

JUS SUFFRAGII.

The International Woman Suffrage News

The Monthly Organ of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

FRENCH EDITION.

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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."

Notice on the Policy of Jus Suffragii.

In the present critical position of affairs, when any reference to political conditions may hurt national susceptibilities, it must be clearly stated that the International Woman Suffrage Alliance maintains a strictly neutral attitude, and is only responsible for its official announcements. Reports from affiliated societies are inserted on the responsibility of the society contributing them. Other articles are published as being of general interest to our readers, and responsibility for them rests solely with their signatories.

Index to Vol. 12 now ready, gratis on application.

CONTENTS.

	Page.
Features of the Month	13
An Equal Moral Standard: Dr. Beadou Turner and Dr. Jane Walker	14 and 15
Bohemia: National Manifesto Demands Woman Suffrage	15
Denmark: Young Women's Christian Association	16
Astrid Stampe Feddersen	16
Germany: Opposition to Official Population Policy	16
Great Britain: Women's Eligibility for Parliament	16
National Council of Women	17
Catholic Women's Suffrage Society	17
Women's International League	18
Ireland: Women's Political League	19
Australia: Queensland: Elector's Age Qualification	19
S. Australia: Women's Non-party Association	19
India: Bombay Suffrage Movement	20
Netherlands: Woman Suffrage Bill	20
Women in Public Service	20
Norway: International Committee of Women for Permanent Peace	21
Women and the Storting	21
Portugal: Women Lawyers	21
Spain: League for the Progress of Women	21
Switzerland: Women Clergy	21
United States: Defeat of Federal Amendment	22
President Wilson's Speech	22
Review: California Laws	23
Treasurer's Receipts	24

Features of the Month.

The momentous events of the last few weeks must raise a hope in the minds of us all that the end of the world-war is approaching, and that within measurable time the unscalable barrier to communication and co-operation will be down. Obstacles will still exist, but it will be the task of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance to surmount them. We look forward with hope and goodwill to the immediate future, and trust that the beginning of better things is in view. Women will need all their powers in the work of reconstruction. All the progressive forces, both men and women, will need to throw their full strength into the establishment of a world order that will make any recurrence of the dire calamities of the past impossible. Meanwhile, step by step, women are conquering the power to act. A resolution has been passed by the British House of Commons by an overwhelming majority to give women eligibility for Parliament. Opposition in that sphere is now negligible. Women hold the balance at any future election, and every party, every candidate, must try to win their support. The public and the press show a new interest in women's questions, though it is noticeable that at least one influential section of the British press boycotts news of its women political adversaries, and gives a ridiculous importance to the small and unrepresentative body of women who support it (or whom it supports). Thus the policy pursued for years with regard to the suffrage movement—that of stifling it with silence—is being applied to progressive women's movements. Women have a great deal of leeway to make up, and one of their tasks must be to gain due prominence for their movements in the press.

In all countries women are claiming the right to enter all trades and professions on equal terms with men, and a great step forward has recently been taken in Portugal, where duly qualified women are now to be admitted as lawyers. Spain, too, is now organising a women's movement, and if the suffrage movement spreads there and in Spanish South America there may arise the question of a Spanish edition of the *International Woman Suffrage News*.

In the Netherlands, woman suffrage seems to be within measurable distance. The new Constitution enabled a woman suffrage bill to be introduced, and now one has been brought in and will be debated early next year; it will not, however, take effect, if passed, until 1922.

In the United States women are making a determined effort to secure the necessary two-thirds majority in the Senate for the Federal Amendment. At the November elections a portion of Congress must be re-elected, and every effort will be made to secure the election of suffragists so that the amendment may go through next January. Suffragists are used to delays and do not lose courage; they know they must win in the end.

President Wilson's great suffrage speech to the Senate will be read by women with interest and appreciation all over the world.

IS IT REASONABLE TO EXPECT THE SAME MORAL STANDARD FROM MEN AS FROM WOMEN.

Speech delivered at the Conference of the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union, London, June, 1918, by

Dr. EDWARD BEADON TURNER, F.R.C.S.

Chairman of Representative Body, British Medical Association; Chairman of Medical Committee, National Council for Combating Venereal Disease; Member of Advisory Board to Ministry of National Service.

I presume that you have asked me to speak to you on this subject because I am a physician, and I am going to give the view of a doctor in the matter. I shall also touch on the point of view of a man of the world who has been very intimately mixed up with young men, and who has taken a great interest in these subjects for a long time.

I will begin at once by telling you that it is absolutely reasonable and possible to expect the same moral standard from men as from women. Of this I am certain: I am sure that it is quite possible that both sexes should attain the same ideal standard. I have never known any healthy man, an absolutely healthy man, go wrong in health because he has lived a perfectly clean life.

Some of you may have known men who have been in hard training for some athletic contest for six months or more, during which time they have kept their bodies in temperance, soberness, and chastity. They are not broken-down men by any means, but come out of training in the pink of health and condition. Therefore, if they can live a pure life for six months, there is no reason why they should not do so indefinitely.

There are some few persons to whom this does not apply. I have known a very few men who have practically been almost sexually insane, and the results have been disastrous; but it is an extremely small minority in which this obtains. Such conditions are abnormal, and do not affect the great mass of ordinary men.

Perhaps, on the whole, it may be rather more difficult for men to keep straight than for women for various reasons. I do not think, however, that there is really a very great difference in this matter between the two sexes. I presume that in speaking of an equal moral standard for men as for women you are expecting that the standard for men shall be at least as high as that for women. If you mean to approximate the two standards, by degrading that of woman to the level of that of the ordinary man, then I am "right off it"; but provided your aim is to raise the man's standard so that it shall be the same, then I am entirely with you.

There is no doubt in my mind that during the last forty years the standard of morality as between the two sexes has somewhat approximated, and for two reasons. In the first place, the man's standard has become somewhat higher because a much larger number of men live cleaner lives, and they do that for various reasons, some of which I will point out. In the first place, the temptations to which a young man is now exposed are not nearly so great as they were when first I came to London. In those days, if one dined out, or went to the theatre and walked home, one was not only frequently accosted, but actually physically assaulted in the street. The whole thing was brought right under one's eyes, and not only that, but there were various places in those days where, if any young man went, he had the pick of the London prostitutes paraded before him. In these matters there is no doubt a very great improvement, and the condition of the streets is much healthier. If a man be not actually thinking of these matters he is very much less likely to fall than if the temptation were continually put right under his nose. In the second place, during the last forty years there has been a great extension of

practical participation in athletic sports among young men, and more especially among those of the industrial classes. The number of young fellows who go in for athletics has increased a hundredfold, and every one of them being in training is less likely to yield to temptation. In the third place, the question of temperance comes in. There is no doubt that, as a whole, we drink much less now than was the custom in those days, and a sober citizen is not so likely to fall a victim to the seductions of vice as one rendered reckless by too much alcohol.

On the other hand, what I may describe as the standard of practical morality among young women of all classes has become distinctly lower during these years, and I account for that by these reasons, among others: First, the Malthusian propaganda which has been carried on during this time, and the public advertisement and exhibition of Malthusian appliances, have had a great deal to do with it. In old days many young women were kept straight by the fear that a lapse from morality might be followed by an increase of the population, and the fancied security given by the use of these appliances has tempted a large number to subordinate discretion to desire. Secondly, some young girls have absorbed all that is worst in socialistic dogma, and profess, and practically carry out, the principles of "free love." A smaller number, perhaps, consider that, in these days of emancipation and advance, their morality should be the same as that of their brothers and cousins, and they act on this principle. For these reasons the woman's standard has, on the average, deteriorated.

We must face the fact that at present a dual standard of morality between the two sexes does exist, and before attempting to point out what we can do to raise and elevate in either case, it is as well to consider some of the reasons why it has existed and does now exist. One of the original causes, I think, may be prehistoric, and date back to the days when the Cave Man clubbed and carried off his prospective bride, and the bigger and the stronger the Cave Man, the larger number of brides he clubbed, and in this way the Divine command, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth," was carried out, with the result that a different morality requirement of the two sexes became at once operative. I should be very curious to ascertain, if it were possible, whether in those parts of the world where polyandry is the custom, the standard is reversed, and a higher moral standard is expected from men than from women. Another reason may be the operation of the law of entail. You know the old proverb, "It is a wise child who knows its own father," but with regard to the mother there is absolute certainty, and a higher morality was therefore expected from women than from men, because, otherwise, exalted titles and great possessions might pass to a personage in no way whatsoever related to the family which was entitled to them. Another reason, doubtless, was the fact that on woman was laid the responsibility of reproduction. It is possible that these reasons, taken together, may have had in the past a great deal to do with the institution of the dual standard. That it exists at the present day depends upon other reasons, and in considering them, let us first take the case of the woman. Hers is indeed a hard one, because she gets no good word either from man or her own sex. If a woman fall, a man will look at her with a certain half-pitying contempt, because every man, however depraved he may be, has at the bottom of his heart an ideal of pure womanhood to which he looks up, and has looked up to all his life. He therefore thinks badly of any woman who has fallen from it. With regard to women, they are generally harder upon her than the opposite sex; and the reason for this, I think, is to be found in the fact that, in the mimic war of the sexes, a woman who falls from virtue is considered to be rather in the position of a man who through lapse of duty has betrayed his outpost into the hands of the enemy.

