

Equal Rights

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FIVE CENTS

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—Wide World Photos.

Conferences have been taking place among women leaders toward international co-operation of women in gaining and maintaining Equal Rights. This issue describes the organization of an International Advisory Council of the Woman's Party to consult concerning the protection of the rights of women before international bodies.

Above are Mme. Marie Verone, President of the oldest suffrage organization in France, and Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, President of the Woman's Party of the United States. Mme. Verone is a member of the International Advisory Council of the Woman's Party.

Feminist Notes

"Only Men Wanted"

A FEDERAL Civil Service announcement of an examination for stenographic positions on July 28 states: "Only men will be admitted to the next examination for these positions."

Since similar sex discrimination is frequent in civil service announcements, it must be understood that the idea is not so much sex antagonism as an effort to cut down the number of competitors to the lowest possible figure. In many cases the contests are not genuine. The alleged vacancy has already been filled through temporary appointment, and it is the wish of the chief of the bureau who has made the appointment that his appointee be the successful contestant. Therefore, qualifications are fixed for the place to which the temporary incumbent may measure. The age limit is made to conform to his age, the educational demand to his education, business or professional experience to such as he may have had, and, of course, sex discrimination is added. This occurs more frequently with appointments to technical positions than with stenographers, but when qualifications are required, clearly unessential to fitness for the position, the reason may be inferred.

Medical Women Progressing

THE eleventh annual convention of the Medical Women's National Association at Atlantic City, showed that the organization has 396 members as against 344 last year. Dr. Anna Blount of Oak Park, Illinois, became president for the ensuing year when the association assembled, having been elected at the convention of last year, the custom of the association being to choose the presiding officer a year ahead. Dr. Frances Eastman Rose of Spokane, Washington, was selected to become president next year. Others chosen were Dr. Harriet F. Coffee of New York, first vice-president; Dr. Olga Stasney of Nebraska, second vice-president; Dr. Agnes Hopkins of Texas, third vice-president; Dr. Lena Sadler of Illinois, secretary. The number of medical schools in the United States now admitting women were reported as 65 while 180 hospitals admit women as internes.

Women's Helpfulness Recognized

THE services of women in ecclesiastical affairs has finally been recognized by the Episcopal Mission Society of New York by placing three of them on its Board of Managers, the first time this has occurred in 94 years. The new members are Mabel Gerry, Mrs. J. K. West and Mrs. Henry O. Sanford.

Woman Aids Men Lawyers

MISS C. L. McGUINNESS of New York City holds an unusual position in which she is doing most successful work. The Bar Association of that city is exclusively a man's organization. Its committee on professional employment has established a bureau for the aid of law firms seeking assistants and lawyers wishing to make new connections or law graduates seeking to be placed. This is a service for men. Miss McGuinness is in charge—a woman taking the measure of lawyers and law firms in a service which, as the committee states, "brings the want of the individual and the need of the law office into mutually helpful contact," and doing it so effectively that the committee has recorded its appreciation of her work by a special mention in its annual report.

Russian Women in the Professions

IN the Russian universities more than one-third of the students are women. One-third of the entire number of both sexes are taking engineering, while one-fourth are studying medicine. The total number of students is 112,120.

Progress in the Punjab

A FEMINIST victory in the Punjab, India, was gained when the provincial legislative council passed a bill giving Sikhs universal suffrage in election of the committee for management of their religious shrines. Originally the bill restricted suffrage to men. There were protests at once from the women and continuous agitation which has borne fruit in changes creating equality of the sexes in the matter dealt with by the bill. Outside of Sikh circles the subject of taking care of the shrines may not seem important, but within this Brahmanist sect the feeling is very strong. This democratically chosen committee will be in effect the supreme authority in the denomination with power to ordain or unfrock priests, control the temples, and direct activities of the Sikh community.

To Look After Public Health

DR. MABEL E. ELLIOTT, an American physician who has received several decorations from foreign governments for relief work in the Near East, has been appointed head of the Public Health Department of the American Hospital at Tokio, Japan. She was formerly on the staff of the Women's Medical College Hospital.

An Agent of True Civilization

IN the Loyalty Islands, a group of three tiny islands in the South Pacific, owned by France, there has lived for several years past a lone white woman, the only trained physician thereabouts. She is Mlle. Renee Lascasade. Obtaining her doctor's degree during the war, she learned later of the need of a physician in the Loyalty group, where there are 11,000 native inhabitants and where no doctor was willing to stay long. The last one had left twelve years before. On each island Dr. Lascasade established clinics, the natives gladly volunteering to build them. She established headquarters on the island of Lifton, the largest of the three, and from there kept continually traveling, visiting all the natives. Each village received a visit from her once every three months. At one time she had to transport a patient in need of an operation from one of the smaller islands in a canoe to her headquarters, where she had facilities for the work. The trip took four days and the patient was apparently dying when finally the voyage was ended. Nevertheless, she performed the operation and the patient recovered. She is now in France with the intention of finding three or four experienced women social workers to go back to the South Seas with her.

