

Equal Rights

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FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY,
MAY 23, 1925



A glimpse of the Garden Party given on May 8 at National Headquarters in honor of Mrs. Margery Corbett Ashby, President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. The speakers on the platform are, from left to right, Margaret Whittemore, Florence Bayard Hilles, Mrs. Ashby and Edith Houghton Hooker.

Feminist Notes

Victory in Italy

IN spite of an adverse report by the committee in charge, the Italian Chamber of Deputies on May 15 passed the bill granting women municipal suffrage. Premier Mussolini gave his support to the measure and the members were thus encouraged to overrule the committee. Nine bills of this kind have been introduced in the Italian Parliament since nineteen hundred and four.

A Chip of the Old Block

M^LLE. IRENE CURIE, daughter of the discoverer of radium, has been awarded the degree of doctor of science by the University of Paris for a thesis on a chemical matter pertaining to radium.

Fighting Discriminatory Laws in England

THE fact that the British Cabinet has in preparation a bill to be known as the Consolidated Factory Bill for regulation of factory labor has given an opportunity to the Women's Freedom League to agitate for the removal of special restrictions for women. Pending a hearing to be given a deputation of the league shortly, a brief has been prepared and submitted to the Home Secretary. This protests against existing special restrictions and urges removal of sex discriminations from the prospective measure. It is pointed out that these objections do not apply to restrictions applied equally to both sexes, but only when women are singled out for special treatment. Particular stress is laid on restrictions of night work, or work involving the use of white lead, and of hours and overtime. Furthermore, the Government is cautioned against new restrictions on women's labor which do not apply to men's labor.

No Women Jurors in Connecticut

THE Connecticut State Senate passed a bill to make women eligible for jury duty and the House rejected it. That ends the matter for this session.

Indiana Nominations Go to Women

AN unusually large number of women candidates were successful at the municipal primaries in Indiana on May 6. No less than 27 were nominated for city clerk and 8 have been named for treasurer. They seem to have obtained but one nomination for mayor. This happened at Hartford City, where Mrs. Charles Ritter will head the Republican ticket.

Eugenic Tests for Women

THE Wisconsin State Senate has passed the bill extending to women the provisions of the eugenic marriage law. A similar bill failed in the House, but there is a possibility that the Senate measure will be approved.

A Survey of the Married Teacher Problem

THE employment of married women as teachers being still an unsettled question in Switzerland, the *Schweizer Frauenblatt*, the feminist organ, is gathering information as to how the matter is being handled in other countries. Information obtained is briefly as follows:

France: Women and men teachers have equal rights. Even their salaries are equal. If a woman teacher marries, she retains her position unless she marries a foreigner, in which case she loses her citizenship. This exception will come to an end as soon as the law allows French women marrying foreigners to retain their citizenship.

Germany: Prior to the revolution of 1918 married women were barred from teaching, but under the constitution of the republic all discriminations against women officials were abolished, including the marriage ban against women teachers. Now a large number of married women teachers are engaged in their profession.

Austria: Married women teachers are tolerated in Vienna, but discrimination prevails in the provinces.

England: Since the war many of the local school boards have compelled married women teachers to resign. A question in the House of Commons in March, 1924, unearthed the information that 105 of 330 local boards have adopted rules discriminating against married women. The National Union of Women Teachers is fighting these regulations.

Holland: The question is still unsettled. On January 1, 1923, there were 781 married women teachers in the public schools out of a total of 6126. A measure is pending in Parliament authorizing dismissal of any woman teacher under the age of 45 who marries. There is great danger that this bill will become law since it is favored by the bourgeois parties, which have a large majority, though opposed by the socialist minority.

United States: No laws in any State against married women, but various school boards have adopted rules to that effect. In New York State it has been decided by the courts that the school authorities have no right to discharge a woman teacher on account of marriage.

A Veteran Woman Musical Leader

A MOVEMENT to establish homes for aged musicians in each State is being conducted by Miss Emma R. Steiner who, fifty years ago, became conductor of an orchestra in New York City and, so far as is known, was the first woman to function in that capacity. She has not only led orchestras, but has composed much music, including several light operas. On one occasion she led Anton Seidl's band for a concert at which her own compositions made up the entire program.

Doing Better Without Restrictive Laws

WITHOUT restrictive legislation women clothing workers in San Francisco will be limited to a 44-hour week hereafter. This will give male workers no advantage, however, for the limitation applies to them also. This is the result of efforts by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and obtained entirely by non-legislative action.

