

Catholic Citizen

Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society), 55 Berners Street, London, W. 1.

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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.

This Stocking Washing

By CHRISTINE SPENDER

"This Stocking Washing"! I am convinced that if this chapter of Ellen Dorothy Abb's recent book *What Fools We Women Be!** was generally read by women and acted upon, the whole of the feminist movement would gain fresh impetus and by the next generation women would be producing works of genius in the musical artistic and literary world, as a matter of course, and not as a rather rare exception.

"Do you know a woman who does not wash her own stockings?" asks Miss Abb. "If so, she is very rich."

"Do you know a man who washes his own socks? If so, he is very poor."

She goes on to state the obvious—only we all try to slur it over—that the business and professional man uses his leisure for play (hobbies, "what he himself *wants* to do"). "Hence he goes back to his work refreshed and keen." "Short sighted woman . . . out of office hours her life is a planless jumble of washing, cooking, sewing, cleaning, with rest and recreation squeezed in when and where, and if, there is room for them." Miss Abb takes all the arguments that "Jills" and Marthas will immediately throw at her ("it's a pleasant change," "I *like* housework," "it rests my brain," "I must economise") and knocks them down like so many ninepins.

". . . Is it surprising, employers may well ask, that women don't get equal pay for equal work? No, and they jolly well don't deserve to, is the answer, till women use their leisure as sensibly as men. Till women stop being penny wise and pound foolish . . . Till women realise that when they go out to work, they can't come in to work too."

The "saving" effected by doing work at home when your work lies outside the home means loss of promotion, loss of contacts, loss of a thousand things which eventually lead to making a success of one's chosen job in life. (And the more money you spend on getting your odd jobs done for you, the less anti-social you are—you give a job of work to other people!)

"If you're a woman you must be helpless if you want to get on . . . you must be helpless at everything but the one thing you want to do, and firmly refuse to be lured into trying to do anything else. You must stick to just the one kind of work like a man. Then if you concentrate on it you'll get somewhere if you work hard enough and plan ahead. But you must never allow yourself to be deflected into doing other things, either to save money, or because other people shame you into it. ('You don't mean to say you send *stockings* to the laundry?')"

But how afford not to economise? Miss Abb says: "Women have always been the poverty-stricken sex and they'll have to economise till they have more money—but they won't have more money till they get away from all these clinging time-wasting economies that pull a woman one step back for every two steps that she takes forward."

"So you must learn to be ego-centric and ruthless, to spend your money selfishly. You must learn to buy a clear evening, a clear weekend, and then you must learn to waste it deliberately on amusement. You must learn to enjoy yourself without thinking of the jobs waiting at home. You must deliberately replenish yourself after your work. *Women always try to give out the whole time: they*

* Chapter XIII, *What Fools We Women Be.* By Ellen Dorothy Abb. (Cassell 7s. 6d.)

never will relax to fill up again." (Italics mine.)

I could go on quoting this chapter for a long time yet and would like to dwell on the solutions given by Miss Abb of various problems raised by the proposition that business and professional women, both married and single, should abandon the struggle to lead two lives; but my best course is to advise *all* women to read this chapter in full.

Sheila Kaye-Smith in her recent book, "Three Ways Home," says: "I know of nothing more destructive to the literary impulse than scrubbing and cooking." We should all be the losers if she had not written her many beautiful novels, most of them head and shoulders above the average modern novel. But these things are not done by magic, and in her own way Sheila Kaye-Smith has learnt her lesson.

To my mind feminists will only win their battle when women take a leaf out of the average man's book and learn to "relax to fill up again."

What fools we women be!

RENOULT BILL

France

The Renault Bill under which the married women of France will gain a larger measure of civil rights has at last become law. The Act slightly modifies the civil marriage declaration by eliminating the words: "The wife owes obedience to her husband," and substituting a declaration that the husband is the head of the family, that he can choose the family domicile, and that his wife is compelled to cohabit.

Under the new Act a married woman may enter the university, pass examinations for various liberal professions, have a separate bank account, draw and sign cheques in her own name, accept an inheritance or gifts, and witness a will. She may also carry on a business in her own name with her husband's consent, and choose a separate profession, but in the latter case her husband may oppose this action unless his disapproval is contrary to the family interests. The wife may appeal to the ruling of the court.

This law is a great triumph for French women in spite of the fact that it does not give them all they demand. Married women are now regarded as adults under the law so that "there is now no longer any excuse to continue to deprive them of their political rights."

FOR THE DIARY Catholic Women's Rally

There will be a great Rally of Catholic Women at the Albert Hall on Monday, May 23rd, at 8 p.m. Speakers will be His Eminence Cardinal Hinsley, The Rt. Hon. Sir Kingsley Wood, Dr. Letitia Fairfield, C.B.E., Dr. Genevieve Rewcastle and Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, B.A. The Rally takes place under the auspices of the organisations of Catholic Women of Great Britain and the subjects to be dealt with are Education, Health and Emigration. Members of the Alliance are asked to book the date and to procure their tickets immediately from St. Joan's Alliance, 55 Berners Street, W.1. Box seats 2s. 6d. each. Other Seats 1s. each.

Women's Day

Following the appointment by the League of Nations of a Committee to investigate the status of women in the various countries of the world, it has been decided to celebrate a "Status of Women Day" on May 14th. On this day women of many countries will demonstrate in order to bring before their Governments existing inequalities between men and women and press for their removal. In England already 20 women's organisations have agreed to take their part in a great demonstration throughout the country. The programme suggested for London is a Delegates' Conference in the morning and a Demonstration in the afternoon followed by a Public Tea. These gatherings will take place at University College which has been kindly lent by the Provost and Fellows for the occasion. Further particulars may be obtained from St. Joan's Alliance or from the Hon. Secretary: Lady Pares, 9, Fellows Road, N.W.3.

BOOKS RECEIVED

A Catholic in Republican Spain. By Prince Hubertus Friedrich of Loewenstein. (Gollancz, 1s.)

The Prayers of the Missal II. By C. C. Martindale, S.J. (Sheed & Ward, 2s. 6d.)

A Code of International Ethics. Prepared by the International Union of Social Studies (Catholic Social Guild, 1s.)

Letters to Philippa. By Dorothea Brande (Sheed & Ward, 5s.)

Notes and Comments

In this month of March our thoughts turn with gratitude to our late editor and dear comrade, Leonora de Alberti, whose anniversary occurs on March 26th. We feel sure all our members will remember her in their prayers.—R.I.P.

The Hammersmith Town Council has decided to establish the principle of equal pay for equal work among its men and women employees. This is a direct and speedy result of the local equal pay campaign culminating in the public meeting held before Christmas, under the joint auspices of a number of women's organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance. Organised women should take heart of grace from this important triumph and be ready to follow up the Hammersmith campaign with other local campaigns which we hope will have as good results.

On February 23rd the Prime Minister announced in the House of Commons that it had been decided to set up a Committee to consider the justice and practicability of granting pensions (under the National Health Insurance and Contributory Pensions Acts) of 10s. a week to spinsters of 55.

Women suffer many injustices and anomalies under National Insurance and an enquiry into this question has for some time been urged by feminist societies. As a first step there should be equal contributions and benefits for men and women in all National Insurance schemes.

In advertising for women employees the London County Council continues to insert phrases such as—"Married women ineligible except in certain circumstances,"—or "Marriage terminates contract of service." Posts recently advertised in this way have been for almoners, almoners' clerks, etc., and for a psychiatric social worker at the Maudsley Mental Hospital.

