

Conference of the
Austriatian Federation of University Women
Held at Adelaide January 1934

Reports On Activities Of
I.F.U.W.

At the morning session the work of the International Federation of University Women was dealt with. Mrs. Bernard Muscio, who in 1930 attended a conference at Prague, said a scheme had been proposed for the management of international fellowships by means of which graduates of various Universities might travel for the purposes of research. Most of the work of the I.F.U.W. had been educational but many of the countries had concentrated on philanthropic work for their less fortunate members. A number of committees were founded, some of which were, the committee on intellectual co-operation, which arranged for exchanges of librarians, medical women, &c.; a committee on the award of international fellowships, committees on standards, the interchange of secondary teachers, on international travel, which arranged for tours of University women in various countries, and a committee on the legal status of University women.

Helping Needy Students

Mrs. Muscio said Estonia made a keen study of child welfare, and had established an extensive library on feminism. Mexico arranged vocational schools for unemployed women, and Ireland and Yugo-Slavia had established unemployed bureaus for women. She said the United States had established nursery schools and clinics of various kinds, and almost all countries were assisting needy students.

Miss Freda Bage (Queensland) spoke of the founding of the International Fellowship Trust. She said there was a capital fund contributed to by various national associations, and many of the countries arranged for special fellowships to be given to their own students. The I.F.U.W. had made a keen study of the nationality of married women, and had an associate member on the disarmament committee on the League of Nations.

Dr. Bentivoglio spoke to a resolution which had been unanimously passed by the council of the A.F.U.W. to the effect that an Australian Fellowship for University Women be established, that the objective capital fund be £5,000, and that the interest be used either annually or bi-annually for the provision of a fellowship for a travelling representative.

Miss Berry and Mrs. Dollard (S.A.), Misses Freda Bage and Ursula McConnell (Q.), and Miss D. Archib (Victoria) also spoke.

Today's Sessions

The third day of the conference will begin this morning with a second business meeting. Reports from sub-committees will be received, and matters pertaining to the travelling fund for Federal officers will be discussed. Other business will include the Victorian committee's request re interstate travelling and the question of the compilation of historical records. This afternoon a discussion on anthropology will be opened by Miss Ursula McConnell (Queensland), after which a discussion on art and the community will be held.

Miss Freda Bage's Work

Miss Freda Bage, a Brisbane delegate attending the Australian Federation of University Women's conference, is the only woman member on the Senate of the University of Queensland.

Miss Bage, who motored over with friends from Brisbane, represented Australian women graduates at the League of Nations Assembly at Geneva in 1926. Despite her work as principal of the Women's College, University of Queensland, Miss Bage finds time to interest herself in social activities in Brisbane, the most important of these being the League of Nations Union, for which she is treasurer. She is also past president of the Lyceum Club and of the Brisbane Women's Club.

Mrs. Muscio's Varied Interests

Mrs. Bernard Muscio, an extremely active social worker in Sydney, arrived here yesterday to attend the conference of the Australian Federation of University women, which will begin at the Adelaide University on Monday. Mrs. Muscio, a Sydney University graduate, visited Adelaide in 1927 to attend the Federal conference of the National Councils of Women, and again in 1928 as a member of the Federal Royal Commission on Child Endowment. In N.S.W., Mrs. Muscio is president of the National Councils of Women, president of the Lyceum Club, vice-president of the Mental Hygiene Council, vice-president of the Institute of Industrial Psychology, and an ex-president of the Sydney University Women Graduates' Association.

Crippled Children

In addition to this she is interested in the work of the Crippled Children's Society of N.S.W., in which she is president of the women's central council. The Rotary Club founded this society, and during the past two years the women's council had built up 23 auxiliaries of branches in or near Sydney. The auxiliaries gave individual attention to 1,300 crippled boys and girls, said Mrs. Muscio, and every child was visited once a month by a member to see that he or she was receiving education and all the surgical help possible.



Mrs. Muscio

When the children were old enough the society gave them vocational training, to enable them to be self-supporting. There was a special commission called the placement committee, composed of leading business men, who tried to find position for those young people. Similar work had been inaugurated by the Rotary clubs of Newcastle and Wollongong.