If we wish to attain to the same standard, it is important that we should consider what both men and women generally think about it. First of all, let us take the opinion that women have of men, and then that which men have of themselves. To a woman a rake is very frequently a very attractive personage, and I am absolutely certain that there is no single woman worthy of the name who does not in her inmost heart of hearts think that, if he be really fond of her and she be fond of him, she can reform him and change his nature. It is the instinct of motherhood and protection which is at the bottom of every woman's heart. It also frequently happens that the rake is an exceedingly handsome, amusing, and attractive man, and a very large number of women are rather inclined to look upon him as being "a bit of a sport." They do not look upon his immorality with the severity which is, in fact, its due. With regard to what men think of men, their opinion is absolutely different. I have only on two occasions come across a

woman who has deliberately gone wrong and then talked of it to her friends and companions; but in a young man there is no shame in discussing this matter. If a man be merely immoral, he is not looked down upon or despised by his companions, nor is he ostracised or turned out of any important position he may hold. But there is an unwritten law by which certain matters of this sort are very differently looked upon. If a man is known to be a seducer of virgins, or to have betrayed the wife of a friend, then his fellow-men are very much more inclined to be down upon him.

If it be possible these things should be altered, both men and women should demand equal morality the one of the other. How are you going to set about it? It will take generations to accomplish, for it is hard to eradicate that which is bred in the bone. Legislation is of no use. If every woman had every vote in the world you could not accomplish it by any law that might be passed. Unless caught in the act, it is impossible to prove that a man is immoral. There is no physical change in him as in woman. But though law can do nothing, I believe that the solution lies entirely in your own hands. But you must begin at the very beginning. You must begin with the mother, who must take her sons and teach them; discuss with them these matters; discuss them healthily and cleanly, reverently and devoutly; teaching them to reverence both themselves and the other sex. Then you must alter the sentiments of an enormous number of women towards immoral men—a man who is notoriously immoral should not be allowed to be the honoured guest in any drawing-room;—and you have finally to convince the mothers in this Kingdom and the Empire, and also an exceedingly large proportion of their daughters, that chocolates, diamonds, furs, and motor-cars are not the "be-all and the end-all" here, and that a coroneted millionaire with a lurid past and a dozen discarded mistresses is by no means the most fitting mate for a pure young girl, and that she probably would be much better with a clean young man as a husband, who may have his way to make in the world.

Dr. JANE WALKER.

The subject you have asked me to say something to you about this morning is worded in this way: "Can We Reasonably Expect the Same Moral Standard from Men as from Women?" Now, this is a very important question, and it lies at the root of a great deal of uneasiness at the present time, and on its satisfactory solution depends in a great measure the solution of the sex difficulty. (I am taking it as meaning sexual and not general morality.)

It must be granted at the outset that there is a fundamental difference between men and women. The woman has a deeper instinct. On her depends the care of the race. On her falls the burden of feeding and rearing the children as well as the heavy burden of bearing them, and the various pains and penalties suffered by her cause her to be more careful of the product—the child,—and it makes her quite naturally their natural guardian. But as a woman is truly nearer the centre of things—for life is the centre of things,—if she loses a hold on her high vocation and ceases to obey her instincts, she has a great fall, and the fall is greater and more serious than it is in the case of a man. This statement is psychologically, and therefore fundamentally, true. It is far more difficult to redeem a woman who has gone wrong than a man. I am not referring to a woman who has had a baby. In by far the larger number of cases the baby saves her. Incidentally, this point is of extreme importance, for it shows the necessity for arrangements being made whereby unmarried mothers and their children may remain together. Woman is a more complicated organism than man. That which is more complicated is more difficult to put together again, and this is partly an explanation of the problem.

The ideal union for the civilised world is one woman and one man. That is what may be termed the natural law of marriage. It does not obtain universally at the present time. Why not? It must never be lost sight of that Suggestion plays a very large part in all our actions. The very greatest Suggestion on this subject is custom. It has never been the custom for men in certain sections of society to lead clean lives. In many other things custom has altered and habits of generations have changed. An example of this is the excessive use of alcohol. It was the custom for young men in a certain class of society openly to take too much; but this is no longer the custom, and therefore it no longer happens. In the same way, if it were the recognised thing for men to lead clean lives, and if they knew that they would be looked askance at by

other men if they did not, they would do so to a very large extent.

There is a very definite reason why there should be an increase of sexual immorality in war-time. The whole experience of war is so full of horror that people are really dazed. Their ideas are dissociated. They are, in fact, in a state in which any suggestion is liable to be acted upon. Thus, a bad officer will, merely by the fact that he goes wrong, carry the rest of the men with him, and may cause them to succumb at once. The same train of events does not take place in the case of the women. They only tend to go wrong when they are in despair.

With regard to alcohol, I have been thinking a good deal about the difference of the two sexes, and in thinking it over I wondered if other people's knowledge and experience are the same as mine—that women take drink to deaden their senses, and that it has that effect. It does not have the effect of increasing their sexual desires. I think, in the case of men, that the effect is not exactly the same.

Another potent means of bringing about the same moral standard in men as in women is by training. Our public school and religious teachers are many of them wrong in this matter. They are so very nervous about vice and vicious habits in their boys, and they think so much about the subject, that they bring about the very evil they are trying to prevent. If they knew more about psychology they would realise what a tremendous part "atmosphere" plays in the production of evil as well as of good. Moreover, most people are what you expect them to be, and if you expect them to be good and clean, they mostly are so. The utter unwholesomeness of the outlook of so many schoolmasters as well as clergy is shown by the fact that there is amongst them a larger proportion of cases coming up for treatment of sex difficulties than in any other sections of the community. The "Loom of Youth" is really true, and is borne out by experience. We should teach men that they can and must keep straight, not because of their health, but because it is a right and proper thing to do, and the best men do it. The Army should be made to get rid of the current idea that for a man to keep fit he must go wrong in this direction.

But, having said all this, we must realise that it is a great deal harder for men because of their heritage. They have a great deal of leeway to make up. Especially is this the case in the particular instance of alcohol, which it is still the custom for them to take more largely than is the case with women, for alcohol numbs their higher centres, and allows their lower ones to come into play. The fact of the increasingly large number of men who live clean lives goes far to prove that it is reasonable to expect the same moral standard from men as from women.

The I.W.S.A. and Affiliated Associations.

There are twenty-six societies affiliated to the I.W.S.A. Of these some are temporarily debarred from communication with the Headquarters office by war conditions, but even so, many remain who could send their reports and news. Yet only three reports have been received this month—*i.e.*, from Great Britain, Holland, and the United States. The Editor appeals to all affiliated associations to send their news as often as they can, and thus to maintain the bond uniting women suffragists in all countries.

"The International Woman Suffrage News."

The Index to Vol. XII is now ready, and may be had gratis on application to 11, Adam Street. Covers for binding can be had in the Alliance colours for 1s. 6d., plus postage. Bound volumes, with index, form a valuable work of reference indispensable for speakers and writers. Order at once.

International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke St., London, W.C.2.

This shop issues a monthly catalogue of progressive literature of interest to feminists and others on International Relations, Social and Industrial Reconstruction, Housing, Education, Infant Welfare, and Sex Problems.

BOHEMIA.

The Czecho-Slovak national manifesto claims equal rights for women with men.

DENMARK.

K.F.U.K. (Young Women's Christian Association).
National Collection, October 3, 4, 5.

For nearly a generation K.F.U.K. has worked among young women in Denmark, and now has over 24,000 members, divided amongst 568 societies all over the country. K.F.U.K. is therefore our largest women's society. Twenty-one towns have their own K.F.U.K. building, with a boarding-house and reading rooms for the young; but Copenhagen still lacks its institute. K.F.U.K. in Copenhagen works among about 60,000 young self-supporting women between the ages of 15 and 30 who are to be found in the capital. In 1917 the society bought a building site in Frue Plads. Here the institute is to be erected, and the plan is to combine there all the society's manifold activities among young women of all classes of society—e.g., work among shop-girls, accountants, and telephonists, an evening home for factory girls, a boarding-house for lonely women, and a restaurant where people in narrow circumstances can get good food at a reasonable price, and a cosy home with a reading-room and library, where young women will find comfort and feel themselves welcome at all times of the day. Women can also get training, thanks to the establishment of various courses of instruction, both technical and intellectual.