Her Honor The Judge

G^OVERNOR PINCHOT of Pennsylvania, having appointed several weeks ago a woman to a place on the bench in Philadelphia, is now considering a second appointment of that kind. Associate Judge Shearer of Clinton county has died and the Governor is being urged to appoint his wife to the vacant position. Commenting on this the *Johnstown Democrat* says. "There would seem to be no good reason why women should not make good judges. Of course, it is objected by the cynical that women have a habit of changing their minds and that they permit their emotions to outweigh their reason. But certainly no woman on the bench could be more facile in changing her mind than some men judges we could name have shown themselves to be."

Illtreating a Senator

THE Newspaper Enterprise Association is broadcasting a story in which it unkindly attributes to a Wisconsin State Senator named Barber a silly remark concerning equal rights. Mr. Barber is the author of a bill designed to protect men against women blackmailers. In connection with this he is reported to have stated in support of his measure: "Equal rights for women. The vamping women have too many rights now." Since such a remark, if seriously uttered, indicates ignorance of the true meaning of equality and of rights, it is reasonable to infer that the Newspaper Enterprise Association harbors a grudge against the Senator.

Cuban Women Hold Convention

M^RS. PILAR HOUSTON, an official delegate of the National Woman's Party to the Second National Congress of Women that met recently in Havana, Cuba, reports that the convention was an outstanding success. Mrs. Pilar Morlon de Menendez, president of the Federation opened the congress and briefly outlined its purposes. She then introduced General Gerardo Machado, president elect of Cuba, who said in part: "Women are just as intelligent and more honest than men, and their efforts are usually directed in the best interests of their country."

"The same political rights and privileges that are given to men should be given to women."

"When I take office on May 20th I hope to give Cuba an honest and efficient government and in this endeavor I am counting on the help and co-operation of the women of the country."

Carlos de la Rosa, vice-president elect of Cuba, made a short address in which he endorsed the remarks of General Machado and approved the program of the Federation.

Representatives of nearly all of the seventy organizations of the Federation were present on the platform at the opening of the congress. The delegates were welcomed by the president of the Federation, and representatives of the foreign organizations responded with greetings from their respective presidents.

Mrs. Pilar Houston, delegate of the National Woman's Party and of the International Sunshine Society, delivered a message and presented Mrs. Menendez with a beautiful bouquet, combining the colors of the society.

Other delegates who brought greetings to the Federation president, were Miss Lolo de la Torriente, representing the Woman's Party; Miss Josefina Odio, Logia Humanidad de Portugal, and Mrs. Delores Warren, Capitulo Humanidad de Portugal.

Messages were also delivered by delegates of the different provinces of Cuba, and a report was made by the secretary of the Federation, Mrs. Angela Hevia de Bas.

The Detroit Conference

THE Mid-Western Conference of the National Woman's Party, which is to be held in Bloomfield Hills and Detroit, will open June 4 with an annual meeting of the Michigan Branch. The morning of June 5 will be given over to the National Council and the afternoon to an organization conference. This will be followed by a banquet in the evening at one of the delightful clubs in Bloomfield Hills.

As no trip to Detroit is complete without a visit to the Ford factory, this will be provided for on the morning of June 6, with a drive back to Pontiac through the Lake district, finishing with a luncheon and round table discussion at the Sunset Hills Club. On Sunday afternoon there will be a big industrial mass-meeting at a downtown theatre.

Particular emphasis during the entire conference will be placed upon woman in industry; her hopes, her fears, her problems and her solutions to her problems. Many women prominent in industry will address the meetings, among them Myrtle Cain and Josephine Casey, chairman for the Industrial Council of the National Woman's Party.

The most important event of the Mid-Western Conference is unquestionably the pageant typifying "equality." This will take place Saturday, June 6, at 7 P. M., in the Greek Open Air Theatre, on the estate of George G. Booth, Cranbrook. It will be open to the public and a very limited number of seats are now on sale at the Party headquarters, 2233 Park Boulevard, and with the committees in Birmingham and Pontiac.

The pageant is under the direction of Nina B. Lamkin, director of the Woman's Division of the Highland Park Recreation Commission. Miss Lamkin is nationally

know in pageant work. She has written and directed over 30 pageants and her text books are used in the schools. She was called to Highland Park from New York by the Recreation Commission in 1922, to produce a July 4th pageant. On the strength of this she was invited by the Recreation Commission to return and organize the women's and girl's activities, and to develop a dramatic program for the city.

Miss Lamkin has rewritten the pageant "Forward into Light," which was presented last summer at Westport, the home of Mr. John Milholland, in memory of his gifted and lovely daughter, Inez Milholland, by the division of the Woman's Party which bears her name.