Making America Musical

THE National Federation of Music Clubs, recognized as the greatest single power for the advancement of music in America, is presided over by Mrs. Lucile M. Lyons of Houston, Texas. The federation is endeavoring to interest all classes in music, Mrs. Lyons declaring that many people already consider it a necessity rather than a luxury. It is trying also to stimulate the production of American operas and stands sponsor for one already produced, "Algiala," by Cecil Fanning and F. B. Deleone. Two more are being prepared for presentation, "The Echo," by Frank Patterson of New York and "Castle Agrazant" by Frank Lyford of Cincinnati.

Trying to Ease Maternity

SPECIAL aid for mothers is provided in a new law in Czecho-Slovakia for the safeguarding of industrial workers. The provisions are for free services of midwife or physician, sick benefits for a period extending from six weeks before confinement to six weeks after, and nursing benefits equal to one-half of the sick benefits for twelve weeks after confinement.

A Woman's Story of Modern Women

By Florence Fleisher

MRS. MASON'S DAUGHTERS (Macmillan's), a first novel by Mathilde Eiker, is the story of an intelligent, independent woman. It takes as a matter of course a world where women without means can and do support themselves; it is a book about the kind of women we see in this country by the thousands—are, perhaps, ourselves—teaching school, filling office positions, managing tea-rooms, cooking their own breakfasts, enjoying well-earned vacations as did Mrs. Mason and her daughters. There is no argument for or against a "career." The Masons want a degree of pleasant living; they have no income; so they work, do their jobs well, find new occupations and see them through as capably. This is a welcome approach in a novel and one too little exploited today when everywhere we see women paying their own way without self-consciousness.

The story develops the lives of five women mainly as seen through the eyes and experiences of Fernanda Mason, the central figure. In spite of their numerous outside contacts with men, they live too much in the narrow house of women. Their relations towards one another are pared down past the fictions of social courtesy to what, in former days, could have been called an uncorsetted attitude. To them a woman increases or loses in value according to her place in the favor of men. It is Miss Eiker's own view; it is still the view of most women whether self-supporting or not. And it marks their fundamental preoccupation.

"Spinster" still carries opprobrium, and frank avowal of the fact, says Miss Eiker, is only a way to remove the secret sting by genial admission. "Women are at a disadvantage in the cruel game of sex." Youth past, they become increasingly less attractive to men; the more sensitive, the less instinctive can they be in their behavior. Minimizing their personal achievements, they measure actual success as success with men. Allowed the point that this is without doubt largely true, one should not quarrel too much with the author for her emphasis.

IN the three sections of the novel, called Groping, Experiment, and Experience, Fernanda Mason tries to make herself marry a man she cannot love, has sexual relations with another man she does not learn to love and insists, in spite of his offer of help, on bearing his child and rearing it without assistance. Her conclusions are that for her type "sex without the finest love is nothing," and that

only complete lack of realization had made her insist upon the experience of motherhood.

Pauline Mason, weary of her unattractiveness, finds the peace she needs in a convent, a life whose very charm lies in the fact that one never hopes for a change.

Bette Mason liberates herself from an existence measured by five small children and the household economies entailed by her husband's salary of thirty dollars a week by "managing her life audaciously," and finds what is to her satisfaction, first by material success of her own making and then by a prosperous second marriage. The foundation of her achievements, however, are the appeal of her youth and beauty to men and only secondarily her daring and industry.

Isobel Hume "manages her life calculatingly." She wants the experience of passion and marries a young man; she then desires social position and divorces him in order to marry a man who can provide it. Isobel, as Bette to a lesser degree, knows how to use men because she knows how to attract them. She despises men. Unsentimentally she takes what she wants and casts aside what she does not want.

Mrs. Mason, released by her years, is done with the bother. She has borne and reared three children, finds satisfaction in the one marriage and taunts her other two daughters with their gray hairs.

Again the lesser characters express the same thing. Says a capable older high school teacher to the youngest teacher:

"Get married now, while you're young enough and pretty enough to catch the kind of husband you want. Don't stay in school-teaching. You'll lose your freshness, and men don't like faded women. They don't like school teachers anyway. * * *

"But I don't know any men," said Gloria.

"Well, you won't meet any in school-teaching," declared Miss Fender grimly. "You'd better start flirting with the first man that twists his mustache at you on a street car."

