As a result of conversations with the Argentine National Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, an agreement was reached regarding the third volume of the Argentine Collection, which will be "Martin Fierro", by Hernandez, translated both in blank verse and literally by M. Marcel Carayon.

The dramatic works of Florencio Sanchez, an Uruguayan author, will shortly appear ("M'Hijo el Doctor", "Los Muertos", "Barranco Abaja", "Moneda Falsa", "En Familia").

**Japanese Collection.**

A second volume of the Japanese Collection, "L'Art, la Vie, et la Nature au Japon", by Professor Anesaki, is at present in the press. The translation of "Kokoro", the third volume in the collection, has been entrusted to M. Daigaku Horiguchi and M. Georges Bonneau.

**Index Translationum.**

This international bibliography of translations, initiated in 1932, continues to be published by the Institute. The Spanish bibliographical lists have ceased to appear owing to political events. On the other hand, a new country is contributing — namely, the Netherlands, whose lists are published with the assistance of the Netherlands National Committee on Intellectual Co-operation.¹

**IX. INTELLECTUAL AGREEMENTS.**

In January 1938, the Institute published the "Recueil des Accords intellectuels" ("Compendium of Intellectual Agreements") which reproduces the texts of thirty-six bilateral agreements and of a number of general Conventions, resolutions adopted by international conferences, etc. The compendium contains an annex giving particulars concerning the application of the agreements and a synoptic table. The *Bulletin* of the Institute will in future publish all texts of agreements of this kind which it receives.

¹ The bibliography now refers to publications of the following countries: the United Kingdom, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Roumania, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.
X. INTELLECTUAL RIGHTS.

As regards intellectual rights, the Institute’s activities have been divided between the protection of scientific thought and the protection of authors’ rights.

As regards the first point, support has been given to national efforts to ensure the legislative protection of the authors of scientific discoveries or inventions of a theoretical character. Circumstances have not yet permitted of the submission to a diplomatic conference of the draft international Convention prepared under the Institute’s auspices.

An International Congress of Inventors and Industrial Artists, held at Paris in July 1937, provided an opportunity for a fresh discussion of various aspects of the problem. It adopted a recommendation calling upon the public authorities of the various countries to take steps associating industrial undertakings in the sacrifices rendered necessary by the development of scientific research. The International Confederation of Intellectual Workers, at whose proposal the action of the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation of the League of Nations in this sphere was originally undertaken, has itself received new suggestions from several of its national groups showing their growing interest in the problem.

As regards authors’ rights, the Institute has maintained its close co-operation with the Berne Union and with the professional groups concerned with a view to an early revision of the Union Convention. Its principal proposals (extension of moral rights, protection of the authors’ rights of journalists, recognition of the droit de suite, institution of an international jurisdiction) have received fresh support. Moreover, the preparation of the universal charter of authors’ rights, conducted in concert with the Belgian administration, is progressing favourably. The preliminary work is dealt with in a first memorandum communicated by the Belgian Government, for observations and opinions, to all the Governments of the two continents.

In addition, in response to an appeal addressed to it by the second International Congress of Comparative Law, the Institute, in agreement with the Rome International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, has undertaken a study of the
possibilities of regulating publishers’ contracts on the international plane. This work is to be carried out in collaboration with the International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers.

As in other years, the Institute convened the statutory meeting of the representatives of institutions dealing with intellectual rights. This meeting, which was held on June 29th, 1938, ensured the co-ordination of the work carried out respectively by the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, the International Labour Office, the Rome International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, the International Bureaux at Berne and the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

XI. NATIONAL COMMITTEES ON INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION.

The liaison between the national committees on intellectual co-operation, the Secretariat and the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation received a fresh impetus from the second general Conference of those committees, held at Paris from July 5th to 9th, 1937. The records of this Conference have been published.¹ They contain full particulars of the activities of the different committees, particularly as regards inter-American and regional intellectual co-operation.

In conformity with the Conference’s recommendation to encourage closer relations between national committees having special affinities with each other, the Chilian Committee on Intellectual Co-operation has taken the initiative of convening a conference of the national committees of the American continent at Santiago de Chile in June 1939. The promoters of this conference have asked for the assistance of the League of Nations. The agenda will relate to the activities of the national committees on intellectual co-operation of the American countries; the creation of committees in countries which do not yet possess them, and different questions of special concern to the cultural relations of American countries (organisation of “Conversations”; use of broadcasting, the cinematograph and the Press for purposes

¹ Document C.530.M.369.1937.XII.
of education and *rapprochement*; exchange of teachers and students between American countries; American archaeology, etc.). Lastly, a discussion will take place on America’s mission in the intellectual sphere as a factor in the organisation of peace.

**XII. INTERNATIONAL ACT CONCERNING INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION.**

At its thirteenth session, in July 1936, the Governing Body of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation drew the attention of the Assembly of the League of Nations to the importance of the financial contributions paid by certain States to the Institute and to the advantage of guaranteeing their continuity and extension in the form of a convention. During the “Intellectual Co-operation Month” organised at Paris in 1937, this question was discussed at the second General Conference of National Committees on Intellectual Co-operation, and a draft International Act was prepared for the purpose of strengthening the legal and financial situation of the Institute and promoting the constitution and development of national committees.