The pageant in colorful pictures, historic scenes and interlude dances of great beauty will interpret the growth of freedom for women of all the nations through the efforts of women themselves. From Queen Tiy and her Egyptian Court the story moves on through the Oriental, Greek, and Roman periods, through English history and to America where scenes of quaint beauty and vital interest show the growth of Women's world, toward the time when the man and woman go forth together to solve the problems of the world. The vision of the future portrays the vibrant picture as womanhood of the ages has passed the torch of freedom on and on to those outstanding figures in history who have been worthy to carry it.

There will be a cast of six hundred men and women. These are to be drawn from all parts of the community such as: The Highland Park Business and Professional Women; the Dramatic Department of the Highland Park Women's Club; and the Young Hebrew Association. The Detroit Recreation Commission with the Circle Dramatique and the Royal Oak Woman's Club and the Hutchin Center will form

another group. Men and women of Birmingham are furnishing the material for the scenes of 1848, and Birmingham High School girls and younger children will assist their elders. The dramatic group of the Y. W. C. A., of Highland Park, and their club girls and members of the Kennedy Center will assist. The Jefferson School, the Atkinson House and a gifted group of Detroit players will all have their parts. The music which accompanies the pageant is especially beautiful. A group of musicians from the symphony orchestra will render the marches, and songs will be sung by the Madrigal Club, of which Mr. Chas. Frederick Morse is director.

With an undertaking of such magnitude the committees in charge have been working night and day. The Executive Committee consists of Mrs. William A. McGraw, as chairman; and Mesdames Emma Fox, Bertha Koon, Arthur B. Cramer and Ralph E. Collins.

The Publicity Committee consists of Mesdames Nelson Whittemore, Richard Drake, Fred L. Brandes, John H. Marlotte and Fred Farrar. Mrs. S. A. Kessell and J. F. Maurice MacFarlane are in charge of the music. The Cast Committee consists of Mesdames Arthur B. Cramer, Ralph E. Collins, Bertha Koon, Bess Garner; and the Costume Committee consists of Mesdames Frank Briscoe, Alex. Diack, John J. Gaffill, Tom Munger and Wallace Frost.

The Dance Committee is in charge of Mrs. Fred L. Brandes while the Stage Committee is most ably headed by Mrs. A. S. Chatfield. The Production Committee is made up of Miss Lottie McDermotte, Miss Fern Stevenson, Mrs. Kathryn Vincent Mayer. Mrs. Ralph E. Collins and Mrs. Emma Fox are on the Patroness Committee; and photography in charge of Mrs. Walter Nelson.

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

To remove all forms of the subjection of women.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation"

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 21.
House Joint Resolution Number 75.]

Introduced in the Senate, December 10, 1923,
by SENATOR CHARLES E. CURRIE
Introduced in the House of Representatives,
December 18, 1923,
by REPRESENTATIVE D. R. ANTHONY.

Now Is The Time

SOME two thousand years ago a Roman philosopher observed, "Opportunities lost can never be recovered." The accuracy of this statement has not altered with the ages; it is as true today as when it was first uttered.

People in business and the professions, at least those who are successful, take daily note of this axiom, but the great majority of volunteer workers whose efforts are not tautly standardized by gain or glory too often disregard it. They permit unique opportunities to slip through their fingers with the cheerful but erroneous thought that when they wish they can have them back again.

The Detroit Conference, which will be held on June 4, 5, 6 and 7, is an opportunity that overlooked will not be recovered. It promises to be one of the most interesting, beautiful and practical occasions ever arranged by the Woman's Party. All of its numerous and varied sessions will be open to the public and hospitality will be supplied free to those who request it. Mrs. Wallace Frost is chairman of the hospitality committee, and any delegate desiring hospitality while in Detroit should without delay communicate directly with her at 2233 Park avenue, Detroit, Mich.

The one thing necessary now to make the conference a complete success is an adequate number of delegates from the State branches. If you have not already appointed your delegates, please do so at once and send their names to the Conference Committee, 2233 Park avenue, Detroit, whereupon a program of the conference and other information will be sent them.

Shades Of Our Forefathers

WRITING in the *New Republic* of April 15 on "Working Mothers," Helen Glenn Tyson concludes an otherwise commendable article with the words, "Equal Rights" is a fine phrase and leisured women use it glibly. But the Mary McGuires (i. e., the industrial women) in America have no use for empty phrases; they do not lower rents, nor raise wages; they pay no doctors' bills and clothe no children."

