

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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THE Catholic Citizen

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Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give;
Who knows the gifts which you shall give,
Daughter of the Newer Eve?

—Francis Thompson.

The White Sisters and African Women

BY BARBARA BARCLAY CARTER

Under the auspices of the Alliance a meeting of quite special interest was held on February 21st at Dr. Shattock's house in Regent's Park to hear two of the White Sisters, Mother Mary Christian and Sister Mary Stanislaus speak on the position of native women in North and Central Africa.

Dr. Shattock in the chair opened the meeting by explaining how difficult it was to make those in authority realise how the position of women as chattels to be bought or sold was equivalent to one of slavery. She also congratulated the White Sisters on their initiative in appointing a Catholic lay-woman—one of our own members—to undertake the medical work of the mission. It has been rare for a medical lay-woman to be admitted to such co-operation in the mission-fields. Financial difficulties have arisen in the past. If this is the main difficulty, it might repay further investigation to ascertain whether such medical assistance need be wholly at the expense of the Orders concerned. The White Sisters, Dr. Shattock concluded, have maintained the policy of their founder, Cardinal Lavigerie, who had always had the welfare of the African women at heart, and who had insisted that boys and girls should be given equal opportunities in education and otherwise.

Mother Mary Christian described the lot of women amongst the Kabyles, with whom she had spent seven years. The Kabyles, she said, are Mahomedans and it is hard for the West to realise the abjection of the state of women under Islam. The Koran teaches definitely that men are superior to women; it is an Arab saying that the Almighty made women for manual labour as he made the ass to bear burdens. The

birth of a girl child is a calamity, and though in Christian families this attitude is soon modified it sometimes persists among recent converts. "Am I not a man?" demanded a small Christian boy of four when asked why he sat alone in state on a mat, eating superior food to his mother and sister.

At fourteen, a girl is given to a husband in exchange for a dowry of from £30 to £50 paid to her owner. A boy of nineteen sold his sister to pay his passage to France. A girl of thirteen came to the mission, desperate, because she had been exchanged for a camel and married against her wish. Another, more fortunate, in like case, who had a Catholic elder sister, was redeemed by a collection subscribed by the Catholic community.

The wife is her husband's servant. She may not pronounce his name nor eat with him, and her food is of an inferior quality. She does all the hardest work, carries the building stone on her back, helps the ox or ass to plough. Her husband has the right to beat her, or to repudiate her without reason. He almost invariably does so if she fails to bear him a son. If she remarries, after repudiation, her second husband must buy her from the first. (By a law of 1931 he may not charge more than he himself paid.) Only as an old woman who has borne sons does she achieve consideration and may pray in the mosque, though she may not use the same word for God as the men.

Of late years, certain improvements have been made in her lot. Since 1903 the French have decreed that a wife cannot be inherited on her husband's death. Since 1921 an ill-used wife may sue for divorce, and the age of

marriage has been raised to 15. There is a current of public opinion among the more enlightened Arabs demanding education for women, and admitting the evil of the present position. Mother Mary Christian ended by emphasising the need for Christian education.

Sister Mary Stanislaus had spent many years in Nyassaland. At tea before the meeting, the talk had turned on lepers. "Have you ever seen one?" she was asked. "Oh, yes," she said simply, "I have spent six years among them."

In Nyassaland, she told us, women's conditions are less painful than among the Mahomedans. Girls and boys are welcome, girls are not sold, and the offer of marriage is made to the girl herself. The husband builds his hut in the bride's village. The wife is happy enough, unless her husband is lazy, or till he has to go away to earn the wherewithal to pay the hut tax of 6s. a year, as the tribal country is too poor for any earning. This often means that he never comes back, and the wife is hard put to it to pay the tax. The authority of the Father Superior of the mission is a great protection for the women against any oppression, as the natives accept his ruling upon almost everything.

It was of the greatest interest to hear firsthand facts from such a valuable source. The condition of the Kabyle women in particular, like that of very many African women plainly, as we have always maintained, comes within the League of Nations definition of slavery: "Slavery is the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised."

This definition of Slavery must be constantly reiterated.

At the meeting of the 24th Session of the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations, Mlle. Dannevig raised the question of the condition of women in the Cameroons. In the reply it was mentioned that the position of women was not as bad as was stated, and that native women could buy themselves free! This reply elicited the article signed by Archbishop Le Roy in the "Catholic Citizen," according to which women were unable to work and earn enough to purchase their freedom.

While we celebrate the Centenary of the "Emancipation Acts," it is as well to remember that slavery is still the only condition of life known to many women—and what is more deplorable, that these women are not only deprived of personal liberty, but of the "privilege" of calling themselves slaves. The evil must be known and exposed before it can be suppressed.

Notes and Comments

The prayers of our readers are asked for Miss Leonora de Alberti, our dear Editor, who is lying seriously ill in the Hospital of St. John and St. Elizabeth.

* * * * *
Oxford University has bestowed on Miss Ethel Bellamy, the Astronomer, the honorary degree of M.A., in recognition of her valuable work, during thirty years at the University Observatory, one of the eighteen Observatories taking part in a great astrographic survey. Miss Bellamy and her colleagues, having finished their part of the survey first, agreed to help the Vatican Observatory in theirs, and Miss Bellamy has received a special letter from the Vatican Authorities expressing their thanks for her "devoted and unselfish collaboration during so many years."

* * * * *
Several members of the Alliance attended the Festival Concert in honour of Dame Ethel Smyth, held at the Albert Hall on March 3rd, in the presence of H.M. the Queen, Sir Thomas Beecham conducting. Dame Ethel sat with the Queen in the Royal Box during a portion of the performance. The main item on the programme was the fine Mass in D. At the end the stirring "March of the Women" was conducted by Dame Ethel Smyth herself, much to the delight of a large audience. This march was written in the militant days of the Suffrage Movement, and was first introduced and conducted by Dame Ethel Smyth at the great W.S.P.U. Meeting held at the Albert Hall on March 23rd, 1911. The words were fitted to the music, after it was written, by Cicely Hamilton.