At its meeting on May 13th, 1938, the Council endorsed the proposals and suggestions of the Executive Committee of the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation and entrusted the French Government with the convocation of a conference to give final form to this International Act.¹

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¹ Twenty-six Governments have communicated their observations up to the present on this draft International Act. These replies may be summarised as follows:

1. The following welcome the draft Act, while reserving the right to submit various observations at the Conference: Argentine Republic, Belgium, Brazil, China, Czechoslovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Yugoslavia;
2. The following had no constructive observations to make: Norway, Siam, United States of America;
3. The following had no objection to make: Denmark, Hungary, Latvia;
4. The Union of South Africa has no observations to offer, the draft Act being wholly acceptable.
5. Canada considers that present circumstances, including the altered status of the International Educational Cinematographic Institute and of the Institute for the Unification of Private Law, and the effect of this upon the question of finances and co-ordination, make it desirable that further
XIII. CLOSING OF THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL CINEMATOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE AT ROME.

In a letter, dated December 27th, 1937,1 the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs informed the Secretary-General that, in view of the withdrawal of Italy from the League, the Italian Government had no alternative but to conclude that the undertaking assumed in the note of January 7th, 1928, which stated the terms on which the International Educational Cinematographic Institute was founded, had ceased to apply.

The Secretary-General communicated this letter to the Council and to the Members of the League.2

consideration should be given to the whole question of international intellectual co-operation before such a conference is summoned;

(6) Estonia agrees to the Act in principle and considers it with the keenest interest.

(7) France considers that the adoption of the Act would conduce to the development of the work of the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation, and the French Government will therefore be represented at the Conference;

(8) The Netherlands declares itself in general agreement with the draft Act, but proposes various amendments;

(9) The following acknowledged receipt or informed the Secretary-General that the draft was under consideration: Egypt, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Venezuela.

Iraq, Poland and Roumania referred in their replies to financial considerations.

The Polish Government nevertheless welcomes the draft Act and expresses the opinion that closer consideration should be given to the principles and activities of the national committees.

The Government of India feels unable to become a party to an International Act containing a provision stipulating a financial contribution to an international institute established by the generosity of a single Government, as such a course would tend to prejudice the acceptance of future offers made by individual Governments.


2 On May 13th, 1938, the Council considered the effect of the closing of the International Educational Cinematographic Institute on the Convention for facilitating the International Circulation of Films of an Educational Character, signed at Geneva on October 11th, 1933, as the Institute played a part in the selection of such films. The Council proposed that the States which had ratified the Convention, or which had signed it but not yet ratified it, should meet in conference at Geneva during the nineteenth session of the Assembly of the League (September 1938). The Secretary-General could, on the basis of these replies and after consultation with the President of the Council and the United Kingdom Government, which made the proposal, convene the conference and fix the date.
International Bureaux.

I. Relations with International Bureaux.

The number of international bureaux placed under the direction of the League of Nations in virtue of Article 24 of the Covenant has not changed since the last Assembly. As in the past, the bureaux have sent to the Secretariat publications, reports and circular letters addressed to their respective members.\(^1\)

II. Relations with International Organisations.

Increased activity has been shown by international organisations and associations in so far as this takes the form of the organisation of international congresses. The number of international meetings held during the past year was much larger than in previous years.

These congresses dealt with the most varied aspects of international life in their discussions and resolutions. The present relations between Governments, the study of the problem of peace and religious questions have occupied a large place in these discussions. Moreover, the associations of members of the teaching profession or students, as well as other organisations...

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\(^1\) International Hydrographic Bureau; International Commission for Air Navigation; International Central Office for the Control of the Liquor Traffic in Africa; International Bureau for Information and Enquiries regarding Relief to Foreigners; Nansen International Office for Refugees; International Exhibition Bureau.
with an educational purpose, have examined the questions which arise in connection with the instruction already given, or to be given in future, on the interdependence of peoples and the co-existence of the main cultural groups.

The women's associations, the workers' organisations and the Press have also felt the need of developing and intensifying all forms of international collaboration in their respective spheres of activity. The meetings held by the scientific and technical associations have brought out the advanced stage of organisation of the different branches and have shown a keen desire to co-ordinate both the progress already made and current research.

The international organisations of an industrial, commercial and financial character have examined a series of reports and communications aimed at emphasising the necessity of international co-operation and of facilitating the latter.

The activity which has been observed in this immense international sphere seems to have been somewhat influenced by the scheme of the International Exhibition of 1937 — Art and Technique in Modern Life — which was held at Paris. Some hundreds of national and international congresses were convened in connection with this international manifestation. A number of predominantly national organisations organised special international congresses dealing with certain aspects of modern art and technique; some of these congresses were organised for the first time.

The activities of the numerous international organisations established at Geneva and forming part of the Federation of semi-official and private international institutions gave encouraging results. Thanks to the accommodating spirit shown by the Swiss Confederation and the Canton of Geneva, as owners of the former building of the League Secretariat, the idea put forward by the Federation to create an international centre by placing the old headquarters of the League of Nations at the disposal of these organisations was realised in the best possible conditions. On September 29th, 1937, the premises of this new international centre, which at present houses thirty international institutions, were inaugurated.
III. Publications.

The Secretariat published two numbers of the Bulletin of Information on the Work of International Organisations, the first in December 1937 and the second in June 1938.

Brief particulars were given of the work of some two hundred international conferences and congresses.

The English edition of the Handbook of International Organisations, enlarged and thoroughly revised, was published at the beginning of the year. It contains brief notices on the aims, structure and methods of work of over 650 international organisations, official unions or bureaux, private associations or federations, etc.