Shades of '76! Is it not a harsh punishment to have a daughter of America deride a principle for which patriots gave up their lives as but one among other "empty phrases"? Equal rights is the corner-stone of our Constitution; it is the first principle of democracy; it is one of those inalienable rights that men have considered worthy of their supreme sacrifice. If Miss Tyson will look the matter up, she will find that such men as Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln did not regard equal rights as an "empty phrase"; on the contrary, they thought it perhaps the most important thing in the social universe, not because it would "lower rents" or "clothe children," but because they knew it to be an essential principle of justice.

But perhaps Miss Tyson feels that principles of justice also are unimportant, because assuredly they cannot be immediately relied upon to "pay doctor's bills" or "raise wages." But neither can principles of injustice work these miracles. Here we request that note be taken of the fact that the Mary McGuires of today live under a regime not of equal rights, but the opposite. Unfortunately the Lucretia Mott Amendment has not yet become a part of the Federal Constitution. Mary McGuire is not afflicted with the "empty phrase" that Miss Tyson so disparages. She enjoys unequal rights still in nearly every avenue of life except in the matter of voting. She even enjoys it in her pay envelope. If she happens to live in New York City, her weekly wage will be about half that of the men folks, and if she lives up-State, it will be considerably less than half.

We do not assert that this inequality is a result of the sex-linked construction that men now put on the words "person" and "citizen" in the Constitution, we merely call attention to the fact that unequal rights and unequal wages, as between the two sexes, are coexistent. The proof of this fact may be found in the statute books and in women's pay envelopes.

Miss Tyson shows convincingly that the family income has some relation to the comfort and welfare of the working mother. Perhaps when "Equal Rights" is translated into "equal pay," as it already has been in the case of the women school teachers and some of the civil servants, she will be less scornful of justice and such other nonsense.

New York Holds Annual Meeting

ON April 30 the New York State Branch of the Woman's Party held its annual meeting in the Sun Room at the Allerton, 698 Lexington avenue. Reports on the year's work were made by the chairman and legislative chairman. Mrs. Lieber E. Whittic of Syracuse was present and presented an interesting report on activities of the Syracuse Branch, and reports of other up-State branches were read, as well as reports of the industrial, teachers' and dentists' councils. The following officers were elected: Mrs. Clarence M. Smith, chairman; Mrs. Lieber E. Whittic of Syracuse, Mrs. Edward Brewster Gould of Seneca Falls, Mrs. Frederick W. Kendall of Hamburg and Miss Doris Stevens of New York, vice-chairmen; Miss Adelaide Stedman, secretary, and Mrs. Mildred Mary Combs, treasurer.

After the business session there was a general discussion of plans for future activities, led by Miss Gail Laughlin and Miss Doris Stevens.

A dinner for members and friends of the New York City Committee was held

at the Town Hall Club the same evening. Mrs. Cornelia Bruere Rose, New York City chairman, welcomed the guests and then introduced Mrs. Edith Houghton Hooker, editor of EQUAL RIGHTS, who presided at the speakers' table. Mrs. Marguerite Harrison, who recently traveled for ten months across the deserts and forests of Anatolia, seeking the "Forgotten People," and who accompanied the Baktyari in their migration in search of grass, spoke on the position of Eastern women and read a most interesting program adopted by a Persian feminist society. The Eastern woman has in some respects an advantage over the Western woman, Mrs. Harrison said, the old Koranic law, which practically rules the East, having always allowed rights to women, which have not always been granted in the West. "Grass, a Nation's Battle for Life," has been recorded for the screen by Mrs. Harrison and her fellow-travelers, Merian C. Cooper and Ernest B. Schoesdack, and is now being shown in New York and other cities. Rebecca Hourwich, who has just returned

from South Africa, spoke on feminism in South Africa, and Dr. Gertrude Wocker of Switzerland, considered one of the greatest women chemists in Europe, was also an interesting speaker. The principal speech of the evening was made by Miss Gail Laughlin, first vice-chairman of the National Council of the Woman's Party, who spoke on equal rights for men and women in industry. "What the Woman's Party demands," Miss Laughlin said, "is opportunity for women, full, free, equal with the opportunities given to men—equal rights under the law for men and women, nothing more, nothing less, no special privileges for either men or women, no discriminations against either men or women—that is the short and simple program which finds expression in the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. Women are at the parting of the ways. They must elect to be semi-wards, the subject of special legislation for a class not fully competent, or they must go forward to full equality with men, with protection for the weak, whether men or women, but with no handicap for the strong."

The Marriage Law in Sweden

By Dr. Ingegerd Palme, M.A.,
Corresponding Secretary of the Swedish
National Council of Women

THE Swedish Marriage Law is the most progressive law, dealing with the home and the family yet in existence. This place of superiority we claim for our new law chiefly because of the successful way in which it has settled the relationship between husband and wife. Full equality between them is now legally established and recognized, and absolute independence is given to the married woman.