Rightly or wrongly, some people feel that marriage is a valuable asset in certain forms of social work. However, we oppose the action of the L.C.C. because we regard women married or single, as adult human beings having the same right to rule their private lives without interference from their employers, as men. We go further and say that the threat to terminate a contract of service on marriage is a direct incitement to immorality.

The Ministry of Labour has retained Miss A. M. Jennings, a principle officer in the Ministry's insurance department, after marriage, because of the need of her services in the grade.

The general rule of the Civil Service is to dismiss women on marriage, but an exception is made in cases of special qualifications or experience in relation to duties required of them, or of special requirements of the department in which they serve. Only six other women civil service officers have been retained after their marriage, and Miss Jennings is the first administrative officer to be so retained.

We congratulate our member, Miss Stack, who is the first woman to be elected on the Council of the Catholic Post Office Guild.

At the third triennial dinner of the British Federation of Notre Dame de Namur Associations which was held at the Grand Hotel, Manchester, on February 26th, St. Joan's Alliance was represented by Miss Stella Mannion who spoke on "Women in Public Life." Miss K. M. Duffy presided, and the gathering included important members of the clergy and laity.

We have very much pleasure in welcoming the new Oldham Branch of St. Joan's Alliance, and we congratulate and thank Miss Stella Mannion for her initiative in founding the Branch. We feel confident of its steady growth and success under its able officers; and our best wishes and prayers go to them and to all the members.

We ask the prayers of our readers for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Nora Mills whose courageous work in the early days of the Liverpool Branch of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society will always be remembered with gratitude; also of Miss Leonora Whitehead, late of the Ministry of Labour, Leeds, who had been a faithful member of the Alliance since its foundation.—R.I.P. We offer deepest sympathy to our member, Miss Tynan, sister of Mrs. Mills.

We once more remind our members of the 27th Annual Meeting of the Alliance to be held in St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square, on Saturday, March 19th, at 3-30 p.m.

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-Seventh Annual Report

The result of the discussion on Status of Women by the League of Nations Assembly must rank first in the list of women's achievements in 1937. Though the appointment of an Expert Committee to study the question of the Status of Women was not all that the women's organizations had asked for, it is yet a valuable recognition of the importance of the question and proves that it is a practical issue in world politics. (See under "Status of Women".)

In *Albania* the wearing of the veil has been prohibited—a sign of the coming emancipation of women: in *Argentine* the State of La Rioja has adopted a measure of woman suffrage and federally a law has been passed prohibiting tolerated houses; the Buenos Aires Senate passed a motion requesting the Government, for the good of the family, to forbid public utility companies from dismissing women employees on marriage: in *Australia* organized women obtained a clause in the New Nationality Act, permitting an Australian woman married to an alien to retain her rights as a British subject while residing in Australia; for the first time a woman has been elected a member of the Legislature of the State of Victoria; in *Bolivia* a law has been passed granting civil rights to women: in *Bulgaria* municipal franchise has been granted to mothers of legitimate children and parliamentary franchise to married women: in *France* the Renoult Bill giving married women a larger measure of civil rights passed the Chamber; as we go to press we learn that the Bill has now become law: in *Holland* four women were elected to the Second Chamber, one to the Senate: in *India* women voted in great numbers in the first elections under the new constitution and 52 women were elected to the various provincial legislatures, six being afterwards appointed to Ministerial and Parliamentary office, notably one to the position of Minister of Public Health, (United Provinces): the first woman of *Iran* to become a doctor of medicine has returned from her studies in Paris to practice in her own country; for the first time an Iranian woman has been appointed a Professor in the University of Teheran: *Mexico* has appointed a woman Ambassador to Denmark: in *Norway* a woman has been made Director of the State Prison for Women: the women of the *Philippines*, having been obliged to vote for

* Subject to confirmation at the Annual Meeting, March 19th.

their own disenfranchisement while voting for the independence of their country, insisted that the women's vote should be put into the new Constitution—a women's plebiscite was taken and the women polled over 400,000 votes in favour of woman suffrage, this being more than 100,000 over the minimum number required for victory: there are three women in the National Assembly of *Portugal*: in *Puerto Rico* a woman was elected to the Senate: in *Siam* the first woman to become a doctor of medicine has started work in Bangkok: a third woman was elected to the Union Parliament of *South Africa*: in *Sweden* two more women have become members of the Riksdag and a law has been passed giving equal pay to teachers in primary schools: in *Switzerland* a woman has been elected member of the federal Commission for the control of prices, as representing the consumers and housekeepers: in *Syria* a woman was called to the Bar for the first time: in *Turkey* the first woman to obtain a doctorate in politics and economics at the University of Istanbul has been appointed Inspector in Chief in the Ministry of National Economy: the *U.S.A.* have for the second time appointed a woman Ambassador, this time to Norway; in the State of New York, women have been given the right to serve on juries: Miss Jean Batten of *New Zealand* was awarded the gold medal of the International Aeronautical Federation "for the greatest flying achievement of 1937"—her record flight from Australia to England.

In spite of protests from the Irish Women's Organisations the new Constitution of *Ireland* contains clauses which may open the door to future legal discriminations against women. One clause, however, owing to the organised women's efforts, was somewhat amended.

In *this country* the publication of the Report of the Mui Tsai Commission was an event of great importance, especially since Miss Picton-Turbervill's Minority Report was more or less in line with the demands of the women's organisations; the Government of the Straits Settlement accepted the Minority Report and urged its acceptance by the Colonial Secretary.

The Minister of Health and President of the Board of Education have set up a Committee to enquire into the status and recruitment of nurses. The Male Servants Tax has been repealed. A woman has been appointed Assistant Secretary at the Treasury. There

have been four women freemen, and a woman has been made Sheriff of Chester; 24 Councils have elected a woman mayor; at the L.C.C. elections 22 women were returned and at the Borough Council Elections 236. Two more women have been elected to Parliament in by-elections. In the medical profession a woman was appointed police surgeon: a woman has been appointed to the Chair of Surgery at the University of Leeds and a woman dietician has been appointed to fill a new post under the Board of Education, as inspector of the provision of meals for school children. A woman won the Newdigate prize for English verse at Oxford and a woman won the Hawthornden prize. Coronation honours included two staunch supporters of the Woman's Movement—Viscountess Astor, M.P., who became Companion of Honour and Mr. Pethick Lawrence, M.P., who was made a member of the Privy Council.

The new Factories Act was a great disappointment in that it continues the classification of women with young persons to the detriment of both. However, one amendment differentiates between hours of overtime for women and young persons, and the Parliamentary debates on the Bill showed a marked swing-over to the feminist point of view, notably in contributions from Sir. E. Graham Little, M.D., F.R.C.P. and Mrs. Tate.

Equal Pay and Opportunities. The L.C.C. continues to demand single women employees with the exception of non-resident teachers and doctors, and has sought Parliamentary powers to open a hotel to train boys only in hotel management, thus offering them facilities denied to girls for obtaining higher posts in the domestic world. Councils up and down the country have come to conflicting decisions as regards the employment of married women, e.g., the Torquay Town Council has decided to terminate the employment of women employees on marriage but the Surrey Education Committee has lifted the ban on the employment of married women teachers in its elementary schools; however, the method is so clumsy that it must be a great irritation to the women concerned.

In drawing up scales of salary for Architects, the Royal Institute of British Architects has declared for equal pay. On the other hand, the first woman lawyer to be appointed to the Public Trustee office was installed at a lower salary than that which would have been given to a man.

