The International Woman Suffrage Alliance
ITS HISTORY FROM 1904 TO 1929

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The International Woman Suffrage Alliance

How fast the wheel of world-history has turned during these twenty-five years! In this period, the greatest change of all has been in the position of women in all countries. When the International Woman Suffrage Alliance was founded in June, 1904, women's organizations came forward from eight countries: the United States of America, England, Australia, Norway, Holland, Germany, Denmark, and Sweden. Of these, four of the North-American States already had woman suffrage for the legislative body: Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, and Utah; as had also the Commonwealth of Australia. New Zealand, Hungary, Switzerland, and Austria were able to unite their individual associated members into affiliated societies. In the year 1926 the Alliance added the words: "For Equal Citizenship" to its title, since, by then, a great number of national societies no longer needed to fight for woman suffrage in their own countries.

To-day, countries without woman suffrage are more quickly counted than those in which it is established. In Europe, the only countries without Equal Citizenship are the Southern and Western States and Switzerland. In England, in Central, Eastern, and South-Eastern Europe the war opened the way to the enfranchisement of women. The whole of the forty-eight United States of America have Woman Suffrage, and it seems likely that it will also be established before long in Asia and Africa.

Susan B. Anthony, the enthusiastic pioneer of Equality of Citizenship for Women in the United States, did not hesitate, in her 84th year, to take the long journey to Berlin to be present at the founding of the International Alliance. She personally conducted the proceedings connected with the foundation of the International Alliance, but declined the presidency, which was taken over by Mrs. Chapman Catt; the Vice-President being Dr. (of Law) Anita Augsburg, of Hamburg,
foundress of the first German Woman Suffrage Union. In Berlin, Susan B. Anthony received grateful congratulations, and was greeted with rejoicing wherever she appeared. On being presented with a beautiful bouquet of roses, she exclaimed with deep feeling: "When I was young men threw stones at me in the street—now that I am old they shower roses upon me." Closely associated with Mrs. Catt and Susan B. Anthony was the American woman preacher, the Rev. Anna Shaw, who excited the greatest interest in Berlin. Anna Shaw wore an original piece of jewellery—a brooch, in which from time to time a new precious stone was set in token that yet another State of the American Union had granted Woman Suffrage. To Miss Shaw was given the joy of living to see their complete enfranchisement. Her death, at the age of 72, took place in July, 1919, quite soon after the success of the cause for which she had done so much.

The foundation of the International Alliance occurred at the time of a great meeting of the International Council of Women in Berlin. In consequence, many interesting meetings were thrown open to the public, while the Alliance confined its energies to holding business meetings.

The Congress at Copenhagen in 1906 presented, however, quite a different scene. Here, for the first time, the International Alliance presented itself to the general public, whose interest had already been aroused by a clever propaganda, and for the first time business proceedings were blended with social activities, which lent future Congresses of the International Alliance their characteristic and especial charm.

