced to M. Venizelos were: Miss Meta Tuke (Principal of Bedford College), Miss Phillpotts (Principal of Westfield College), and Miss Aldrich Blake (Dean of the London School of Medicine for Women), representatives

of education; Dr. L. Garrett Anderson, Dr. Flora Murray, and Dr. Jane Walker, representative Medical Women; Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone (President of the N.U.S.E.C., and City Councillor), Miss Rosamond Smith (Treasurer), Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Parliamentary Secretary from 1915 to 1918), Mrs. Corbett Ashby, and Mrs. How Martyn (of the Women's Freedom League and County Councillor), all these representing the suffrage movement; the Countess of Aberdeen and Temair (President of the International Council of Women), and Mrs. Abbott (Editor of *Jus Suffragii*), with Mrs. Fawcett herself, represented the International Women's Movement; Miss E. Picton-Turbervill also stood for international work, standing for that great share of it which is carried on by the Young Women's Christian Association; Miss Phillippa Strachey represented Women's Service; and Miss Palliser and Mrs. Flinders Petrie the Scottish Women's Hospitals; while Miss Lowndes (standing for *The Englishwoman*), Mrs. Edmund Garrett (Editor of *The Common Cause* from 1914 to 1917), and Miss O'Malley (the present Editor), represented the journalism of the British Women's Movement.

M. Venizelos, in replying to Mrs. Fawcett, spoke of the Women's Movement as "the most characteristic movement of the age." He said the war had given women the opportunity of demonstrating their capability of sharing all the efforts of men, and had converted even those who were formerly anti-feminists.

—*Common Cause*, October 24, 1919.

#### Higher Education for Working Women.

The National Education Committee of the Y.W.C.A. have drawn up a scheme for a residential Working Women's College, which must interest all who care for the advance of democracy, and who believe that this advance must be accompanied by a corresponding improvement in education.

Higher education for women, in spite of the victorious battles of half a century ago, is still a class privilege, and though magnificent work is being done by institutions like the W.E.A., the Adult Schools, and many other bodies who provide lectures, classes, and other part-time advantages, yet real cultivation of the mind and spirit is not easy to obtain, even for the worker of keenness and determination. And there are hundreds of girls, some of them personally known to the Committee of the Y.W.C.A., who have spent all their time and energies since they left school, at 14 or even earlier, in trying to acquire that knowledge and cultivation without which, as they know well, they cannot develop their own capacities for service and for leadership. Small wonder that by the time they reach their 18th or 19th year their energy is failing and their hope growing dim. Some of the letters which tell of the struggles and ambitions of such girls are indeed tragic documents, though they are fine records of human courage and tenacity of purpose.

The two chief points about the Working Women's College Scheme are that the College is to be residential, and that the education given is to be non-vocational. Both these ideals are costly ones, but the Committee are determined that no girl shall be debarred solely on account of poverty, though, of course, all must, and gladly will, make every possible and legitimate financial sacrifice.

It is hoped that the College will be opened in a healthy district near London in January, 1920, even if lack of money makes it necessary to begin on rather a smaller scale than was originally planned. Much of the money already subscribed has come from workers and professional people of small means. One working girl, whose weekly income is 22s., is saving 6d. a week until she has amassed 10s.!

The foundation of such a College is certainly of international interest, for in other countries there are movements in the same direction. In Denmark an International People's College has already been established, and in Germany there is a movement towards the foundation of Universities for the People. We may, therefore, look forward to an exchange of students between these various colleges.

Y.W.C.A., October 27, 1919. P. WALTERS.

#### Prohibition in Yukon.

The Yukon Territory went "dry" on September 1, when the law enacted last spring by the Yukon Legislature took effect. Between now and February a plebiscite will be held throughout the territory to determine the future of the liquor houses' business.



## LATE NEWS.

## London Local Government Elections.

130 women have been elected to the London Borough Councils. At the last elections in 1912 only 22 women were elected. The returns show that 57 Municipal Reform, 55 Labour, 11 Progressive, and 11 Independent women candidates have been elected, making 130 in all.

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„ 12.—Miss M. I. Ingram (Law Tripos Cant.): "Why Women Need Women Lawyers."

„ 19.—Mrs. Keevil Rickford: "The Problems Immediately Confronting Women."

„ 26.—Miss Abadam: "Come and She Cometh: Go and She Goeth."

Dec. 3.—Miss M. A. Tata, B.A. (Hons.) (Representative of Bombay Women's Association): "Indian Women and the Vote."

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## Mrs. Fawcett's New Book.

All who have read Mrs. Fawcett's former book, which dealt with the history of the woman suffrage movement in Britain up to the year 1911, will be delighted to hear that another volume is about to be published, covering the period from 1911 to the present day. The book is to be published by Messrs. Sidgwick and Jackson, 3, Adam Street, London, W.C. 2.

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Wednesday, 12th November, 8 p.m.—"Women, the Law, and Lawyers," Miss Helena Normanton. Chairman, Mr. J. Wells Thatcher (barrister-at-law).  
Wednesday, 19th November, 8 p.m.—"The Preservation of Village Life," Mr. Warwick Draper. Chairman, Miss Hadow.  
Wednesday, 26th November, 8 p.m.—"Delinquent Children," Mr. Clarke Hall, J.P., C.C. Chairman, Dr. Ettie Sayer.

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