Divorce. The Alliance regrets the passing of the Matrimonial Causes Act by which the legal grounds for divorce have been extended to include desertion, cruelty and lunacy.

Nationality. The question of the Nationality of Married Women was considered by the Imperial Conference but to the indignation of women's organisations "it was not found possible to arrive at an agreement in favour of any change in the existing law within the British Commonwealth."

A Bill was presented by Captain Cazalet, M.P., to provide that marriage should not deprive a woman of her nationality nor enable an alien woman to acquire British nationality; secondly, to enable British women to transmit their British nationality to their children born abroad. The Bill was not proceeded with.

Equal Moral Standard

Steady progress has been made in many countries as regards Traffic in Women and Children by laws passed and bills prepared for the abolition of brothels. The second draft Convention for the Suppression of

the third-party exploitation of prostitution has been drawn up and accepted in principle by 37 States. The drafting committee has recommended that countries in which the system of regulation is still applied should make a declaration that they agree to the principles of the convention and would endeavour to amend their law within the next few years so as to abolish regulation. It is hoped that the Convention, embodying this important recommendation, will be signed by States members next year.

Contributory Pensions Bill

Political action during the year was largely concentrated on endeavouring to secure the amendment of the Widows, Orphans and Old Age Contributory Pensions (Voluntary Contributors) Bill so that women contributors should be admitted on the same income level as men. A circular letter enclosing an explanatory leaflet drawn up by the London and National Society for Women's Service was sent to all our members and their co-operation enlisted. Many members did valuable work in writing to their M.P.s and many London members were active in "lobbying" in the House of Commons. The Alliance sent letters to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Health, the Catholic M.P.s, the Women M.P.s, and the Catholic Peers asking for their support for this amendment. A letter signed by fourteen women's organisations was sent to every member of the House of Commons, embodying the resolution carried unanimously at a Conference of women's organisations, convened by the British Federation of Business and Professional Women:

"This Delegate Conference protests against the discrimination shown between men and women contributors in the Contributory Pensions Bill, in regard to the salary limitations. It notes that the Bill provides for an income limit of £400 in the case of male contributors, but restricts the female contributors to an income limit of £250.

This Conference regrets that an attempt should be made to introduce into State Insurance a new element of discrimination as between men and women. It strongly protests against this attempt to effect a small saving of expenditure and requests the Government to amend the Bill to admit women contributors on the same salary level as men."

In spite of the united efforts of the nine women M.P.s and pressure from the women's organisations the second reading of the Bill was passed on April 8th without a division. Under the auspices of the London and National Society for Women's Service a protest meeting was held on May 3rd, supported by 20 organisations calling upon the Government to amend the Bill. Among the speakers were Viscountess Astor, M.P., and Mrs. Tate, M.P. More letters and resolutions were showered on the Government and the fight was then carried to the House of Lords where Lord Balfour of Burleigh determined to fight to the last ditch, and having been defeated over his amendment to equalise the income between men and women took the unusual and unpopular course of moving a further amendment on the third reading, this being lost by only eight votes.

To the intense indignation of women the Bill, with this unjust discrimination, was passed into law.

A good point in the Act is the admission of married women as voluntary contributors.

The 26th Annual Meeting was held on March 13th, at St. Patrick's Club Rooms, Soho Square, Mrs. Laughton Mathews presiding. The Annual Report was read by Miss K. Davis, its adoption moved by Miss Dickinson, seconded by Dr. Adams Clark and supported by Miss Denton. The Financial Report was read by Mrs. Garrard, its adoption moved by Miss Hulbert, seconded by Miss Stella Mannion (Oldham), and supported by Miss Brady. Mrs. Murray then presented the Liverpool Branch Report which was later endorsed by Mrs. Maxfield, Hon. Treasurer of the Branch.

An appeal for funds made by the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Garrard, resulted in £30 10s. od., including promises.

No nominations having been received, the Executive Committee was automatically re-elected and it subsequently re-elected its officers—Chairman, Secretary, Editor, Treasurer, Press Secretary and "Catholic Citizen" Sub-Committee.

After the Chairman's address the following resolutions were moved from the chair and carried unanimously.

1.—EQUAL STATUS OF WOMEN

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls upon the Government to amplify its memorandum to the League of Nations on the Status of Women, in accordance with the expressed wishes of the women's organisations, and to include in the memorandum information as to the status of "native" women in colonies, protectorates and mandated territories.

2.—EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. urges that in all territories under British administration women be granted equal political rights with men.

(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 be elected.

3.—EQUAL MORAL STANDARD

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. re-affirms its demand for the repeal of all existing legislation specially directed against "common prostitutes."

(i) It urges the Government to amend Sections 2 S/s (1) and 3 S/s (2) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885 which, by excluding "common prostitutes and women of known immoral character" from the operation of the law against procurers, encourage a traffic in such women.

(ii) *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 dealing 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 conviction.

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

(c) *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.

4.—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, thus setting an example to other employers. It further deplores the action of the Government in manipulating the rules of the House in order to nullify a vote in favour of Equal Pay in the Civil Service.

(b) St. Joan's S.P.A. deeply regrets that the Government, accepting the opinion of four only of the eight members of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the *Admission of Women to the Diplomatic and Consular Services* continues to exclude women from these services. It reiterates its demand for the opening of the Diplomatic, Consular and kindred services to women.

(c) *Factories Bill.* St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government so to amend the Factories Bill as to remove Women from the category of Young Persons and make regulations for the health, welfare and hours of work of the workers to apply equally to men and women.

5.—INSURANCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. reiterates its demand that benefits and contributions under all national insurance schemes shall be the same for men and women.

(b) St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to amend those sections of the Anomalies Act which subject married women to unequal regulations and unjustly deprive them of unemployment benefits for which they have paid.

(c) St. Joan's S.P.A. welcomes the fact that under the amended Unemployment Assistance Regulations equal assistance is now given to both sexes in certain sections and demands that in two categories where women receive 1/- less than men, this injustice may be removed.

(d) St. Joan's S.P.A. 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.

6.—NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass into law a bill giving married women the right to an independent nationality on the same terms as other adults, and further calls upon the Government to place the subject of the Nationality of Married Women on the Agenda of the forthcoming Imperial Conference.

(b) It further calls on the States Members of the League of Nations to adopt an International Convention recognising a married woman's right to her own independent nationality on equal terms with men.

7.—INCOME TAX

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

8.—SLAVERY

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that in all territories under British jurisdiction it shall definitely be laid down that no woman, whatever her race, shall be sold by her father or alleged proprietor; that no marriage contract shall be made for any girl under 14 years, or for a girl over 14 years without her consent and that there shall be no inheritance of a widow by her husband's heirs.

(b) The Annual Meeting of St. Joan's S.P.A.

requests the Executive Committee after considering fully the report of the Mui Tsai Commission to take any action which in their view is calculated to abolish entirely the Mui Tsai system and to afford protection to young girls whenever and wherever needed in the areas covered by the Report.

9.—MATERNITY SERVICES

St. Joan's S.P.A. notes with satisfaction the efforts of the Ministry of Health to provide more adequate maternity services throughout the country and particularly the schemes relating to an improved service of midwives.

10.—WOMEN POLICE

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

11.—BIRTH CONTROL

St. Joan's S.P.A. deplores 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.

12.—DIVORCE

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to refuse facilities for the passage of the so-called Marriage Bill, which increases the grounds for divorce.

13.—STERILISATION

St. Joan's S.P.A. records its opposition to the introduction of any legislation designed to promote the voluntary or compulsory sterilisation of mental defectives.