The building fund is at present 460,000kr. (of which 123,000kr. is vested in the building site), and of which K.F.U.K. members throughout the country have themselves contributed 100,000kr. For a yearly subscription of 3kr. meetings are arranged for the members every Sunday and Tuesday all the year round, and the autumn programme bears witness to the society's comprehension of the up-to-date interests of young people—e.g., "Christianity and Business Life," "Business Life and the Home," "What Does Copenhagen Owe to K.F.U.K.?" etc. Every month has its literary evening (Johan Bojer and Gunnar Gunnarson stand next in rotation), and a course of lectures on "Our Religious Life" lays claim to several evenings. There are gymnastic clubs and walking clubs, and visits to museums are arranged; but all these activities are hampered by want of the projected building. The national collection has been well organised in about 1,650 parishes, and if everyone helps we may hope soon to see the new institute built.

—Kvinden og Samfundet (September 30).

Memorial to Women's Winning of the Vote.

The Finnish women have been the first to erect a memorial to commemorate the enfranchisement of women. The stone stands a little above the road which leads from the town of Froberg past the foot of the highest hill in the Finland Alps, and was presented by a gentleman of the name of Didriksen. It was erected on August 25th last, in the presence of about 10,000 people. The speech was made by Marie Rasmussen, President of the Danish Suffrage Society for the Finnish district. She paid tribute to the intelligent and liberal-minded men who, by passing the 1915 Constitutional amendment, had secured the co-operation of men and women in the Danish State. Inscribed on the stone are Fr. Bajer's lines—

"Lige Ret for Mand og Kvinde,
Hun tjene ham, han tjene hende,"

which mean roughly—

"On man and woman equal rights confer;
Let her serve him; likewise let him serve her."

Further speeches were made by the two men who have done such great service to women's suffrage, Klavs Berntsen and Herr Zahle, the Cabinet Minister. Klavs Berntsen expressed a wish that women would principally use their political influence in improving the conditions of home life. Herr Zahle advised the new women voters to think and inform themselves carefully and vote independently, and not merely at the beck and call of particular parties or sections of the press. Gyrithe Lemche said that the memorial was at present only a milestone, but it lay in the women's hands either to make it a memorial of victory by themselves becoming the living link between the home and the State, or to make it a gravestone over the cause of women by neglecting to make use of their new opportunities. After the meeting there was a dinner, with more speeches, when Petrine Jensen and Kirst Jensen told of the memorial to women's enfranchisement which was in course of erection by the women of Jutland.

—Kvinden og Samfundet (September 15).

Astrid Stampe-Feddersen.

At the general meeting on September 18th, Astrid Stampe-Feddersen announced her intention of resigning the presidency of the Danish Women's Society's Executive Committee, and Julie Arenholt undertook to officiate as president for one year. Astrid Stampe-Feddersen has been the head of D.K. for five years. It is a pity she was not able to stand for election earlier, for she is a born leader, and even in declining years has done great work for the society. It was close to her heart, and she has instinctively found ways to promote its interests. We have often pointed out in this paper how much Astrid Stampe-Feddersen has done for the women's movement since she first entered its ranks in the 'eighties. Great as were the sacrifices she made for the cause in her youth, her action in accepting the presidency when her health and strength were impaired, and keeping the society together as she so well knew how to do for five years, was no less meritorious. She would long have continued to form a centre for the interests of the society had her health permitted, but as it did not, the society has been obliged to respect her wish to resign.

Astrid Stampe-Feddersen will be missed in wide circles. She was the last on D.K.'s "throne" of the "noble eight," the brigade of the 19th century, before whom we bow with respect and call them right, as their contemporaries called them wrong. The responsibility is great for those who walk in their footsteps. Will the future justify them, too, as it has done the old brigade? D.K.'s policy has always been long-sighted. It craves from its leaders reverence for the past, calmness for the present, and unshakable confidence in the future.

We believe that Astrid Stampe-Feddersen's successor, Julie Arenholt, possesses these three requisites, and we are grateful to her for undertaking the presidency for a year. She has always inspired confidence in her fellow-workers, and although she is the first president of D.K. who has been an active party politician, she need make no one anxious, for she knows how to keep party politics apart from the women's cause. If every one backs up the new leader, she will doubtless furnish a proof that, in spite of being an active party politician, she will be able to keep D.K.'s ship free from political rocks.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee on September 18th, the Editor, etc., were asked to keep their offices till the next general meeting, and Gyrithe Lemche was elected vice-president in the place of Esther Curstensen, who has retired.

—Kvinden og Samfundet (September 30).

GERMANY.

Official Population Policy.

Women are expressing strong opposition to the policy embodied in bills now before the Reichstag penalising the prevention of conception. The working-class women especially are carrying on a campaign to prevent these bills becoming law. They characterise this legislation as a humiliating attack on woman's right to self-determination, depriving her of control of her own person. At the same time she is not granted political rights. A number of protest meetings have been held in Bremen, Aitona, Hamburg, Kiel, Grosslichterfelde, and other towns, at which resolutions were passed condemning the bills as unpermissible interference with human rights. It must be left to the responsibility of the parents to decide how often and when the wife shall become a mother. On the other hand, steps must be taken to assist large families, to protect mothers and children, and to give women equal political rights with men.

—Gleichheit.

GREAT BRITAIN.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

WOMEN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

This month's great sensation in feminist politics is the overwhelming majority in the House of Commons in favour of legislation to permit women to sit in Parliament.

Hardly had Parliament reassembled, which it did on October 15th, when Mr. Bonar Law, the Leader of the House, announced that he proposed to allow time for a discussion in the House on the eligibility of women for Parliament. Mr. Herbert Samuel and Sir Willoughby Dickinson (an old and tried friend of women's suffrage) immediately put down a resolution: "That in the opinion of this House it is desirable that a bill should be passed forthwith making women eligible as members of Parliament." Wednesday, October 23rd, was

the day appointed for its consideration. The suddenness of events left everyone more or less gasping with surprise. This climax of the movement for women members of Parliament came with the unexpectedness of its origin, and apparently of its own accord. And, once begun, there was nothing to stop it; the ball rolled steadily downhill. Women's organisations stood delightedly aside waiting to see what would happen, but quite ready to intervene if a check occurred. Men's organisations contented themselves with amazement to find that they had no wish to oppose. Sir Herbert Samuel moved the resolution, and put the case briefly and forcibly for the woman M.P. Lord Robert Cecil, as usual, gave gallant support; and Mr. Asquith, with all the enthusiasm of a recent convert to women's suffrage, crowned the cause of feminism by his championship. The interesting question really was: Which members would have the nerve to record a hostile vote? The arguments of the opposition tailed off pitifully, and when it became clear that even old opponents such as Sir Frederick Banbury had nothing to produce but the time-worn platitudes of false sentiment and conventionalism, the victory was won. Still, even then the majority came as a surprise. The resolution was carried by 274 votes to 25, and the Government is already preparing legislation to enable women to sit in Parliament.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

Early this month the National Union of Women Workers held their annual meeting at Harrogate—the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland. This was the first such meeting held since the passing of the Representation of the People Act, which enfranchised six million of the women of Britain. Consequently the position of the National Council was somewhat changed, its resolutions being no longer merely expressions of opinion, but expressions of the opinion of the largest organisation of women—i.e., of present or prospective electors. After a lengthy discussion on necessary changes in the constitution, the Council proceeded to business of more general interest, and overseas readers will probably find in the actual resolutions passed at the Council the best possible index to the problems at present absorbing the attention of British women. The following were the main resolutions passed:—

40 D.

"That this Council of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland demands the immediate withdrawal of Regulation 40 D. D.O.R.A."

SOLICITATION LAWS AND EQUAL MORAL STANDARD.

"That as we are without the necessary information for forming a considered opinion upon many of the points arising out of the solicitation laws, the Government be asked to appoint a Commission to consider the whole question of public immorality and prostitution, the laws connected therewith, and their administration, together with the social and medical questions involved, and to report at an early date—the Commission to consist of an equal number of men and women."

The Council reaffirmed its resolution of last year, expressing its unshaken belief in an equal moral standard for men and women, and urging that "since the present laws relating to solicitation and riotous conduct in the streets are complicated, unjust, and ineffective in practice, a law on an equal basis for men and women with regard to administration, evidence, and penalties should be substituted to deal with molestation or annoyance by any persons in the streets."

WOMEN ON GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES.

"That the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland welcomes the steps already taken to appoint women upon Government Committees, and urges that the proportion of women on these committees should be increased, and the circle from which they are selected should be enlarged; and, in particular, in view of the large number of women earning their living in engineering works who are doing invaluable service to their country, and recognising that women are employed in almost every operation in engineering, the National Council respectfully urges upon the Minister of Reconstruction the appointment of women with a practical knowledge of engineering to sit on all Reconstruction Committees dealing with engineering industries."