Meanwhile, the Canadian, and Hungarian Suffrage Societies had joined the International Alliance, so that by 1906 ten countries sent representative delegates. In addition, twelve friendly international and national organizations sent fraternal delegates. Both Russia and Hungary announced their affiliation. A sympathetic demonstration was held on behalf of the imprisoned suffragettes, and a memorial celebration for the great leader, Susan B. Anthony, who had lately died; and enthusiastic congratulations, sent to Finland as the first European country to give full rights of citizenship to women, marked the importance and many-sided character of this Congress.
When the International Alliance met again in 1908, in Amsterdam, the joyful tidings were announced that sixteen countries were represented, including Finland, Switzerland, Bulgaria, and South Africa. There were, besides these, seven delegates from unaffiliated franchise organizations and representatives of twenty-four other friendly national and international Societies. The delegates of seven Societies were able to report on very important gains during the last years. The Norwegian women came to Amsterdam as fully-fledged citizens; delegates from Finland as the first women members of Parliament. Both Sweden and Norway had granted the right of election as Town Councillors to women, Denmark had given them complete municipal eligibility. Great Britain had conceded them the right to become Mayors and to sit on County and Town Councils. In Germany, through the passing of a new law, the barriers, which had hitherto excluded women in Prussia and other German States from all political unions and meetings, and had entirely paralysed their aspirations for the vote, had fallen at last. It seems almost a paradox that, as early as 1904, a German Union for Women's Franchise (then transformed into a Federation) had been able to join the International Alliance in spite of these restrictions. The law governing societies happened to be freer in Hamburg than in other States, and it therefore became the seat of the first Suffrage Society. From 1918 onwards the movement spread throughout the Reich in ever-widening circles, just as we perceive its growth in later days in other countries, and, thanks to the efficient work of Minna Cauer, in Prussia. But the storm-centre of the warfare waged from East to West, from Lapland to Italy, from Canada to South Africa, was England, in the throes of the revolutionary suffragette movement. From 1867 onwards, when the National Union for Woman's Suffrage was founded, women had fought with increasing ardour for their cause. They petitioned the House of Commons with 52,000 signatories, including women of all classes, demanding the franchise, and Bills had been discussed in Parliament, but without making any headway. At this juncture, several women decided to take drastic means to win public opinion to their cause. Thus began the Suffragette Movement, which echoed throughout the world. These women did not ask for
audiences with Ministers, but rather forced them. Delicate women did not shrink from violence; they allowed themselves to be thrown into prison, went on hunger-strike to the verge of death. They suffered for their principles as no women in any other country have done, and they evinced astounding energy, constancy, and courage.

Due recognition must be given to the above-named and oldest organization, which would neither join those who loathed and sought to ridicule the new methods nor consider them as unwelcome rivals. They moved on separate lines, but they never forgot that their aims were one. Hence both shared the sympathies of the Congress, which found expression not only in the wonderful speech of Mrs. Catt, but also at every opportunity in the negotiations and resolutions. At this meeting the suffragettes were the great sensation. Hitherto they had held aloof from the Alliance, but were now represented by well-known leaders, who came forward as fraternal delegates. A second sensation was provided at the open meetings by the appearance of women from the enfranchised countries (Finland and Norway). Eleven months later, the Alliance being now five years in existence, the delegates and guests who came to the great gathering in London from 26th April to 2nd May, 1909, received quite another impression of the Suffrage Movement. It was then that they realized what a great popular movement the question of Woman Suffrage had become—the focus of public interest. The highest point of the proceedings was reached with a procession of workers, from University women in their brilliant robes to industrial women in their overalls, and cotton-operatives earning four shillings as weekly wage for sixty hours. All this vast crowd of women, with banners and emblems, marched into the Albert Hall to the sound of jubilant greetings from the women of all nations already assembled there. Renewed acquaintance with the most prominent suffrage leaders was of great value to the delegates, who saw in them the women who shrank from no sacrifice for their ideals.

During that year, four more countries were added to the sixteen already affiliated. The national societies of France and Belgium were acclaimed with general rejoicing. As the Austrian and Bohemian laws forbade the foundation of women's political organizations, these countries had to attain their
object by affiliating as Committees. Thirty-seven fraternal delegates came from national and international societies, and for the first time a Government—the Norwegian—sent an official delegation.

In Stockholm two years later (1911) the International Alliance numbered twenty-four Societies, and Mrs. Catt could state with pride that the sun never set on lands in which the Woman Suffrage organizations existed. The International Alliance was now meeting for the first time in a country possessing municipal rights for women, which had meanwhile been won by Denmark also, a country which possessed a Woman Franchise organization equal to the English. 30,000 women were by then united in Woman Suffrage Societies, and a petition with 140 signatures had been presented to the Swedish Government. All this news delighted both delegates and guests. But the greatest event at Stockholm was undoubtedly a speech made in the theatre by the famous Swedish writer, Selina Lagerlöf, on "Home and State."