14.—EDUCATION

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

(b) St. Joan's S.P.A. urges upon the Government the necessity of providing adequate and equal facilities for the education of "native" girls and boys under British rule.

The most memorable event in the history of the Alliance during the year, was the Coronation Dinner given on May 31st at the Criterion Restaurant when the Prime Minister of Australia and Dame Enid Lyons, G.B.E., were the guests of honour. Mrs. Laughton Mathews presided and the other speakers were the Very Rev. Vincent McNabb, O.P., Miss Nina Boyle, Colonel Sir John Shute, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.P., Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, B.A., and Miss Marie Carroll of Melbourne.

Messages of greeting were received from the French and Australian sections of the Alliance and from many others, and many Catholic and Feminist Societies were represented at the Dinner. A telegram of loyal greetings and good wishes was sent to their Majesties the King and Queen on behalf of the gathering and a gracious reply was received.

On February 24th under the auspices of the Alliance a meeting entitled "Australian Sketches" was held at St. Patrick's Club Room, at which the speakers were Miss Marie Carroll and Mr. Michael Spender, F.R.G.S., a member of the Great Barrier Reef Expedition, while Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, B.A., presided.

In July, through the kindness of Mrs. Laughton Mathews, members of the International Council were entertained at her house to meet our member,

Mme. Vallé Genairon (France). Mrs. Crawford also kindly invited a few members to lunch at the Sesame Club to meet Mme. Vallé Genairon.

Dame Enid Lyons was met at Victoria Station on her Coronation visit to London by the officers and several members of the Alliance, and was presented with a posy in our colours by David Laughton Mathews, the small son of our Chairman.

On October 20th, Mrs. Shattock kindly gave hospitality to a meeting held in order to hear the experiences of the representatives of the Alliance at Geneva during the League Assembly. The speakers were the Misses Barry, Graham, Parnell and Spender.

The Alliance has continued to take part in *Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Horseferry Road, where members are pledged to watch on the first Thursday of every month, and are asked to pray for the intentions of the Alliance. The Alliance was represented by Mrs. Aylward at the Celebration of the fifth Anniversary of the Adoration, and our beautiful banner of St. Joan was among those placed in the church.

On May 30th, the Anniversary of the burning of St. Joan, Mass was offered for the intentions of the Alliance through the kindness of our member, Very Rev. Canon Finucane of Brecon. In accordance with our custom a laurel wreath tied in our colours, was placed on the shrine of St. Joan in Westminster Cathedral.

Oldham. A meeting of the Oldham members of St. Joan's Alliance organised by Miss Stella Mannion was held on December 1st when Miss N. S. Parnell gave an account of the aims and objects of the Alliance with a view to the inauguration of an Oldham Branch.

Co-operation With Other Societies

The Alliance is affiliated to 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 Citizens' Parliament by Miss Barry; 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 and Miss Barry; The National Council for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child by Mrs. Hand; The Women Peers Committee by Miss Barry; The British Commonwealth League by Miss Spender; The Nationality of Married Women Pass the Bill Committee by Miss Barry; the "Quota" Committee by Mrs. Laughton Mathews; The Married Persons Income Tax Reform Council by Miss I. R. V. Welch, and The Australian Sub-Committee of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society by Miss Spender. We are also affiliated to the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene and the Open Door Council, and we send an "observer" to the Liaison Women's Committee on Indian questions.

St. Joan's Alliance was represented on the Appeal Committee for the relief of Russian Women Refugees in the Far East which was disbanded after the authorization to send the £266 11s. 11d. collected in this country to Shanghai for the direct relief of Russian women there.

At the Unity in Action Inaugural Dinner given under the auspices of the Catholic Citizen's Parliament, His Grace Archbishop Hinsley presiding, several members of the Alliance were present, and Miss Christine

Spender had the privilege of proposing the Toast "Our Guests."

The Alliance sent delegates to the British Commonwealth League Annual Conference on the Duties and Rights of Women under Democracy. Two members of our Executive Committee spoke, Miss Barry on Woman Suffrage in Bermuda, and Miss N. S. Parnell on Training for Citizenship.

The Alliance was represented at a Conference on Australian Aborigines convened by the British Commonwealth League in February, and Miss Marie Carroll read extracts from an important letter from Fr. W. J. Dew, Missionary of the Sacred Heart, Tenant Creek.

At a farewell party given under the auspices of the British Commonwealth League to Mrs. Littlejohn prior to her return to Sydney, Miss Barry spoke a few words of farewell and sent greetings on behalf of the Alliance to our Australian colleagues.

At a public meeting on Equal Pay for Equal Work organised by the National Association of Women Civil Servants on November 30th in Hammersmith, Miss Parnell spoke on behalf of the Alliance. It is heartening to record that the Hammersmith Borough Council has since agreed to give equal pay to its men and women employees. Miss Parnell also spoke at the Law Courts Branch Meeting of the Central Youth Section of the Association of Women Civil Servants, on the Woman's Movement.

A telegram was sent from the Annual Meeting of the Alliance to Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence on the occasion of the presentation of their portrait, expressing our gratitude and admiration for their magnificent work for women's enfranchisement.

As one of the British auxiliaries, the Alliance helped to organise two concerts in aid of the funds of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, one given by Mme. Liesbet Saunders at the American Women's Club in March; the other given by Mme. Marguerite Couperous and Miss Orrea Pernell at the Wigmore Hall in April.

At a luncheon given at the Rubens Hotel by St. Joan's Alliance and the Women's Freedom League in honour of Mme. Brunschvicg, Under Secretary of State for Education and leader of French Suffragists, Mrs. Laughton Mathews was one of the speakers and she also spoke at a Women's Freedom League lunch given in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence on June 9th.

Several members, including Miss de Passos of Brazil, attended sessions of the International Congress of Catholic Nurses.

Members of the Alliance attended a Sherry Party given by Lady Slessor for the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and a reception given by the British Commonwealth League in connection with their Annual Conference, at which Dame Enid Lyons spoke. They also attended the Party in Caxton Hall in honour of Mrs. Despard's 93rd birthday, and the supper organised by the Suffragette fellowship on Mrs. Pankhurst's birthday, when Dame Christabel Pankhurst was the chief speaker.

Miss Eleanor FitzGerald represented the Alliance on the platform at the Catholic Rally at the Albert Hall in September.

At the Solemn Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving for the Coronation of their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth at Westminster Cathedral, the Alliance was represented by Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Miss Carroll of Melbourne.

The Alliance also took part in the following Conferences and Meetings.

Subject.	Convenor.	Representatives.
Dr. Duguid on Australian Aborigines.	B.C.L.	Miss Barry, Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Miss Spender
" " "	Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society.	Misses Barry, Jeffery and Spender.
Mui Tsai	B.C.L.	Miss Barry, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, Miss Spender.
" "	Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society.	Miss Cheke, Mrs. Laughton Mathews.
Contributory Pensions Bill.	N.C.W.	Miss Barry.
" " "	L. & N. S. W. S.	Misses Jeffery, Terry and Warnecke.
" " "	British Federation of Business and Professional Women.	Miss Barry.
Women and Election Policy.	W.F.L.	Miss Barry.
Shorter Working Week.	L.N.U.	Miss Parnell.
Factories Bill (House of Commons.)	O.D.C.	Miss Barry.
Catholic Action (Palace Theatre.)	Guild of Our Lady of Ransom.	Miss Barry.
Religious Rally (Albert Hall.)	Children of Mary.	Mrs. Aylward and Mrs. Hand.
League of Nations Assembly Report—Miss Irene Ward.	Women's Advisory Council of the L.N.U.	Misses Harley Bacon and Spender.
Annual Meeting.	O.D.C.	Miss Walmesley
" "	Anti-Slavery Society.	Misses Barry and Spender.
" "	A.M.S.H.	Miss Spender.
South Africa's Indian Problem.	B.C.L.	Miss Spender.