* * *

The International Bureaux Section has continued its work of documentation regarding the constitution and activities of international organisations of a public or private character, as it has done in the past. The information collected has enabled the Section to respond to various requests for information.
17. BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS.

I. ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1937.

The accounts for the year 1937 were examined by M. U. A. J. Brunskog, recently appointed Auditor, and were considered by the Supervisory Commission, whose report is submitted to the 1938 Assembly.¹

II. GENERAL FINANCIAL RESULTS OF THE YEAR 1937.

The budget amounted to 29,184,128 Swiss francs; the expenditure was 27,592,474.89 Swiss francs. The receipts in respect of contributions for that year amounted to 31,232,023.72 Swiss francs, and the total income, including contributions for previous years and miscellaneous receipts, was 34,125,819.31 Swiss francs. The cash surplus for the year 1937 is therefore 6,533,344.42 Swiss francs, but is reduced to a net sum of 6,445,048.95 Swiss francs, or 4,558,625.20 gold francs, after deduction of the proportion accruing to States which are Members of the International Labour Organisation but not of the League.

This favourable result is due to:

(1) (a) Profits on the contributions for 1936 paid after the devaluation of the Swiss franc on September 26th, 1936.

(b) Profits on the contributions for 1937 which, in accordance with the decision of the 1936 Assembly, were reduced by 20% as against an actual depreciation of the Swiss franc of 29.269%.

¹ Document A.3.1938.X.
(2) Greater regularity — attributable in part to the efforts of the Special Committee on Contributions — in the payment of current contributions, which increased from 91¾% of the budget of 1936 in 1936 to 94.61% of the budget for 1937 in 1937. Further, the total receipts for the year 1937, including arrears and the amount of surplus refunded to States in the form of reductions in contributions due, amounted to 102.37% as compared with 101.03% for the year 1936.

(3) Economies by the Administrations.

III. Financial Position of the League on June 1st, 1938.

Results of the First Five Months.

During the first five months of the year 1938, the amount of contributions received totalled 10,260,173.74 gold francs, or 45.23% of the budget, as against 10,873,183.97 gold francs, or 46.57% of the budget, for the corresponding period last year.

Of the sums paid, 9,862,668.42 gold francs represented payments in respect of the current year and 397,505.32 gold francs in respect of arrears.

General Situation and Disposal of Surplus for 1937.

At its session held in May 1938, the Supervisory Commission decided to take from that part of the surplus, amounting to 2,110,209.78 gold francs, which represented the difference between the gold and Swiss franc values of contributions for the financial year 1937, the amount necessary to keep the contributions of States Members at their present level after allowing for the decrease in the number of units which will take place next year. It further proposed that the balance of 1,060,209.78 gold francs, which remains after deducting the sum of 1,050,000 gold francs required for this purpose, should be used for the reduction of future contributions; for it may be apprehended that, in 1940, the withdrawal of certain States will result in additional burdens which will have to be limited by every possible means.

1 See document A.5.1938.X.
With regard to the balance of the total surplus, amounting to 2,448,415.42 gold francs, the Supervisory Commission proposed that a sum of 240,586.22 gold francs should be transferred to the Guarantee Fund; it adjourned to its September session a decision as to the disposal of the remainder, amounting to 2,207,829.20 gold francs.

The various financial documents and reports submitted to the Assembly show that the financial situation of the League continues to be thoroughly sound.

IV. BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1939.¹

The total budget for 1939, including the budgets of the Secretariat, the International Labour Organisation and the Permanent Court of International Justice, amounts to 30,678,250 Swiss francs.

The reduction of 1,595,001 Swiss francs over 1938 is mainly attributable to the elimination of credits provided for the assistance of refugees and expenditure resulting from currency depreciation, and a diminution in the budget of the Secretariat.

The budget of the Secretariat amounts to 15,017,782 Swiss francs, 911,549 Swiss francs less than for 1938. The principal cause is the reduction of 752,557 Swiss francs in the credit provided for technical collaboration with China and the transfer to another part of the budget of the credit in respect of the New York World's Fair, for which a net sum of 50,000 francs was included in the 1938 estimate.

The 1939 budget includes, under a new Part XII, a credit of 700,000 francs for the participation of the League in the New York World's Fair. This credit corresponds to the difference between the gross amount for which provision was made in the 1939 budget of the Secretariat (300,000 francs, including 250,000 francs from the Guarantee Fund) and the figure of one million, which the Supervisory Commission, in its report to the Council and the Assembly,² set as the maximum aggregate sum which the participation of the League in the Fair should involve.

¹ See documents A.4, A.4(a), A.4(b).1938.X.
² Document A.5(c).1938.X.
V. Contributions in Arrear.

At its last session, the Assembly approved the recommendations of the Special Committee on Contributions in the case of the contributions of four States. The Assembly renewed the Special Committee’s term of office for a further year, on the understanding that it would not be empowered to make new arrangements with States in arrear except in regard to those at present pending.

The amount of arrears as at December 31st, 1937 (excluding consolidated arrears, arrangements for the payment of which have been concluded), amounted to 1,753,446.57 gold francs due by seventeen States.

The Special Committee on Contributions, which has already met this year, will hold a session in the summer with a view to the adoption of its report to the Assembly.
18.

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS.