* * * * *
We congratulate our members, Mrs. C. J. Mathew, J.P., on her re-election to the L.C.C., Mrs. Hallaway and Lady Sanderson, who have been appointed Justices of Peace, and Mr. Richard O'Sullivan on his appointment as K.C. We much regret that Miss Rosa Bearman has not been returned to the Hertfordshire County Council.

* * * * *
We regret that a Bill to give women in Quebec the right to vote in provincial elections was once more defeated on February 21st, when a motion that it be read in six months' time was carried by 52 votes to 25.

* * * * *
May we again remind our members that the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Alliance will be held on Saturday, March 17th, at 3 p.m., at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square. We hope that every member will make a special effort to attend.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND
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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

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St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

Twenty-Third Annual Report.

In the midst of much that is disquieting in the Feminist Movement, we are happy to record several outstanding successes.

In the *United States of America* under President Roosevelt three important positions have for the first time been given to women. Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen has been appointed Ambassador to Denmark, Miss Nellie Ross has been made Director of the Mint and Miss Frances Perkins, Secretary for Labour, is the first woman Cabinet Minister in the United States. In addition Miss Jessie Dell has been appointed head of the U.S.A. Civil Service.

In *Australia* a woman has for the first time been elected to the Legislative Assembly of Victoria and Miss May Holman, M.P., has been re-elected to the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia. In *South Africa*, where women have but recently been enfranchised, two women have been elected to Parliament. On the other hand in *New Zealand*, where women have had the vote for over forty years, the first woman was sent to Parliament only last year. In the *Isle of Man* also the first woman M.P. has been elected, although Manx women have had the vote for many years. In *Brazil* women voted for the first time for the Constituent Assembly, and one woman was elected. In *Greece* women may now vote at municipal elections and are eligible for the office of alderman. In *Denmark* the first woman judge has been appointed and in *Egypt* the first woman barrister has obtained permission to plead at the native bar; while a woman in *Turkey* has been appointed judge in a Criminal Court. In *Spain* for the first time women have recorded their Parliamentary votes and during the election even cloistered nuns left their convents to vote. Five women were elected to the Cortes.

We must regret that the women of *France* are still unenfranchised as are the women of *Bermuda*, *Malta* and the *Province of Quebec* in our own British Commonwealth. It is also to be regretted that in *Palestine* the question of votes for women is left to the discretion of officials. The anti-feminist policy now being followed in *Germany* under the Nazi regime has undone much of the great work accomplished there by

women during the last ten years, and is a menace to the woman's movement in all countries.

In our own country we are able to record several notable achievements. In the Civil Service for the first time a woman has been appointed as principle clerk in the Treasury. A woman won first place in the open competition for Inspectors of Income Tax, beating 330 men.

The Chancellor's English Essay Prize at Oxford University was for the first time won by a woman, Mother Bertha of the Sacred Heart Convent, Rom Hampton. At the London School of Dental Surgery, the Saunders Scholarship was won by a woman since when the School has closed its doors to women students. Miss Midgley after making several fruitless attempts to gain admittance to the Bradford Stock Exchange is now running offices of her own.

Equal Pay and Opportunities

The Government has announced the setting up of a commission to consider the admission of women to the *Diplomatic and Consular Services*. The Alliance will give evidence before this commission.

The *Unemployment Insurance Bill* which codifies legislation on unemployment insurance passed its second reading before the end of the year. It perpetuates the inequalities and injustices to women already existing under the previous act and in particular penalises the position of the married woman worker. St. Joan's Alliance in co-operation with other women's organisations has endeavoured (though so far unsuccessfully) to ensure that the new unemployment insurance scheme in this country should be equal between men and women both as regards contributions and benefits.

The Alliance took an active part in the Mass Meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, affirming the *Right of Married Women to Earn*. The meeting was supported by twenty-nine societies. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence was in the chair and the speakers were: Lady Astor, Lord Buckmaster, Mrs. Cooper, J.P., of Nelson, Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, B.A., and Miss

Rebecca West. A resolution was passed "protesting against the practice of the Government, local authorities and private employers of dismissing women solely on the grounds of marriage and demanding for them the same rights as are accorded to other citizens." At the end of the meeting Dame Ethel Smyth conducted the March of the Women which was composed by her for the militant suffrage movement.

Earlier in the year St. Joan's Alliance in co-operation with other societies picketed outside the Annual Meeting of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce to oppose the resolution sent forward to the meeting from Worcester which protested against both husband and wife being allowed to earn. We are glad to say that the resolution was withdrawn.

Later a letter signed by the Alliance in conjunction with other societies was sent to the Employment Committees throughout the country condemning the action of the Bradford Committee in circularising other Employment Committees against the right of married women to earn.

Equal Moral Standard

A Protocol for the Suppression of Traffic in Women of full age was approved by a diplomatic conference and signed in Geneva by twenty countries, Señora de Palencia of Spain signing on behalf of her Government, this being the first time that a woman has signed a diplomatic convention. The Convention made it an offence to procure a woman, even over age, for prostitution in another country, inclusive of that country's colonies. The Convention was not supported by our Alliance nor by abolitionists, since it carries no condemnation of procuration within a country and implies therefore that traffic in women may be carried on within a country's frontiers without being legally punished.

Equal Political Rights

The Alliance has consistently supported the demands of the organised women of India for equality between men and women in the *New Constitution of India*. We have worked in close co-operation with Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur, Dr. Reddi and Mrs. Hamid Ali, the delegates sent by the women's organisations in India to give evidence on their behalf before the Joint Committee on Indian Constitutional Reform. The proposals for Indian Constitutional Reform were published in a White Paper in March and were most unsatisfactory as regards woman's suffrage and eligibility. The Alliance took part in a conference called by Miss Rathbone in the House of Commons to consider this question, and later in a conference organised by the British Commonwealth League at which the Begum Shah Nawaz expressed the wishes of the Indian Women's Organisations.

To the chairman of the Joint Committee set up to consider the Government's White Paper, the Alliance sent a resolution supporting the main demands of the three All-India Women's Associations (Memorandum 2) and supporting the organised women of India in their opposition to the proposal to enfranchise wives on their husbands' qualifications. The Alliance further asked that evidence should be heard on behalf of the British Commonwealth League as evidence given on behalf of some women's organisations differed from the point of view of the B.C.L. and its affiliated societies.