IT would be unfair to Miss Eiker to leave the impression that beyond this her novel has little to say. Her observations are acute, her characters richly drawn. The men are as actual as the many women, though they appear only in relation to

the women. There are many excellent passages — Mrs. Mason's death and its impression on Fernanda; youthful Bette's typical day after the arrival of the unwelcome twins: "After all," she has decided, "three children take up every minute of your time and strength and money; five children can't do any more;" her husband's return from the war; particularly, Fernanda's contacts with pupils and the other teachers and her experiences in the district office of the Charity Board, both of which fields Miss Eiker obviously knows personally. There are innumerable quietly sharp sentences, such as this:

"In November Mr. Wilson was elected president, by a narrow majority, on his platform of having kept the country out of the war; in March he was inaugurated; in April, war was declared."

Miss Eiker is indeed intelligent. Though this is her first novel she makes, like Minerva, an adult appearance. Yet the book cannot be a day more ripe than its creator. The last half does not measure up to the beginning because its people travel farther than Miss Eiker herself has gone. She seems to be still in the second stage of growing up—her angle on life is ironical but hard, iconoclastic but unmellowed. She leaves Fernanda sure that her experimentation has had little value for her and determined to prevent her young daughter from making her own mistakes.

WITH her gift for neat presentation Miss Eiker thus puts her philosophy:

When Fernanda was in high school the class in geometry ended, one day, with the teacher's stating: "An angle is said to be inscribed in a circle when its vertex lies in the circumference, and its sides are chords of the circle." In the following study-class the girl amused herself drawing semi-circles and it struck her that in every case the inscribed angle was a right angle. She thought it an entirely original discovery. When she had rushed with it to her teacher, he brushed her aside with: "You will find the proposition in your text-book if you will turn two or three pages farther on. It is much more simply proved than this." In her maturity Fernanda concludes: "Most of us are fumbling around proving with infinite waste that all angles inscribed in semi-circles are right angles."

Fernanda knows that the half-gods have gone; one leaves her still unable to say if the gods have come to take their place. The reader suspects they have not, for her or for Miss Eiker.

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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. CURTIS.
Introduced in the House of Representatives,
December 13, 1923,
by REPRESENTATIVE D. R. ANTHONY.

International Co-operation

WHETHER we will or not, the United States is participating more and more fully in the activities of the machinery for international co-operation, and we can not escape the effects. Americans are acting upon international committees with government approval or by government appointment. American state officials take part in formulating the agreements of international conferences. The results of these activities affect the position of women to an extraordinary and unexpected degree.

If women need fresh stimulation to action, a reading of the reports of committees and officers of the great international organizations such as the League of Nations and its International Labour Office supplies it. To those who have a passion of impersonal loyalty to all women and to the future of women, there is a call to battle in the reports of committees that deal with women as inferiors by the standards of men.

Women can not afford to be indifferent to the following facts with regard to the League, for instance:

The convention adopted by the International Labour Office providing for the prohibition of *paid* night-work for adult women is the outgrowth of the principle of the "protection" of women workers as distinct from men workers. This convention has already been ratified by thirteen governments,—among them Great Britain, Italy and the Netherlands.

The convention promulgated by the Committee on Traffic in Women and Children, on which sit American representatives, that no foreign woman shall remain in the service of a licensed house of prostitution, recognizes an evil which every right-thinking woman would see abolished, and a system of regulating it which many governments have already abolished, a system which the Danish woman member of the committee has said no woman in her country would tolerate.

The Committee on the Codification of International Law, with American jurists upon it, holds the legal status of women among the nations within its hands; for example, the citizenship of married women, a question of no small importance to the woman concerned.

The Health Section of the League is emphasizing the field of venereal diseases, a field in which there has been a marked tendency in the United States to treat women as the chief breeders and carriers of disease.

The new Committee on Emigration will propose conventions which may or may not recognize the rights of emigrants to personal freedom, irrespective of sex. Some countries now recognize that women are of age at twenty-one for every purpose except that of emigration and the freedom and dignity of women are violated both when they leave their own land and when they arrive in another.

Giving heed to the lesson of what has been done, the shadow of what will be done, we see clearly the next step that must be undertaken by American women. Now, before the idea of inequality has crystallized into more agreements that must later be hammered down one by one, we must turn our attention to Geneva, to The Hague, wherever men—and a pitifully small number of women—meet to draw up conventions that will influence the lives of American women of today or tomorrow. Our way leads straight to the halls of international councils as it led in the days of the suffrage struggle directly to the halls of Congress.