On September 20th, 1937 (eighteenth session of the Assembly), Iran and Peru were elected Members of the Council. On the same date, Spain, Turkey and Chile ceased to be Members.

On September 29th, 1937, Belgium was elected a Member of the Council.

* * *

By a telegram dated December 11th, 1937, the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs informed the Secretary-General that Italy was withdrawing on that date from the League of Nations. The Secretary-General acknowledged this telegram, from which it resulted that Italy had given notice on December 11th of her intention to withdraw from the League of Nations in accordance with Article 1, paragraph 3, of the Covenant.

The telegram from the Italian Government and the Secretary-General's reply were communicated to the Members of the League.¹

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In a letter dated March 18th, 1938, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the German Reich communicated to the Secretary-General the text of the Reich Law concerning Austria, which had been adopted and promulgated by

the German Government on March 13th. He added that the former Federal State of Austria had, on the date of the promulgation of the Law, ceased to be a Member of the League of Nations.

The letter from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the German Reich, and the Secretary-General's reply acknowledging this communication regarding Austria's situation in relation to the League of Nations, were forwarded to the Members of the League.¹

* * *

By a letter dated May 31st, 1938 and received on June 2nd, the Permanent Delegate of Chile accredited to the League of Nations communicated to the Secretary-General a letter from the Chilian Minister for Foreign Affairs dated May 14th, 1938, giving two years notice of Chile's withdrawal from the League of Nations under Article 1, paragraph 3, of the Covenant.²

The letter from the Permanent Delegate of Chile and that from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, together with the Secretary-General's reply, were communicated to the Members of the League.³

II. CONSTITUTION, PROCEDURE AND PRACTICE OF LEAGUE COMMITTEES.

Proceeding with the measures for the reform and co-ordination of the constitution, procedure and practice of Committees of the League of Nations, the Council finally adopted, on January


² In his letter, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile stated that, notwithstanding the effects of the present notification on its position with regard to the League of Nations, it was his Government's intention to continue its participation in the International Labour Organisation, the Permanent Court of International Justice and the other technical bodies connected with the League in which such participation on the part of States not members of the League was permissible under the relevant provisions.

On September 29th, 1937 (ninety-ninth session), the Council approved the draft Rules of Procedure of the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation drawn up within the limits of the General Regulations on Committees of the League of Nations. The Committee on Intellectual Co-operation will endeavour to submit, in the course of 1938, a complete draft statute for the Council's approval.

III. WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE REPRESSION OF TERRORISM.

This Conference, which was convened in virtue of the Assembly's resolution of October 6th, 1937, was in session at Geneva from November 1st to 16th, 1937. It was the last stage in the investigation of international remedies for terrorist activities of international significance which was set on foot by the Council on December 10th, 1934, in consequence of the assassination of King Alexander and M. Barthou (October 9th, 1934).

The Conference was composed of plenipotentiaries of thirty-five States. The President of the Conference was His Excellency Count Carton de Wiart (Belgium), appointed by the Council of the League of Nations.

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1 See Official Journal, February 1938, page 111.
2 For the text, see Official Journal, February 1938, pages 218 et seq.
3 Afghanistan, Albania, Argentine Republic, Belgium, United Kingdom, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, India, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Roumania, San Marino, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia. Brazil was represented by an observer.
4 M. Jules Basdevant (France) and His Excellency Dr. Enrique Ruiz Guíñazú (Argentine Republic) were elected Vice-Presidents by the Conference; the former was Chairman of the Drafting Committee and, owing to the unavoidable absence of the President, also presided over the later meetings of the Conference. His Excellency M. Vespasian Pella (Roumania) was elected Rapporteur.
Two draft Conventions, which had been drawn up by the Committee of Experts appointed by the Council in 1934 and which had been revised in the light of the criticisms made by the Assembly of 1936, were submitted to the Conference and were adopted by it with amendments.¹ The drafts deal respectively with the repression of terrorism and with the creation of an International Criminal Court having jurisdiction in certain circumstances over offences dealt with in the other Convention.

Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of Terrorism.²

The Convention dealing with terrorism opens with an affirmation of "the principle of international law in virtue of which it is the duty of every State to refrain from any act designed to encourage terrorist activities directed against another State and to prevent the acts in which such activities take shape".

Each contracting country undertakes to punish, with the same severity as if they had been committed against that country itself, acts committed on its territory which are directed against another contracting country, fall within the list of offences set out in Article 2, and have the characteristic of being "intended or calculated to create a state of terror in the minds of particular persons, or a group of persons, or the general public" (Article 1, paragraph 2). Conspiracy, certain forms of incitement, wilful participation and assistance knowingly given in the commission of such terrorist acts are also to be punished (Article 3), whatever be the country in which the terrorist acts are to be performed.

If the author of an offence mentioned in Articles 2 or 3 escapes to another contracting country, the Convention provides for his extradition, or alternatively for his prosecution and punishment, but these obligations are limited by provisions safeguarding the right to grant asylum to political offenders and by the existing rules of the criminal law of the country of refuge.

Under Article 12, contracting countries must take, within the limits of their law and administrative organisation, the measures which they consider appropriate for the effective prevention of all activities contrary to the purpose of the Convention.

There follow articles dealing with the control of the trade in and possession of fire-arms and ammunition, with offences connected with passports, with co-operation by means of exchange of information and with the execution of "letters of request" — i.e., requests to have evidence taken in connection with prosecutions for acts covered by the Convention.