Prior to the return of the women's delegation to

India the Alliance was thanked by them for the "strong and active support of their demands regarding the position of Indian women in the new constitution about to be framed for their country."

Nationality of Married Women

The Assembly of the League of Nations adopted a resolution expressing the hope that before its next session Governments would communicate information as to the effect which they have been able to give to a recommendation of the Hague Conference in 1930 in favour of greater equality between the sexes in matters of nationality.

In our own country early in the year the Home Secretary issued an order releasing British women married to foreigners from the necessity of registering as aliens with the police. This concession followed vigorous protests by Mrs. Grace Tyndall, Miss Winifred James and others, but it in no wise meets our demand that a British woman should have restored to her the right to her own independent nationality which was taken from her in 1870.

Towards the end of the year the *Nationality and Status of Aliens Act* was passed, its chief object being to remedy the statelessness of certain women. It prevents a British woman from losing her nationality on marriage to a foreigner when she does not acquire his. This Bill has disappointed all the women's organisations. They demand and will continue to fight for a measure similar to that introduced by Sir John Sandeman Allen on June 26th which would give a woman whether married or unmarried the same right as a man to retain or change her nationality.

During the debate in the House of Commons the question was raised as to whether the Catholic Church as such had ever taken a decided attitude on the subject of equal nationality rights. This was denied by several speakers including two Catholic M.P.s, Mr. Logan and Mr. Denville. Lady Astor and Miss Rathbone in opposing this Bill and speaking in favour of a Bill for equal nationality rights, paid splendid tribute to the work done by St. Joan's Alliance, while Mr. Holford Knight quoted the League of Nations document (A.33.1932) presented to the 13th Assembly of the League setting out a petition to the League from the International Committee of Catholic Women for the Nationality of Married Women in support of equal nationality rights which was signed by eminent dignitaries of the Church and by prominent men in various countries including Members of the House of Commons.

In co-operation with the Nationality of Married Women Pass the Bill Committee the Alliance was able to do valuable work by lobbying prior to the debate in the House of Commons on the Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill. Twenty members of the Alliance, some of whom were British women married to aliens, interviewed thirty Members of Parliament.

Slavery

We welcome the formation of the League of Nations Advisory Committee of Experts on Slavery and are glad that Señora de Palencia has been included on this committee. We trust that those special forms of enslavement of women and girls associated with tribal and other customs will be carefully investigated by the committee.

For several years our Alliance has passed resolutions concerning the domestic slavery of women in connection with such customs as Mui Tsai, etc. This year two special requests reached us, one from the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance asking us "to collect reliable information from either official or private sources dealing with the position of women of native races," the other from the French Section of St. Joan's Alliance for help in a campaign in delivering Christian women from polygamous marriages. Our Alliance is in a good position to give information such as required by the I.W.S.A. since we are in direct communication with missionaries of various orders and also have a member, a woman doctor, who is working for the missionaries in Africa.

An article by Archbishop LeRoy on the position of women in the French Cameroons published in both "La Revue Française" and the "Catholic Citizen" was of great value and was widely circulated among missionaries in various parts of the world. The article was also sent to all the members of the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations and was brought to the attention of all the women delegates to the Assembly of the League. It was extensively noticed both in the Catholic and the feminist press.

During the 24th session of the Permanent Mandates Commission Mlle. Dannevig quoted Archbishop LeRoy's article in the "Catholic Citizen," October 1933, and asked questions concerning the position of women in the Cameroons as regards their power of purchasing their freedom and also with regard to polygamy. The Mandates Committee was assured by the British accredited representative that it was part of the Governor's "settled policy to improve the position of the women."

A very successful meeting on the Slavery of Women was organised by St. Joan's Alliance and addressed by a White Father prior to his departure to Uganda.

The 22nd Annual Meeting was held on March 11th at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square, Mrs. Laughton Mathews in the chair. The report having been read by Miss P. M. Brandt, its adoption was moved by Miss Christopher St. John and seconded by Miss Organ. Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell from Manchester, former hon. secretary of the Liverpool Branch presented the Liverpool report. The adoption of the financial statement was moved by Miss Walmesley of Birmingham, seconded by Mrs. Garrard and supported by Miss Spender, while Mrs. Hand made a successful appeal for funds which resulted in over £28.

We were glad to welcome members from Birmingham, Bradford, Brighton, Deal, Liverpool and Manchester.

The ballot for committee resulted in the election of the following new members: Miss Graham, Mrs. Hand and Miss Spender.

Mrs. Laughton Mathews was unanimously re-elected Chairman.

We take this opportunity of thanking Miss Madden and Miss Gunning for their work on the committee during the past year. We also thank Miss Hynes who resigned owing to pressure of other work. We are glad, however, that she continues to take charge of the Press Book.

The following resolutions were moved from the chair and carried:

1—EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS

(a) Franchise.

(i) *India*. St. Joan's S.P.A. assures the women of India of their wholehearted support for their demand for equal political rights, and calls upon the Government to embody the principle of equality between men and women in the new constitution of India.

(ii) St. Joan's S.P.A. regrets that in the British Commonwealth the women of Malta, Quebec and Bermuda are still unenfranchised and hopes that justice will be granted at an early date.

(iii) *Palestine*. St. Joan's S.P.A. protests against the new draft Local Government Ordinance in Palestine now under consideration, which gives to the High Commissioner power to extend to women or withhold from them the municipal franchise and the right to be councillors. It urges the Government to embody in any new Ordinance the principle of equal rights and opportunities for men and women.

(b) Women in the House of Lords.

St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that peeresses, in their own right, should have a seat and vote in the House of Lords, and further, that in any measure designed to reform the Second Chamber men and women should have the same right to sit and to be elected.

2—EQUAL MORAL STANDARD

(a) *Solicitation Laws*. St. Joan's S.P.A. regrets that the Government has taken no action to remedy the present unjust Solicitation Laws, calls for their repeal and the substitution of a measure on the lines of the Public Places (Order) Bill, which deals with street solicitation by general legislation against annoyance or molestation, and under which the evidence of the person annoyed or molested would be necessary in order to obtain a conviction.

(b) *Illegitimate Children*. St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass without delay a Bill providing for the enforcement of Affiliation Orders overseas on similar lines to the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Act, 1920.