Training Social Workers

Mrs. Muscio is also interested in training for social workers. The National Councils of Women of N.S.W., she said, had founded the Board of Social Study and Training. Professor Lovell (Professor of Psychology at the Sydney University) was chairman and Mrs. Muscio vice-chairman. In conjunction with the University of Sydney, it gave a diploma to social workers after two years of theoretical and practical training. The board also provided for a special course for nursery school teachers, and next year there would be courses for hospital almoners and for social workers in child guidance. Two hospitals in Sydney—the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, and the Rachel Forster Hospital for women and children had each sent to England a social worker, to be specially trained in almoner's work. It was expected that those two—Misses Stella Davies and Kate Ogilvie—would be the forerunners of trained medical social workers in all the leading Sydney hospitals.

The almoner is the link between the patients' home and the hospital.

she was also instrumental in helping with the early diagnosis of gangrene in soldiers.

She was met at the Outer Harbor by her nephew, Dr. Gerald Stoney, of Wilmington, who will go on with her (at the end of the week) to Melbourne, where a general meeting of all the relatives will take place.

Miss Stoney belongs to a particularly brilliant family. Her sister, Miss Florence Stoney, who died in England last year, was a celebrated radiologist, one brother is a professor of mathematics at the Manchester University, and another is a distinguished doctor. In Australia one of her nephews is a doctor and another is the Assistant Professor of Engineering at the Brisbane University.

Mayoral Reception To Delegates

Interstate university women graduates and many Adelaide University women graduates, who will attend the conference were tendered a reception on Saturday morning by the Lord Mayor (Mr. Cain) in the Lady Mayoress's room, Town Hall, Adelaide. The Lord Mayor specially welcomed Miss Stoney, who had arrived in Adelaide that morning from England by the Mongolia.

Dr. Helen Mayo (president of the local branch of the A.F.U.W.) thanked Mr. and Mrs. Cain for their welcome. Mrs. T. G. B. Osborn (Sydney), who will preside at the conference, spoke on behalf of the interstate women graduates, and Dr. Marie Bentivoglio (Sydney) also spoke.

In the reception at the Town Hall, a wealth of flowers decorated the Lady Mayoress's room, great bowls of blue and white agapanthus and petunia foliage predominating. Smaller bowls were filled with mauve and white sweet sultans and rose colored carnations. Gladioli also were charmingly used in the floral scheme.

The Lord Mayor's secretary (Mr. R. N. Hammant) announced the guests, and, in the absence of the Lady Mayoress through ill-health, the Lord Mayor was assisted in receiving the guests by his daughter, Mrs. H. Dunstan, whose black and white patterned frock had a double collar of white organdie piped with black. The becoming hat which accompanied it was of black straw, the crown banded with white.

Tea was served, and the speeches of welcome and replies that followed were unusually entertaining.

The president of the Adelaide Women Graduates' Association (Dr. Helen Mayo) wore a grey tweed coat and skirt and small black hat with a red striped scarf for color contrast. Mrs. T. G. B. Osborn was in black with a rim of white edging the cape effect on the sleeves. With it was worn a large white hat. Miss Storey wore black and a fur-edge-cape. Her large black hat had a pink and green patterned brim. Miss F. Armstrong (W.A.) wore a suit of navy blue matt silk and a navy straw hat. Miss Eileen Bowley (W.A.) was in a grey and white fleck tweed suit worn with a red hat. A vermilion red suit and a small white hat was becomingly worn by Dr. Marie Bentivoglio.

Mrs. J. Lavington Bonython was in black with a black and white check blouse and small black hat. Dr. Violet Plummer's fawn silk coat and skirt was worn with a brown hat banded in fawn. Mrs. T. Flint's brown and white patterned silk frock with a tiny touch of green was worn with a beige hat. Dr. C. M. Davey was in black marocain and a black hat with white motif against the crown. A big black hat with a small flower wreath round the crown was becomingly worn by Mrs. C. E. Dolling, whose silk coat and skirt was in a rose-red tone.