In it she asks, "What have women been doing for thousands of years?" and replies: "They have been striving to make good homes. And what has man produced in his sphere of activity? The State. Though one cannot assert that the ideal home has been generally realized, yet good happy homes do exist, they are not an empty dream. But has there ever been a State which satisfied all its members? Does not every State government give cause for discontent and bitterness? And now again, as to the home? Although it is the woman's creation, she has not built it up alone; fortunately for her, and for all concerned, she has always had the man at her side. Had she striven single-handed her task could never have been achieved. But man, in creating the State, stood unaided and alone. That small masterpiece, the home, was woman's masterpiece aided by man. The great masterpiece, the ideal State, will be created through man when he takes woman in good earnest as his helpmate."

In Stockholm the question of women's entrance into men's political parties, and their relative position, was discussed in debates which were continued in 1913, at Budapest. The peculiarity of this Congress was that it opened not at Budapest but in Berlin. A large number of delegates and visitors from
non-European countries had arrived in Hamburg and Bremen, and betaken themselves thence to the German capital, where they were hospitably received and fêted by the German Society for Woman Suffrage, the Prussian National Society, and the Berlin Organization. The body of women then went on to Dresden, where they were welcomed in like manner, thence to Prague. There they were addressed by the woman Deputy, Vikova Kmeticka, elected in 1912, for Jungbunzlau-Nymburg, though she was not allowed to take her seat. The Bohemian women had already the right of active and passive suffrage for the Diet in the Kingdom of Bohemia, since 1861, excepting in the two cities with independent government, Prague and Reichenberg.

From Prague they all proceeded to Vienna. The Viennese women, themselves debarred from all their rights and represented only by a committee, were the more anxious to welcome in their own city those who had long been fighting for women's rights. A banquet which took place on the first evening proved that the committee knew how to honour its guests as nobly as any full-fledged Woman Suffrage Society, and the public meeting held on the following evening with speakers from the different States made a great impression on the audience, and no doubt furthered the cause. After a splendid river journey down the Danube, and full of all they had seen and heard, the party finally reached Budapest; here, too, there were many surprises awaiting them.

The President of the I.W.S.A., Mrs. Chapman Catt, with Dr. Aletta Jacobs, President of the Dutch Women's Movement, had undertaken a voyage round the world in order to become acquainted with the condition and status of women in Asia and Africa. The results of this tour were memorable. We heard for the first time of woman's awakening in the East. In China a Woman Suffrage Society was already in existence, and asked for admission to the I.W.S.A. and had presented a beautiful banner, which Dr. Jacobs now handed to the Association, at the same time giving a vivid account of the Chinese women and their state of bondage. It was touching to think of these women, who all lacked the simplest rights, seeking for help through union with the Association whose members were aiming at the highest freedom.
Again, in South Africa, the visit of the President and her companion had led to a reorganization of the Society already existing; greetings, too, from Persia justified the title of "International". The President further reported that in the U.S.A. five more States, as well as the territory of Alaska, had granted equal civil rights to women. Already, since 1913, one-third of the Union States had woman suffrage; considering that the men’s vote had been adverse, and that no political revolution had smoothed the way as in other countries, this result must be highly appreciated.

Another notable feature of this congress was the co-operation of men's societies in favour of Woman Suffrage which had been formed in several countries.

This many-sided and brilliant congress was arranged and carried through with the greatest courage and skill by a handful of enthusiastic women, of whom we may specially name Rosika Schwimmer and Vilma Glücklich.

