

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION

The International F.O.R. came into being in 1919. It grew out of what is now its British branch, and has extended its activities over the whole world, having branches and correspondents in more than twenty countries. In recent years the Fellowship has had to contend with difficulties both material and spiritual: the depression has left its mark on its exchequer, and the tide of opinion has in many countries turned against its message. But the struggle has awakened new energies, and activities have been many and varied.

The work of the British branch is described on another page. The United States branch recently held a referendum among its members on the questions whether the Fellowship should remain on a definitely Christian basis and whether the principle of absolute non-violence should be adhered to in social conflicts. Eighty per cent of the voters replied in the affirmative to the first question and ninety per cent to the second. The American branch is steadily increasing in membership and in influence. The French branch is compelled, by the existence of conscription in that country, to place special emphasis on conscientious objection. While carefully avoiding "propaganda" in favour of such an attitude, which it holds to be a matter of the individual conscience, it has, through its radically Christian spirit, produced several men who have chosen to refuse service and to go prison. One has served his term of imprisonment; another who has already served one year, has recently been sentenced to a further two years; and a third is to return to prison shortly. The Dutch branch has been concerned in social questions, the Swedish in educational schemes for the unemployed, the Chinese and Japanese in trying to improve the mutual relations of their two peoples.

The International Secretaries, M. Henri Roser and Mr. Daniel Hogg, made lecturing tours in Poland, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and elsewhere. Small international gatherings were held in different parts of Europe. Miss Muriel Lester, one of the founders of the Fellowship, is touring America and the Far East as its representative.

In addition to the organs of the various national branches, the International Fellowship publishes a quarterly *News-Letter*.

WAR RESISTERS' INTERNATIONAL

The International stands for absolute war resistance. It is a movement to prevent war and to oppose violence in all circumstances, all its members being pledged to refuse to participate in warfare and in preparation for war. It is also a movement working for a new order of Society, where all may have the opportunity to cooperate for the common good.

The W.R.I. has fifty-three sections in twenty-seven different countries and its members extend into sixty-four countries of the world. Its chairman is Lord Ponsonby, and it is controlled by an International Council. At its fourth International Conference, held at Digswell Park, England, in July 1934, its principles were re-stated and accepted unanimously in the following terms:

"This Conference of the War Resisters' International, having carefully considered the growing power of fascism and dictatorship, the increasing terrorism in many countries and the danger of another world war springing from the armaments race, rejects the principle of dictatorship and declares its unshaken confidence in the ability of the peoples of each nation to govern themselves through their own appointed representatives without the suppression of liberty or the resort to violent means, and pledges those it represents to work for the establishment of such a new order in Society that class distinction shall become unknown, poverty shall disappear and unemployment shall cease to be the auxiliary of industry.

"It further declares its belief in the essential unity of all peoples of whatever race, colour or creed. It denounces all forces which make for their division, exploitation and enmity, and especially the evils of armaments, militarism and war; and again pledges those whom it represents to work, according to their opportunities, unceasingly for a new relationship between nations, based on fraternity instead of force, and service instead of subjection, and, recognising the danger of war under existing conditions, re-affirms the determination of its members to refuse military and war service under all circumstances and whatever the consequences."

In almost every country of Europe the International has its sections; though many of these are now pronounced to be illegal. In recent years the movement has extended into every part of the world, and outside Europe now embraces a strong movement in the United States, a growing movement in Canada and Mexico and groups in most of the South American states. Sections are also established in Australia and New Zealand and others have been more recently formed in Japan and Hong Kong.

The principles for which the War Resisters' International stands are accepted with very serious consequences, even in peace-time, by many of its members, for in every country where conscription is enforced, there are to be found increasing numbers of young men who are refusing military training. Over one hundred are in the prisons of Europe to-day, some serving sentences as long as ten years. They believe the most effective service they can render to the world is to set an example.

Although apparent failure has to be recognised in certain countries this is balanced by encouraging success elsewhere, and the members of the W.R.I. continue undismayed to proclaim an ideal, the eventual success of which, they believe, is certain.

WOMENS INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, of which Jane Addams is Hon. International

President, is a federation of active and largely autonomous national sections, with action also carried on internationally from its headquarters in Geneva, so that it is difficult to summarize its work. It is carried on for instance in Tokio, in Tunis, in Melbourne, as well as in Europe and the United States.

In September, 1934, the W.I.L.P.F. held (somewhat ahead of the due date) its Eighth International Congress at Zurich. The present situation, with its complicated and menacing political tendencies and the consequent failure, to date, to reach any agreement on disarmament, with the growing pressure for fundamental, economic and social change and the spread of fascism with its destructive effects on peace, liberty, and the hardly won opportunities of women, seemed to require a redefinition of purposes and politics which is expressed in part in the reworded "statement of aims." This gives as the primary objects of the W.I.L.P.F.: total and universal disarmament, the abolition of violent means of coercion for the settlement of all conflicts and the substitution, in every case, of some form of peaceful settlement and the development of a world organisation for the political, social and economic co-operation of peoples.

The statement continues: "Conscious that these aims cannot be attained and that a real and lasting peace and true freedom cannot exist under the present system of exploitation, privilege and profit, they consider that their duty is to facilitate and hasten by non-violent methods the social transformation which would permit the inauguration of a new system under which would be realised social, economic and political equality for all without distinction of sex, race or opinion."

In May, 1934, the Dutch section held an International Study Conference which was especially interesting in its discussion of the psychological causes of war, and in August a large and enthusiastic International