The new law expresses our modern conception of marriage as a union of mutually independent individuals, having the same rights and duties and bound to stand by and to help one another in every path of life.

The first clause of the law reads as follows: "Husband and wife have to be true and helpful to each other and they have to work in concord for the good of the family."

The economic obligations of the spouses to each other are put forth in the second clause. It ordains that each spouse according to his or her ability must share in the maintenance of the family. Maintenance must here not necessarily be interpreted as meaning only the supply of the mere necessities of life. Such a standard of living must be kept up in the home as may be considered corresponding to its economic position or to the income of husband or wife. Each one must contribute towards the keeping up of the home either

by giving monetary support or by actual work in the house. You may wonder how the wife is able to fulfill her duty of maintenance. It is of course mainly by organizing or herself performing the household work that she does this.

In ancient times in Sweden the solemn ceremony by which the bride was handed over to her husband ended with a speech, declaring her legally married to the locks and keys of the home, thus acknowledging her as the right and lawful guardian and mistress of her new home, and giving her the same authority as her husband as far as family matters were concerned. Gradually, however, the husband began to assert himself and to claim an undisputed authority in the home. The old clause, that so long had preserved the rights and liberty of the Swedish housewife was dropped from the old marriage law. Man then reigned supreme, and the man-made law was in force.

It is first by the new marriage law of 1921 that our housewives have regained the position they formerly enjoyed. Their full independence is now legally recognized not only as their right, but also as absolutely necessary, if we shall get good and happy homes.

The wife's work in the home has now an

economic value and she herself is no longer dependent on her husband's generosity. She needs no longer to beg for money, which may be more or less grudgingly given. Of course we all know there are men who have given largely and lovingly, but the other kind is unfortunately not unknown, the husband who believes that the wife can manage for herself and the family on a mere pittance. I think what woman possesses of organizing power is greatly due to the exceedingly difficult task that often has been hers, that of keeping up the home on a comparatively small allowance. It has been the custom in most countries for men to praise the woman's housework. With infinite variations this praise has been repeated again and again. In eloquent speeches, in newspaper articles and ordinary conversation woman's housework has been lauded. And one of the chief objections to the unmarried woman's seeking work outside the home is, that it takes her away from her real sphere, from her home. Her mission as a mother of men has been glorified. Her sons love her and have always been ready to lay down their lives for her, but they have not until now understood and as lawmakers recognized the equality between mother and father.

We owe to the Scandinavian lawmakers and in this particular case to the gifted and forcible women who helped to

draft the law, that the new Swedish marriage law has legally recognized woman's quiet work for home and family and has estimated it at its real economic value. In the law this work is recognized as being fully equal in importance to that of the husband, thus emphasizing the fact that the working woman who has no income of her own is not supported by her husband, but by her household work, she is considered as having fulfilled her part of maintaining the family.

The husband is generally the wage-earner, but in rare cases it is on the income of the wife that the family has to exist, and then it is her duty to supply husband and children with what they need to keep up that standard of living which may be considered as corresponding to her income. She must, for instance, if she can afford it supply her husband with the means to indulge in those little luxuries, that other men of his station in life can allow themselves. How much each spouse has the right to claim of the other can of course not be decided by law, especially not what each one may claim for his or her personal needs. But the law provides that the allowance be handed over in sufficiently large installments. It is probably not only in Sweden that some wives have had to beg for every piece of money they require for themselves or for the housekeeping, something that generally has been extremely humiliating. Now the wife has full right to claim her allowance and to manage independently and without interference from her husband the money that is her due.

Regulations about maintenance are in most countries embodied in the Poor Law. We are proud that our Swedish lawmakers have fully grasped the importance of having this question dealt with by the Marriage Law. It is one of the fundamental principles of our new law, and it gives each spouse the possibility of having his or her claims examined and judicially treated.

If the husband and wife can not agree as to the amount of the maintenance, a specially appointed mediator has to make investigations into the case, trying to find out the real cause why support has been refused. The mediator must endeavor to reconcile the two parties. This may sometimes be an easy task. But if no reconciliation be possible the matter is brought before the local court and both parties must comply with the verdict there given. When necessary, the maintenance-money may be deducted from the wages or pension of the husband or wife, as the case may be.