In addition to the sessions of the Council at which resolutions were passed, three very interesting public meetings were held dealing with women in agriculture and the engineering trades, the work of women patrols, and the question of marriage, divorce, and the equal guardianship of children. The speeches on all these subjects reached a high degree of

excellence, and showed very clearly the great effect upon the members of women's societies of the practical and administrative work they have had the opportunity to do in recent years. The speaking of women experts with first-hand as well as theoretical knowledge of the subjects they dealt with is necessarily a new feature in discussions on engineering or police work by women. It was one heartily welcomed by the delegates, whose one regret was the short time available for each branch of these fascinating, complex subjects.

THE FEMINIST ADVANCE.

All the world is holding conferences just now and passing feminist resolutions. The Women's Section of the Labour Party has just held a Conference of Women's Organisations on Women's Civic and Political Rights and Responsibilities. This gathering was most interesting, being representative of women of all shades of political opinion. Resolutions urging that all professions should be opened to women, and that they should be granted all franchises, were passed without dissension. A more contentious resolution was one which urged upon women the necessity of developing "a strong political organisation embracing both men and women, and not following the lines of sex division." An amendment was moved supporting the idea that women should organise with men, but urging upon them the need for retaining separate women's organisations as well. In the opinion of the supporters of the amendment, women are still so handicapped by convention and the disabilities which public opinion imposes upon them, that they require organisations of their own for purposes of self-education and to secure equality of opportunity. After a keen discussion the amendment was lost and the resolution carried.

Feminist support by another party is shown by the following resolution passed by the National Liberal Federation at Manchester:—

"That this Committee (the Executive Committee of the National Liberal Federation) declares its opinion that special measures are needed for the removal of legal restrictions on women's opportunities. In particular, this Committee favours the opening of professions to women on the same conditions as to men; the conferment of University degrees on equal terms; admission of women to share in the making of laws and the administration of justice; the revision of the law relating to the guardianship of children; better provision with respect to maintenance and affiliation orders; equality of the sexes in the laws relating to divorce and morals; and urges the Government immediately on the re-assembly of Parliament to introduce a bill giving to women the full rights of citizenship by making them eligible for membership of the House of Commons." RAY STRACHEY.

Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

A very successful meeting of protest against Regulation 40 D. was held at the Caxton Hall, London, on October 12th. The principal speaker was Father Vincent McNabb, O.P., who put the case against 40 D. very strongly from the point of view of a Catholic priest and theologian. Dr. Alice Vow-Johnson spoke from the medical point of view, showing the futility of the Regulation; and Miss Alison Neilans gave facts as to the working of the Regulation. The following resolution was carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting demands the immediate withdrawal of Regulation 40 D. D.O.R.A., which was passed without the consent of Parliament. It pledges itself to offer uncompromising opposition to this kind of legislation, which tends to encourage rather than to lessen immorality, and which, moreover, constitutes a grave menace to the liberty and civil rights of all women." L. DE ALBERTI.

Trade Union Women Refuse Inadequate Representation

The Admiralty and the Ministry of Munitions have formed a joint committee to consider labour questions. Representatives of the two departments and of employers, and six representatives of men's trade unions, are on the committee. The Women's Trade Union Advisory Committee to the Ministry of Munitions were invited to nominate one member, but refused to do so unless they were allowed three representatives.

Duchess of Marlborough.

The Duchess of Marlborough has been co-opted as member of the London County Council to represent West Southwark (a working-class district in London). The Duchess was Miss Vanderbilt, of the United States, and has taken a very active part in the Women's Municipal Party. She attended the I.W.S.A. Congress at Buda-Pesth.

Women's International League.

The Council of the W.I.L. met in London on October 22nd and 23rd, and delegates were present from branches all over the country. Mrs. Swanwick, the chairman, in her opening remarks described the League as interweaving the three strands of internationalism, feminism, and labour. Resolutions were passed condemning the present suppression of freedom of speech and writing; the use of public funds for party purposes; the armed intervention in Russia; indiscriminate repatriation of aliens; and conscription for Ireland. Resolutions were passed in favour of universal disarmament; international agreement on marriage laws and nationality of married women; women's eligibility for Parliament, juries, as magistrates, and equal terms with men in Government service; State payment of motherhood; legitimisation of children born out of wedlock upon the subsequent marriage of the parents; the immediate withdrawal of Regulation 40 D. An urgency resolution on the international situation was passed urging a moderate and conciliatory course.

Women's Institutes (Rural).

Women's Institutes have been developing rapidly all over England and Wales. The idea first took shape in Canada, and has spread to the Mother Country. Their aims are to improve the conditions of rural life by—

- (a) Stimulating interest in agriculture.
- (b) Developing co-operative enterprises.
- (c) Encouraging home and local industries.
- (d) Studying home-economics.
- (e) Providing a centre for educational and social intercourse.

WHAT THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES DO.

They hold regular monthly meetings of a social and educational nature where matters of interest to the home and community are discussed. Members contribute papers and bring samples of work done at their homes, such as home-made children's clothing, well-dressed poultry, bottled fruit, etc. Demonstrations are given by members in cookery, needlework, etc. Sometimes musical or dramatic items are given. Refreshments are served by members in turn.

They hold other meetings, entertainments, lectures, parties for young people and children, to which the neighbourhood is invited.

They organise exhibits of Women's Institute work at the big exhibitions, and compete for medals and prizes offered by agricultural associations, and often hold exhibitions and flower shows of their own.

They buy household supplies, seeds, bulbs, etc., co-operatively, and manage co-operative jam factories, laundries, creameries, egg depots, etc. They maintain certain expensive household implements, such as vacuum cleaners, knitting machines, etc., for the use of the members.

They test new household appliances, labour-saving devices, in the homes of members, and give results and show use of same at monthly meetings.

They subscribe to magazines and papers dealing with home economics and agricultural topics, and exchange these among members.

They work to increase production of food supply, and to preserve food by best methods. At present in Canada they are trying to double the food supply, and many of the food gifts to troops from Canada come from Women's Institutes.

They provide a room or building which is used for meetings, and which frequently becomes the women's club of the neighbourhood, affording a centre for neighbourhood activities.

They encourage home and village industries in order to provide occupation and interests for women in rural districts.

They work with farmers' associations to develop and stimulate agriculture in their districts.

They do all they can to encourage buying of home and local products.

They maintain "rest rooms" in convenient towns, where farmers and their wives can have club privileges while in town.

They work in every way to increase the efficiency of the home by discussion among the members, by competitive work, by reading courses, by demonstrations of household work, by co-operative expeditions, by circulating pamphlets of home-tested recipes and of menus for country homes, by personal examinations into cost of living, and so forth.

They take charge of loan libraries, and form libraries of their own, chiefly consisting of technical and other works relating to the home and agriculture.

They do neighbourhood work, improve roads and parks, have "fly" extermination campaigns, rouse public opinion against unsightly advertisements, dirt and dust dangers, and insanitary conditions generally.

They disseminate information among members on questions dealing with sanitation and hygiene, and have lectures on many departments of household hygiene and public health, or on ingredients of patent medicines, pure food needs, etc.

They do general and specific work among rural schools, elect a woman representative on local school boards, form vocational and care committees, help with school gardens, urge domestic science and agricultural teaching, improve sanitary conditions of schools, and get better water supplies; draw the school mistresses into closer touch with the parents, urge extensive medical inspection of schools, encourage children's flower shows, etc.

They form a link between the rural population and academic instruction in agricultural and domestic science by establishing close connection between Institutes and the agricultural colleges, and by providing local centres of an attractive social nature for University extension, County Council, and other educational work.

At a public exhibition given in London in October by Women's Institutes, samples were shown of their work in food production and conservation, and in many arts and industries, notably in toy-making. Demonstrations were given of various domestic economies, and also of the artistic, non-utilitarian side of their activities, such as folk dancing, dramatic performances, drill by Girl Guides, etc. The exhibition was thronged with visitors, and it is evident that great public interest is felt in this awakening of village life, which should do much for agricultural revival and to check the undue growth of towns and rural depopulation.

Women's Labour Conference.

The Labour Party convened a National Conference of Women on "Women's Civic and Political Rights and Responsibilities," in London on October 15th and 16th, which was attended by representatives of women's societies of all colours. The conference was well attended, and the discussions were lively; a new atmosphere of firmness and confidence was manifest, women being evidently fully conscious that now for the first time they could back their resolutions with votes.

Resolutions were passed demanding—

1. Equal civil rights with men, notably entry to all professions and public bodies.
2. Establishment of a Ministry of Health.
3. National housing schemes satisfactory to working women.
4. The withdrawal of Regulation 40 D (which punishes women for infecting with venereal disease, and reintroduces compulsory examination).
5. A national food policy to be continued after the war, safeguarding the consumer from profiteering, developing national kitchens, and ensuring a pure milk supply.

