

of minors who are in a foreign country against the will of their parents or guardians. These draft texts are intended to serve as a basis for the conclusion of agreements between interested Governments, and the Child Welfare Committee is continuing its study of the drafts in the light of the observations made by Governments. It will inform the Council of the difficulties arising in connection with the maintenance and protection of foreign children and their relation to the general problem of assistance for indigent foreigners, so that these matters may receive consideration if in the future the general problem is dealt with by an international conference.

The Fifth Committee also noted the progress made by the Child Welfare Committee in the study of other questions, such as the recognition and enforcement of maintenance orders abroad, the protection of the illegitimate child, the protection and education of the blind child, and the auxiliary services of Juvenile Courts.

Traffic in Women and Children

As in previous years, the Advisory Committee's recommendations on the subject of licensed houses were discussed at some length by the Fifth Committee; the principal points touched on were (1) the progress of abolition in different countries and (2) its results.

The Roumanian Delegate gave an account of recent legislation prohibiting licensed houses and imposing heavy punishment on *souteneurs* and procurers. The Chinese delegate explained that the system of licensed houses had been abolished in the larger towns of China. The Delegates of France, Germany and Chile gave generally favourable accounts of the progress made in their countries, but stated that the work was still in the experimental stage. The Danish Delegate said that, after nearly 30 years' experience of abolition, no responsible authority in Denmark would be prepared to return to the former conditions. The majority of the Committee joined in congratulating the countries where progress had been made in this connection during recent years.

In view of the fears expressed in certain quarters that public health and order would suffer from the abolition of licensed houses, a study has been made of the preventive measures taken in abolitionist countries. The Traffic in Women and Children Committee considers that these fears have now been proved to be unfounded and that the danger of international traffic has been diminished by the closing of licensed houses. Several speakers emphasized these points.

Interest was also expressed in the studies being undertaken by the Traffic in Women and Children Committee of other means of dealing with the traffic in women, such as the employment of women police and the more effective punishment of *souteneurs*.

The Fifth Committee as a whole, and particularly the Delegates of China, Japan, India, Persia and Siam, welcomed the decision to extend to Eastern countries the enquiry into the international traffic in women (see Report of Canadian Delegates to 10th Assembly, P. 40).

Traffic in Opium

The greater part of the discussion of the League's work in connection with the traffic in opium and other dangerous drugs was devoted to a consideration of two methods for dealing with this problem: a wider and stricter application of the Hague and Geneva Conventions, and the limitation of manufacture by international agreement.

The Committee noted the increase in the number of parties to the 1925 Convention; on the 30th August, there were 38 ratifications, and another 10 may be added to these in the near future, as a result of action now being taken in various countries. Regret was expressed, however, that the majority of the Latin-American countries have not yet ratified the Convention.