Acting with the counsel of the international advisory groups of women from every land which the Woman's Party has formed during the past few months, we will go to the halls of international authority whenever matters affecting American women are under consideration, with the demand that in every respect women shall be deemed human beings first, with the right to freedom and dignity and opportunity now possessed by male humanity.

Before our lives have passed again into the keeping of a government,—this time world-wide,—which does not recognize the equality of men and women, we need to act, to check the forging of new chains. Unfaithful stewards of a trust, should we be, both men and women, if not blind to the significance of international action, we stand dumb before the need of demanding a *just* rather than a *benevolent* consideration of women. The present and the future freedom of woman we hold within our hands.

The Woman's Party and International Work

THE National Woman's Party now has two European arms as a result of the efforts of Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, president of the Woman's Party, and of Alice Paul, a member of the National Council. Mrs. Belmont and Miss Paul have spent the last few months in Europe engaged in forming these two international groups.

The newly formed committees are an International Advisory Council of the Woman's Party and a Woman's Party Auxiliary Committee of American Women in Europe. The International Advisory Council has been formed for the purpose of closer co-operation with the feminist leaders of other countries in working for Equal Rights for women in international matters. The purpose of the Committee of American Women in Europe is to support the work of the Woman's Party, particularly by strengthening the International Advisory Council and aiding its activities.

In addition to effecting the organization of these two foreign committees, Miss Paul, while in Europe, also took the preliminary steps for effecting the affiliation of the Woman's Party with the International Suffrage Alliance.

The Woman's Party is extending its field beyond the United States because events demand international action for Equal Rights on the part of American women as imperatively as events a dozen years ago demanded Federal action for suffrage. The United States is beginning to participate in world affairs. As a creditor nation it is beginning to take a leading part in international financial councils. The distinction between official and unofficial participation is often hardly discernible. Although the United States government has not entered the League of Nations, Americans sit on League committees with government approval or even by government appointment. American business men, through the International Chamber of Commerce, co-operate closely with the economic section of the League. There is every sign of fuller participation by the United States government in world affairs, within a few years. This situation is thus described in one of the official reports issued by the League of Nations:

"Certain tendencies towards an increased measure of international collaboration on the part of the United States * * * have developed more rapidly and in more important directions than might have been hoped. In particular, the participation of the American experts in the Dawes report and the appointment of an American as Agent-general for Repa-

rations, together with the putting into operation of certain international arrangements on the basis indicated by that report, constitute an advance which would hardly have seemed possible of so rapid accomplishment a year ago. * * *"

"In continuation of the policy of limited participation in those activities of the League which are essentially humanitarian in character, the United States was represented by a very strong delegation at the recent Opium Conference. * * *"

"* * * The United States government was represented at the Rome Migration Conference by Mr. Henning, the Assistant-Secretary of Labor, and Mr. Husband, the Commissioner-General for Emigration. * * *"
(Report of the Director of the International Labour Office of the League of Nations, Geneva, 1925, pp. 17 and 18.)

Prohibit Paid Night Work

AS an instance of the manner in which action taken by international bodies is beginning to affect women's interests the world over, there is the convention providing for the prohibition of *paid* night-work for women, adopted by the International Labor Conference of the League of Nations in 1919. This night-work convention has already been ratified by the governments of thirteen nations—Great Britain, Italy, The Netherlands, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Esthonia, Greece, India, Roumania, South Africa and Switzerland.

The influence of the League of Nations is being thrown strongly in favor of special labor legislation for women different from that applying to men, and this influence is being brought to bear upon countries which do not belong to the League as well as upon those which are members. For instance, the Director of the Labor Office of the League says in his report for 1925:

"There are some classes of workers for which special measures have had to be taken on account of their sex. * * *"

"Gradually, by a few new ratifications each year, the States are binding themselves mutually against the reappearance of one of the gravest evils of industrialism—night-work of women. * * *"
(Report of the Director of the International Labour Office, Geneva, 1925, p. 291.)

Women Oppose Laws Against Night Work

Women are already aroused with regard to this attitude of the International Labor Office. The director of the Labor

Office thus refers to the opposition already encountered:

"Meanwhile, the principle of the protection of women workers as distinct from men workers (except in case of maternity) continues to meet with opposition in some countries, and particularly in those of Northern Europe. The Danish Bill * * * has been the subject of much discussion in Denmark, and petitions against it have been addressed to the Danish political parties by a number of women's organizations, whose general contention is that the prohibition of night work should not affect women alone, but men also, in the trades where prohibition is judged necessary and possible. It will be noted that no Scandinavian country has yet been able to ratify the convention."
(Report of the Director of the International Labour Office, Geneva, 1925, p. 294.)