A lively debate took place on the resolution urging women to throw themselves into "the development of a strong political organisation embracing both men and women, and not to follow the lines of sex division." The motive of this resolution was shown by the speeches to be the very unpopular activities of the so-called "Women's Party," which, under the guidance of Mrs. and Miss Pankhurst, is attempting to enlist the support of women voters, not for any women's causes, but for a special set of men, notably for Mr. Lloyd George. Strong disapproval of the line and title taken by the "Women's Party" was shown in the speeches and in the vote by which the resolution was carried. The resolutions on housing and food were warmly supported, and were a fair index of what are burning questions to women. Urgency resolutions were passed in favour of a firm but conciliatory peace policy, and of safeguarding women employes during and after demobilisation.

Labour Party Organises Women Electors.

The Labour Party has a number of women organisers busily engaged in all parts of the country in forming Women's Sections, and gaining the support of women in view of the next elections. The Sections hold regular meetings, afternoon and evening, and discuss such questions as Maternity and Child Welfare, the Education Bill, Women in Politics, the Aims of Labour, Housing, etc. They hold social evenings, and take a prominent part in the general work of the Party, such as supplying election workers. They are able to influence local administration.

Women and the Housing Question.

The Conference of the Labour Housing Association, held at Derby on August 31st, adopted the resolution of the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations setting forth the minimum requirements for houses in the new housing schemes. The resolution recommended cottages rather than flats, and the provision of gardens and playgrounds; each house to contain three bedrooms, each capable of holding two full-sized beds, and all with windows; a separate bathroom, with fitted basin and hot and cold water laid on; a living room, a parlour, a kitchen-scully, and a larder. The second resolution demanded that the local authority should submit the plans for the houses to the representatives of industrial women's organisations.

It is noteworthy that Mr. Hayes Fisher, President of the Local Government Board, has given instructions to inspectors that they should on the occasion of their visits and inquiries draw attention to the desirability of consulting women on the plans from the domestic point of view. Mr. Hayes Fisher says that he will himself take every opportunity of urging the desirability of consulting women representatives of the working classes on the internal arrangements of the houses.

A Woman Food Director.

The Ministry of Food has appointed Mrs. Pember Reeves as Director of the Educational and Propaganda Department, and an important feature of this department will be the arranging of conferences in different districts, especially with working people.

IRELAND.

Women's Political League.

In view of the possibility of a general election, the W.P.L. have formulated a programme for women electors, and have adopted a definite election policy. In doing so they have been guided by the conviction that the most hopeful line of work would be concentration on the policy of "agreed measures." This in times past gave the Children's Charter and many other constructive Acts, and the recent instance of the Representation of the People Act is fresh in every mind. The League have therefore selected among the many social reforms pressing for attention in Ireland those which do not involve questions of party controversy and on which no political party is committed to a definite attitude. These are subjects which have been uniformly neglected by all political parties, who have never, for instance, seriously pressed for the extension of school feeding or of medical inspection of schools to this country, and who have refused to consider the hardship which the Irish Poor-law system inflicts on destitute widows and on the unmarried mother. The W.P.L. have therefore drafted the following seven points as an electoral programme for women voters: Immediate withdrawal of Regulation 40 D; reform of the Criminal Law based on an equal standard of morality, and with provision for raising the age of consent and of protection to 18; education reform, providing for compulsory attendance and for abolition of the half-time system; extension of the maternity and child-welfare scheme, with provision for maternity benefit payable before confinement and for nursing benefit payable for eight weeks after; State provision for destitute widows and for the unmarried mother; admission of women to all departments of the public and Civil Service on equal terms with men; and drastic restriction of the drink traffic.

This is the programme of the League, and the policy is two-fold. In the first place, educational work among the women voters is being carried on with great energy, and women of all parties and creeds are being reached. These new voters are urged not to leave their parties, but to speed up the pace in social reform, pressing the special points in the League programme on the candidates. In the course of this work it has been observed again how real is the unity among the women voters of Ireland on these questions of real social reform, which are quite apart from the ordinary party issues.

Further, the League has undertaken a canvass of every party organisation, in order to place its programme before these bodies and to urge that they should put pressure on their candidates to adopt the points specified. It is hoped this pressure from inside, backed by the action of the women voters outside, will produce a definite result. Already the Unionist Labour Association and the Labour Representation Committee, two bodies opposed on party grounds, have adopted

State provision for necessitous widows, and the same principle has been unconditionally approved by Mr. Devlin, Nationalist M.P. for West Belfast, and by Unionist Parliamentary Associations.

In connection with the question of moral reform, a private conference was held on October 17th under the auspices of the League, addressed by Miss Wakefield, representing the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, and attended by representatives of religious organisations and by many social workers. Resolutions demanding the withdrawal of 40 D and legislation on the basis of the single standard of morality were unanimously carried. Lectures have also been given on the endowment of motherhood and other subjects connected with the safeguarding of child life.

All over the world women are looking with sick longing for the return of the men from the battle fronts. The women in whose hands the long-desired political power has at last been placed are resolved that the country to which they return shall be better and fitter for men and women and little children to dwell in.

DORA MELLONE, Hon. Press Secretary, W.P.L.

AUSTRALIA.

Queensland.

A Queensland Government Bill, enabling males and females to vote at the age of 18, has been read for the first time in the State Assembly.

Following up the enfranchisement of women in Queensland (Australia), it is pleasing to note that intelligent women are coming into their own. Recently a young lady has been appointed to the position of J.P. and Clerk of Petty Sessions, as well as Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages. Among the many duties of the office she has been called upon to join several couples in the holy bonds of matrimony.

The following sketch of the lady's life may prove of interest. Miss Matilda Hennessey was educated up to the age of 16 years at the local State school at Mackay, in Northern Queensland. Winning there the dux medal, she started to study for a scholastic career. But on the Civil Service being thrown open to women, she elected to qualify for those examinations, and finally succeeded. She was then offered the appointment of Clerk of Petty Sessions at Mackay, and was promoted to a similar position in 1918 at Esk, a town near Brisbane (the capital), from whence she has again entered for examination as Police Magistrate, passing with honours, she being the first woman to qualify for this position in that State.

MYOLA.

Sydney, June 26th, 1918.

Success of the Women's Non-Party Association of South Australia.

Hearing that a Bill was being prepared to amend the Criminal Law Bill, it was decided to call a conference of women to discuss the question of assaults on children. Seventeen associations were represented, and three meetings were held, after which a large deputation waited upon the Premier to put the resolutions before him. The Premier said that a bill would shortly be before the House, and that he was sure that it would meet the wishes of the women, and that there was no need for them to discuss these unpleasant matters with him. The women, however, said they preferred to put the resolutions passed by the conference before him. The resolutions asked that heavier penalties be enforced for criminal assault and for lewdness; that the judge should have power to order medical examination and to impose an indeterminate sentence; that the public should be excluded during the preliminary hearing of such cases where children were concerned; that the age of consent be 18, and the clause "that the person so charged had reasonable cause to believe that the female was of or above the age" be deleted; and that there be more plain-clothes police protection on the parklands.

When the bill was introduced members attended at the House, and as soon as the bill was printed procured a copy, a meeting of the speakers at the deputation being called to discuss it. While the President of the Women's Branch of the Liberal Union and the Secretary of the Women's Non-party Association were sitting in the gallery, the Premier came up to them and asked if they were satisfied with the Bill. They said no; that they wanted a certain clause which was not included. When they explained to the Premier what the clause

was, he said if they would draft it he would see if it could be included in the bill. This was done immediately, and the next day the bill was reported with the women's clause included. It was the clause dealing with the medical examination and detention of a person where there was reason to suspect he was incapable of exercising proper control over his sexual instincts.

This is the first time, as far as is known, a clause has been included in a bill after it was once drawn up, by the special request of the women.

INDIA.

The Bombay Provincial Conference, held at Bijapur in response to a memorial from over 100 Bombay ladies, passed a resolution for women's franchise. The resolution was moved by Mrs. Sarojini Naidu.

Miss Cornelia Sorabjee, the well-known Parsi lawyer, has written an interesting study of the zenanas of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa, with a preface by the late Lady Hardinge (wife of the Viceroy). Miss Sorabjee is not permitted to practise in the law courts, but acts as legal adviser to many Indian ladies.

H.H. the Begum of Bhopal presided at the first All-India Ladies' Conference, held at Bhopal, and advocated a central association of Indian women, to include all creeds and races, and to work for social reforms.