In May a great many members of the Alliance met in Rome for a session of the International Council of Women. The recollection of the I.W.S.A. founded 10 years earlier offered them the occasion for a great public Suffrage demonstration in the Teatro Nazionale under the chairmanship of Mme. de Witt-Schlumberger. The meeting was addressed by women from various countries, the most notable utterance being an impassioned speech by the Parisian barrister, Mme. Véronè; who inveighed with courage against the Italian system of colonization and warmly advocated the peace of nations. She expressed her gratification that in following the German speaker (the present writer) she could show that both French and German women were united in a common ideal; she then embraced the German speaker, an act which caused much comment in the Italian Press. After this friendly re-union there followed, alas, the long and distressful break caused by the war. The attitude of the I.W.S.A. during this period is a crown of honour for the women who controlled the cause of its affairs, proving that women’s solidarity can surpass all mere national boundaries. Foremost in merit stands Mrs. Fawcett, the first Vice-President of the Alliance in London. Aided by Miss Macmillan, the Secretary, and Rosika Schwimmer, secretary of the Press Committees, she made herself responsible
for the communication of Aug. 3rd, 1914, which she forwarded to the representatives of Foreign Powers and to the English Foreign Office. It ran thus:

"We, as women from all parts of the world view the present situation in Europe with fear and horror, threatening as it does to plunge one quarter and possibly the whole of the world into the terrors and disasters of war. At this awful crisis, when the fate of Europe hangs upon decisions in which women have no voice, we, as mothers of the present generation, cannot stand calmly by; politically powerless as we are, we can only implore the Governments and Powers of our respective countries to avert the unparalleled misfortunes which threaten us."

"In none of the States immediately concerned in the threatened outbreak of war have the women any direct political influence on the fate of their own country. They are in the almost intolerable position of seeing that which is nearest and dearest to them—home, family and offspring—not only menaced, but exposed to inevitable and endless injury, which they, in their powerlessness, can neither hinder nor alleviate. Whatever were the outcome of war, it could but impoverish humanity, throw back civilization, and effectually check all those efforts to improve the lot of the masses on which true prosperity depends."

"We women from 26 countries who are united in the International Woman Suffrage Alliance with the aim of sharing with men the power that shapes the fate of nations, turn to you with the petition to neglect no means of reconciliation, such as the Court of Arbitration, in order to prevent half the civilized world from perishing in a sea of blood."

When once the disaster had begun, Mrs. Fawcett wrote, in the next number of Jus Suffragii, the organ of the International, as follows:

"We stand face to face with the enmity, the misunderstandings caused by the war, yet despite the cruel spirit which fills the world, we must keep our Union firmly united. In spite of all, we must uphold the faith that justice and mercy are stronger than hatred and the frenzy of destruction.

"The women who have worked in common for a great cause, share common hopes and ideals, and these are the indestructible
bands that bind us together. It is for us to prove that which binds us stronger than that which separates.”

These were no idle words, and in this noble spirit the committee strove to carry on through the difficult years which ensued, and to maintain the connexion with other societies in fighting countries by means of the neutral States.

Thus *Jus Suffragii* was carried on, reaching women of enemy countries through the neutral States. This international paper, under the editorship of Miss Sheepshanks, continued to be obtainable by the women of all nations, maintaining its complete neutrality with perfect tact. When war broke out the London committee busied itself in giving practical help to those who needed it. At the time, a great number—over 1,000—of German women and girls in London found themselves practically without means in an enemy country. They were first received into families and then gradually, under the protection of neutral women, got to Germany by way of Holland. Their escort then brought back English girls who had been at school, professional women, and those in private employ, etc.

But the most important aid was that given to the Belgian refugees in Holland. In the middle of October, 1914, a crowd of refugees, some 80,000, had collected in the neighbourhood of Flushing. It was impossible to provide for these adequately in Holland; they had neither shelter nor food, and their plight was terrible. The very day on which the Help Committee received this news they dispatched four large railway vans with food to the English Consul at Flushing for distribution among the needy. A speedily organized subscription brought in £4,500, half of which was forwarded in money and half in foodstuffs. For about a year the International Aid Bureau, which had been started with a number of International organizations by the I.W.S.A., continued working until having fulfilled its beneficent mission it was closed.