Many Silk Frocks

Miss Penelope Mayo wore a striped silk frock in red, ivory and beige, and with it a small hat of brown straw. Miss Beryl Hornburg was in a black and white check frock with matching cap. Dr. Eleanor Allen's frock of figured silk was worn with a brown straw hat, a touch of red on the band. Dr. R. Moccatta was in blue patterned silk with matching straw hat. Mrs. George

Ritchie was in patterned silk with a touch of yellow and with it was worn a big black hat.

Interstate guests were Misses Freda Bage and Ursula McConnell (Q.), Dr. Marie Bentivoglio, Dr. Mary Borth, Mrs. H. W. Sherrard, Mrs. Muscio, Mrs. G. McGirr, Misses Lorna Byrne and F. Frederick (N.S.W.), Misses K. Alexander and E. Archer (Vic.), Dr. Agnes King, Mrs. V. Kingston, Misses Kingston, M. L. Wood, Lucy Bulter and E. Burgess (W.A.), Mrs. D. Middleton, Misses Weaver, Walter, C. Mahony (Tas.).

The aldermen, councillors and their wives, the town clerk and Mrs. H. P. Beaver, and Miss Beaver, the deputy town clerk (Mr. A. Morison), Mrs. B. P. Morison, and Miss Morison were invited to meet the interstate guests, as were also the following Adelaide graduates:—

Dr. C. Finlayson, Dr. Marjorie Smith, Dr. A. Benham, Dr. R. Davy, Dr. R. Hubbe, Mesdames J. C. McKail, F. W. Eardley, R. A. Want, F. R. Hone, Tenison Woods, A. K. Newbery, H. Sanders, H. Redmond, R. Healy, C. Leslie, W. H. Lewis, and Angove, Misses A. Menz, K. H. Shaw, H. Walter, K. Magarey, M. Sorrell, M. Brown, A. B. Whitlam, A. Burgess, V. Fricker, L. Allen, E. Watkins, E. Holder, D. Featherstone, K. Powell, W. Preedy, J. Hassell, M. Hardy, S. Pitt, F. W. Berry, M. Burgess, E. Sharman, H. George, E. Messent, A. M. Shaw, J. Murray, P. Rountree, M. M. Frost, M. Powell, E. Robertson, C. T. Law, and Y. Wait.

Adelaide being, according to Foster Fraser's well-worn saying, the "city of culture," its selection for this year's conference of the Australian Federation of University Women must be regarded as specially appropriate. Certainly from none of the other five capitals of the Commonwealth could the visitors have been assured of a more cordial welcome than they have received in Adelaide, whose own University was one of the first in the Empire to include women among its graduates, anticipating by many years the grant of a corresponding privilege by the two oldest and most famous of universities in the Motherland. It is curious to turn to the records of the long and acrimonious controversy which preceded even the admission of women as students at Oxford and Cambridge, which long antedated the recognition of their right to degrees. Feminine incapacity for study, unsexing influences of the classics and of science, deterioration of morals by admixture of the sexes in classrooms; all these big guns had to be silenced before the citadels were captured. It was even brought against the gentler sex, that to concede their claim to membership of either of the two seats of learning mentioned, would be a violation of the "founders' intentions," the institutions being originally designed solely for men; and there was talk of "plunder," "theft," and "spoliation," till the objectors were silenced by a reminder that the earlier foundations were intended mainly for the training of the clergy of the Church, and that the founders never contemplated the use to which the universities would be put, in the education of persons of all creeds, and indeed of none.

In Australia, our universities have had no troubles of this kind. Youths and maidens sit together, are examined in their studies at the same time, and classed together when the results are published. They are members of the same social, sporting, and literary societies, and in the later and larger field of the learned professions are competitors. Gone are the days of the "womanly woman," as the phrase was interpreted by those who used it, and as it is used today under the new dispensation in Germany, as meaning the woman of the clinging-vine variety, whose place was in the kitchen or nursery, or ministering to the requirements of her lord and master. Experience has silenced the old objection that the higher learning must necessarily be fatal to home attachments and duties, and create a distaste for them; rather, an ability to answer a stiff examination paper, involving some sharpening of the wits, should render the acquisition of home science all the easier. Culture, when the mind is not unduly strained, makes for sanity; and it was not mere gallantry which drew from Chesterton his description of women as "the custodians of the common sense of the world." The masculine mind may go wool-gathering, incidentally lighting on the potentialities of steam or electricity, or discovering the laws of evolution or the behavior of the ether, but it is the characteristic of the feminine intellect that it stands for order, method, and routine, which, according to a just-published essay by Dr. Cyril Burt, explains the almost universal preference for women in occupations demanding patience, application, and a ready memory. When was the higher learning fatal to the acquisition or retention of these qualities?