The law ordains further, that husband and wife shall give each other full and detailed information about their economic conditions and no disposal of real or personal property may be made by the one spouse without the consent of the other. Experience has shown that monetary mat-

ters have often been the primary cause of misunderstanding and disunion between married people. Thus, this law works toward the betterment of home-life. That brings me to the question of ownership which of course has been greatly influenced by the fact that the new law gives full independence to the married woman. Both husband and wife own and control their own property, but what is individually owned by each one of them, is at the same time regarded as community property unless a marriage settlement or contract has been made by one of the two. The common ownership entails a responsibility in the management of the family property. Continual mismanagement of the family property by either of the spouses gives the other spouse the right to demand partition. An often repeated example of the practical working of this principle of community property is, that now it is impossible for a workman or laborer to sell, for instance, the sewing machine of the family in order to satisfy his cravings for, say—liquor or tobacco. Nor can a bachelor sell any real property unless he can legally prove that he is unmarried and thus has a right to dispose of it.

No other clause of the new law has been so fervently discussed and commented on as just this about the common ownership of the family property and no other expresses so clearly the full equality of husband and wife. It took some little time before public opinion could readjust itself to this new conception of ownership and many were the prophesies that it would prove unworkable. But though the new law has only been in force for four years, just this particular clause has already shown itself wonderfully beneficial, and many husbands in Sweden consider it now quite natural to consult their wives about everything connected with the community property.

Another clause in the new law ordains that each party must declare on their honor that their health condition is satisfactory before any marriage can take place.

As for the children I must point out that our new law places both parents on a footing of equality as regards both the guardianship of the children and the decisions concerning them. It is only when the children own property of their own that the father is sole guardian.

We have also in Sweden a new law dealing with child welfare. It was passed by our Riksdag in 1924. By this law the State's care of children and young people has become better organized, the central authority being invested in a permanent Child Welfare Board, of which at least one of the members must be a woman. The age at which the State ceases to take care of a young person is raised from 15 to 18 years. The State must take care of all destitute children, whether they be illegitimate or not.

Returning once more to the position of the married woman, I must now say a few words of our law of nationality, which was passed in 1924. It deals with the nationality of married women and enacts that a Swedish woman, marrying an alien, retains her nationality until she takes up her abode in her husband's country. Children of parents belonging to different nationalities have the same nationality as the mother as long as they are under her special care. The law does not, however, give an alien woman, marrying a Swede the right to keep her own nationality. No reform has in this case been possible, as in most countries a woman automatically loses her own nationality by marrying an alien which of course necessitates the acquisition of another, i. e., her husband's nationality. To be without country is a very serious matter. The speedy adoption of similar reforms in other European countries will greatly facilitate further developments of the law and thus bring about full independence of married women as regards the retaining or acquisition of nationality. The fact that the Swedish law is a result of Inter-scandinavian co-operation and that the International Council of Women as well as the International Suffrage Alliance have pointed out the necessity of treating this question internationally, were set forth as strong arguments in the petition that our Fredrika Bremer Society last autumn presented to the Government, urging it to take the initiative in an international treatment of the question. Our Government has appealed to the League of Nations, and we have just received an official communication that the question will be taken up for immediate treatment by the Committee on Codification of International Laws. The convener of this committee is a well-known Swedish expert on jurisprudence.

The altered position of the married woman in Sweden has influenced many other laws besides that of nationality. For instance, the new law that this year has opened to women practically all civil service posts, even the very highest of them, makes no difference between married and unmarried women.

The same marriage law was passed in Denmark this year and will probably be passed in Norway very shortly. Thus it is to be hoped that within a year or two it will be in force in all three Scandinavian countries.

The new marriage law only confirms the independence that has been enjoyed by the women of the North since time immemorial.

It legalizes the ideal conception of marriage and the sense of responsibility educates the wife and makes her more efficient.

The more the spirit of the new law permeates the minds of our Swedish people, the greater will be the number of happy homes amongst us.

The Man-Handling of Poetry

By Sara Bard Field

SOME months ago a male contemporary took Harriet Monroe, editor of *Poetry*, to task because of what he claimed was an over-proportion of space given to women contributors. Miss Monroe disposed of his agitations by statistically proving his error. But, had his contention been justified, why lament or complain?

The fact is that in those masculine quarters where sex rivalry is allowed to enter what should be a sexless sphere, there is an apprehensive attitude toward the number and quality of women poets. In a recent lecture on "Modern Poetry," John Cowper Powys said, "We men must reluctantly admit that it is a young woman, Edna St. Vincent Millay, who more than any other poet, is voicing the cry of youth." He added that the fact of a woman carrying off such laurels filled him "with formidable dismay."

In the February issue of *Voices*, a sonnet by Hervey Allen entitled "Ladies and Gentlemen" is devoted to an attempt to satirize the modern poetry of women.

It would seem, then, that some of the male followers of the Muse, like those of science, law and politics, resent feminine interference with their monopoly.