The women of the different National Societies had not lost touch with each other; there were but few presidents of affiliated Societies from whom nothing was heard. News came through Mrs. Chapman Catt from the President of the Chinese group, Mrs. Sopley Chang, who had met her in the United States.
Frau Schichkina Yawein, President of the Russian organization, wrote after a three years’ silence that she had long ago been forced to fly from her country. Such were the sad consequences of the war!

The Committee of the I.W.S.A. endeavoured as soon as possible after the conclusion of peace to convene a congress, which met at Geneva in June, 1920. So vivid a picture of its proceedings is given by the English paper, *The Woman’s Leader*, that some sentences may well be quoted. “To those who assert that everything repeats itself, and that there is nothing new under the sun, let us retort that the I.W.S.A. Congress of June, 1920, disproves this saying, for never in the world was such a gathering nor ever will be.”

The Congress was important not so much on account of the speeches as for the fact that it was taking place at all; for it proved a witness to the surprising development in our civilization, through which the women of so many nations have been suddenly called to the legislative bodies, and formed the initial step in a new international community of work amongst women.

The Congress began with an announcement of the Woman Suffrage victories since 1913 (the date of the last Congress, in Budapest), and revealed an almost incredible advance. Twenty countries had granted the vote to women since then! Among them are great States and small, nearly the whole of Europe, excepting the Latin countries. Great Britain, Holland, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Austria, Russia, form a great block of Woman Suffrage countries; round these are grouped the lesser, newly formed States. Iceland has regained the suffrage with her independence. Luxemburg has been drawn into the current; the new States of Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, Lettland, Czecho-Slovakia, the Ukraine, even the Mussulman Crimea have all built up their new, free life on the basis of equal rights for the whole community. To these successes are to be added those in the United States and in Canada.

It was a moving sight as the representatives of all these States came forward in turn to describe how and under what conditions they had obtained the franchise and how many of them were now active in parliaments and on city councils. With many of them success had been achieved in bitter circumstances, amid revolu-
tions, revolts, and disasters of every kind; with others it came peacefully, new and fresh in the beginning of national life, and as a natural thing. Germany stood at the head with 39 women members at first, 41 at the close of the last national assembly, 155 in the State Parliaments, and about 1,400 in city councils. In Denmark the women had utilized their success in a surprisingly speedy manner. “We have attained to what we aimed at,” said the Danish speaker, “we have equal pay for equal work, and equal rights under the marriage laws. Our equality of rights is complete.”

In 1919 the American women, pioneers of Woman Suffrage throughout the world, had been winning all along the line. In 1917 one woman only, Mrs. Jeanette Rankin, sat in Congress at Washington for Montana, a State which had granted women the vote in 1914. She had voted against war, following the principles of the I.W.S.A. and her own womanly heart.

Though these successes had come about in troublous times of war, the rejoicing had nothing of envious feeling; from beginning to end of the Congress there was no sign of enmity or estrangement, not that the delegates had ignored or forgotten the past. They had not met together in any imaginary Paradise. They were fully conscious of the difficulties which they and their countries had gone through, they neither forgot, nor would forget, the ruined lands, the wretched, starving children, and all the suffering impoverished nations of the world. Differing though they often did in national sentiment, experience, and opinion, they were nevertheless resolved on agreement in matters where agreement was possible, or an understanding where it was feasible, resolved to work together with all their powers for the future safety of the world. Resolutions affirming the fundamental principles of the I.W.S.A. were passed with enthusiastic unanimity, and equally such as proposed help for the starving children and search for deported women and children in Asia Minor and the Middle East. Twenty-one Governments had sent official delegates, among them the Town Councillor Marie Stritt, Dresden, for the German, and National Councillor Adelheid Popp, Vienna, for the Austrian Government.