FROM MANY PARTS of Australia, and from overseas, have come these delegates to the University Women's Conference, which began in Adelaide yesterday. A photograph taken after the morning session.

UNIVERSITY WOMEN MAY APPEAL FOR £5,000 Fund for Travelling Fellowship

An appeal to the public for £5,000 to establish an Australian travelling fellowship for university women may soon be launched in all States. The question was debated today at the conference of the Australian Federation of University Women in the Lady Simon Hall at Adelaide University. Dr. Marie Bentivoglio (N.S.W.) spoke to a resolution which had been unanimously adopted by the federation's council. It was thought that the public would respond more readily to an appeal which would provide for a travelling studentship to be established on the interest, rather than on the capital, of the fund. Several women graduates spoke in favor of the resolution, including Miss Freda Bage, Miss U. McConnell (Queensland), and Miss D. Archer (Victoria). Other business discussed today dealt with the work of the International Federation of University Women, and its operations in many countries. Miss Bage pointed out that some countries had their

own special fellowships for women students. Estonia had made a keen study of child welfare and had established a library on feminism. Mexico had schools for unemployed women, Ireland and Yugo-Slavia had both established unemployment bureaus for women, and America, always keen on educational work, had established nursery schools and clinics of various kinds. This afternoon Mrs. C. E. Dolling (South Australia) and Dr. Bentivoglio led a discussion on broadcasting. Tomorrow morning the meeting in the Lady Simon Hall will be a purely business session, and in the afternoon Miss McConnell will open a discussion on anthropology, which will be followed by a talk on art and the community. Other speakers today included Mrs. B. Muscio (New South Wales), who gave a brief talk on the history of the International Federation of University Women, which had been founded in 1920 to promote international feeling among women graduates of all nations.

70 WOMEN CONFERENCE Graduates From Universities WORK REVIEWED

Seventy women graduates from six States attended the opening of the sixth conference of the Australian Federation of University Women in the Lady Simon Hall at Adelaide University today. General satisfaction was expressed by the acting president (Mrs. T. G. B. Osborn, New South Wales) at the quantity of work accomplished during the past year by the women graduates' associations in the various States. Every State presented annual reports, which were read by Dr. Marie Bentivoglio (New South Wales), Miss D. Archer (Victoria), Miss F. Armstrong (Western Australia), Miss Freda Bage (Queensland), Miss C. Mahony (Tasmania), and Dr. Helen Mayo (South Australia).

The reports showed a wide range of operations. Research fellowships and scholarships, including a Rockefeller Foundation prize, had been won by women graduates during the year. The reports touched on the holding of vocation conferences at which graduates made available information on the openings for women in various channels, endeavors made to obtain better films, and the deputation to the Federal Government to request the lowering of duties on books.

MEETING TONIGHT

The Federal report was read by Mrs. H. W. Sherrard. For more than two hours delegates wrestled with questions arising out of the constitution, and shortly after 1 p.m. adjourned for luncheon in the refectory. They will meet again tonight at a public meeting, when representatives of the States will read papers prepared at two days' notice to take the place of the paper which was to have been given by the president (Miss G. Marks). Miss Marks is prevented from attending by illness. A newcomer who arrived today was Miss M. E. Wood, librarian of the West Australian University, who is probably the only university woman librarian in Australia. She was the first secretary of the Women's College Fund in the University, and is now the treasurer and a trustee of the fund.