(c) *Child Assault*. St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce a Bill providing more effective safeguards for the protection of young children from sexual assault.

3—EQUAL PAY AND OPPORTUNITIES

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government and Local Authorities to establish among their employees a system of equal pay and opportunities for men and women, and freedom for married women to decide for themselves whether or not they shall engage in paid work.

(b) "Protective Legislation." St. Joan's S.P.A., while believing that protection should be afforded to industrial workers, declares that to impose restrictions on women only is to treat them permanently as minors, and to lower their status as workers.

It believes that the only policy which safeguards their individual liberty and responsibility is that of basing all labour regulations and restrictions upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker, and calls upon the Government to apply this principle to all legislation, and to instruct its delegates to support it at all Conferences of the International Labour Office.

4—NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government:

(i) to introduce and pass into law this session the Nationality of Married Women Bill.

(ii) not to ratify the Hague Nationality Convention and to support internationally only such proposals as recognise the married woman's right to her own independent nationality on equal terms with men.

5—SLAVERY

St. Joan's S.P.A. urges the Government to celebrate the Centenary of the abolition of slavery this year by taking all possible steps to secure the real abolition of all forms of slavery throughout the British Empire. It demands that the Government should discountenance among indigenous peoples any practices whatsoever involving the bartering of women and children into domestic and other forms of slavery, including the form of child slavery in Hong Kong known as the Mui Tsai system.

In regard to Mui Tsai:

(i) St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that the pledge given by the British Government for the inspection of Mui Tsai in Hong Kong should be implemented by the immediate appointment of the necessary additional number of inspectors, including women inspectors, to carry out this inspection fully and systematically.

(ii) That so-called "adopted daughters" should be registered forthwith, such registration to be followed by inspection, observing that "Deeds of Presentation" and "Adoption Deeds" show that such "adopted daughters" are purchased, and the subterfuge of adoption is used as a means of obtaining Mui Tsai, as shown by the evidence in the Courts.

6—MATERNAL MORTALITY

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Ministry of Health to provide adequate maternity services throughout the country, and further urges upon its members the duty of pressing their Local Authorities to carry out to the full their powers in this respect.

7—INCOME TAX

St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that the income of married persons should be separately assessed and separately taxed.

8—WOMEN POLICE

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to increase the number of policewomen in the Metropolitan area, and to further legislation making it compulsory for Watch Committees and Standing Joint Committees to appoint a sufficient number of women police.

9—HEALTH INSURANCE

St. Joan's S.P.A. protests against the National Health and Contributory Pensions Act, 1932, which reduced the health benefits payable to women, and calls upon the Government to introduce an amending Bill laying down equal sickness and disablement benefits for men and women.

10—UNEMPLOYMENT

(i) St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that in any schemes for dealing with unemployment the Government should make no distinction between men and women in regard to benefit, contribution or training. It further urges that the Minister's power to

make regulations discriminating against married women should be removed.

(ii) It calls upon the Government to allocate for the training and relief of unemployed women an equal sum of money in proportion to their numbers as is expended upon men.

11—LEAGUE OF NATIONS

St. Joan's S.P.A. expresses its satisfaction at the declaration of the Assembly of the League of Nations that "equal status between men and women is a pre-requisite of equal collaboration of women in the work of the League." It calls upon the Government to give practical effect to this resolution.

12—INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

St. Joan's S.P.A. deplors the Advisory Opinion of the Court of International Justice that the Washington Convention 1919 prohibiting night work for women, refers not only to industrial workers but also to women in posts of supervision and management. It urges the Government to carry into effect its own declaration that it was desirable to remove the prohibition from this category of women by denouncing the Convention and adopting legislation in regard to night work based on the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker.

13—CATHOLIC EDUCATION

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls for fair and adequate financial treatment of Catholic elementary and secondary schools.

14—BIRTH CONTROL

St. Joan's S.P.A. deplors the policy of the Ministry of Health in allowing in certain cases information on artificial birth control to be given at centres maintained out of public funds. It urges its members to watch the matter in their local Councils.

15—DIVORCE

St. Joan's S.P.A. regrets the action of certain Societies in pressing for further facilities for divorce, and trusts that all Christian bodies will unite in opposing this demand.

Other meetings of the Alliance were held at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square:

On May 1st Mrs. Crawford was in the chair and Mrs. Laughton Mathews, recently returned from Marseilles, gave an account of the Conference of the *International Woman Suffrage Alliance*.

On June 26th, Mrs. Shattock, M.B., B.S., presiding, Father Arthur Hughes of the White Fathers and Miss Nina Boyle both spoke on the *Position of the Native African Woman*. Mrs. Despard, who gave us a welcome surprise by attending, spoke a few words on the subject of slavery.

On October 27th with Dr. Ethel Poulton of Birmingham in the chair, Miss Butler-Bowdon described her experiences at the *Open Door International Conference at Prague* where she had represented St. Joan's Alliance. Mrs. Abbot, chairman of the Open Door Council then gave a fine address on the importance of working for economic equality between men and women.

On May 24th the Alliance gave a dinner at Pinoli's in honour of *Père Sertillanges, O.P.*, who spoke on the subject dealt with in his famous book "Féminisme et Christianisme." Mrs. Laughton Mathews presided and Miss Borton proposed a vote of thanks which was seconded by Miss Barclay Carter. Besides our own

members we were glad to welcome several well-known priests and many non-members.

On July 2nd, anniversary of the passing of the Equal Franchise Act, a party was held at Hampstead by kind invitation of Miss Barry and Miss Jeffery when a gold watch was presented by members of the Alliance to Miss Butler-Bowdon in appreciation of her seven years' devoted service to the Alliance.

On October 12th by kind invitation of Miss Butler-Bowdon the Committee and office workers met at her flat when Miss Barry gave an account of her work at Geneva during the meetings of the Assembly of the League of Nations.

On the *Feast of St. Joan, May 30th*, Mass was offered for the intentions of the Alliance through the kindness of Canon Bickford. On the same day a laurel wreath tied in our colours was placed on the shrine of St. Joan in Westminster Cathedral.

