

The Committee further provided for the discontinuance, provisionally, of the right to capitalize pensions in the case of officials who left the services of the League as a result of special circumstances. It carefully excluded from the application of this new regulation all officials leaving the service of the League in the regular way.

FIFTH COMMITTEE

(Humanitarian and Social Questions)

The Fifth Committee was called upon to review the social and humanitarian work of the League during the past year, including the work of the Advisory Committee on Social Questions. The subjects included questions of child welfare, traffic in women and children, assistance to indigent foreigners, penal and penitentiary questions.

The discussion on the work of the Advisory Committee on Social Questions revealed general satisfaction at the progress made. The importance of co-ordinating social services, labour protection services and public health services was stressed by many delegates. It was agreed that emphasis should be laid on co-operation between the Advisory Committee on Social Questions, the Health Organization and the International Labour Office. The delegate of France urged the establishment of a permanent system of co-ordination between these three bodies.

The project for a periodical *Review of Social Questions*, to be published by the Social Questions Section of the League Secretariat, which had been approved in principle by the Eighteenth Assembly, was again before the Fifth Committee, and it was decided to recommend that publication should be commenced as soon as the necessary financial provision had been made. The Fourth Committee authorized a vote of 25,000 Swiss francs for the purpose.

Child Welfare

The Committee noted with satisfaction that the Child Welfare Information Centre had made further progress in the building up of its files of information on the laws relating to child welfare in the various countries and that a considerable printed documentation had already been published.

An interesting and informative general discussion took place in the Committee on the future of the child welfare activities of the League both in relation to the work already accomplished by the Social Questions Committee, and to internal developments in many countries. It was pointed out that many Governments are extending the scope of their social services and attempting to correlate health, social, economic and educational services, and that there has also been a considerable extension of these services into rural communities.

The Committee noted that the Advisory Committee on Social Questions had now finished its study of certain aspects of child placing in families, the recreational aspects of the cinema and the legal position of the illegitimate child. A number of delegates paid tribute to the work of the Canadian representative on the Advisory Committee, Miss Charlotte Whitton, rapporteur on the subject of child placing in families.

The Committee also took note of the three new questions the Advisory Committee has placed on its Agenda for 1939: (a) the principles adopted in the organization and administration of welfare work among the young, including social assistance; (b) the training of persons engaged in social work, and (c) the problem of family desertion. This program met with general approval but some suggestions for its amplification were made. It was suggested that the question of the co-ordination of the efforts of health and social services should be one of the principal points to be considered, that the training in social service of persons employed in public administration should be included, as well as persons in voluntary organizations, and that particular attention should be given to the special provisions for welfare work among the young and the training of persons employed in social work in rural areas. The attention of the Committee was also drawn to the connection between the problem of family desertion and the execution of maintenance orders abroad.