For the first time during these Congresses a special evening was reserved for the women members of Parliament from
different countries; this was also the case at the following Congresses in Rome in 1923, and Paris, 1926. The German Association for Women’s Franchise, which had amalgamated in 1916 with the German Union for women’s franchise and had since been called the German Imperial Association for Woman Suffrage, had disbanded, considering its work to be finished. There was then no affiliated German Association at Geneva. However, Adele Schreiber Krieger, who had heard during the session of her election to the Reichstag, was acknowledged as delegate from the Political Union of Labour Women, which she had meantime founded. Beside her came Thekla Kaufmann, as German representative member of the Wurtemburg Government. The Political Labour Association had been formed in some cities (Berlin, Frankfurt a/M) as an attempt at a non-political Women’s Union, and a fresh connection with the Alliance. The exigencies of the time and the political crises impeded its success; but in 1922 the Union was able to greet Mrs. Chapman Catt as the first foreign visitor at a lecture in the great Assembly Room of the Reichstag. After this it was a question of affiliation with the I.W.S.A.

The oldest German Women’s Union, founded in 1865 by Luise Otto, the “Allgemeine Deutsche”, was converted into a Woman Citizens’ Society and affiliated with the I.W.S.A.

And in other countries, e.g. Sweden, Australia and the United States the societies already existing were also reconstructed.

At Geneva we heard a representative of China, Mrs. Chu Chia Hua, leader of the Chinese women, for the first time. There could hardly be a greater contrast than between her report and that of Dr. Jacobs in 1913. It is true that during those seven years great changes had taken place in China, but the speaker said that in China women had always been held in high esteem. They had not been allowed to move so freely in public society, and had to confine themselves to the activities of the home and family circle; but they had never been so looked down upon as in Japan.

The development of conditions in China since the founding of the Republic in 1912 showed a wonderful thoroughness in the work for reforms, and Woman Suffrage might not be delayed much longer. This applied to some of the Provinces.
The English women had not been altogether satisfied. Though all countries had realized that woman’s assistance was needed even more in times of war than in peace, yet for Englishwomen the door to the franchise had been only opened half-way. They had obtained the vote in 1918, with many restrictions, so that in 1919 only one woman, Lady Astor, was sitting in the House of Commons. In the following years the number of women members rose slowly, and there were as yet never more than nine women in the Lower House. Not until the year 1928 was the so-called “Flappers’ Bill” passed, giving women the vote on equal terms with men, i.e. at 21 years of age. In May–June, 1929, Englishwomen will go to the poll on equal terms with the men for the first time, and will doubtless assist a great number of women towards victory. As the women of countries where they have obtained the franchise have their own particular questions to discuss and settle, a special Enfranchised Women’s Committee was formed.

Following the attainment of the franchise for so many countries, the question was raised in Geneva whether the I.W.S.A. had not fulfilled its task and might combine with other organizations of a like nature. Several events, such as the forward movement among Eastern women, showed how much work there still remained to do. Representatives from India, Turkey, and Japan proved in their speeches how like and yet unlike their women’s aims were to our own. It is difficult to arrive at a full understanding with these women, more bound by tradition and faith than are we. None the less we have seen with astonishment how rapidly the Turkish women, urged it is true by strong government pressure, have responded to new ideas and conditions.

In her speech at the Congress in Rome, the last that she made as President of the I.W.S.A., Mrs. Chapman Catt again put forward the reasons for continuing the Association she had founded. She reminded us that at Geneva we had thought especially of the women of Southern Europe, who needed our help at that time. Since then she had visited South America and had seen and heard how much the women in South and Central America suffer under antiquated laws, so that they again need help from their more fortunate sisters in other lands. The Association has a far-reaching purpose before it if it is to
help the women of all countries to the attainment of full civil equality. Its second aim is to secure for these women further equality as to occupations and education as in family life. Even women possessing the franchise leave much leeway to make up in this respect, and stand far behind what Denmark, for instance, so speedily attained. For the women with equal civil rights there arise no doubt questions different to those which concern the unenfranchised countries. For a thorough discussion of such questions four committees were established:—

(1) For equal pay for equal work for men and women.
(2) For an equal moral standard.
(3) For the nationality of married women.
(4) For equal family rights for the wife and mother.