The recent conferences at Bijapur were well attended by women, who took an active part in the Social Conference. Mrs. Janakibai Bhat spoke on the condition of widows, Miss Gokhale on women's education, and Mrs. Joshi on the need for raising the marriage age. A special meeting for women was also organised and addressed by the same speakers.

A medical school for women has been opened in Vellore, North Arcot, South India. The school is open to all, without respect to class or creed.

—*Indian Ladies' Magazine.*

NETHERLANDS.

Woman Suffrage Bill.

It was on September 17th that the new Parliament opened its session by a Speech of the Throne, read by the Queen, and in which nothing was said about woman suffrage. From this speech, for the first time spoken before a Parliament in which a woman takes a seat, the word "gentlemen" in the beginning was carefully omitted, but not a word was said to welcome the lady in this assembly. The next day the whole Liberal press noticed the lack of a paragraph for woman suffrage in the Speech of the Throne, and most of these papers said that this Cabinet has to bring in a bill for woman suffrage before the end of the next four years.

When on September 19th the First Chamber assembled to discuss the answer upon the Speech, it was first Baron van der Feltz (Radical) and later Mr. Vliegen (Social Democrat), who asked the Premier, Sir Ruys de Beerenbrouck, why woman suffrage was left out of the Speech, because Holland was ripe for this reform, and the people were expecting it in the very near future. The Premier answered that he had only mentioned the most urgent questions, and he did not think that woman suffrage was urgent, and that the Parliament ought not to expect from this Cabinet a Woman Suffrage Bill. This answer was not only criticised by the Liberal press, but also by a good deal of the Clerical press. The Democratic Catholic papers said that this answer was not so bad, because if the Premier personally was opposed to woman suffrage he would have said so (according to his character), but that it meant if a bill should be brought in by M.P.'s, he would not oppose it. Also a part of the Calvinist press spoke in favour of woman suffrage, and found it better that a Woman Suffrage Bill should become law by a Clerical than later by a Liberal majority.

Soon after (September 27th) the small group of Radicals, with Mr. Marchant at their head, introduced a bill in which it is proposed to eliminate the word "male" in the Ballot Act, where this word is placed before "Netherlander" to exclude women from the vote. It also proposes to let the new law come into force in January, 1922.

This last clause makes the bill much stronger, because it takes away from a certain class of opponents the argument that if this Bill would be accepted, the Parliament has to dissolve in the middle of the time for which it is elected. In 1922 the Parliament has to dissolve according to law.

The Suffragists are now backing up the Bill Marchant, but in any case it cannot be discussed in Parliament before next

spring. If this war is at an end at that time, as every human being sincerely hopes, we will have more opportunity for street demonstrations, etc. We will do our utmost to show the Government that it is our earnest intention to bring the woman suffrage struggle in our country now to a victorious end.

ALETTA H. JACOBS,
Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht.

The Dutch women are now eligible, as you already know, but have no vote. Only one woman, belonging to the Social Democratic Labour Party, Miss Suze Groeneweg, has been elected. The total number of women candidates were 22. Among them were four members of the board of officers of "De Nederlandsche Bond voor Vrouwenkiesrecht." Our President, Mrs. van Riel-Smeenge, was a candidate for the Liberal Party, and our Secretary, Miss Joh. Westerman, for the Economical Party. The latter was a very serious candidate, and it was only by bad luck that she was not elected. As one of our leading papers put it, "Fortune was against her." If one of the members of Parliament belonging to the Economical Party now resigns, she can take his place.

On the third Tuesday of September our Parliament has been opened by our Queen Wilhelmina. In the Queen's address woman suffrage has not been mentioned. And as we have now a Clerical majority in Parliament, we don't quite know what we have to expect of it, and if there will really be a strong opposition against women suffrage. However, everybody feels, also among the Clerical members, that the enfranchisement of women in Holland cannot be put off for long.

"De Nederlandsche Bond voor Vrouwenkiesrecht" forwarded an address to those political parties which are represented in Parliament. In Holland we have now a great many political parties, but not all of them have representatives in Parliament. "De Bond" asked them to help us in getting votes, and to give an opportunity to their members to hear all about women suffrage and what can be said of it. And at the same time we are working very hard to get people, men as well as women, on our side. And, happily, we are marching on!

The leader of the Radicals, Mr. Marchant, M.P., brought in a bill to omit out of some articles of the law the word "masculine." If this bill passes, the Dutch women will have in 1922 equal political rights as the Dutch men. We are now awaiting with great interest what will become of it, but, we fear—we fear!

A. PITTERSEN,
Nederlandsche Bond voor Vrouwenkiesrecht.

Mrs. Van Lanschot Hubrecht.

The Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht has lost one of its most active members in Mrs. Jeanne C. van Lanschot Hubrecht, who died on October 2nd, 1918, after a severe illness. Mrs. Hubrecht, who was also a very well-known Suffragist in the International Alliance, gave a great part of her life to uplift womanhood and further other women's activities and ideals. She was one of the founders of "Nosokomos," a trade union of hospital nurses, and was many years the secretary of the Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht, and treasurer of the International Committee of Women for Permanent Peace. She attended many international women's congresses, and will be sorely missed by those who appreciated her devotion to the work and untiring active propaganda.

WOMEN IN PUBLIC SERVICE.

In the August issue of *Jus Suffragii* we read Miss Sheepshanks' paper on "Equal Eligibility of Women with Men for All Public Offices and Employments," as well as her P.S. stating the fact that all the information was collected from material in the I.W.S.A. office, and asking for supplementary information from foreign countries. The I.W.S.A. office material seeming not complete as to women's position in Holland, we beg to give the following supplementary information. We confine ourselves to the rights Dutch women have acquired, and do not mention the rights that are withheld from them.

STATE AND MUNICIPAL APPOINTMENTS.

Two women in Holland and one in Dutch East India hold high positions in public departments. One has a high position in the post service, and four are directresses of post offices. We have seven female labour inspectors, four women governors of women prisons and State reformatories for girls, three female State school inspectors, and four municipal school inspectors; nearly 80 female teachers at gymnasia (secondary schools where Latin and Greek are on the programme), all mixed, and nearly 90 female teachers at public higher schools (secondary schools where no Latin and Greek is taught), also mixed. Nine

medical women have a municipal appointment, three women are municipal archivists, and one adjunct-archivist; one is adjunct-directress of a municipal museum, and two women hold high administrative municipal appointments.

CLERGY.

On June 16th, 1916, the Remonstrant Reformed Church in Holland (Protestant sect) gave to their female members just the same rights as to the male ones. Remonstrant women therefore may become ministers if only they are qualified. Up to this moment there are some female students at the Remonstrant Seminary, but none of them have graduated yet. The 140 communities of Mennonite Baptists in Holland have all full autonomy. The rights of female members differ thus from one community to another. In ten communities eligibility is granted to women for consistory and deaconry. The ministry is open to women, and in 1911 Miss A. Zernike became a fully qualified preacher at Boven-Knype. She stayed there till she married. At this moment two other women clergy—the Rev. M. T. Gerritsma and the Rev. J. de Eerens—are ministers at Baard and Oost-Eind van Graft. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1910 declared women eligible for the consistory and the deaconry. In 1916 a woman was in the chair of the Hertogenbosch consistory. The Union of Baptised Christians gave women the same rights as men. The Dutch Israelite communities of the Hague, Middleburg, and Rotterdam gave the vote to their women members, and made them eligible for the ministry.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS.

In 1907 the late Dr. Marie Loke became an appointed lecturer for French at Groningen State University. In 1917 Dr. Johanna Westerdijk was appointed professor extraordinary for phytopathology at the Utrecht State University, and in 1918 Dr. Elisabeth Neurdenburg became an appointed lecturer for modern art history at the Groningen State University. Besides Dr. Posthumus, mentioned in Miss Sheepshanks' paper, there are five more female private docents in our country—viz., Dr. J. L. van Anrooy (Economics), Dr. A. Grutterink (Micro-chemistry), Dr. M. A. van Herwerden (Cytology), Dr. M. E. de Meester (English Philology), and Dr. C. Serrurier (French Philology). Further Dutch universities and the technical high school of Delft have a lot of women appointed conservators and assistants.

For the Nationaal Bureau voor Vrouwenarbeid (National Bureau for Women's Work),
MARIE HEINEN, Adjunct-Directress.

NORWAY.

The Norwegian group of the International Committee of Women for Permanent Peace has been very active. It has issued a questionnaire to all Parliamentary candidates at the recent elections, in which it includes and refers to the programme of the Women's International Congress at the Hague in 1915, and declares that it has set itself the task of promoting endeavours for the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means through the adoption in all the associated countries of definite political work for this cause.

The group asks each candidate whether he endorses their programme and will work to carry it out, and, in particular, whether he will promote practical steps for the formation of a League of Nations, for popular education in international law and peace, especially reform in the school teaching of history.