Letters and Resolutions were sent to:

His Holiness Pope Pius XI expressing devoted homage on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

His Majesty King George VI and her Majesty Queen Elizabeth offering respectful homage on the occasion of their Coronation and praying that their Majesties may have a long and prosperous reign.

His Grace the Archbishop of Westminster offering respectful congratulations on his appointment to the Sacred College of Cardinals.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies expressing agreement with the main recommendations of the Minority Report of the Mui Tsai Commission on the clear understanding that if these recommendations were passed into law, Section 45 (a) of the Offences against the Person Ordinance would remain in force.

The Prime Minister, Home Secretary and Women M.P.s calling upon the Government so to amend the Factories Bill as to remove women from the category of Young Persons and to make regulations for the health, welfare and hours of work of the workers apply equally to men and women.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Mrs. Tate and other M.P.s thanking them for their support in Parliament of the above points, and for their help in endeavouring to amend the Contributory Pensions Bill.

Headquarters of the London Labour Party complaining of receiving a municipal polling card with the slogan "You can vote Labour and Communist," and thanking them for their assurance that this was not the policy of the Labour Party.

Candidates at Various By-elections enclosing our Parliamentary Questionnaire.

The Lord Chancellor expressing opposition to the so-called Marriage Bill giving further facilities for divorce.

The Westminster Cathedral Chronicle protesting against a flippant and non-Christian article entitled "Modern Woman and Lost Values."

Deputations

Nationality. On April 16th, the Secretary of State for the Colonies received a Deputation from the women's organisations urging the Government to introduce and pass into law, a Bill giving a married woman the right to her own independent nationality and asking that this subject should be placed on the Agenda of the Imperial Conference with a view to similar legislation being passed in the Dominions. Mrs. Laughton Mathews, representing St. Joan's Alliance, was one of the speakers.

Mui Tsai. A Deputation composed of eleven Societies and organised by the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society was received by the Colonial Secretary on November 4th. It begged that there should be reaffirmation implemented by necessary legislation to uphold and enforce the general principle that a girl shall not be transferred from one person to another for a "valuable consideration" and that all transfers of girls should be notifiable. The Alliance was represented by Miss Barry and Mrs. Laughton Mathews.

Personal

We offer our congratulations to the following members of the Alliance: Rt. Rev. Mgr. Canon Bickford on his appointment as Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Westminster; Miss Ellen Brady on her marriage to Mr. Benjamin; Miss I. M. Dickinson on entering the Congregation of St. Mary Magdalene ("Bethany") France; Mrs. Stuart Douglas on entering the Benedictine Abbey, East Bergholt; Miss Theresa Dowling on her appointment on the "Criminal Law and Its Enforcement Committee of the National Association of Women Lawyers, U.S.A."; Miss K. M. Duffy on her election as President of the British Federation of Notre Dame (de Namur) Associations; Dr. Eileen FitzGerald on her appointment as chief Medical Inspector of the Education Department of Victoria, Australia; Miss Eleanor FitzGerald on the production of her play, "The Candle," by the Irish Literary Society; Dame Enid Lyons on her Coronation honour—Dame Grand Cross of the British Empire; the Rt. Hon. J. A. Lyons, C.H., on the conferment of the Freedom of the cities of London and Aberdeen and the honorary degree of LL.D. of Cambridge University; also on his return to office as Prime Minister of Australia for the third time; Miss Margette McCurdy (Sister Edmund Mary) on her clothing at the Assumption Convent, Anthiet, Belgium; Miss Annie Mannion on her election to the Central Council of the National Union of Women Teachers; Miss Eleanor O'Connor on her marriage to Mr. Eric Coleman; Father William Ruhman on his appointment as Chaplain to the Port of London; Miss Monica Whately on her election to the London County Council; Miss Helen C. White on her appointment as Professor of English in the University of Wisconsin, U.S.A.

Visitors from Abroad. During the year we were glad to welcome from *Australia* Miss Marie Carroll and Miss Cochrane; from *Austria* Mrs. Irene Harand; from *Brazil* Miss de Passos; from *Germany* Miss Erika Boehm, Dr. J. Jörissen, Dr. Munzer, Miss Kreuse and Miss Schlüter Hermkes; from *France* Mme. Vallé Genairon; from *Holland* Miss Dames; from *Hungary* Mrs. de Spür; from *Jugo-Slavia* Mme. Uzelac; from *E. Uganda* Father Dames; from the *U.S.A.* Miss Ellen

Starr Brinton, Miss Ruth Byrns and Dr. Elizabeth Lynskey.

We offer our grateful thanks to those who have given devoted help at the office and at the barrow during the past year: especially to the Misses Cheke, E. FitzGerald, Lowe and Organ. It is difficult to imagine how the work of the office could have been carried on without Miss Christine Spender, who in addition to her outstanding work as Hon. Editor, gives devoted service daily, and without our "office boy," Miss Bodenham, and the invaluable clerical help given by Miss K. Davis. We thank Miss Margaret Whittles for so gallantly holding the fort while the officers were in Geneva.

Obituary

The Annual Mass for the deceased members, associates and benefactors of the Alliance was offered at St. Patrick's, Soho Square, on Sunday, November 14th.

We regret to record the deaths during the year of the following members: Miss Eleanor Calnan (U.S.A.); Rev. Alphonsus van den Heuval (Holland); Mrs. Nora Mills; Mrs. W. Walsh (Dublin); and Miss Leonora Whitehead.—R.I.P.

The death of Rev. Canon Dunford, late parish priest of St. Patrick's, Soho Square, meant the loss of a good friend of the Alliance, always ready to give every consideration when meetings were held in St. Patrick's Club Rooms or when the Alliance wished a special Mass to be said.—R.I.P.

The death of Miss Chrystal Macmillan was a grievous blow to the woman's cause to which she devoted her life and gave the benefits of her legal training and fine brain. St. Joan's Alliance is among the many organisations indebted to her for her ready help and guidance. During recent years she worked incessantly to gain the independent nationality of married women, and as President of the Open Door International she worked assiduously to secure the economic emancipation of the woman worker. At the Memorial Service at St. Clement Danes, Miss Barry represented the Alliance.

Women all over the world mourn the tragic loss of the airwoman, Amelia Earhart (U.S.A.), who met death in the Pacific while on the last lap of a flight round the world.

The deaths of four persons well-known in the theatrical world recalled memories of the early days of the agitation for woman suffrage. Miss Lilian Baylis, Miss Annie Horniman, Miss Gertrude Kingston and Sir Johnston Forbes Robertson all gave their active support to the cause of woman suffrage.

On the anniversary of Mrs. Pankhurst's birthday, Miss Jeffery and Miss Spender were present at the Annual Memorial Service, and with representatives of other societies, laid flowers at the foot of Mrs. Pankhurst's statue in Victoria Gardens.

Press Report

Reports of the activities of the Alliance have appeared in "The Catholic Herald," "The Catholic Times," "The Tablet," and "The Universe," also in "The International Women's News," "Opportunity," and "The Woman Teacher," for which we thank the respective editors. The Coronation Dinner in London in honour of the Prime Minister of Australia and Dame Enid Lyons was fully reported in the above journals and also received notice in "The Times," "The Daily Telegraph" and "The Glasgow Herald."