In 1923 Societies were affiliated from countries which had hitherto stood aloof. In six Indian States the women now had the vote. Ireland, for the first time since her independence, sent delegates to Rome in association with Great Britain. Since the Geneva Session seven new Societies have joined:—

(1) The Jewish Women’s Society of Palestine.
(2) The Woman Suffrage Society of Egypt.
(3) The Union of Women Societies from New Zealand.
(4) The Woman Suffrage Society, Newfoundland.
(5) The Irish Women’s Association.
(6) The Indian Women’s Association.
(7) The Lithuanian Catholic Women’s Association.

And further, the Women Associations of Jamaica, Brazil, and Japan.

In Rome there appeared also the delegates of the German Women Citizens’ Association as a new branch Society. The women from Brazil, Egypt, Greece, India, Palestine, some of them in national dress, were welcomed with joyful surprise; twenty-three delegates from foreign governments were present, among them two from South America. The leading statesman of Italy, the country entertaining us, President Mussolini, had consented to become Honorary Patron and was present at the opening of the Congress. The hope expressed by the President, in her greeting, that this session in Mussolini’s presence might obtain equal civil rights for the Italian women has, unfortu-
nately, not been fulfilled, although they did obtain a restricted communal franchise in 1925.

In Rome, Mrs. Catt declined to be re-elected, and was appointed Honorary President, as founder of the I.W.S.A. The retiring President received great ovations, and not less so her young and gracious successor, Mrs. Margery Corbett-Ashby, of London, who since then fills the post as the head of the Association, and has by her many-sided gifts won the affections of all.

In Rome, the Committee was divided into two, namely, Committees for:—

(4) The Unmarried Mother and her Child.

(5) Family Allowances.

The third post-war Congress, like the two preceding, took place in a country (France) which had long since granted women liberty in professional life, and possesses such famous scientists as Mme. Curie and Mme. Flammarion. It has also generously opened the gates of learning to the women of other lands. Mathilde Theyssen, born 1838 in Trier, and still alive, the first woman Doctor, not only of Germany, but of Europe, studied at the Sorbonne, and it was there that in 1865 she passed her examination as “officier de santé et de pharmacie,” with the right to practice and to dispense. The speech in which the Rector of the Sorbonne at that date, the genial Professor Lapie, sympathetically greeted this first student may still be considered a worthy and dignified proof of impartial, unprejudiced judgment. One can scarcely understand how, in such an enlightened country, women should be barred from all participation in the life of the State. This same Sorbonne, which opened its gates to Mathilde Theyssen in 1861, opened them to the women of all the world for the Congress of 1926, opened them alike to those who with the French women demanded their civil rights and those who had already obtained them. If the delegates and guests had arrived in Paris with unusual expectations they were not disappointed. One realized even more than in Rome and Geneva what a difference it makes to a Congress when the delegates are for the most part free voters in their own country. Since the Geneva Congress it was a fixed rule that there should be public meetings with speakers who sat in the
parliaments of their respective countries, and in Paris such a meeting, with ten such parliamentary members as spokeswomen, made a great impression. It was a novelty that the parliamentary women’s evening should find a response in a men’s meeting for Woman Suffrage.

Besides the committees, to which the 6th for Peace and the Union of Nations, and the 7th for Women Police were added, as well as open discussions, special conferences took place between the unenfranchised women as to the best method of procedure and as to the question preoccupying all voteless women, but which the vote itself almost answers, namely, the entrance of women into the men’s political parties. The forming of a special Political Women’s Party was unanimously voted unpractical, but on the other hand all were for both national and international non-party Women’s Organizations. After the Congress the Board appointed an 8th Committee in Order to complete the work of the 4th and 5th, namely, the Committee on the Legal Status of Women, dealing specially with women in marriage.