All the Scandinavian groups of the International Committee of Women for Permanent Peace have addressed communications to their Governments, urging them to cause a Scandinavian Commission to be instituted to draw up proposals embodying the fundamental principles and conditions necessary for the formation of a League of Nations. The manifesto is signed by the Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish sections.

Women Postmen.

In a memorial to the postmaster, the "Postmen's Union" has protested against women being appointed as postmen in the Kristiania post-office. The protest is founded on the suspicion that this is being done in order to bring down wages which are already too low. In a reply which has been published, the postmaster states that this is a mistake. He refutes decidedly the argument of the postmen that "it is making a downward step to employ women, for in these positions male labour is far preferable." The postmaster looks on this standpoint as antiquated and worn-out, and points to the experi-

ences of all countries during these years of war as to women's work for the State.

At the same time the postmaster informs us that 67 male and 90 female applicants have applied for the posts. We await the result with interest. —*Nygaende* (September 15).

Women and the Storting.

The Norwegian Society for the Cause of Women has held meetings to promote women's candidature for the Storting, and has sent the following communication to the different political parties:—

"A numerous meeting of women electors belonging to various parties addresses an urgent request to the party organisations that among this year's parliamentary representatives suitable women should also be put up. If this is not done, it is thought right to draw attention to the fact that many women electors intend to take up an independent attitude on that point towards their party."

Up to date no answer to this request has arrived.

Christiania, September 5, 1918.
—*Nygaende* (September 15).

PORTUGAL.

Women's Progress.

In the month of July, and by Government decree, there was conceded to Portuguese women the right to exercise the professions of lawyers and assistants to notaries and of archives, conditional on a certificate of the thorough knowledge of the studies of law. It is permitted to women, in equal conditions to men, to fulfil the functions of official of the civil register, amanuensis or officials in the Secretaries of State, administrative bodies, etc. In some cases they are permitted to serve as witnesses in civil and notarial acts, and it is granted to women who have matriculated as merchants to be speakers in the election of commercial judges. Portuguese women lament the restrictions imposed upon the decree referred to, but there is no doubt that the concessions made in it to women constitute a new feminine advance and one of great moral significance, as it contributes largely to kill many prejudices.

—*Redencion* (September, 1918).

SPAIN.

We are pleased to receive copies of the Feminist paper, *Redencion*. It appears from the September issue that it has now completed its third year of publication. In its first year it founded the women's group "Concepcion Arenal," and helped to establish a library. Later on it helped to constitute the Spanish League for the Progress of Women. It calls on all women to co-operate in working for their rights.

SWITZERLAND.

Women Clergy.

Professor Eugene Choisy has established an Institute for Women Clergy, following on his brochure on "Women's Ministry in the Primitive Church." Candidates must have finished their secondary education, and go through two years' University study, after which, if they pass the examination, they obtain a certificate of Biblical studies. They must also, either at the same time or subsequently, go through a course of study on educational, social, or missionary subjects, and do practical work in Sunday schools, charitable work, house-keeping schools, which will entitle them to a special certificate given by the Institute for Women Clergy; whereas the certificate for Biblical study is given by the Consistory of the National Protestant Church of Geneva. They may then apply for employment as catechists, evangelists, secretaries of parishes or of Christian societies, and missionaries. In the winter of 1917-18 nine candidates presented themselves.

—L. CHOUER (in the *Women's International Quarterly*).

Child Labour.

According to the last census the Federal Statistical Bureau shows a large number of child wage-earners. There are no fewer than 14,275 children of 14 engaged in manual labour; of these, 6,034 are girls. The greater proportion are in the textile industry—2,370 little girls and 842 boys are in cotton weaving, 1,541 in embroidery, 784 in silk, and 37 in straw-plaiting. Clothing absorbs 1,199 little girls. Food, building trades, metal trades, watch making, foundries, chemical trades, agriculture, and other occupations, all employ child labour.

—*Le Journal du Bien Public.*

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

My pen will hardly write the words—"The Federal Suffrage Amendment has been defeated in the United States Senate." By September 21st a majority for it seemed so well assured that the Chairman of the Committee asked for a vote on September 26th, which was granted by the Senate. The two votes which had been lacking for many months at last were promised, not to the women, but to the Senators who had the amendment in charge. In addition, several Senators seemed to be so near to coming out on the affirmative side that the Chairman of the Senate Committee and Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, President of the National American Association, both announced in the press that the measure would pass by a majority of three or four at least. I cabled to the Editor of the *International News* the date of the vote, and added the word "hopeful," expecting to reach her before the paper went to press.

All of the Senators were in their seats, or were "paired," on the afternoon of September 26th, and the large galleries were crowded with women from all parts of the United States. The debate had hardly commenced, however, when two of the new Senators on which the suffragists had depended announced that they would vote in opposition. This created almost a panic, and immediately the debate became violently partisan, the Democrats accusing the Republicans of bringing the amendment to a vote when they knew it could not be carried, and the latter making the same charge against the Democrats. The discussion consumed all of Thursday afternoon, was resumed again on Friday, and continued until the Senate adjourned, and was taken up again on Saturday.

The leaders of our "lobby" in Washington telephoned to our New York headquarters that the women were no longer a factor, but that the politicians had taken the situation into their own hands. The opponents endeavoured to force the vote, and the supporters of the amendment made strenuous efforts to defer it, hoping that in some way the two defaulting Senators could be replaced with friends. Finally, late Saturday afternoon, the Chairman of the Suffrage Committee was able to force a postponement until Monday.

President Wilson had come up to New York to open the campaign for the Fourth Liberty Loan on Friday evening, and when he returned to Washington Saturday night the situation was laid before him, with the statement from the pro-suffrage Senators that he alone could save the amendment. He had repeatedly expressed his desire for it through the press and through personal appeals, by letter and by word of mouth, to the Senators, but it was clearly evident that these were not sufficient. The opponents had ceased to make any argument except that it was not a "war measure," and should not be decided until after the war had ended. The President rose to the occasion, and at one o'clock on Monday he appeared in person before the Senate to plead the cause of woman suffrage. No act of his career had required greater courage, for he knew that he was facing a majority of his own party who were bitterly opposed to the amendment.

I shall make this letter short in order that the President's address may be printed in full in this number of the *International News*, if its Editor approves, as it is a great historical document, and has been pronounced by the leading newspapers as one of the President's most forceful and eloquent addresses. It is just as applicable to all the countries of the world where women are disfranchised as it is to the United States. It covers the whole argument for the enfranchisement of women, and leaves nothing more to be said. Scarcely had the door closed behind the President, however, before Senator Underwood, of Alabama, a leader of the opposition, was on his feet combating the President's position, and practically denying his statements. A bitter debate followed until five o'clock, when the Chairman of the Committee moved a recess until Tuesday.

On Tuesday afternoon the unique spectacle was presented of Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, the Republican leader, in close conference on the floor of the Senate with Senator Martin, of Virginia, the Democratic leader, and shaking hands with Democratic Senators after they had made speeches against the amendment. While the vote was in progress he was on their side of the House encouraging the opponents, evidently feeling safe in leaving his own side unwatched. Just before the presiding officer of the Senate announced the result Senator Jones, of New Mexico, Chairman of the Suffrage Committee, changed his vote to the negative in order that he might move for a reconsideration. The count showed a majority of two against the amendment, and it was lost.

The resentment of the suffragists can be understood when it is told that these two opposing votes were cast by two members who had not even a constituency back of them, but had been appointed by their Governors to fill the terms of Senators who had died. One of these, Drew, of New Hampshire, replaced Senator Gallinger, who had been a faithful friend of woman suffrage for thirty years. Senator Drew and Senator Benet, of South Carolina, the other appointee, both were candidates in September for the nomination for election to the Senate, and both were defeated—in other words, repudiated by their own States;—and yet these two mere accidents in the Senate, appointed simply to pay political debts, were able to defeat the Federal Suffrage Amendment. Three-fourths of the Republicans voted in favour of it, and not quite one-half of the Democrats. On the other hand, President Wilson and his Cabinet favoured the amendment; while its most dangerous opponents were Senators Lodge, Wadsworth, of New York, and other Republican leaders.

About two weeks before the vote was taken, and when the fate of the amendment was hanging in the balance, the President received a delegation of Democratic women from the Equal-suffrage States to ask in the name of the women voters of that party that he would do his utmost for its success. This he promised them most earnestly he would do, and within an hour after he had given his pledge to these women, the "militants," under the leadership of Miss Alice Paul, gathered in Lafayette Square, opposite the White House, and applied a torch to his words, which had been given out officially to the press. They had previously issued a call to their forces, asking them to meet at that time "prepared for arrest," but, acting under instructions, the police did not pay the slightest attention to them, and after their incendiary deed they marched slowly and sadly back to their headquarters. The performance was scarcely noticed by the newspapers further than to say that they were thoroughly discredited in the eyes of the public.

