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Polish Women Today

Having equal legal rights with men and the prestige of distinguished service, all fields of life are open to the women of Poland. They have been elected to both houses of parliament, held high places in the various ministries of the government, some are judges, and have made a recognized place for themselves as lawyers, doctors, dentists, chemists, architects, artists, journalists, and teachers. Many are going into business and demonstrating marked ability there. Of their record in athletics we speak elsewhere. In the field of literature they are winning a full share of literary prizes. In the drama, comedy, and opera of Poland they shine as bright stars. As social workers their position is one of recognized service, no few women having received decorations for such work.

Women Police Make Good

A few years ago the suggestion was made in Warsaw that the experience of several other countries in the matter of women police indicated the desirability of a similar branch of the Polish police. The need of special protection for the children and older girls on the streets of the capital led to the experiment being made.

Two groups of women police were appointed, one the uniformed group with special relation to the crimes of children and crimes against children, and the protection of children in general. The non-uniformed group have as their duties continuous efforts against white-slavery, pornography and prostitution.

The total force now numbers 125 and 25 more are in training. They are all under the command of Mme. Stanislaw Paleolog, whose work along this line has been very successful.

The results obtained during the initial years have been gratifying. The young women police with their cropped hair and neat skirted uniforms have become a familiar sight on the Warsaw streets and they have made a first-class record as a branch of the force. They often walk in pairs. Though they are at times seen escorting a boy their chief attention is given to little girls and young women.



Warsaw's Women Police

Women's Number



The Curie-Skłodowska Monument in Warsaw

In this number we turn aside from our rather consistent preoccupation with the affairs of men to remind both ourselves and our readers that women play an important part in the organized and cultural life of the nation.



University Women's Conference, Krakow

In August Krakow was the scene of a most impressive gathering, the International Federation of University Women. The register shows an attendance of 279 delegates from 23 foreign countries, the Polish delegation bringing the enrollment up to 450. They came from lands as distant as Australia, Egypt, India, and New Zealand. Great Britain sent a fine delegation, over 70 came from the United States, and 12 from Canada.

The principal theme of the conference was "How can our organization most usefully contribute to the training of the coming generation in international cooperation". Krakow, beautiful mediaeval and university city, was a splendid setting for such a gathering. Dean Virginia Gildersleeve of New York was elected president of the Federation for the next term, a distinguished choice.

Women in the Polish YMCA

Though the Polish YMCA was founded and started as a men's organization, it was soon discovered that the segregation characteristic of older YMCA movements was not a practical thing in Poland, and special regulations were drawn up, giving women certain privileges in our three large Polish YMCA buildings. There are special gymnasium and swimming periods for women, once a week there is a mixed swimming period, women are received into educational classes, into a few clubs, such as the ski and dramatic clubs, and of course attend lectures, social events, and dances.

Women In Polish History

In the brief columns of this bulletin there is no room to recount in detail the distinguished place that women have held in the history of Poland, from St. Kinga of the 13th century and Queen Jadwiga of the 14th century down to Emilia Plater, captain of cavalry in the uprising of 1830, and the women who from that time shared with the men the toils and dangers and imprisonments which befell those who for a century sought to secure Poland's freedom. Women fought against the Bolsheviks when they invaded Poland in 1920, and now that freedom is obtained and secured they continue their historic services to their country. And to all of humanity, as has been the case with M-me Curie-Skłodowska, co-discoverer of radium and one of the most notable scientists of this century.

All the world has its Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Some day Poland must erect a fitting memorial to the thousands of unknown women who during the years of the foreign domination taught their children the forbidden Polish language and told them the stories of Poland's past which helped mould and preserve the Polish spirit during those long dark years.

Polish Women in Athletics

The first Polish woman athlete to win international fame was the then Miss Halina Konopacka, later the wife of Poland's minister of finance, Colonel Matuszewski. She made a world record for the woman's discus throw at the Amsterdam Olympics in 1928, 39.62 meters. Then Miss Stanislaw Walasiewicz (Stella Walsh) set a new record for the woman's 80 meter and 60 meter dash at the Los Angeles Olympics, 9.7 and 7.3 seconds. At the recent Berlin Olympics the Polish women to win places were Miss Maryla Kwaśniewska, third place with the javelin, Miss Jadwiga Weiss, second in the discus, and again Miss Walasiewicz, who was defeated in the 100 meters only by the great Miss Stephens of the U. S. A.

Physical education and sport are well established among Polish girls and young women, with special emphasis upon skiing and swimming.



M-me Halina Konopacka-Matuszewska
Poland's First Famous Woman Athlete