Convention for the Creation of an International Criminal Court.

The idea on which this Convention is based is that there are cases in which a State, having in its hands a person accused of having committed in another country a terrorist offence for which it ought normally to extradite him, or to prosecute him in its own courts, would be glad to substitute for extradition or prosecution a trial before an international court of undoubted impartiality, and that the international repression of terrorism would be furthered by creating this possibility.

The International Criminal Court is to be established for this purpose. The countries which are parties to the Convention by which it is created must at the same time be parties to the Convention dealing with terrorism, and they will be entitled as between themselves to fulfil any obligation to extradite or prosecute which arises under the latter Convention by committing the accused to the International Court for trial. The Court will not have any jurisdiction over offences against countries which are not parties to the Convention establishing the Court.

The Court will be a permanent body composed of five regular judges and five deputy judges, chosen by the Permanent Court of International Justice, if that Court consents, from among candidates nominated by the parties to the Convention. The Court will sit only when there are cases to be tried, and when sitting to try a case will consist of five members, but if it has to apply the law of a State of which no sitting judge is a national, it may invite a jurist who is an authority on such law to sit as an assessor in a consultative capacity.

The Court will not be an institution forming part of or depending on the League of Nations. Its administration and finances

will be managed by meetings of representatives of the parties to the Convention. The seat of the Court will be The Hague. The work of its registry will be performed by the Registry of the Permanent Court of International Justice, if that Court consents.

At the time of writing, the Convention dealing with terrorism had received twenty-three signatures and the other Convention twelve signatures, but no ratifications of either Convention had been deposited.

IV. STUDY OF THE LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN.

The question of the legal status of women in all its aspects was considered by the Assembly in 1935 and 1937. In both years, the Assembly had before it statements drawn up by the women's international organisations which have concerned themselves with the matter. In addition to a large amount of information regarding the existing position, these documents set out the desiderata of the various organisations. In 1937, the Assembly also had under consideration memoranda from some thirty Governments.

These memoranda and the discussions to which they gave rise revealed the strength and extent of the movement for the removal of differences in the legal position of the sexes and the sympathy felt for the ideals underlying this movement, but they also brought to light the difficulties in the way of action by the League of Nations in connection with a matter which certain of its Members regard as lying entirely outside its proper field and which in any case raises a multiplicity of highly complex legal and social problems having very different aspects according to the social and legal habits and structure of different countries.

In these circumstances, the Assembly decided, on September 30th, 1937, that, without prejudice to the question of other action by the League in the future, steps should be taken for the publication of a comprehensive survey of "the legal status enjoyed by women in the various countries of the world as the result of the provisions of national law and the application of

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1 The question of the legal status of women as regards nationality was considered by the Assembly in 1931, 1932 and 1933, and was discussed as a separate question in 1935.
those provisions”. Two subjects were excluded — viz., questions of nationality as such, since the Assembly had dealt with this matter in its resolution of September 27th, 1935, and “the question of conditions of employment”, which the Assembly in 1935 had recognised to be one falling within the sphere of the International Labour Organisation.

The Assembly’s resolution contemplates that the investigation of the laws of the various countries will be carried out by the competent scientific institutions under the direction of a Committee of experts appointed by the Council — the “Committee for the Study of the Legal Status of Women”. This Committee’s task is to determine the exact scope of the investigation, to apportion the work among the different institutes and maintain the necessary contact with them during its progress, and to take full and entire responsibility for the form and contents of the volume or volumes to be published by the League.

The Committee was appointed by the Council on January 28th, 1938. The institutes mentioned at the Assembly were the International Institute of Rome for the Unification of Private Law, the International Institute of Public Law and the International Bureau for the Unification of Penal Law. All three have consented to take part in the work. Other appropriate bodies may of course be applied to if desired.

At its first session (April 4th to 12th, 1938), the Committee for the Study of the Legal Status of Women was able to arrange for the three scientific institutes to begin the enquiry at once. Representatives of the institutes met the Committee and discussed with it the tasks which the institutes would respec-

1 The Committee consists of the following members: Professor H. C. Gutteridge, K.C. (United Kingdom), Professor of Comparative Law in the University of Cambridge (Chairman); Mme. Paul Bastid (France), Professor in the Faculty of Law of the University of Lyons; M. de Ruelle (Belgium), Legal Adviser of the Belgian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration; Mme. Anka Godjevac (Yugoslavia), Doctor of Law, Technical Adviser of the Yugoslav Delegation at the Codification Conference (1930); Mlle. Kerstin Hesselgren (Sweden), Member of the Second Chamber of the Riksdag, Rapporteur on the Status of Women to the First Committee of the Assembly (1937); Miss Dorothy Kenyon (United States of America), Doctor of Law; M. Paul Sebestyén (Hungary), Counsellor of Section, Chief of the International Treaties Section at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

2 Professor Sauser-Hall, of the University of Geneva, for the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law; M. Mirkine-Guetzévitch for the International Institute of Public Law; and M. Donnedieu de Vabres, Professor of Criminal Law in the Faculty of Law at Paris, for the International Bureau for the Unification of Penal Law.
tively undertake. On points relating to the demarcation between the Committee’s sphere and that of the International Labour Office, the Committee consulted a representative of the Office. A "scheme of work" was drawn up which enumerates the subjects to be covered under the three heads of public law, private law and criminal law, each of which has been entrusted to the competent institute, and various essential and important questions of method were settled.

