

The humanitarian undertakings of the League become yearly better organized, more sympathetically co-operative, more compelling in their appeal, and more effective in results. Gradually the nations are drawing the lines more tightly on the evil forces behind the manufacture and traffic in opium and noxious drugs, the traffic in women and children, and in obscene literature, and tracing to their haunts and breeding places the pestilential and epidemic diseases that have in the past taken such heavy toll from humanity. In all these a wealth of scientific and expert effort is being enlisted and organized which defies calculation and challenges the respect and admiration of the world's best elements.

For full information on the more important work of the Fifth Committee the following references to the published documents are given:—

Traffic in opium and other dangerous drugs (A. 20.1926.XI.)

Traffic in women and children (A. 18. C.240.M.89.1926.IV.)

Child Welfare (A. 26. C. 224 M.80.1926.IV.)

Specifically and presently the League is coming to practical grips with two of the fundamental and pressing problems that have engaged its attention from its formation, the question of the suppression of the manufacture and traffic in arms and that of the reduction of warlike armaments. At no single moment since its formation has there been any relaxation in the pursuit of the solution of these harassing and vital problems, the difficulties of which become all the more apparent as the quest for solution grows more persistent. The lines that have been explored have been numerous and the information amassed has been in character and volume most important. It may, however, be said that all this has been preparatory and has served mainly to show the almost insuperable difficulties of solution. During the last year, however, notable advance has been made in two particulars, viz., the deepening conviction that the peace of the world demands a solution, and the grim determination of the member nations of the League to find that solution, whatever time and effort it may take. In this the members of the League have enlisted all the outside nations, except Russia, and the co-operation may now be declared practically universal. On the strength of these two convictions a Preparatory Commission has been kept diligently at work during 1926 exploring the lines and laying down the basis upon which a world convention may be convoked to discuss and decide the methods to be adopted which shall at once diminish and ultimately eliminate the burden and the menace of competitive warlike armaments from the world community of nations, and render war thereafter less likely and in the end impossible.

Thus have the increasing labours of the League for the seven years of its existence brought this most vital of all its problems within the ambit of possible solution, not to-day or to-morrow perhaps, but in a future hopefully in sight. It is now believed possible that the first world convention may be held during the year 1928 and that its aims will be pursued to the end of successful achievement.

The new and outstanding accomplishment of the Seventh Session was the International Slavery Convention, due largely to the initiative and persevering devotion of Viscount Cecil and the British Empire delegation. It became apparent a year or more since that there existed insidious and quite widely distributed remnants of slavery in the form of actual bodily possession and in analogous and equally noxious forms of commandeered and enforced labour in various countries. A resolution was passed by the Assembly in 1924, under which investigations were made and facts obtained. In 1925 a draft convention was drawn up to complete and extend the work accomplished by the Brussels Act of 1889-1890 and other international agreements, and submitted to the states members of the League for examination and suggestion, and at the Seventh Assembly these were considered by the Sixth Committee and a form