ANOTHER subject of particular interest to women which is being acted upon by the League of Nations is that of traffic in women. The League's Committee on Traffic in Women and Children has recommended that "pending the abolition of the system of official regulation of houses of prostitution, it should be agreed that no foreign woman should remain in the service of a licensed house, nor should she there exercise the trade of prostitution."
(Minutes of the Third Session of the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Women, p. 117), and this recommendation was adopted by the Council of the League and transmitted to the countries belonging to the League. *(Minutes of the Third Session of the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Women, p. 45.)*

At the recent meeting of the committee held in Geneva this spring the announcement of the action of France in carrying out this recommendation of the League was made according to the report issued by the committee as follows:

"The French delegate informed the committee that the French government acting in accordance with the recommendation made by the committee had decided to take steps for the removal of foreign prostitutes from licensed houses in France."
(Report of the Fourth Session of Advisory Committee on Traffic in Women and Protection of Children, p. 16.)

The Committee adopted a resolution on this subject at this same session as follows:

"The Advisory Committee recommends that before proceeding to the expulsion of a foreign prostitute, the

competent authorities in each country should inform charitable associations of the measures they are intending to take in order that these associations, while respecting the principle of personal liberty, may be in a position to interest themselves in the expelled person, to endeavor to provide her with other means of existence and to give her every support and assistance." (*Report of the Fourth Session of Advisory Committee on Traffic in Women and Protection of Children*, p. 16.)

THE international character of the Equal Rights movement prompted Mrs. Belmont to propose at a national conference of officers of the Woman's Party that the Woman's Party get in touch with women in other lands, and led to the adoption of a resolution in favor of this step. Mrs. Belmont was appointed chairman of a committee to carry out the resolution.

Membership in Eleven Countries

During the past six months Mrs. Belmont and Miss Paul have interviewed the leaders of many of the leading feminist organizations in Europe with the result that the International Advisory Committee starts with a membership representing eleven countries.

Nearly all the English members of the International Advisory Committee are well-known to Americans. One is Lady Rhondda, financier and publisher, and the first woman who, as peeress in her own right, claimed a seat in the House of Lords. But the Lords, greatly alarmed, would not let her in, showing thereby how backward peers are as compared with business men, with whom she sits on the directorate of twenty stock companies.

Other English members are Elizabeth Robins, the novelist, whose satirical study of women in all ages, "Ancilla's Share," has been called "the feminist bible;" Dr. Louise Martindale, eminent physician, head of one of the few hospitals in the world staffed and officered entirely by women; Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence, famous leader in the militant suffrage campaign in England, one of the founders of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, an accomplished speaker known to Americans and to audiences in many other countries; Dorothy Evans, the vivacious young secretary of the Women's Civil Servants' Association, who as secretary of the British Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, spoke with charm and brilliance in many American cities last year; Alison Neilans, secretary of the British Association for Social and Moral Hygiene; Mrs. Virginia Crawford, president of the great women's Catholic association of Great Britain, the St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance; and Dr. Elizabeth Knight, treasurer of the Women's Freedom League.

THE most significant step taken by the National Woman's Party this year has been the establishing of contacts with many of the feminist leaders of Europe with a view to co-operation in working for Equal Rights for women in international matters.

Nations already represented on the International Advisory Council of the Woman's Party are: Austria, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, Norway, Roumania, Russia, Sweden and Switzerland.

With so much interest in international co-operation, surely the day when women of all the world will be standing together for Equal Rights will not be long in coming!

Smaller Nations Well Represented

Hungary is represented by Vilma Gluklich, president of Hungarian Woman's Suffrage Association and the recognized feminist leader of Hungary. Marguerite Gobat, prominent Swiss feminist, and member of the International Board of the Women's International League; Dr. Aletta Jacobs, pioneer feminist and woman physician of Holland; Madame Palme, officer of the Swedish Section of the National Council of Women, and feminist leader, are a strong group from the smaller nations.

Norway is represented by Dr. Ellen Gleditsch, professor of Radio-Activity at the University of Norway, and one of the three women members of the Norwegian Academy of Science. Dr. Gleditsch is president of the Norwegian Section of the International Federation of University Women and is international vice-president of the Federation.

Mademoiselle Helena Vacaresco of Roumania, who has joined the International Council, is a poet, scholar, and linguist, and also a keen suffragist. She is a delegate from Roumania to the Assembly of the League of Nations, one of the few women members of the Assembly. Roumania is also represented by Madame Helene Romniciano, recording secretary of the International Council of Women.