Among the foreign papers in which mention has

been made of the Alliance are "La Française," "Le Mouvement Féministe" (Switzerland) and the Bulletin of the "Centre d'Information Catholique" (Paris).

From our Australian Section we have received numerous press cuttings, including of course, reports of the Coronation Dinner to their Prime Minister and Dame Enid Lyons. Journals mentioning the activities of the Australian Section of the Alliance included "The Catholic Women's Review" (Sydney), "The Advocate," "The Argus," "The Dawn," "The Herald," "The Horizon," "The Sun," and "The Tribune."

In "The Ransomer" in the course of a series of articles by G. Elliot Anstruther, entitled "Catholicism in England During the Past Fifty Years," Mr. Anstruther mentions the bold policy of the Alliance in acting as a leaven from within other organisations rather than criticising from without. The Alliance was mentioned in an article on Women under British Jurisdiction in the Dominions and Colonies appearing in "Everybody's Weekly" and the Statement on the Position of the Women of Native Races, presented by the Alliance to the XVIIIth Assembly of the League of Nations, was reviewed in "The Universe," "The Interracial Review" (U.S.A.), "Le Mouvement Féministe" (Switzerland), the "Women's Freedom League Bulletin," "The International Women's News" and "The Commonweal" (U.S.A.).

Letters on behalf of the Alliance were published in the Catholic Press. In "The Tablet" on the abolition of Mui Tsai and concerning the enfranchisement of women in Belgium. In "The Catholic Herald" (1) pointing out that the demand that women in industry should be given no more protection than men was in no way "Feminism run mad"; (2) following an article on Equal Pay and the Employment of Women which contained information procured from the Alliance; (3) protesting against the ambiguity caused in the Annual Report of the Oxford and Cambridge Catholic Education Board by omitting to state that the list of Catholic undergraduates referred to men only. In "The Universe" concerning various remarks on polygamy in their review of the Memorandum on the Status of Native Women. In the "Manchester Guardian" a letter from our editor drew attention to the great injustices which are done to widows under the native law in certain parts of British Africa. A joint letter, signed by the Alliance and other Societies, was published in "The Manchester Guardian" protesting against the unjust income discrimination in the Contributory Pensions Bill. A similar letter appeared in "The Catholic Herald" and "The Tablet" signed by the Alliance alone. The question of Women and Life Peerages was raised in a letter to "The Times," signed by Miss Barry and Miss Reeves as Chairman and Hon. Secretary of the Women Peers Committee, a translation of which appeared in "La Française."

"The Catholic Citizen" was sold in many parishes in the Westminster Diocese on Press Sunday, October 9th, with such good effect that the September issue was sold out. At St. Dominic's Church, N.W.3., a special effort was made, thanks to Mrs. Garrard and Mrs. Hand.

At the request of the Australian Section a complete set of bound volumes was sent to Australia for their archives. These volumes are now available for reference in the Central Catholic Library, Melbourne.

The paper was exhibited at the Liverpool Catholic Press Exhibition.

We are once more indebted to many distinguished experts for their contributions, in particular to Lt-Comdr. Haslewood for his article on Mui Tsai: a feature of the paper has been translations of articles written specially by our French members. Our paper continues to do valuable propaganda all over the world and is exchanged with over 100 Catholic and feminist publications.

We thank Mrs. Aylward, Miss C. Carter, Mrs. Garrard and Mrs. Hand for the gallant way in which they have sold the paper in all weathers, throughout the year, and we are also most grateful to Mrs. Hand for undertaking the office of Advertisement Manager. We thank Miss Eva Barry for her continued help in addressing *Catholic Citizen* wrappers, and the Misses Bain and Hope Robson for their regular help in sending out the paper.

Propaganda Leaflet. This year at the request of the Liverpool Branch an attractive propaganda leaflet giving particulars of the Alliance was published at 4d. a dozen. It includes an enrolment form and bears the Alliance colours. The leaflet is very useful for spreading interest in the Alliance and we look to our members and readers to order copies for distribution.

Hon. Treasurer's Report

Our turnover for the year is bigger by £20 than for 1936. The subscriptions are down by £80 but this is partly accounted for by the fact that from January 1937 an International account was opened in Paris with Mlle. Delaval as Hon. Treasurer, to which all foreign members' subscriptions are now sent. Our Silver Jubilee effort in 1936 also resulted in increased subscriptions. That the whole turnover for the year is bigger is in large part due to the splendid success of our stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair held at Westminster Central Hall just before Christmas. We are most grateful to all who helped to make this event a success, and especially to Miss Bodenham, as it was due to her efforts that monetary donations to the stall amounted to £19 6s. od. Sales of goods and donations together realised £57 8s. 11d. Barrow sales were a little short of what was realised last year but were still good, and we are most grateful to all who have contributed goods and sold throughout the year. Subscriptions to the *Catholic Citizen* show a steady yearly increase but the street sales are not quite as good as in 1936. The *Catholic Citizen* has nearly paid its way, in spite of the fact that an extra page has frequently been inserted, thus making the cost of production greater. Revenue from advertisements has just about maintained the level of last year.

There are several gallant contributors to the Rent Fund who year by year help to pay the heavy rent, £90 per annum. Are there not more among St. Joan's members who crave this honour?

Our Chairman—Mrs. Laughton Mathews—always ready to help the funds, gave us a delightful Garden Party on July 17th. Miss Fedden helped by giving a party at which she afforded us the pleasure of listening to an account of her recent trek in South Africa. Miss Brady (now Mrs. Benjamin) gave us a delightful Sherry Party at her flat, at which Miss Billing gave poetry readings which charmed all present, and Miss Davis amused and made money with character delineations.

We should like to thank Mrs. Benjamin most sincerely for the audit of accounts, and Miss Katherine Davis for the regular typing assistance which she has given us throughout the year, thereby saving considerable expense.

Liverpool and District Branch

The 25th Annual Meeting was held on February 1st when all the officers were re-elected, viz: Chairman, Mrs. McCann; Vice-Chairman, Miss Johnstone; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Maxfield, and Hon. Secretary, Miss Bowden. Three new Committee members were elected: Miss Garrick, Mrs. Hart and Miss O'Donnell, B.A., while Miss Stephens was re-elected. Resolutions passed and sent to the local M.P.s urged Equal Pay and Opportunities in the Civil Service; Equal Nationality Rights between men and women, and that in the new Factories Bill regulations and restrictions concerning the health and welfare of the worker and hours of work should apply equally to both sexes; a further resolution protested against the so-called "Marriage Bill." Miss Barry who was present representing headquarters, gave a commentary on the new propaganda leaflet, and copies of Miss Fedden's speech, "The Fight for Enfranchisement," were distributed.

During the year the Branch took its share in writing to the local M.P.s in connection with the Factories, Divorce and Contributory Pensions Bills. Letters were sent to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health pressing for the removal of the inequality of income limit between men and women in the Contributory Pensions Bill.

The Branch has had some new members and meetings have been very successful. The speakers at these were: Miss Hallworth on Maternity and Child Welfare Work in Liverpool; Mrs. White of the Open Door Council on the Factories Bill; Miss Cunnane of the Liverpool Women Patrols on the Problem of the Unmarried Mother; and Miss Blackburn, J.P., on "A Novice on the Bench." A Garden Party was held in August at Miss Barry's home in Birkenhead when Miss Spender gave a resumé of the Statement on the Position of the Women of "Native" Races presented to the XVIIIth Assembly of the League of Nations.