A striking instance of the differing positions of members of the I.W.S.A. occurred in the open meeting to oppose the Code Napoléon, under which the women of France and of other Latin countries are suffering, in which the women of all lands took part: here, those who had to fight for the smallest privilege, there those who were able to stand for the highest ideal, the peace of the world. The introduction to this new departure of the Association was made by a letter from Mrs. Chapman Catt, the Hon. President, who for the first time in twenty-five years was missing at the Congress, an absence which was keenly felt. She declared it to be the highest duty of women, once they had obtained their civil right, to stand in unity for the Peace of Nations. She praised the men who had framed the Locarno Treaty, which all members of the League of Nations had signed. She believed that the “safety” of the world was now imminent, that disarmament would now follow, and eventually, if slowly, a change from the dominant spirit of enmity and warfare to that of the Reign of Peace. The Congress gladly welcomed this appeal from their honoured foundress.

The desired Committee was formed and a “monster” meeting of 6,000 persons at the Trocadero, at which the Ministers Herriot
and de Monzie spoke, was addressed by nine women from different countries on the subject of the World Peace.

Just as in national parliaments the chief work is done by Committees, so also in this International Women's Parliament. It is unfortunately not possible to enter into the work of each Committee, interesting though it might be. The Committee for Like Conditions of Work for Men and Women dealt with a subject of burning interest, namely, the economic equality of women with men. On one point, that of special legislation for women in industry, there are two opinions, one in favour and one opposed, which led to lively discussions that did not prevent the position of the Alliance being re-stated in the terms already used at the Rome Congress.

The happily close relations between the League of Nations and the Alliance are intelligently fostered by Mlle. Emilie Gourd. The League of Nations had also sent its Liaison Officer, Princess Radzievill, as representative. The International Office of Labour in Geneva was represented by the German, Martha Mundt, as official delegate. Women from various countries active in the League of Nations reported on their work. We were told that the claim for Married Women's National Rights, as worked out by the League of Nations, had been endorsed on principle by countries members of the League. Let us hope that it will soon be optional for a woman to retain her nationality or not as she may choose. The German proposal that the question of appointing women to ambassadorial or consular posts in other countries be brought forward was accepted. The need for absolutely equal moral laws for men and women was stressed in detailed discussions (with approbation from the Mahommedan women also) and, further, extended claims for the unmarried mother and her child. After a speech by Miss Mary Allen, Commandant of the English Woman Police, whose uniform excited much interest, energetic action for the establishment of Women Police was decided upon. And German demands for reform in the matter of the regulation of prostitution and the employment of women police as agents provocateurs and morals police were unanimously approved.

Space forbids us to report further on the momentous happenings of past years. Forty-five States will take part in the Congress in which the Alliance celebrates its twenty-five years
jubilee in Berlin, its birthplace. The Alliance meets for the first time in a country where the women have equal civil rights, and where the girls of twenty register their votes. But despite the overwhelming change experienced by German women in these twenty-five years, they still need the help of the Alliance. In many fields the principle of equal employment has been maintained in theory but not in practice. And they need the Alliance in order to renew in all German women a sense of their privileged position in the matter of equal civil rights. The German women greet their sisters from other lands, far and near, those from the distant Tropics and those from Iceland’s northern shores, feeling at one with them all in the common work which has reached so great a development in the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.
Susan B. Anthony

Dr. Anna Howard Shaw
In Memoriam

Susan B. Anthony

Dr. Anna Howard Shaw

Minna Cauer
born in Freyenstein, Brandenburg, 1841, died in Berlin, 1922.

Marie Stritt
born in Schässbürgen (then in Hungary) in 1855, died in Dresden, 1928.

Marguerite de Witt Schlumberger
born in Paris in 1852, died at Val Richer, Normandy, 1924.

Anna Wicksell
born in Oslo in 1863, died in Lund, Sweden, 1928.

Edith Palliser
born in Comragh, Ireland, in 1859, died at Hartfield, England, 1927.

Vilma Glucklich