International Leaders on Committee

Four German women of international reputation have joined the committee. One is Dr. Anita Augspurg of Munich, one of the first women lawyers of Germany, and a leader in movements for suffrage, the advancement of women and peace. She is president of the German Section of the Women's International League

for Peace and Freedom. Dr. Augspurg is a woman of extraordinary vigor and force, as all who saw or heard her speak last year in the United States will recall. Lida Gustava Heymann of Munich, co-editor with Dr. Augspurg of "Die Frau im Staat" is also a powerful factor in the movements for peace and for the freedom of women. Dr. Helene Stoecker of Berlin, organizer of the Union for the Protection of Motherhood, has recently travelled and spoken in the United States, and was a guest at National Woman's Party headquarters. Dr. Margarete Stegmann, a physician of Dresden and member of the Reichstag makes the fourth German member of the council.

Four distinguished French women, Mme. Gabrielle Duchene, Mme. Marie Verone, Mme. Malaterre-Sellier, and Mme. Boaz de Jouvenel add power to the committee. Mme. Duchene is wide in her interests and fearlessly progressive. She is a founder of the Producers' Co-operative Society in France and of the French Committee for Aid to Children. She is a leader in the peace movement in France and is international vice-president of the Woman's International League for Peace and Freedom. She is best known of all, perhaps, as the mother of the Woman's Trade Union movement in France.

Mme. Verone, lawyer, journalist, suffragist, is editor of *Les Droits des Femmes*, and president of the oldest suffrage organization in France. Mme. Malaterre-Sellier is president of the Suffrage Association of Paris and is international vice-president of the International Suffrage Alliance. For her war service, she received the decorations of the Legion d'Honneur and the Croix de Guerre. Mme. de Jouvenel, founder and general secretary of La Bienvenue Francaise, a woman prominent in the social and diplomatic life of France, is the fourth member.

Princess Poliakov, a Russian member of the committee, also won the Legion d'Honneur for service in war-time, during which she and her husband were at the head of the Russian hospital in France. She is one of the foremost feminists of the old aristocratic regime in Russia. She is now engaged in efforts to establish modern hospitals throughout Europe.

Austria is represented upon the council by Mme. Helene Granitch, the first woman elected to the Municipal Council of Vienna.

WITH this beginning the foundations have been laid for co-operation with women of all lands in the movement to bring about world-wide Equal Rights for men and women. In taking this step, the Woman's Party has made a forward move of tremendous significance and which will have far reaching consequences.

Anna Wickham: A Poet Without a Wife

By Crystal Eastman

ANNA WICKHAM is a poet born of conflict, as perhaps all poets are. In "The Singer" she writes:

"If I had peace to sit and sing,
Then I could make a lovely thing.
But I am stung with goads and whips,
So I build songs like iron ships.
Let it be something for my song,
If it is sometimes swift and strong."

And much of her verse is swift and strong; much of it is tender, too, with that honest, daring tenderness so characteristic of the unsentimental modern woman.

Born in England of an Irish-Italian mother and an English father who was a musician, Anna Wickham was brought up in Australia. Most women artists start with a heavy domestic handicap and win through to their art only by fighting family tradition and prejudice. With Anna Wickham the story begins at the other end. "I was brought up to be an artist," she says. "I began to write poetry when I was nine to amuse my father, the way you would sing to a child. But music was my father's ambition for me. I could sing, and I was a great, tall girl of powerful build—the opera seemed to be my destiny."

At twenty she came to Europe to study with Jean de Reszke, and in a few months had become a pupil of great promise. Then came love, marriage into a conventional English family, motherhood, to all of which she abandoned herself with a sort of reckless passion, completely forsaking her operatic career and trying to forget her father's hopes. "But," to quote her own telling, "all those years when I was trying so hard to be a good wife and mother and a perfect housekeeper, my father was worrying at me to be an artist. I loved my boys, but my father was not interested; in every letter he was nagging at me to get to work. I suppose he kept the spark alive, for I knew no artists in those days."

Back in 1913, in those post-Edwardian times before the war, Anna Wickham, sitting safe behind her suburban hedges, happened to read an article in the *Poetry Review* to the effect that men have expressed women emotionally better than they could possibly express themselves. This was a challenge. As a foreword to her first volume of verse, "The Contemplative Quarry," she wrote:

"Here is no sacramental I.
Here are more I's than yet were in one human.
Here I reveal our common mystery—
I give you 'Woman.'
Let it be known for our old world's relief,

I give you woman—and my method's brief."

Anna Wickham senses, as an artist would, that the revolt of woman is not against her economic handicap alone, but against herself. The modern woman, longing as much as ever to be mastered emotionally, physically, yet determined to keep her mind free, striving to lose herself and yet not lose herself—it is for her that Anna Wickham has spoken with such vigor and sincerity.