Yet, in their man-handling of the poetry written by women, certain men critics reveal, by inference, why the need for woman's poetry was so great—a need being speedily met by the accelerated movement of the forces liberating women.

As an obvious example of such man-handling, I turn to Clement Wood's editorial on "The Sonnet in America" in this same February *Voices*.

He quotes in full the sonnet entitled "Tears," by Lizette Woodworth Reese, remarking that it has often been singled out as America's best sonnet. I quote the sestet:

"Ye old, old dead, and ye of yesternight
Chieftains and bards and keepers of the
sheep

By every cup of sorrow that you had,

Loose me from tears, and make me see
aright.

How each hath back what once he stayed
to weep:

Homer his sight, David his little lad.

Mr. Wood does not think this is the best sonnet for many reasons particularly because the last line, he says, has "a meretricious glamor unsuspectedly and harmfully immoral." Then he elaborates: "Whether Homer wept or not records do not say, but David snivelled to avert Jehovah's condemnation of adultery accompanied by murder. The king accepted the judgment which Miss Reese protests and Solomon in all his glory seen blossomed from the mirey union."

Here is a Bluebeard touch indeed. Two legendary figures of sublime pathos in spite of the lack of historical data as to the tears of the one or the moral perfection of the other are used as symbols of life's tragic losses which the poet, in this poem, contends are elsewhere retrieved. Miss Reese is not writing a poem about Homer's lament or David's grandeur. The fact that David sinned and came "short of the glory of God" has nothing to do with universal parental agony over the loss of a child. David was not a Y. M. C. A. example of virtue at the time of Absolem's death yet literature holds no more final word on suffering than his cry "Absolem, my son, would that I had died for thee." That the blind may someday see — the lame walk, the deaf hear and that aching arms be filled and all wonder at the grief of this short earthly hour has been said by Miss Reese in the quick, short picture-making line, using the familiar concrete figure for the unknown masses, that marks high poetry.

The same rough hand is laid on Edna St. Vincent Millay's verse. Passing over Mr. Wood's summarization of her as "brilliant and beautiful, witty and incon-

sequential" we come to his specific arraignment of her as a sonnetter. He selects this sestet of a sonnet in which a woman on the subway learns from a newspaper of the death of her lover.

"I should not cry aloud. I would not cry
Aloud or wring my hands in such a place.
I should but watch the station lights rush
by

With a more careful interest on my face,
Or raise my eyes and read with greater
care

Where to store furs and how to treat the
hair."

Is it possible that only women sense what tragedy has been given utterance through this fidelity to realism?—the rushing, above one's stabbing agony, of the stream of petty, sordid world affairs in which even the wounded one must participate; the torture lest stranger eyes behold the signs of suffering; the human instinct to hide, either under the night-shadow of olive trees or under a mask of ordinary concern, when blood drips from the heart. It is this poet's triumph that she knows how close, yet remote, the pettiness of external existence presses against "the buried life."

Yet, of this sonnet Clement Wood says briskly, "marvelously true, witty in the highest sense and marvelously small. Her self is sealed forever in petty reticences; there are those whose emotion would cry at the top step of Heaven or the mid-table of the Automat." Perhaps. But for most of humanity silence would be the measure of suffering.

Nature abhors a vacuum in art as in the physical realm. Such criticism as Mr. Wood's reveals a vacuum in poetry that could only be filled by that subtler, more penetrating interpretation of eternal values in terms of familiar, human experience which women have learned through the long years as they baked the cakes for the funeral feast or made for their sons "little trousers" from the "old pants" of the dead father.

Republican Women Adopt Resolution

IN an article entitled, "The Work of the State Affairs Committee of the Women's National Republican Club," by Grace Davis Vanamee, chairman, appearing in the April 25 issue of *The Woman Republican*, the official organ of the Republican Women's State Executive Committee of New York, there is this to say about the Forty-eight Hour Week Bill for women:

"The committee did not take action on the Mastick-Shonk measure calling for a 48-hour week for women. Club members had not taken action upon it, and there

was much opposition to it. The measure was defeated. The Joiner Bill passed, which left the 54-hour week, but permitted the Industrial Board to reduce the hours to 48. Many Republican men and women considered this a step in advance and thought it much better to pass it than to leave the straight 54-hour law. The Governor vetoed the Joiner Bill, which was bitterly opposed by social welfare organizations. The State Affairs Committee is so determined to arrive at the right decision concerning legislation affecting the work of women in industry

that at its meeting April 17 it adopted the following resolution:

"Owing to the agitation concerning the regulation of the working hours of women in industry, which has resulted in confusion of the public mind, be it resolved that the State Affairs Committee of the Women's National Republican Club during the next six months make a thorough survey to ascertain the real desire of the women themselves who are actually employed in industry in New York State regarding legislation regulating their working hours."