The Committee also established contact with the women’s international organisations, whose co-operation it has been expressly empowered to obtain. At a public meeting on April 9th, 1938, it discussed the nature of the enquiry and the topics which it should cover with the representatives of thirteen organisations, and noted certain points on which its "scheme of work" could be completed. Arrangements have been made for the transmission to the scientific institutes, through the Secretariat and under the control of the Committee, of information supplied by the organisations.

The survey contemplated by the Assembly’s resolution is not expressly subject to any geographical or cultural limits, but embraces the whole world. The arrangements so far made by the Committee cover all countries, whether situated in Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa or Australasia, in so far as their law belongs to what may be called the Western type. It was not possible to go further at present, even if it would have been technically desirable to try to cover a wider field at the outset, for the scientific institutes do not consider themselves to have adequate means at their disposal for studying other systems of law or for exploring the subject of native customs.

The work which has been begun is, however, itself one of great magnitude. At the public meeting of April 9th, the Chairman described it in the following terms:

"Even as it stood, the programme of work was a vast one. For a country such as France, it covered no less than a third of the Code Napoléon, and if that example were followed for every other country, it would cover a third of the civil legislation of the world. Nothing of the kind had ever before been attempted on such a scale."

1 With the possible exception of such rules of Mohammedan law as may be in force in Europe.
It is estimated that at least two years will be needed by the scientific institutes for the completion of the work which they have undertaken. The Committee is already exploring the possibility of organising the study, at a future date, of the systems of law which at present have been reserved.

The Committee has also been obliged to reserve its decision as to the matters which may properly be considered to fall within the expression “application” of the law as used in the Assembly’s resolution. This is a question which can only be dealt with satisfactorily when more experience has been acquired in the course of the work.

At the meeting with the representatives of the women’s organisations, the Committee was asked whether it could not publish particular sections of the projected survey—in particular, that dealing with electoral law—in advance of the other sections. The Committee felt unable to take this course.

The Committee intends to hold its second session at the beginning of January 1939.

V. WORK OF THE ROME INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE UNIFICATION OF PRIVATE LAW ¹ (JULY 1ST, 1937, TO JUNE 15TH, 1938).

During the year, the Institute continued its work in the different spheres of its activity. It was able to complete the final text of the preliminary draft uniform law on sales, as well as the text (for a first consultation of Governments) of the preliminary draft on arbitration in private law.

Preliminary Draft Uniform Law on Sales.

The Committee of Experts met at Paris from April 5th to 12th, 1937, and carefully examined the observations and suggestions submitted by the Governments with regard to the first text of the preliminary draft. After this examination, the Committee revised the preliminary draft, which will now be

1 By a resolution dated October 2nd, 1937, the eighteenth Assembly decided that the work of the Institute should be placed on the Assembly’s agenda every year.
submitted to the Governing Body of the Institute. This text will provide a basis of discussion for a Diplomatic Conference which will be convened for the purpose.

**Arbitration.**

At a session held at Stockholm from September 28th to 30th, 1937, the Committee of Experts drew up the text of the preliminary draft uniform law on arbitration in private law and of the explanatory report accompanying it. The preliminary draft, after approval by the Governing Body of the Institute, will be forwarded to the Council of the League of Nations with a view to submission to Governments for a first examination.

**Contracts concluded by Agents.**

Continuing its work, the Committee of Experts held its second session at Stockholm from September 27th to 29th, 1937. During this session, it drew up the text of a preliminary draft uniform law on contracts concluded by agents. The Institute is preparing a report commenting on this preliminary draft.

**Motorists.**

As stated in the last report, the Institute has submitted to the Communications and Transit Organisation a preliminary draft uniform law on civil liability of motorists and preliminary draft uniform regulations on compulsory insurance of motorists, these texts having been drawn up by the Committee of Experts. The Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit decided at its twentieth session (August 31st to September 4th, 1937) to entrust the examination of the preliminary drafts, as they now stand, to a Special Committee consisting of experts on legal matters, road traffic and insurance. This Committee will also include two members of the Committee of Experts of the Institute.

On its side, the International Association of Recognised Automobile Clubs, after carrying out an enquiry among the different national automobile clubs, submitted the preliminary drafts to an examination by its Legal Commission (Paris, February 24th, 1938). Moreover, the Motorists' Insurance Committee
of the International Chamber of Commerce expressed its views on the preliminary drafts at its meeting on June 8th, 1938.

Maintenance Obligations.

At its first session (August 1st to 4th, 1937) — this was the first Committee session to be attended by American experts — the Committee of Experts on this subject laid down a number of principles which might serve as a basis for an international convention on the enforcement of maintenance obligations abroad. On the basis of these decisions, the Institute will draw up a preliminary draft, which will be submitted to the Committee of Experts at its next meeting.

International Loan Contracts.

In pursuance of a recommendation adopted by the Assembly on September 28th, 1935, the League of Nations Committee for the Study of International Loan Contracts asked the Institute, in the first place, to consider the possibility of compiling an international code of uniform rules for international loans and, secondly, to examine the question of the representation of holders under the various legislations in relation to loan clauses. The Institute has begun the first of these tasks. After a Committee of Experts 1 had prepared a plan of work, the Institute drew up a preliminary study and preliminary draft uniform rules, which were forwarded to the League Committee in time for its session on June 20th, 1938. As regards the second task, the Institute, at its third session (December 6th to 9th, 1937), submitted an advisory opinion to the above-mentioned Committee.