Fine as many of these "woman" poems are, they are not her best. Who would say whether a man or woman had written "Choice," which is probably the finest thing in her first volume?

"No sleepy poison is more strong to kill
Than jaded, weak, and vacillating will.
God send us power to make decision
With muscular, clean, fierce precision.
In life and song
Give us the right to dare to be wrong
Who feared we were not right.
Regenerating days begin when I who
made no choice choose even sin."

A poet's life-story is revealed so clearly in her verse, one may be forgiven for reading it. In "The Fresh Start" we can see that, once Anna Wickham had begun to write, the "perfect home" was abandoned with the same intensity with which it had been embraced.

"O give me back my rigorous English Sunday
And my well-ordered house with stockings washed on Monday.
Let the House-Lord, that kindly decorous fellow,
Leave happily for his law at ten, with a well-furled umbrella.
Let my young sons observe my strict house-rules,
Imbibing Tory principles at Tory schools."

Two years now have I sat beneath a curse,
And in a fury poured out frenzied verse,
Such verse as held no beauty and no good
And was at best new curious vermin food.

My dog is rabid and my cat is lean,
And not a pot in all this place is clean.
The locks have fallen from my hingeless doors,
And holes are in my credit and my floors.

There is no solace for me, but in sooth
To have said baldly certain ugly truth.
Such scavenger's work was never yet a woman's,
My wardrobe's more a scarecrow's than a human's.

I'm off to the House-Goddess for her gift.
'O give me Circumspection, Temperance,
Thrift;
Take thou this lust of words, this fevered itching,
'And give me faith in darning, joy of stitching!'

When this hot blood is cooled by kindly Time,
Controlled and schooled I'll come again to Rhyme.
Sure of my methods, morals, and my gloves,
I'll write chaste sonnets of imagined loves."

Sometimes I think that the reason why women have not distinguished themselves more in creative art is not because they bear children, but because they keep house. Who ever heard of a male poet who had to keep house for a family? It is almost unthinkable. Born in him along with the creative instinct is an imperious helplessness with regard to the details of food, clothing and shelter, which acts as a sort of protective coloring to his genius. With shrewd, instinctive wisdom he cherishes and cultivates this helplessness, knowing that it is far better for him to perish than to assume perplexing responsibilities such as the simplest housekeeping entails. But he does not perish—all his life long some woman looks after him.

A poet without a wife, that's what Anna Wickham is, and as such bound to be a somewhat tragic figure. With some one to create the right background she would be a very celebrated personality as well as a writer of excellent verse. For she has a brilliant, challenging mind. Words never fail her, exciting, unusual words. She is a lover of talk and very gifted and original at it. And she is beautiful in her strange way. If the Amazons had borne sons, we could call Anna Wickham the "Amazon Mother." She is six feet tall, broad-shouldered and lumbering, with a massive, noble head, brown eyes that are wide apart and droop a little at the corners, and the wistful, heart-taking smile of a young boy just past the awkward age. Her conversation is witty, shrewd, surprising. She smokes incessantly, and will talk all night or as late as she can get anybody to sit up.

She is a rare creature, and if, as I say, there was a loving wife to smooth out the background and keep the poet at her best, Anna Wickham would be the center of a great admiring circle of men and women (boys and girls too, for she has a great way with children) who would stimulate her genius and be stimulated in their turn.

Porto Rican Women Wish to Affiliate

PORTO RICAN women who in May appealed to the National Woman's Party for aid in their struggle to gain equal suffrage have written to express their thanks for the efforts of the Woman's Party in their behalf. In response to their request for legal aid and for political support, the National Woman's Party investigated the situation in Porto Rico in order to learn where the responsibility for suffrage in the island rests.

Immediately after finding that the legislature of Porto Rico alone can grant the suffrage to women there, cablegrams were sent by the National Woman's Party to President Barcelo of the Porto Rican Senate, and to Governor Towner of Porto Rico, urging that they use all possible power to enfranchise women fully and immediately.

The letter received at National Woman's Party headquarters last week from Dr. Marta Robert de Romeu, president of the Liga Social Sufragista de Puerto Rico, and Senora Juana Vda. de Iturrondo,

corresponding secretary of the Liga, said:

"The Board of Directors of the 'Liga Social Sufragista de Puerto Rico' in its last session moved that you be given the heartiest thanks for the interest you have given our cause, and we want you to know that we never will forget all that you have done and might do to help us in fighting for our rights.

"Women of Porto Rico are few in number, but are loyal and grateful, and in the future when we get to be a State of the American Union, and our political rights get to be the same as yours, be sure that we will help you and your party in anything that you might think of use to you."

The letter also states that the suffrage organization wishes to affiliate with the National Woman's Party.

