FEMINISM IN GERMANY AND SCANDINAVIA

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Feminism in Germany and Scandinavia by Katharine Susan Anthony

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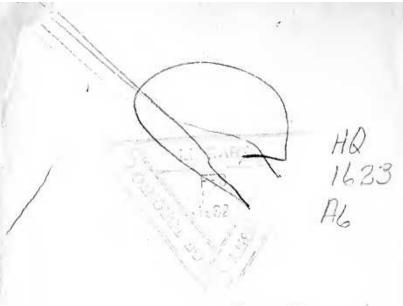
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KATHARINE SUSAN ANTHONY

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PREFACE

This book is an attempt to bring some of the main aspects of German and Scandinavian feminism into closer touch with the woman movement of the English-speaking countries. For want of adequate accounts and specific reports of feminist activities abroad, there is a mistaken impression in this country that the German woman, for instance, still sleeps silently in a home-spun cocoon. The belief exists, even in enlightened suffrage circles, that the German women are a leaderless and hopelessly domesticated group and are content to This impression is due to our remain so. meager knowledge. English translations of the literature of continental feminism are few, and almost the only foreign echoes which have gained currency in this country are obviously misrepresentative; such as, what the German Emperor regards as woman's sphere, what the German Empress thinks of woman suffrage, and what Schopenhauer has written against the sex. This is as if the American suffrage movement were to be represented abroad by

quotations from Mr. Elihu Root and Senator It therefore seemed desirable that the opinions of these ex-officio anti-feminists should at least be balanced by some account of the feminist movement abroad according to representative sources.

For the historical aspects, I have drawn largely upon the comprehensive "Handbuch" of the international woman's movement, edited by Helene Lange and Gertrud Bäumer. Developments since 1901 were traced through periodicals and monographs of recent date. As interpretation, rather than criticism, was my aim, it may sometimes seem as if I have given too much praise to the German and Scandinavian women and their way of doing things. Perhaps so; but they have, for many years, set the bad example of giving us more praise than we deserve.

Certainly we have as much to learn from the European feminists as they have to learn from us. The suffrage movement in this country is approaching a successful climax; the hourglass must be turned promptly. Otherwise the continuity of the feminist advance will be broken and the acquired momentum squan-These chapters from the work of the other feminists may offer some suggestions as

to the activities which should engage the collective attention of the American woman movement when it has at last been released from the long struggle for political rights.

KATHARINE ANTHONY.

New Fairfield, Connecticut. July 28, 1915.

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