It has been too evident for denial that the anti-suffragists were making their last desperate fight, and that they had cast aside all the decencies of modern warfare, the women even more than the men. They wholly abandoned the weapons of reason and argument, and used only personal abuse and villification. It was the obstinate refusal of the suffragists to make reprisal in kind and the high standard of discussion maintained by the press that kept the present campaign for this amendment respectable and dignified. The splendid support given by the newspapers of the country cannot be overestimated.

Senator Jones moved a reconsideration of the measure, and it has been placed on the calendar again to be taken up whenever it seems best; but this probably will not be done until after the general election, November 5th. It is most important that the amendment should be carried before January 1st, as the Legislatures of nearly all the States meet next winter, and then will be the only chance of having it ratified before the Presidential election of 1920.

On October 3rd President Wilson received a delegation of nearly a hundred women from the different States, headed by Mrs. Catt and Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, Honorary President of the National Suffrage Association. Dr. Shaw expressed the gratitude of the women of the country for his loyal support of the cause of woman suffrage and of humanity; and Mrs. Catt, in the name of the Association, pledged its fullest assistance in any demand which he might make upon it. We consider the situation in regard to the amendment stronger than it has ever been before.

IDA HUSTED HARPER,
Chairman Editorial Correspondence, Leslie
Suffrage Bureau.

New York, October 4th, 1918.

President Wilson's Speech to the Senate.

The President spoke as follows:—

Gentlemen of the Senate,—The unusual circumstances of a world war in which we stand and are judged in the view, not only of our own people and our own consciences, but also in the view of all nations and people, will, I hope, justify in your thought, as it does in mine, the message I have come to bring you.

I regard the concurrence of the Senate in the constitutional amendment proposing the extension of the suffrage to women as vitally essential to the successful prosecution of the great war of humanity in which we are engaged. I have come to urge upon you the considerations which have led me to that conclusion. It is not only my privilege, it is also my duty, to apprise you of every circumstance and element involved in

this momentous struggle which seems to me to affect its very processes and its outcome. It is my duty to win the war, and to ask you to remove every obstacle that stands in the way of winning it.

I had assumed that the Senate would concur in the amendment because no disputable principle is involved, but only a question of the method by which the suffrage is to be extended to women. There is and can be no party issue involved in it. Both of our great national parties are pledged, explicitly pledged, to equality of suffrage for the women of the country. Neither party, therefore, it seems to me, can justify hesitation as to the method of obtaining it, can rightfully hesitate to substitute Federal initiative for State initiative, if the early adoption of this measure is necessary to the successful prosecution of the war, and if the method of State action proposed in the party platforms of 1916 is impracticable within any reasonable length of time, if practical at all. And its adoption is, in my judgment, clearly necessary to the successful prosecution of the war and the successful realisation of the objects for which the war is being fought.

ALL LOOK TO DEMOCRACY.

That judgment I take the liberty of urging upon you with solemn earnestness for reasons which I shall state very frankly, and which I shall hope will seem as conclusive to you as they seem to me.

This is a people's war, and the people's thinking constitute its atmosphere and morale—not the predilections of the drawing-room or the political considerations of the caucus. If we be indeed democrats, and wish to leave the world to democracy, we can ask other peoples to accept in proof of our sincerity and our ability to lead them whither they wish to be led nothing less persuasive and convincing than our actions. Our professions will not suffice. Verification must be forthcoming when verification is asked for. And in this case verification is asked for—asked for in this particular matter. You ask by whom? Not through diplomatic channels; not by foreign ministers. Not by the intimations of parliaments. It is asked for by the anxious, expectant, suffering peoples with whom we are dealing, and who are willing to put their destinies in some measure in our hands, if they are sure that we wish the same that they do.

I do not speak my conjecture. It is not alone the voices of statesmen and of newspapers that reach me—and the voices of foolish and intemperate agitators do not reach me at all. Through many many channels I have been made aware what the plain, struggling, workaday folk are thinking, upon whom the chief terror and suffering of this tragic war falls. They are looking to the great, powerful, famous democracy of the West to lead them to the new day for which they have so long waited; and they think, in their logical simplicity, that democracy means that women shall play their part in affairs alongside men and upon an equal footing with them. If we reject measures like this in ignorant defiance of what a new age has brought forth, of what they have seen but we have not, they will cease to believe in us; they will cease to follow or to trust us.

They have seen their own Governments accept this interpretation of democracy; seen old Governments like that of Great Britain, which did not profess to be democratic, promise readily and as of course this justice to women, though they had before refused it; the strange revelations of this war having made many things new and plain to Governments, as well as to peoples.

Are we alone to refuse to learn the lesson? Are we alone to ask and take the utmost that our women can give—service and sacrifice of every kind,—and still say we do not see what title that gives them to stand by our sides in the guidance of the affairs of their nation and ours? We have made partners of the women in this war; shall we admit them only to a partnership of suffering and sacrifice and toil, and not to a partnership of privilege and right? This war could not have been fought, either by the other nations engaged or by America, if it had not been for the services of the women—services rendered in every sphere, not merely in the fields of efforts in which we have been accustomed to see them work, but wherever men have worked, and upon the very skirts and edges of the battle itself. We shall not only be disgraced but shall deserve to be distrusted if we do not enfranchise them with the fullest possible enfranchisement, as it is now certain that the other great free nations will enfranchise them. We cannot isolate our thought and action in such a matter from the thought of the rest of the world. We must either conform or deliberately reject what they propose and resign the leadership of liberal minds to others.

VITAL TO WINNING OF THE WAR.

The women of America are too noble and too intelligent and too devoted to be slackers whether you give or withhold this thing that is mere justice, but I know the magic it will work in their thoughts and spirits if you give it to them. I propose it as I would propose to admit soldiers to the suffrage, the men fighting in the field for our liberties and the liberties of the world, were they excluded. The tasks of the women lie at the very heart of the war, and I know how much stronger that heart will beat if you do this just thing, and show our women that you trust them as much as you in fact and of necessity depend upon them.

Have I said that the passage of this amendment is a vitally necessary war measure, and do you need further proof? Do you stand in need of the trust of other peoples and of the trust of our own women? Is that trust an asset, or is it not? I tell you plainly, as the commander-in-chief of our armies and of the gallant men in our fleets; as the present spokesman of this people in our dealings with the men and women throughout the world who are now our partners; as the responsible head of a great Government which stands and is questioned day by day as to its purposes, its principles, its hopes, whether they be serviceable to men everywhere or only to itself, and who must himself answer these questionings, or be shamed; as the guide and director of forces caught in the grip of war, and, by the same token, in need of every material and spiritual resource this great nation possesses;—I tell you plainly that this measure which I urge upon you is vital to the winning of the war and to the energies alike of preparation and of battle.

And not to the winning of the war only. It is vital to the right solution of the great problems which we must settle, and settle immediately, when the war is over. We shall need then in our vision of affairs, as we have never needed them before, the sympathy and insight and clear moral instinct of the women of the world. The problems of that time will strike to the roots of many things that we have not hitherto questioned, and I for one believe that our safety in those questioning days, as well as our comprehension of matters that touch society to the quick, will depend upon the direct and authoritative participation of women in our counsels. We shall need their moral sense to preserve what is right and fine and worthy in our system of life, as well as to discover just what it is that ought to be purified and reformed. Without their counselings we shall be only half wise.

That is my case. This is my appeal. Many may deny its validity if they choose, but no one can brush aside or answer the arguments upon which it is based. The executive tasks of this war rest upon me. I ask that you lighten them and place in my hands instruments, spiritual instruments, which I do not now possess, which I sorely need, and which I have daily to apologise for not being able to employ.

REVIEW.

CALIFORNIA LAWS OF INTEREST TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN, 1917.
Compiled by the California State Library.

This excellent little handbook may well serve as a model to other States and countries. In a small, compact, paper-backed volume are summarised the chief laws of the State of interest to women and children. Every woman can possess this handy booklet, and inform herself of her rights and duties. A concise statement is given of the laws of marriage, divorce, relations of husband and wife, parent and child, adoption, homesteads, wills and succession, guardianship, the penal code for certain offences, industrial laws, and general laws. The laws affecting married women are in advance of those in force in many European countries—*e.g.*, a wife may make contracts, she controls and may sell her separate property. A husband is not liable for civil injuries committed by his wife. Property acquired by either after marriage is their common property unless specifically settled on the wife, in which case the husband has no control. The father of an illegitimate child is liable as well as the mother for its support and education "suitable to his circumstances." Father and mother of a legitimate child have equal rights as guardians. A woman witness in court is entitled to the attendance of a person of her own sex. The Industrial Welfare Commission regulates the employment of women and minors and fixes minimum wages. Severe restrictions are placed on child labour. An eight-hour day is enforced for women.

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