While this is not exactly another example of international co-operation for Equal Rights, since the women of Porto Rico are citizens of an American territory, it is certainly an example of the need and the opportunity for co-operation among women of different political status.

News From the Field

Wisconsin and Minnesota Reached on Tour

A TELEGRAM from Margaret Whittemore at Madison, Wisconsin, reports that plans were made with Wisconsin women in Madison and Milwaukee for deputations to Senator Irvine Lenroot and Wisconsin congressmen urging their full support of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Miss Whittemore and Mrs. Laura Cramer, chairman of organization, who are touring the Middle West in a Ford, organizing for Equal Rights, were entertained at luncheon by Zona Gale, of the National Council of the Woman's Party on July 11. St. Paul was next on the itinerary of the first tour, and after the visit to Minnesota, Miss Whittemore and Mrs. Cramer plan to visit Duluth and upper Michigan and return to Detroit. They report a very successful organization trip. Good meetings have been held all along the way.

Equal Rights for Business Women

FLORENCE BAYARD HILLES of the National Council of the Woman's Party represented the Equal Rights movement at the annual convention of the Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs at Portland, Maine, held during the week just ended. Mrs. Hilles attended as the delegate of the Delaware State Federation of Business and Profes-

sional Women's Clubs, of which she is president. While in Maine, she conferred with Mrs. Florence Brooks Whitehouse, State Chairman of the Maine Branch of the National Woman's Party.

The Legal Status of Women

BURNITA SHELTON MATTHEWS has recently addressed audiences on the legal status of women in the United States at the following places: The Detroit (Michigan) College of Law, June 9; the Washington (D. C.) College of Law, June 30; and the Business Women's Council of Washington, D. C., July 3. In August she will speak at the Summer School of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, and in November she will address the League of American Penwomen at Baltimore. Mrs. Matthews is head of the Legal Research Department of the National Woman's Party.

Dutch Women

THE California Branch of the National Woman's Party heard Miss Louise Van Eegham of Holland speak on "Women's Political Activities in Holland," at a tea on June 29, at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco. Miss Van Eegham has taken a prominent part in public affairs in her country. She was a delegate to the International Council of Women which met in Washington, D. C., in May, and

after her visit in the United States will go to South America to be the guest of the South American Councils. She is a representative of the International Federation of League of Nations Societies. Miss Van Eegham is a member of a distinguished Dutch family, her aunt being Lady-in-Waiting to the Queen of Holland.

Mrs. William Kent is State chairman of California, and Mrs. Genevieve Allen is chairman of the program committee of the California branch.

Sen. Deneen Deputized on Equal Rights

A DEPUTATION of Illinois women visited Senator Deneen on July 6, to present various aspects of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and to ask his support for the measure which will wipe out all legal discriminations against women in the United States for all time.

The committee calling on Senator Deneen consisted of the following members of the National Woman's Party: Genevieve Melody, chairman of the Teachers' Council; Edith Phelps, expert on international law; Josephine Casey, chairman of the Industrial Council; Bertha Moller, Chicago attorney; Rosa Kanava, authority on discriminations in the economic field; and Mrs. Mabel Raef Putnam, of the Wisconsin Branch of the National Woman's Party, who headed the work for the Equal Rights bill in Wisconsin.

Two Million Dollar Fund Treasurer's Report

SHELDON JACKSON, *Treasurer*
NETTIE TRAIL: C. P. A., *Auditor*.

RECEIPTS of National Headquarters, December 7, 1912, to June 25, 1925, \$1,305,120.24.

Contributions, membership receipts and other receipts, June 25, 1925, to July 5, 1925:

Miss Sara P. Grogan, D. C.....	\$10.00
Miss Agnes Chase, D. C.....	10.00
Mrs. F. H. Dale, Cal.....	5.00
Miss Carol Rehfish, Cal.....	10.00
Miss Clara Dyar, Mich.....	5.00
Per Virginia Branch:	
Mrs. Mary E. Moody.....	.50
Mrs. Charles E. Bolton.....	.50
Mrs. William H. Wyatt, Jr.....	.50
Miss Elsie McGeorge.....	.50
Mrs. Wymond Bradbury, D. C.....	10.00
Per New Jersey Branch:	
Mrs. Lucy Karr Milburn.....	12.50
Mrs. Blanch O. Smith.....	.50
Miss Laura Berrien, D. C.....	40.00
Sale of EQUAL RIGHTS.....	.40
Rent of rooms at National Headquarters.....	75.00
Telephone receipts.....	.25

Total receipts, June 25, 1925, to July 5, 1925\$180.65
Total receipts, December 7, 1912, to July 5, 1925.....\$1,305,300.89

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