From The Press

Hail the Woman!

St. Paul
Daily News.

A NEWS item from darkest India tells of the appointment of two Indian women, one in the City of Madras and the other in Mangalore, to the office of honorable presidency magistrate, a high position in the India judiciary.

Which is singularly interesting to American feminists in view of their unsuccessful campaign for appointment of Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt, assistant attorney general at Washington, to the federal bench in California.

We boast of our magnanimous treatment of the gentler sex in this country. How fare they in other lands?

Three Swiss women have just been appointed, by the council of state at Geneva, to serve on the administrative commissions of the maternity hospital, the imbecile asylum and for protection of minors.

In Czecho-Slovakia women have full political equality and, in divorce and control of children, social equality also.

Polish women have won the right of legal individuality after marriage.

In Scandinavian countries municipal authorities have decided to call in a woman advisor before granting any building permit, because they feel a practical housewife can best tell how a building should be constructed.

A woman has been named private secretary to Premier Baldwin of Great Britain, an important and confidential post.

The cities of Calcutta and Bombay each have a woman councilor appointed by the military governor.

Mohammedan women in Bagdad have formed a woman's club and are agitating for abolition of the veil.

The Japanese diet is considering a measure which would permit women to represent constituencies in municipal councils.

A bank financed and staffed by women

has been organized in China to promote employment of Chinese women and encourage them in saving money.

The Danish parliament is considering a bill to permit ordination of women to the priesthood.

Hawaii has elected the first woman, Mrs. Rosalie Kaliinoi, to the territorial legislature.

The chamber of deputies in Rio de Janeiro is expected to act favorably on a bill making women eligible for all public offices, including the presidency.

The University of Berlin has just appointed its first woman physician to the teaching staff.

Two women members sit in the Durban city council, South Africa.

Thirty-two women are serving in the German Reichstag, whereas in our own congress only two women will sit next year.

Woman a chattel? Wake up, Mr. Man; she is coming into her own—everywhere.

News From The Field

A VICTORY was accredited to the National Woman's Party when, on May 12, there was put into actual practice the ruling by Secretary of State Kellogg that a married woman's passport may be issued in her maiden name, followed by a notation giving her husband's name if she wishes to retain as her legal name her maiden name.

The case was that of Miss Esther Sayles Root of New York, a prominent young writer who was married last Saturday to Franklin Pierce Adams, known as "F. P. A.," the distinguished humorist and author of the "Conning Tower" column of the *New York World*. They sailed on Wednesday on the *Mauretania* for a honeymoon in Italy. As Miss Root is going to retain her own name, she applied for a passport in that name. Her request was promptly denied by Mr. Aherns of the New York passport division. As Miss Root is a member of the National Woman's Party she telephoned from New York for assistance to Burnita Shelton Matthews, attorney, who is head of the legal department of the Woman's Party. Mrs. Matthews and Margaret Whittemore, vice-president of the Woman's Party, immediately called upon Mr. Brist, head of the passport control division of the State Department, who notified the chief of the New York passport division of the recent oral ruling of the Secretary of State in the case of Ruby A. Black, wife of Herbert Little. The instructions were to issue the passport to Miss Root as "Esther Sayles Root, wife of Franklin Pierce

Adams," and to consider this the rule for all similar cases.

"Owing to the illness of Miss Black, Miss Root will be the first person to secure a passport in this way. The National Woman's Party is glad that the matter has been settled up to this point that a woman may use her legal name when traveling abroad and have the protection of the United States Government. It is a step toward establishing the principle of equal rights for men and women in the United States Government. We are now anxiously waiting to have the brief prepared by the Woman's Party presented to the President so that a clear-cut rule may be established that a married woman may secure a passport in her own name without any qualifying phrases," said Margaret Whittemore at National Woman's Party Headquarters. The Lucy Stone League was immediately informed of this ruling.

MRS. LIEBER E. WHITTIC of Syracuse, vice-chairman of the New York State Branch, spoke on the Equal Rights program of the Woman's Party before the Elmira Teachers' Council of the Woman's Party on Thursday, May 7.

On Sunday afternoon, May 10, Mrs. Robert B. Stearns spoke at the Castle School, Tarrytown, N. Y., on Equal Rights.

On Tuesday evening, May 12, Mrs. Clarence M. Smith, State chairman, spoke before 200 women members of the Acad-

emy Tenants' Association at Public School 165, 225 West 108th street. Equal Rights literature was distributed and much interest was shown in the Federal amendment and State bills.

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