During December, Mass was offered at the request of the Branch at St. Joan's Church, Bootle, to thank God and Our Lady and St. Joan for the continuance of the Branch during 25 years.

On December 7th members went in a body, wearing their badges, to the Women's Meeting of the Catholic Action Conference at St. George's Hall.

The Branch was represented at the Coronation Dinner in London by Miss Bowden, Mrs. Johnstone, Mrs. McCann and Mrs. Maxfield, and at the London Annual Meeting by Mrs. Maxfield and Mrs. Murray.

The Branch very much regretted the departure of Mrs. Maxfield, their Hon. Treasurer over many years, and we take this opportunity of thanking her for her services. Mrs. Maxfield is now in Watford where we feel sure she will be a great asset to headquarters.

Thanks are due to Mrs. McCann, who throughout the year has placed her home at the disposal of the Branch, and provided refreshments on each occasion; also to the Misses Barry for the Garden Party.

International Council

On September 18th the fourth Council Meeting was held at the Pension Peyraud, Geneva. Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell presided as proxy for the President, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, and Miss Barry, Hon. Secretary, acted as proxy for Miss Flynn (Australia), by request of the Australian Section. Among those present were Dona Olympia de Passos

(Brazil) and Mlle. Delaval (France). Reports of the different sections were read and approved.

The following resolutions were passed by the Council, and after endorsement by the National Sections were sent to the appropriate authorities:

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance:

POLITICAL RIGHTS

Standing for political, social and economic equality between men and women calls upon all Governments to grant political rights to women on the same terms as men.

EQUAL MORAL STANDARD

Believing that the same high moral standard should be established for both sexes calls upon all Governments to abolish State Regulation of Prostitution and to make all third-party exploitation of vice a legal offence.

WOMEN'S RIGHT TO EARN

Believing in the right of a woman (married or unmarried) to earn, calls upon all Governments to set an example to employers by establishing the principle of equal pay for men and women with equal opportunities of training and advancement.

NATIONALITY

Calls upon Governments to pass legislation establishing the right of a married woman to an independent personal nationality on the same terms as men.

FORCED MARRIAGES

Stands for the principle that no marriage contract should be made for any woman (whatever her race) without her consent and demands that no Government should tolerate this practice.

Throughout the year Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Miss Barry have represented the Alliance on the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations. Mme. Uzelac (Jugo-Slavia) acted as proxy at the Geneva Meetings.

The Alliance was represented at the International Eucharistic Congress held in Manila by Miss Coffey. Mlle. Delaval represented the Alliance at the International Abolitionist Congress held in Paris in May, and Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A., at the Congress—"Les Activités Féminines" convened by the National Council of Women of France in connection with the Paris Exhibition. Miss Fitzgerald spoke on her tax-resisting experiences during the suffrage campaign in England.

At the International Congress of the Christian Family held in Paris during June, Mme. Vallé Genairon represented the Alliance, while Mlle. Delaval and Mme. Pesson Depret were its representatives at the International Congress for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and at a private conference on Traffic in Women convened by Mr. Cohen, both held in Paris during November.

Following on the decision of the Council of the League of Nations to abolish the former assessors of the Traffic in Women and Children and Child Welfare Committees the Alliance has been appointed a corresponding member to the Committee on Social Questions, for three years.

Status of Women

League of Nations Assembly. The subject of the status of women was placed on the Agenda of the XVIIIth Assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva at the request of fifteen governments. It was considered by the 1st (legal) Commission under

the Chairmanship of M. Politis (Greece), Miss Hesselgren of Sweden acting as rapporteur.

A vigorous "Equal Status" campaign was organised by eight Women's International Organisations—the "Committee of Eight"—of which our Alliance was one. The object of the campaign was to obtain from the Assembly a resolution deciding "to convoke an International Conference in order to draw up an International Convention to secure for women a civil, political and legal status based on the principles of the equality of the sexes."

The Women's Organisations did not obtain this resolution, but nevertheless the Assembly adopted a most important resolution asking the Council to set up a Committee of Experts of both sexes for the purpose of preparing and publishing "a comprehensive study . . . giving full information on the legal status enjoyed by women in the various countries of the world,"—the Committee to have power "to consult Women's International Organisations and invite their co-operation in any form which it thinks advisable." This "in view of the fact, that in general, the trend is for law to develop in the direction of equality between the sexes." (Clause 2 of the Resolution.)

The considerations of the 1st Commission concentrated the attention of many nations on the question of the position of women for several days, and the proceedings at Geneva may be considered as an important triumph for the woman's cause.

St. Joan's Alliance Delegation. Many members of the Alliance journeyed to Geneva to be present during the Assembly and to take their share in the "Equal Status Campaign." The Misses Barry, Bodenham, Graham, Parnell and Spender were the English contingent, and from other countries there were Mlle. Delaval (France), Dona Olympia de Passos (Brazil), Miss Keiser (Switzerland), Mme. Uzelac (Jugo Slavia).

Representatives of the Alliance attended the High Mass celebrated in the Cathedral of Notre Dame for the Catholic delegates to the Assembly, and some of the English members were present at the Dinner given by the "Cercle Catholique."

On a deputation to the President of the Assembly, the Aga Khan, in connection with the "Equal Status Campaign" of the "Committee of Eight," Miss Spender representing St. Joan's Alliance, spoke on the position of the women of "native" races.

The Alliance gave a very successful party at the Hotel des Bergues at which many of the women delegates to the Assembly and representatives of numerous Societies were present. Short speeches were made by Miss Parnell and Miss Spender, and Mlle. Delaval read a paper sent by Mlle. Lenoël, Hon. Secretary of the French Section, who very much regretted not being present in Geneva. The subject dealt with was the statement on "native" women submitted to the League Assembly. (see below.)

A lunch was given by the "Committee of Eight" to the delegates of the 1st Commission and the Liaison Committee (on which the Alliance is represented) gave a reception to the women delegates.

Social functions attended by representatives of the Alliance included receptions given by the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, the International Council of Women, the Open Door International and the big reception given at the new League Buildings by the Aga Khan, President of the XVIIIth Assembly.

Memorandum to League of Nations. In response to the resolution passed by the League Assembly in 1935 communications on the Status

of Women were sent to the XVIIIth Assembly by thirty-two Governments and eight Women's International Organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance which submitted an important and detailed Memorandum on the Status of "Native" Women. This Memorandum holds a prominent place in the official League Document A14.1937 and was circulated to all States Members of the League. A supplementary statement sent in by the British Government included that on the position of "native" women in the British Colonies, Protectorates, etc.

Reprints of the Statement from St. Joan's Alliance were issued by the Alliance in English and French. The demand for these was considerable and still continues, and many letters of appreciation have been received from women's organisations and from missionaries and others working in Africa. The memorandum took months to compile and involved a vast amount of correspondence with persons best qualified to give first hand information on the subject. By means of a Questionnaire sent out by the Alliance information was obtained from Government Officials, Missioners of various denominations, Doctors, Nurses, Teachers, Social Workers, etc., in many territories; in collaboration with the Australian and French Sections of the Alliance, Miss Christine Spender, with the help of Miss Challoner and Miss K. Davis, undertook the work of compilation.