Intellectual Rights.

The Institute has continued its work in the sphere of intellectual rights.

Universal Charter of Authors’ Rights. — With a view to a Conference for the preparation of a universal convention on authors’ rights, which the Belgian Government has decided to convene on the occasion of the Conference for the Revision of the Berne Convention, that Government, in collaboration with

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1 This Committee held its first meeting at Paris on July 30th, 1937.
the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, has published a first collection of preliminary documents. Among the documents in this publication, special mention should be made of the Brazilian Government's proposals and of the two different drafts for a general convention drawn up at Montevideo by the Inter-American Commission on Authors' Rights and by the Committee of Experts convened at Paris by the Paris and Rome International Institutes. This official memorandum was communicated by the Belgian Government in May 1938 to all countries, whether they were parties or not to any of the Conventions in force, with a view to obtaining their opinions.

Performers' Rights. — As stated in last year's report,¹ the Committee of international institutions dealing with intellectual rights adopted a recommendation supporting the decision of the Committee of Experts of the Institute to urge the International Labour Office to consider whether it would not be possible for the work to be completed within the framework of the International Labour Organisation before the Brussels Conference, or, if necessary, for the Labour Office to take an active part in the work of the Diplomatic Conference for the Revision of the Berne Convention.

In pursuance of this recommendation, the Governing Body of the International Labour Office decided, at its eighty-second session (February 1938) to summon, in 1938, a Committee of Experts consisting of representatives of the international institutions interested in the question.

Publishers' Contracts. — The Institution, in collaboration with the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, resumed the study undertaken in 1929 regarding publishers' contracts, with a view to preparing a standard international contract, not only for publishers' contracts, but for all forms of reproduction and diffusion of intellectual works.

Legal Status of Women.

The Committee entrusted with the study of the legal status of women has asked the Institute to study questions of private law connected with the legal status of women.²

² See above, page 178.
In order that the question of the method to be employed in the studies entrusted to the different international scientific institutions may be finally settled at the Committee's next session, the Institute is at present confining its studies to the question of the legal capacity of women.

* * *

By a letter dated December 27th, 1937, the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs informed the Secretary-General that, following upon the withdrawal of Italy from the League of Nations, the Italian Government had decided to denounce, with effect as from April 20th, 1940, the undertaking given in its note of March 31st, 1926, regarding the foundation and maintenance of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law at Rome.

The Secretary-General communicated this letter to the Council and to the Members of the League.¹

19.

REGISTRATION AND PUBLICATION OF TREATIES AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS.

(Article 18 of the Covenant.)

Present Situation with regard to International Engagements registered with the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

As in previous years, the registration of treaties by the Secretariat has been carried out according to the method laid down by the Council of the League of Nations (on May 19th, 1920).

Between May 19th, 1920, and May 19th, 1938, 4,358 treaties and international engagements have been submitted for registration, 245 of which were submitted during the period between May 19th, 1937, and May 19th, 1938.

The treaties registered have, as in previous years, dealt with various subjects, as may be seen by consulting the following list, which gives a general idea of the character of the agreements registered during the period in question.

Some of the treaties mentioned in the list, dealing at once with several subjects, may be classified under several heads.

Treaties of Peace, Friendship, Alliance, Neutrality, etc.

Registration No.

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Arbitration, Conciliation and Judicial Settlement.

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4169    Chile and Norway.
4211    Bulgaria and Denmark.
4245    Denmark and Yugoslavia.

Treaties of Non-Aggression.

Registration No.
4180    China and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
4315    Lithuania and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Political Questions.

Registration No.
4350    Convention (General).
4351    Protocol (General).
4352    Treaty (General).
4353    Treaty (General).

Consular Conventions, Conventions concerning Conditions of Residence and Similar Questions.

Registration No.
4130    Luxemburg and the Netherlands.
4233    United States of America and Greece.
4296    Hungary and Poland.

Judicial and Extradition Conventions.

Registration No.
4149    Turkey and Yugoslavia.
4168    Belgium and Siam.
4171    United States of America and Mexico.
4183    Hungary and Poland.
4188    United States of America and Roumania.
4193    Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia.
4197    Brazil and China
4200    Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Hungary.
Judicial and Extradition Conventions (continued).

Registration No.
4202 General Convention.
4209 Belgium and Colombia.
4235 United States of America and Liechtenstein.
4257 Great Britain and Northern Ireland and France (Morocco and Zanzibar).
4258 Belgium and Yugoslavia.
4264 Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Union of South Africa and Ecuador.
4278 Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Greece.
4288 Greece and Switzerland.
4294 Belgium and Cuba.
4295 Estonia and Italy.
4302 Belgium and Liechtenstein.
4328 Belgium and the Netherlands.
4330 United States of America and Canada.
4339 Belgium and Monaco.

Military Questions and Similar Questions.

Registration No.
4252 Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Egypt.
4265 Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Union of South Africa and India and Egypt.

Naval Questions.

Registration No.
4184 General Arrangement.
4185 General Agreement.
4246 United States of America, France, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and India.
4332 Germany and Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
4333 Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
### Aerial Navigation.

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### Commerce, Navigation and Customs.

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Commerce, Navigation and Customs (continued).

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4308 Greece and Norway.
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4329 United States of America and Italy.
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Registration No.