The Alliance was invited to take part in *Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* which had been established in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Westminster. Members of the Alliance have undertaken to watch on the first Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Alliance was represented at the laying of the Foundation Stone of *Liverpool Cathedral* by Mrs. Mason and Miss Parnell.

Co-operation with other Societies

The Alliance is affiliated to the Liaison Committee of International Women's Organisations, the International Abolitionist Federation, the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship and the Open Door International, and is represented on the committee of the following societies:

The Catholic Citizen's Parliament by Miss Butler-Bowdon; The Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union by Miss Harley Bacon; The Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations by Miss Harley Bacon; The Equal Rights Committee by Miss Barry; The National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child by Mrs. Laughton Mathews; The Women Peers Committee by Miss Barry; The Parliamentary and Legislative Committee of the National Council of Women by Miss Butler-Bowdon; The British Commonwealth League by Miss Butler-Bowdon; The Nationality of Married Women Pass the Bill Committee by Miss Barry and the Women's Advisory Council on Indian Questions by Miss Barry. We are also affiliated to the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene and the Open Door Council.

Conferences

At the *British Commonwealth League Conference* held in June, on behalf of St. Joan's Alliance a resolution asking for woman suffrage in Malta was moved by Miss Barry and a further one urging that boys and girls should be trained on principles of equality was moved by Mrs. Laughton Mathews.

Miss Barry and Mrs. Laughton Mathews represented the Alliance on the occasion when the Women's International League called a meeting at which Miss Horsburgh, M.P., British delegate to the *14th Assembly of the League of Nations*, met representatives of women's organisations in order to discuss a number of subjects raised by them. Slavery, Traffic in Women and the Nationality of Married Women were the subjects put forward by St. Joan's Alliance.

The Alliance also took part in the following conferences:

Subject	Organised by	Our Representative
Women in Local Government	W.F.L.	Miss Butler-Bowdon
Unemployment Insurance	L.N.U.	Mrs. Shattock Miss E. FitzGerald
League of Nations Questions	C.R.W.L.N.	Miss L. de Alberti Miss Harley Bacon Miss Barry
Maternity & Child Welfare	N.C.U.M.C.	Mrs. Crawford
Position of Women in Kenya	N.C.W.	Mrs. Shattock Miss Spender
Equal Pay Campaign	N.A.W.C.S.	Miss Barry Miss Butler-Bowdon Miss Spender
Women Engineers	W.E.S.	Miss Butler-Bowdon
Rescue Work	M.F.	Miss Graham Dr. Shattock
Unemployment	C.W.L.	Miss Barry Dr. Shattock

At the Annual Meeting of the *Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations*, Miss Harley Bacon on behalf of the Alliance seconded a resolution urging that the Slavery Committee should investigate "those special forms of enslavement of women and girls associated with tribal and other customs."

At a Conference of Women's Organisations and women Members of Parliament held at the House of Commons in May, a resolution was sent to the German Ambassador signed by our Alliance in co-operation with other societies expressing concern at the treatment of women under the *Hitler régime*.

At the 1933 Men's Club at the request of the Women's Freedom League, Miss Butler-Bowdon took part for us in a *Debate on the Employment of Women*.

At three lunches given by the *British Commonwealth League* the Alliance was represented. The first, when Miss Butler-Bowdon proposed the vote of thanks, was given in honour of Miss Winifred James the novelist, a British woman married to an American, who on being summoned for failing to register as an alien, declared that she was prepared to go to prison rather than register. At the second Mrs. L. Forster spoke of her work in connection with the fight for the closing of brothels in Hong Kong. The third lunch was to welcome Dame Sybil Thorndike on her return from Australia where she had been entertained by the Australian feminists.

Several of our members were present at the *Suffragette Fellowship* Dinner, given on February 6th, the anniversary of the granting of the first instalment of woman suffrage, Mrs. Laughton Mathews being one of the speakers. Several members were also present at the *Open Door Council* Lunch when Miss Butler-Bowdon spoke on the Open Door International Conference at Prague. Again many members were present at a supper given by the *Open Door Council* on March 11th, when Miss Parnell proposed the vote of thanks.

The Begum Shah Nawaz, the only woman delegate on the Joint Committee on Indian Constitutional

Reform, kindly invited members of the Alliance to a party given by her on January 16th, and in September a *Farewell Party* was given by various women's societies to the delegates from the Indian Women's Organisations. Miss Butler-Bowdon represented the Alliance on this occasion.

At a tea-party given by the *Six Point Group* to welcome Mrs. Archdale on her return from Geneva the Alliance was represented by Miss Barry.

At the Annual Dinner of the *Dames of St. Joan* Miss Barry was kindly invited to represent the Alliance.

At the Albert Hall Demonstration organised by the *Westminster Catholic Federation*, Mrs. Shattock was on the platform representing St. Joan's Alliance.

Letters and Resolutions were sent:

To the Prime Minister urging that signature to the *Draft Protocol on Traffic in Women* be deferred with the object of obtaining the complete elimination of the age limit in all cases of procuration whether inside or outside any particular country or territory.

Later—to the Prime Minister, regretting the Protocol had been signed by our Government as it did not eliminate the age limit in all cases of procuration and urging the Government to pursue its work for a Convention concerning traffic in all countries.

To the International Labour Office begging the Governing Body to place on the agenda of the International Labour Conference the question of the revision of the *Night Work Convention* in the sense that all prohibitions of night work should apply equally to men and women, and also to our Government asking that instructions be given to the British delegates to the I.L.O. Conference to support this.

To the Prime Minister asking that women be included among the delegates to the *World Economic Conference in London*, and suggesting names.

To the Lord Chancellor and several peers prior to the debate in the House of Lords on the *Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill*, expressing opposition to the Bill and demanding instead facilities for Sir John Sandeman Allen's *Nationality of Married Women Bill*, and also pointing out that Catholics as Catholics were not opposed to equal nationality rights between men and women in proof of which a copy of the League of Nations Petition (A.33.1932) was enclosed. Similar action was taken with members of the House of Commons prior to the debate in the Commons.