WOMAN LIBRARIAN

"We have many women undergraduates from country districts, and out-of-town students, who would welcome an international women's college," said Miss Wood. "It is expected that the University authorities will erect the building and lease it to the women. The first section, on which work will probably begin soon, will cost £10,000. We hope to race Adelaide in building a woman's college." Miss Wood has been University librarian for the past six years, and has 30,000 books in her charge. Most of the library additions during this period have come from the bequest of Sir Winthrop Hackett.

Speakers tonight on "Education for Leisure" will be Dr. Helen Mayo (S.A.), Dr. Marie Bentivoglio (N.S.W.), Mrs. Osborn (N.S.W.), Misses Mary Frost, and Mabel Hardy (S.A.), M. Weaver (Tasmania), and Edith Stoner (England).

UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Delegates Arriving In Adelaide

Many University women graduates from the eastern States will arrive in Adelaide this morning by the express, to attend the conference of the Australian Federation of University Women, which is to begin at the University on Monday morning.

Mrs. Sherrard (Sydney), who is secretary of the A.F.U.W., will arrive by car, and be the guest of Mrs. R. R. P. Barbour, at St. Andrew's College, Lower Mitcham. Miss Weaver the secretary of the Tasmanian Women Graduates' Association, also coming by car, will be the guest of Mrs. Harvey Johnston, wife of Professor Johnston.

Others who will arrive are:—Mrs. T. B. Osborn (Sydney), who is chairman of the School of International Relations, and during the conference will stay with friends; Dr. Bentivoglio (Sydney), who is to speak on Tuesday afternoon in the Lady Simon Hall on "Value of Educational Broadcasting," will be the guest of Mrs. A. H. Menz, at Beulah road, Norwood. Another Sydney delegate will be Mrs. Muscio, who is one of the most active social workers in that city. Miss Ursula McConnell (Brisbane), known to many Adelaide women, and one who will speak on anthropology during the conference, will stay with Miss P. Mayo. Another arrival this morning will be the treasurer of the Victorian branch of the A.F.U.W., Mrs. Archer.

The Western Australian members of the conference, who have already arrived by ship from Fremantle, are Dr. Agnes King, Mrs. Florence Armstrong (vice-president of the W.A. Women Graduates' Association), Misses M. and V. Kingston, and Miss Eileen Bowley. Other members are also attending from Perth. Tomorrow morning Miss E. A. Stoner, an international delegate will arrive by the Mongolia from London. She will stay at an Adelaide hotel. A few members coming by motor car from the eastern States will also arrive tomorrow. The first social entertainment for the visitors will be given tonight, when Dr. Helen Mayo (president of the Adelaide branch of the A.F.U.W.) will give a reception at her home, Brougham place, North Adelaide.

WOMEN MEET IN ADELAIDE

Spirit of University Federation

CIVIC RECEPTION

Delegates and associates to the sixth conference of the Australian Federation of University Women, to be held in Adelaide next week, were given a civic reception by the Lord Mayor (Mr. Cain) today.

In welcoming the delegates, Mr. Cain said that the Adelaide University possessed a standard of education that was high in the world and was accepted everywhere. He hoped that the delegates would have a happy time in Adelaide and that their deliberations would be successful. The Lord Mayor was supported by Ald. J. Rees.

Replying on behalf of those present, the president of the South Australian branch of the federation (Dr. Helen Mayo) said that many people who were educated in Adelaide, were to be found in high positions in London.

FIRST VISIT FOR SIX YEARS

Mrs. T. G. B. Osborn, the acting president, replied on behalf of the federation. She said that this was her first visit to Adelaide since she had left about six years ago. Her husband, Prof. T. G. B. Osborn, was professor of botany at the University of Adelaide before he accepted a similar appointment at the Sydney University.

"It is unfortunate that the president of the federation (Miss G. Marks) is unable to be present at the conference," Mrs. Osborn said. "When the question of holding the conference in Adelaide was discussed it was stated that Adelaide weather in January would be too hot, and that there would be a small attendance. But this year's meeting will be bigger than ever before."

"The federation is an amalgamation of women graduates' associations in Australia. There is a British federation, with which we are linked, and international conferences are held yearly."

OBJECTS OF FEDERATION

"The objects of the federation are to inculcate a spirit of helpfulness, goodwill, and friendship. When the president of