4192 Hungary and Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

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4178 Brazil and Uruguay.
4217 Germany and Czechoslovakia.
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4284 Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Portugal.
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4299 Hungary and Norway.
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4354 Convention (General).

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4120 Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Denmark.
4208 United States of America and Panama.
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4179 Brazil and Uruguay.
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4347 Estonia and Finland.
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4356 Convention (General).

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4126 Protocol (General).

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4320 Latvia and the Holy See.

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4122 France and India.
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4307 Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.
4319 General Convention.
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The following table gives the number of treaties registered by the Secretariat at the request of the various States during the period from May 19th, 1937, to May 19th, 1938:

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roumanian</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siam</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union of Soviet Socialist Republic</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yugoslavia</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

International engagements concluded under the auspices of the League of Nations deposited with the Secretariat and registered in consequence of their entry into force. 6

Agreements concluded by the Mediterranean Conference at Nyon. 2

The Secretariat has also registered many accessions, ratifications, denunciations etc., concerning Conventions previously registered at the request of various States. It has also registered further information relating to general Conventions which it had already published.

International engagements are published in the Treaty Series in their original languages, with translations into French and English, when they have not been drawn up in one of these two languages.

Up to the present, 181 volumes of about 450 pages each, containing 4,200 treaties, have been published by the Secretariat. Other volumes will appear in the near future.
20.

LIBRARY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The Library has continued to supply the League with books and other printed matter on current affairs and, subsidiarily, to afford facilities for the work of outside readers attracted by its valuable documentation on international relations.

It now occupies the spacious building at Ariana which it owes to the munificence of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Junior, and is working with increased efficiency.

As regards its main function, it naturally serves, first and foremost, the needs of the members of the Secretariat. As the League’s technical activities take shape or develop, the Secretariat depends more and more on the abundant documentation which is sorted out and catalogued in the Library.

Apart from the Secretariat, the Governments or Ministries of the various States also make extensive use of the Library: not only do a growing number of them ask for documentation for legislative or other purposes which it is best or alone able to provide,1 but some of them, either through their permanent delegates at Geneva or by sending officials from their capitals, have studied the organisation of the League Library with a view to possible improvements in their ministerial libraries or in their national centres of economic or financial documentation.

At the same time, the Library is tending to be increasingly resorted to by outside investigators—lawyers, historians, publicists, journalists, financiers, special delegates of large

1 Thus, in 1937/38, the Library was called upon to provide various Governments with documentation on recent maritime codes put into force since the war; on the attitude of various States to the right of asylum; on the legal forms of State participation in the armaments industry in the different countries; on military procedure in comparative law, etc.
producing firms, advanced students preparing theses for their doctors' degrees, etc. There can be no doubt that international problems are affecting to an increasing extent, not only large undertakings, but even individuals in every country. Hence the growing volume of private studies on certain international questions which are *par excellence* in the province of the League of Nations.

In order to give a clear and comprehensive idea of the Library's activities during the past year (June 1st, 1937, to June 1st, 1938), we must distinguish between the different kinds of printed matter — books, periodicals, etc. — which it is called upon first to acquire and secondly to render available as speedily as possible.

*Acquisitions of the Library in 1937/38.*

In 1937/38, the Library, which at present contains 280,000 volumes, made the following new acquisitions:

- 4,000 books;
- 5,500 volumes of periodicals;
- 5,000 Government documents.

These acquisitions are obtained by purchase, exchange or gift.

Purchases represent hardly more than a quarter of the total acquisitions.

The most important part is obtained by exchange. It is naturally profitable for the League of Nations to print some tens or hundreds of additional copies of its own publications at a trifling expense in order to procure periodicals which it would otherwise be obliged to purchase.

The donors of gifts are Governments, big associations, banks, etc., or authors who have worked in the Library. The latter, of course, only accepts gifts which are of genuine utility to it.

*Books.*

In comparison with most libraries, books play a relatively small part in the League of Nations Library.

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1 On an average, two bound volumes per annum have to be reckoned for each periodical.
In the case of the Secretariat, the coefficient of utilisation of books is comparatively low. The reason for this is evident. All the questions which the League is called upon to study or deal with — political, legal, economic, financial, etc. — are essentially questions of current world interest; and these are dealt with much more in reviews, in periodical Government publications, or even in some of the principal daily newspapers of various countries, than in books. They will only be embodied in books after some years have elapsed, and then only in a somewhat diluted form.

In order to obtain the best possible coefficient of utilisation of its books, the Library, with necessarily limited funds at its disposal, must give the preference, in purchasing books or accepting gifts, to those written in the most widely known languages: English, French, German, Spanish and Italian.

Periodicals.

The 2,700-odd ordinary periodicals received by the Secretariat in 1937/38 are either independent periodicals for which their own editors are responsible, or are the publications of national or international institutions, various organisations, universities, etc.

These periodicals contain a very large number of articles, the majority of which contain no data useful to the Secretariat; a certain number, however, are not only useful, but are also essential to it. The Library therefore has to go through these periodicals and make a selection permitting of the speedy practical utilisation of this important minority of useful articles. This explains the regular publication by the Library of the Monthly List of Selected Articles. This list makes it easy for readers to find important articles containing fresh data which have appeared in any review on subjects in the League's province. For the sake of convenience, this list is immediately cut up by headings, and each of these headings is stuck on an index card. These index cards are then put in a classified catalogue, and the catalogue is placed at the disposal of the Secretariat and of the public.

1 Tenth year, 1938.