To the Prime Minister and Minister of Labour begging that in the forthcoming *Unemployment Insurance Bill* the following principles shall be incorporated: Contributions and benefits in any new insurance scheme to be the same for men and women; conditions as to receipts of benefits to be the same for men and women; in particular no discrimination to be made against married women as such. The letter further urged that the British delegates to the International Labour Office be instructed to vote that any *International Insurance Scheme* should be based on the equality of the sexes.

To the Secretary of State for the Colonies asking for the appointment of additional inspectors, including women inspectors, for the *Mui Tsai in Hong Kong*, and asking reconsideration of the policy of leaving the question of *Votes for Women in Palestine* to the discretion of any official.

To Madame Avril de Sainte Croix, representative of the International Women's Organisations on the

League of Nations Consultative Committee on *Traffic in Women* replying to her annual questionnaire dealing with the points on the programme of the 12th session of the Advisory Commission on Traffic in Women.

To the Chancellor of Liverpool University, deploring the resolution of the University Council terminating contracts of service of women members of the staff on marriage. We are glad that the matter is now under reconsideration of the Council.

To the Maternal Mortality Committee asking for an assurance that support of the Committee should not imply approval of advice and instruction in contraceptive methods being given at clinics set up by Local Authorities under the Public Health Acts.

To the British Broadcasting Corporation protesting against their decision not to employ any more women announcers.

To His Eminence Cardinal Bourne expressing our sympathy with him in his illness.

To the Catholic Truth Society asking for the revision of those parts of the pamphlet "The Duties of Parents" which deal with the education of girls in a sense inconsistent with equality in education.

To Father Hugh Pope, O.P., asking for the omission in the new edition of the "Layman's New Testament" of the statement: "rigidly speaking man is in general physically, intellectually and morally superior to woman."

To the editor of "The Universe" asking that unemployed women should be included in their scheme for the *Pilgrimage of the Unemployed to Rome*.

By-Elections

On behalf of our members in their constituencies, our questionnaire was sent to candidates at the Parliamentary by-elections in East Fulham and Rusholme and at the St. Marylebone Borough Council By-election. At the Ealing Borough Council election our questionnaire was sent to several Catholic candidates, and by request of Mr. Rochford we were able to help him with canvassing.

Deputations

Nationality of Married Women. On a deputation to the Home Secretary organised by the Nationality of Married Women Pass the Bill Committee early in the year, the Alliance was represented by Miss Barry, Miss E. Fitzgerald and Dr. Shattock. The deputation representing 33 societies reminded the Home Secretary of the declaration made by the British delegate in 1931 to the Assembly of the League of Nations that all disabilities of married women in matters of nationality should be removed. The deputation asked for legislation to that effect, and also that the Government should not ratify the Hague Nationality Convention. The Home Secretary's reply gave no satisfaction.

Miss Barry and Mrs. Laughton Mathews represented the Alliance on a deputation which was received by Mr. Douglas Hacking on behalf of the Home Secretary on June 21st to lay before him the views of 14 women's organisations on the situation created by the Advisory Opinion of the Permanent Court of International Justice to the effect that the *Washington Night Work Convention* (1919) prohibited night work to women holding positions of supervision and management not ordinarily engaged in manual work

and women engaged in commercial or office or similar work in industrial undertakings. The Deputation urged the Government to release itself from the existing I.L.O. Convention, to amend the law of this country and to oppose any revised Convention not clearly excluding these women from the prohibition. In reply, Mr. Hacking stated that the Government hoped to secure the definite exemption, by an amending convention, of women in responsible positions of management, but the Government had decided to omit the word "supervision." He stated that the Government considered that commercial categories did not come within the scope of the Convention. The Alliance stands for the revision of the *Night Work Convention* in the sense that all prohibitions of night work should apply equally to men and women, manual as well as non-manual workers.

On the Deputation concerning the *Unemployment Insurance Bill* received at the Ministry of Labour in May, Dr. Shattock and Mrs. O'Connor represented the Alliance. The deputation urged that unemployment insurance contributions and benefits should be the same for women as for men; for girls as for boys, that there should be no differentiation of treatment for married women; that the recommendations in the report of the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance which involved differentiation of treatment shall not be implemented, and that any international convention on unemployment insurance should be equal for both sexes.

International Work

At the conference held by the *International Woman's Suffrage Alliance at Marseilles* in March, Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Mlle. Lenoël represented St. Joan's Alliance. In connection with the conference, public meetings on Votes for Frenchwomen were held in several French towns and both at Marseilles and Nice Mrs. Laughton Mathews addressed large meetings with notable success.

At the congress held in Paris under the auspices of the *Union Féminine Civique et Sociale* "Sur le Travail de la Mère et le Foyer Ouvrier" Mlle. Lenoël put forward the views of the Alliance.

At the *Open Door International Conference* held in the Senate House of Prague, the Alliance was represented by Miss Butler-Bowdon and Mlle. Lenoël. Miss Butler-Bowdon reported on the work done by the Alliance in support of economic equality between men and women and Mlle. Lenoël spoke at the public meeting held during the conference.

During the *Assembly of the League of Nations*, Miss Barry was present in Geneva and attended meetings of the Assembly and of the various commissions which dealt with questions bearing on the work of the Alliance. She was able to establish direct contact with the women delegates and with members of the Secretariat and of the International Labour Organisation. She also attended meetings of the Liaison committee of International Women's Organisations to which we are now affiliated.

In October during the 24th Session of the *Permanent Mandates Commission*, Mlle. Lenoël was present and was able to do useful work in connection with the slavery of women, particularly in the French Cameroons, by her contact with various persons including Miss Dannevig, the only woman member of the Mandates Commission.

We are glad to report that the work of *L'Alliance*

Ste. Jeanne d'Arc is progressing in France and its membership increasing. Mrs. Laughton Mathews had the privilege of speaking to a gathering of members in Paris in April. "La Revue Sainte Jeanne d'Arc" continues its excellent work for feminism.

During the year we were glad to welcome at the office Miss Hale (Australia), Mrs. Gounewardene (Ceylon), Fraulein Adler and Fraulein Furstenberg (Germany), and Señora Rodriguez Parra de Garcia Rosell, founder and president of the women's society "Procultura" in Peru and editor of an illustrated magazine for women.

