

to the Assembly. It was agreed, after much consideration, to increase the maximum outlay authorized from 13,500,000 francs to 19,500,000, or approximately \$3,760,000, and to empower a committee of five laymen to select one plan, or rather one architect, and proceed with the work. Announcement was made at the same time of the gift of \$2,000,000 by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., for library purposes, preferably half for building and half for endowment; with the construction of a separate Library, the main building fund will come nearer to providing adequate housing for the League's other activities.

## FIFTH COMMITTEE

The Fifth Committee dealt as usual with the social or humanitarian questions of international interest included in the League's activities.

### *Traffic in Narcotics*

The traffic in opium and narcotics generally received much attention. First came the question of tackling the problem at the source by restricting poppy growing. India had undertaken a ten per cent annual reduction; China was unfortunately not in a position to cope with the question because of internal chaos, but Persia, the third great source, had expressed its willingness to make a beginning if the economic difficulties of the shift to other crops could be met. Accordingly a League Commission had made an investigation, suggesting possible lines of action, and the Persian Government agreed to undertake a ten per cent per annum restriction, after three years of preparation in improving the country's internal economic position and agricultural methods, subject to review of the whole situation in six years. Next was the question of the ratification of the Opium Convention and of the observance of existing State obligations. It was pointed out that ratifications had been slow in coming, but hope was expressed that a sufficient number would be secured within the coming year to bring the Convention into effect; the Canadian representative intimated that the Canadian Government proposed to submit the Convention for ratification at the next session of Parliament. Attention was called in the Committee, and later by Lord Lytton of the Indian delegation in the Assembly, to the fact that the governments of some narcotic manufacturing countries which had agreed to adopt the import and export certificate system, which requires a certificate from the Government of the importing country that the drug is needed for legitimate purposes, had failed to carry out their obligations effectively in this respect; as there were only thirty factories or so in the world where narcotic drugs were manufactured, supervision of the export traffic was not difficult if the will was present. The probable ratification of the Convention made it necessary to provide for the Permanent Central Board, which is to supervise the reports made by the parties to the Convention as to the international trade in narcotic drugs. The discussion turned largely on whether the members should be paid: the Committee recommended, and the Assembly agreed, that the tradition of gratuitous services by members of League boards of review should be maintained.

### *Traffic in Women and Children*

The recent report of a special League Committee on the Traffic in Women, and Children came up for review. As the publication of the second part of the report, dealing with conditions in specific countries, had not then been authorized—the issue of this part has since been determined—the discussion dealt mainly with general questions, and particularly the possibility of suppressing