

# War Making Brutes of Men, Hungarian Woman Avers

Mme. Rosika Schwimmer, Here  
to Urge President Wilson to  
Intervene, Tells Stories of  
Atrocities.

Declares White Slave Operators  
Are a Menace to Girls Who  
Escape From War Zone in  
Europe Just Now.

*Tales of atrocities and unspeakable outrages upon women and young children are told by Mme. Rosika Schwimmer, of Budapest, who came to Washington today to urge President Wilson to take immediate steps toward mediation among the warring powers.*

*That white slave operators are a menace to girls who have escaped from the war zone is another assertion of Mme. Schwimmer's. She comes as the representative of women of ten nations, affiliated with the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.*

*More than that she makes her appeal in the name of women because they can afford to disregard conventional diplomatic usages, because they are the greater sufferers, she asserts, from war's ravages, and because the task of reconstruction in Europe will fall largely upon the women.*

By J. R. HILDEBRAND.

With letters to show that children as young as five years, and aged women as well, have been subjected to the most brutal and atrocious indignities, and with proof that white slave operators are plying their trade, vulture like, among those girls who have fled from the supposed danger zones, Madam Rosika Schwimmer, of Budapest, has come to Washington to urge President Wilson to take immediate steps for peace among warring nations of Europe.

Revolting as are the incidents that Madam Schwimmer relates, she asserts that their telling is the only way to bring home to the consciousness of peaceful nations the atrocities of the present war.

"I charge no single nation more than any other," she said, with intense feeling. "The thirst for blood, the aroused passions that make brutes out of decent, upright men—these and other effects of fighting are called by doctors a disease. And the disease is common to all the nations at war."

**Conflicting Reports Here.**

"You have had in the United States reports that this country and that country have committed outrages that are a disgrace to civilization. These reports are true. And they are true of all the countries alike. The men are not to blame. I know of cases of men who committed suicide after they realized what outrages they had committed upon women and little girls in the first flush of a victory. Others who lived on, I am told, already feel that they will look upon these days with shame throughout their lives. And the only explanation they can give for descending to unthinkable brutalities is that it 'got into their blood.'"

In London, Madam Schwimmer said, the "white slavers" have congregated in great numbers, and are a constant menace to the aliens detained there.

"All alien enemies are compelled to register, and affix their photographs to registry blanks. It is believed that unscrupulous men in some way have obtained access to these police registers, and have been able, by means of photographs and descriptions, to pick their victims. That is the only way we could account for telegrams sent to these girls, requesting them to meet relatives at out-of-the-way stations. One of these telegrams, sent to a girl and purporting to be from her brother, is in my hands now. The girl had no brother. Committees in London now are working to trace many such telegrams."

Mrs. Schwimmer, author, lecturer, and journalist, is a pioneer in the Hungarian women's political movement. She comes to this country as the representative of woman suffragists in Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Sweden, Russia, Italy, Canada, and Australia. Women of these countries who are members of the International Suffrage Alliance have taken concerted action to urge peace.

**Diplomacy Too Slow.**

"This war presents an extraordinary occasion," Madam Schwimmer said, "and extraordinary steps are needed to end it. The usual channels of diplomacy are so slow moving that nations will be exterminated before they can do anything. The professional pacifists have failed. The big men of any of the warring nations hesitate to make an insistent plea for peace lest their courage be deemed weak. Therefore the burden of the peace plea rests naturally with the women. Our motives can not be misconstrued. We are not bound by the diplomatic conventions which make sane intercourse so difficult between men of the various nations."

Madam Schwimmer would have the President of the United States, without waiting to be invited to mediate, send a representative like Secretary of State Bryan, or former President Taft, to Europe.

"Let him call together the governments of disinterested neutral countries, such as Switzerland, The Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Spain," she said. "No conventional diplomacy should be allowed to interfere with what is the best, shortest, quickest, and surest way to hasten mediation."

"This committee of the selected governments ought to assemble in Norway. The conventional suggestion would be to meet at The Hague. But the committee should sit in a neutral nation which is least likely to be dragged into the war. Besides, the physical and moral safety of



MME. ROSIKA SCHWIMMER.

Norway, the committee would have the valuable object-lesson given by Norway in her separation from Sweden, which shows that if a nation really does not want to fight it can settle the most difficult matters by arbitration."

**Signed By Many Women.**

Many distinguished women are signers of the credentials of Madam Schwimmer. Among these are the wife of the minister of war of Denmark, wife of a noted professor at the University of Petrograd, wife of a French statesman who has turned her home into a hospital for the care of wounded French soldiers, and wife of the governor of Christiania.

That this country would act more speedily if a realization of the horrors of warfare, especially to women and children, could be brought home to Americans, is the belief of Madam Schwimmer. Therefore, she came armed with facts concerning the suffering of the noncombatants.

She told of Austrian young men buying poison to take in case they were captured and imprisoned. She has documentary evidence of the hundreds of cases during the Balkan war when husbands killed their wives and children rather than have them fall into the hands of the infuriated soldiers of the enemy. She brought other stories of the present war, such as those of women being cut to pieces, and their assailants later killing themselves from remorse, too horrible to relate in detail.

But Mme. Schwimmer is far from a mere alarmist. She discussed sanely, and with a broad vision, the economic changes brought about by the war. She believes the war will bring woman suffrage in its wake.

"When the war broke out we were very near to getting the vote," she said. "Our woman's movement is nine years old. It has not been known as a suffrage movement. It

embraced all the women's clubs. We found the best way to interest intelligent women was through their clubs.

**Wanted Vote Immediately.**

"Some thought we ought not to demand the vote until after all the men were enfranchised. But we saw no reason why we should not be given the ballot at the same time, so we kept on working. We had never approached the prime minister, but, after a time, he sent for us and told us we should have the vote. We then interviewed the party leaders and found all were favorable except the radicals and socialists.

"They were won over since 'hat wonderful world conference on suffrage in Budapest last year. It was generally admitted that we would get the vote at the next general election in June, 1915."

"Then the war came. If anything remains of Europe to build up after the struggle is over, woman suffrage will be a settled thing. For the burden of reconstruction will fall upon women."