We should like to remind our members that besides meetings, deputations and conferences, etc., and routine work, heavier than members perhaps realise, which goes on steadily at the office all the year, innumerable requests come to us for help, not only from this country but from many other parts of the world—requests which often necessitate much work on our part. Thus one came to us from the U.S.A. for material for a broadcast on the work of some Catholic women's organisations, and one for the material for a Paris Broadcast on the legal position of women in this country came from the Catholic Women's League. Requests from Spain and South America have come for bibliographies on the woman's movement. Much work is also entailed by the scrutiny of numerous technical documents and by the careful reading of the daily and weekly press.

Personal

We offer our congratulations to the following members: Dom Gilbert Higgins, C.R.L., on the Diamond Jubilee of his priesthood; Miss D. J. Collier on being elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons; Mrs. C. J. Mathew, J.P., on being elected Deputy-Chairman of the London County Council; Miss H. R. Walmsley on being elected President of the National Union of Women Teachers, also on having the honorary degree of M.A. of Birmingham University conferred upon her.

We owe thanks to all our members who have given help in the office during the past year, particularly to Miss E. Fitzgerald and the Misses Organ. To Miss Butler-Bowdon and Miss Spender the Alliance owes deep gratitude for their daily and devoted assistance.

Obituary

The Annual Mass for deceased members, associates and benefactors of the Alliance was offered at St. Patrick's, Soho Square, on Sunday, November 5th.

We regret to record the deaths last year of the following members: Dr. Mary Beadon, Mrs. Beaufort, Mrs. Brady, Mrs. Leyden Catton, Mrs. Christitch, Miss Rita Guy, Miss G. Hall, Miss Hargrove, Mrs. Hodgson, Miss Hope Malleson, Miss Dominica Westlake, and this year Miss Wellbeloved.—R.I.P.

In the deaths of Dr. Elizabeth Knight, Mrs. Lansbury, Miss Ada Moore and Mrs. Saul Solomon we have lost life-long workers in the cause of women's emancipation in this country.

The international woman's movement has suffered severe losses in the deaths of Mrs. Belmont (U.S.A.), Madame Gourd (Switzerland) and the Duchesse d'Uzès (France).—R.I.P.

On the anniversary of Mrs. Pankhurst's birthday Miss Butler-Bowdon together with representatives of other societies laid flowers at the foot of Mrs. Pankhurst's statue in Victoria Gardens.

Press Report

The prominent part taken by Mrs. Laughton Mathews at the Marseilles Conference of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance gave St. Joan's considerable publicity in the French press.

A lively correspondence in defence of feminism was carried on in the columns of "The Catholic Times" by our chairman and Editor. In "The Christian Democrat" our Editor replied to an article by Miss Somers in which "protective" legislation for women had been advocated. A letter appeared in "The Ransomer" from our Hon. Press Secretary answering an anti-feminist article which had been published in that paper.

In "The New Statesman and Nation" the Hon. Press Secretary replied to a letter by Mr. Ernest Thurtle in which he had stated that the reason for certain of the Dominions objecting to the demand for a woman's retention of her nationality on marriage with a foreigner was due to the "Roman Catholic view" that the wife should have no status in citizenship as distinct from that of her husband. Among other points our Press Secretary stressed the fact that several Catholic countries already possess equal nationality rights. Attention was also drawn to the International Petition of Catholic men and women, demanding equal nationality rights, which was presented to the 13th Assembly of the League of Nations.

A letter from our Hon. Secretary appeared in "The Tablet" calling attention to the importance of examining the preliminary list of Parliamentary Registers by all entitled to vote, as omissions and inaccuracies would be thus avoided.

In conjunction with other societies, two letters were published in "The Times." The first objecting to a proposal that girls of fourteen should be withheld from the labour market and stating that the same age limit should apply to both boys and girls. The second protested against the injustice of refusing unemployment benefit to married women who had satisfied all the conditions necessary to qualify men and unmarried women for such benefit.

It is gratifying to find that "The Catholic Citizen" is frequently quoted in various journals, both at home and abroad. A notable example has been Archbishop LeRoy's article in the October issue on the Position of Women in the Cameroons and Equatorial Africa. This was quoted in several leading Catholic papers including "The Universe." The entire article was reprinted in "The Shield" (the organ of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene) and "The Catholic Medical Missionary."

"Le Féminisme Chrétien" (Brussels) republished from "The Catholic Citizen" the whole text of the speech "Féminisme et Christianisme" delivered by Père Sertillanges at the dinner given in his honour by the Alliance last May.

Once again we offer our thanks to the editors of "The Tablet" and "The Universe" for their frequent reports of our activities throughout the year. We are also indebted to "The Woman Teacher" and "The Vote" for advertising our meetings under "Forthcoming Events."

Thanks are also due to Miss Barclay Carter who has acted as Hon. Press Secretary during the past year.

"The Catholic Citizen"

Our paper continues to do valuable propaganda all over the world. It is exchanged with 142 Catholic and feminist papers within this country and abroad. As in former years we are indebted to many distinguished experts for their contributions to the "Catholic Citizen"—in particular to Archbishop LeRoy for his article on "The Position of Women in the Cameroons and in Equatorial Africa" and to Father Vincent McNabb, O.P., for an article on "The Catholic View on Sterilisation." We have welcomed contributions from countries as far apart as America, Australia, France and Ireland.

Our paper is still unfortunately not self-supporting. We thank all who have gained new subscribers and helped to sell or in any way increase the circulation of the paper during the last year and we beg them to continue their efforts in this direction.

Hon. Treasurer's Report

We are sorry to say that once more we close the year with a deficit—this year just over £44, slightly more than last year. Our subscription list unfortunately is down by about £20 and we did not do quite as well as usual with the Christmas Sale. Our activities have not slackened however, and the actual turnover is about £15 more than in 1932.

We are glad to report that the sales of the "Catholic Citizen" are up by £5 and there is also an increase in subscriptions to the paper and in the proceeds from the advertisements. Our thanks are due to Miss Butler-Bowdon for much hard work in collecting these advertisements. But what we need chiefly is a very much wider circulation of the paper and we hope that we may achieve this. We should like every reader to get a new subscriber or to take out a subscription for a library or for a new reader.

Through the kindness of our members we had several very successful money-making efforts in 1933. The first was a most enjoyable dance on January 3rd, organised by Miss Monica O'Connor, which realised the sum of £7 10s. Our best thanks are due to Miss O'Connor and we are also very grateful to those who helped with the refreshments, especially to Miss Bain, Miss Keogh and Mrs. Ellingworth.

Later in the year Miss Butler-Bowdon organised a Bridge Drive which made £3 towards the expenses of our delegate to the Marseilles Congress.

On Shrove Tuesday Mrs. Bacon entertained some members of the neighbourhood at her flat in St. John's Wood when Miss Eleanor FitzGerald told some of her charming Irish stories.

Our members must all be aware that the Alliance now possesses a hawker's licence and sells old clothes and other articles twice a week on a market barrow. This venture has proved an unqualified success but of course a constant supply of goods for sale is essential for it to remain so. When members are on the point of throwing anything away will they kindly remember the barrow and send it to the Office instead. We are also very much in need of helpers to sell regularly at the market. In this connection we are specially grateful to Mrs. Hand, Mrs. Shattock and Mrs. Ward.

Members were very kind in helping at our stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair organised by the Women's Freedom League in November which brought

us in over £35. Special thanks are due to Miss Butler-Bowdon for her designs for Christmas cards and labels. These had a very good sale at the stall and in the office.

In the past it has been the custom for some members to contribute £5 yearly to the Rent Fund. At present our Rent Fund is very low and we shall be grateful for new subscribers to this fund.

An excellent method of collecting money in small sums is by saving farthings and threepenny-bits, and money boxes for these "tiresome little coins" have been installed in the office.

Liverpool and District Branch

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Stewart Mason, B.A., Brinsworth, Grosvenor Road, Birkenhead.

The year 1933 has been a memorable one for the Liverpool Branch of the Alliance for in May was celebrated its 21st birthday. There have been some changes in the committee. Our Chairman, Miss Crawford, resigned owing to ill-health and Mrs. Graham resigned for the same reason. Our thanks are due to them for their work during the last year. Their places were filled by Miss Wylie as Chairman, Mrs. McCann as Deputy Chairman and Miss Stella Gregson as a committee member.

We record with deep regret the death of one of our foundation members, Mrs. Gordon, in August, also of Sir James Reynolds, M.P., who consistently supported the cause of women's enfranchisement. The Alliance was represented at his funeral by Miss Wylie and Mrs. Johnson.

The membership of the branch now stands at seventy and during the year we enrolled nineteen new members. This is very satisfactory and shows that the branch is well alive. There have been six ordinary meetings during the year. In January we held our Annual Meeting and once again Miss Barry came from London to give us encouragement from headquarters and to outline the programme of the Alliance for the coming year. Other speakers were Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell and Mrs. Gordon. Resolutions were passed dealing with the various points on the programme of the Alliance. In March Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell gave us an address on "Slavery in the Modern World." In May Miss Grimshaw, LL.B., spoke on "Some Aspects of the Law as Affecting Women." In October Mr. Valentine of the Economic League discussed "Unemployment—Cause and Cure" from the point of view of his League. In November the Hon. Secretary gave a paper on "Christian Feminism," and in December Mrs. Stewart Brown, Liverpool senior woman magistrate, spoke to us on the work of a woman magistrate. Besides these meetings we held three social events during the year.

In February we held a dance at the Blue Coat Chambers which, though poorly attended, made a profit thanks to the generosity of those who sent donations. In May, on the eve of the feast of St. Joan, we made a special effort and held a very successful supper in the Club Room on the Cathedral site to celebrate the coming-of-age of the branch. Miss Joan Crawford presided. We were delighted to welcome Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Miss Barry, who brought congratulations from headquarters, and also Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, former Hon. Secretary of the branch, who came from Manchester to propose a vote of thanks which was seconded by Mrs. Graham. Dr. Margaret Miller of Liverpool University also spoke.

In July by kind invitation of Miss Barry we had

a delightful garden party at her home in Birkenhead.

With regard to the various questions on the programme of the Alliance, in June the committee sent a letter to all our local M.P.s urging them to support Sir J. Sandeman Allen's Nationality of Married Women's Bill.

A letter from the Hon. Secretary was published in the "Liverpool Daily Post" protesting against the action of the University in dismissing women lecturers as illustrated by the case of Dr. Margaret Miller.

The Branch continues to be represented on the Committee of the Women's International League and the Disarmament Campaign Committee by the Hon. Secretary; she also represented the Branch at the luncheon in honour of Mrs. Corbett Ashby by invitation of the Women's Citizens Association Council and at the Conference of Women's Societies addressed by Mrs. Helena Normanton in Liverpool.

It was with great regret that the committee decided that they must reduce the number of "Catholic Citizens" taken by the Branch during the year, but even with this reduction our subscriptions to the "Catholic Citizen" do not cover the expenses. Once again we would urge every member to take this excellent paper and to try and persuade a friend to become a subscriber (2/6 per annum post free).

The committee has met twelve times during the year by invitation of Miss Crawford, Miss Wylie and Miss M. Parnell, at their houses, and the last three times at the Cosy Café before the general meetings.

We offer hearty thanks to all who have helped us in any way during the past year, especially to Miss Barry for undertaking the posting of the "Catholic Citizen"; Miss Crawford, our late Chairman, for prizes and donations, and Mrs. Graham for the beautiful cake which she gave on our 21st birthday and for all her assistance on that occasion.

The Committee urge members to give better support to their efforts in providing interesting speakers and to offer the thanks of the Branch to such speakers in the only way they can by attending the meetings themselves and bringing others with them.

We look to 1934 to bring increased enthusiasm for the Alliance not only by an increase in membership but by greater activity on the part of those who already belong to us.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Stewart Mason, B.A.

On Shrove Tuesday we held our Annual Party. This year we made a change and held it at the home of the Hon. Secretary, "Brinsworth," Grosvenor Road, Birkenhead, where we spent a very pleasant evening. The Committee arranged a programme of progressive games, followed by refreshments and ending with cards and dancing. The Committee have very reluctantly accepted the resignation of the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Johnstone, who has given such splendid service to the Branch for the past five years. Mrs. Maxfield has been elected Hon. Treasurer, and we offer her a hearty welcome and our best wishes for a successful term of office.

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