Australian Section

Throughout the year St. Joan's Alliance in Australia has done much work on the question of Aboriginal women and has constantly urged that there should be women Protectors of Aborigines. Much information has been received from the Minister of the Interior. The following resolution was passed by the Alliance and sent to the appropriate department:

St. Joan's Alliance congratulates the Commonwealth Government on holding the recent Conference of Protectors of Aborigines, and on the Gazettal of the recent Ordinance, and urges continuance of investigation, co-operation and surveillance in the interests of Aboriginal welfare.

The Protector of Aborigines in Queensland was communicated with in regard to the desirability of women Protectors; his reply was not encouraging, but the Federal Government's decision to increase patrol boats in the Japanese pearling fields, in connection with the sale of Aboriginal girls to Japanese pearl-ers in Bathurst Island, must surely be in part attributed to representations made by the Alliance on this count. The Section sent a Memorandum to Headquarters in London on the status of Aboriginal women for incorporation in the statement on the position of the women of "native" races presented to the League of Nations.

In the early part of the year following complaints made by young women re solicitation by men in the street, the Hon. Secretary wrote to the Chief Commissioner of Police who immediately appointed an officer on patrol duty on the route indicated, and the annoyance ceased.

Prior to their departure to England for the Coronation, Dame Enid Lyons, G.B.E., President of the Section, and her daughter Sheila, were the guests of honour at a reception given at Melbourne. Miss Anna Brennan and Miss K. Walsh, Vice-Presidents of the Alliance, and the Hon. Secretary, Miss Flynn, welcomed Dame Enid, and members came from as far north as Mackay and as far west as Perth to do

her honour. Later, greetings were sent to the Coronation Dinner of the Alliance in London:

St. Joan's Alliance of Australia unites in spirit with the Mother Organisation, the Prime Minister of Australia, its President, Dame Enid Lyons, and assembled guests in celebrating the Coronation of His Majesty King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

A Memorial on the Nationality of Married Women, signed by the President, Vice-Presidents, members of the Committee and others, was sent to the Imperial Conference. A statement giving the views of the Alliance on sterilization as a remedy for mental deficiency was sent to Sir John Harris, State Minister of Health.

On St. Joan's Day, May 30th, the blue, white and gold of the Alliance was worn for the first time in the Church of St. Francis, Melbourne, by members who received Holy Communion at a Mass offered in honour of St. Joan, for the King and Queen and the Alliance.

On September 16th, members and friends of the Alliance gathered at Scott's Hotel, Melbourne, to give an enthusiastic welcome to Dame Enid Lyons, the President, on her return from England. On behalf of the Alliance, Miss Isabel Gartlan presented Dame Enid with a gold St. Joan's Badge inscribed with the date of the foundation of the Australian Section—March 25th, 1936. The badge is the original design set on a map of Australia. Among those present were Rev. Frs. Corrigan and Malone, O.F.M., and Mrs. Clarence Weber, the first woman member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly.

Speakers at meetings included: Mr. H. J. Stackpoole on Children's Courts; Miss K. Walsh on the Evolution of British Feminism; Sister McRae of the Marist Medical Mission on her work in the North Solomons, and Miss Marie Carroll on her travels. By invitation of the National Council of Women, Miss Anna Brennan, Vice-President of the Alliance, spoke at their Annual Conference at Melbourne, on Women in the Modern State. Activities of the Alliance during the year have had a very good press.

There has been an increased subscription list for the *Catholic Citizen*, and a complete set of bound volumes were presented to the Central Catholic Library, Melbourne.

Members of the Alliance attended the National Education Conference in Melbourne and contacts were made with the Catholic delegates.

We take this opportunity of offering congratulations to our President, Dame Enid Lyons, on the Coronation Honour awarded her—Dame Grand Cross of the British Empire; to our Prime Minister, a member of the Alliance, on the honours bestowed on him while in England for the Coronation, and on his return as Prime Minister for the third time; and to our member, Miss Eileen O'Keefe, on her production of T. S. Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral" at the Garrick Theatre, Melbourne. We were glad to welcome back our Committee member, Miss Marie Carroll, who brought greetings from the Mother Society in London.

Brazilian Section

Under its President, Exma Snra Maria Herminia Lisboa, Alliança Santa Joana D'Arc continues to do good work in Brazil: its well-produced organ *A Candeia (The Lamp)* does excellent propaganda. The *Catholic Citizen* frequently quotes from its pages.

During the year a leaflet was published setting forth the revised constitution of the Society. His

Eminence Cardinal Lemme called down "Divine blessings on so interesting, Christian and highly beneficent a work," and His Excellency Bishop J. P. Alves wrote: "I am certain that the new constitution is increasingly calculated to create an atmosphere beneficial to the work of feminine culture and women's activities."

One of the dearest wishes of Alliança was fulfilled in that the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary of Rio have put at the disposal of the Society a beautiful room which can be used as a library and reading-room and where meetings and conferences can be held.

The President designed banners for Alliança and a badge with the motto: "In veritate, in caritate laetitia." On May 30th, St. Joan's day, the banners were officially blessed. The Rev. François Gentil Costa, Curé of the Church of St. Peter Alcantara, Petropolis, was delegated by His Excellency Bishop J. P. Alves to carry out this ceremony. He spoke a few words of sympathy and encouragement and prayed with the members of Alliança at Our Lady's altar. One of the banners is dedicated to Our Lady of Saudade, the other to St. Joan, the two patrons of Alliança.

A letter was sent by Miss Lisboa to the President of the Republic of Ecuador pleading for the retention of women's right to vote in the July elections. Miss Lisboa asked twenty-six other organisations in South America to co-operate in taking similar action.

Alliança sent Dona Olympia de Passos as a delegate to Geneva during the Equal Status Campaign there.

As the Constitution of Brazil gives equality of status between men and women, Alliança concentrates on educating women to make good use of their citizenship.

French Section

L'Alliance Ste Jeanne d'Arc, under its President of Honour, Mme. de Romanet, Mme. Pesson Depret, President, and Mlle. Leonël, Hon. Secretary, has continued to do good work.

During January, at the invitation of the President of "La Ligue Suffragiste," Mlle. Lenoël gave feminist lectures in some of the Swiss Catholic Cantons and was able to interview members of the Swiss clergy. In February, l'Alliance collaborated with other feminist organisations in pressing for the full civil capacity of the married woman, under the Renoult Bill. L'Alliance took part in a deputation, demanding this object, to the President of the Senatorial Commission from over thirty Women's Societies. In May, on the Feast of St. Joan, a wreath was laid at the foot of the statue of St. Joan in Paris by the President of l'Alliance, Madame Pesson Depret. Mme. Cordelier, Secretary of "La Femme au Travail," spoke to l'Alliance on women's work. An enquiry was made into the differentiation in salary according to sex written into recent collective agreements between employers and syndicates of employees, and information was sent to various organisations.

A letter in favour of the full civil emancipation of the married woman, under the Renoult Bill, was sent to all the Catholic Senators and afterwards appeared in "La Française."

Senator Gautherot was approached on the subject of African women; documented information was supplied to him together with the views of l'Alliance. At the International Congress of the Christian Family, Mme. Pesson Depret as President of l'Alliance, asked for consideration of the abolition

of polygamy and support of the work Missionaries were doing in this direction. Mlle. Lenoël lectured on the position of African women to "La Ligue du Droit des Femmes."

Two letters were sent to the Government pressing for complete abolition of State Regulation of Prostitution at the time that the Sellier Bill dealing with licensed houses was before Parliament.

During September l'Alliance sent Mlle. Delaval to Geneva as its representative, and she wholeheartedly co-operated in the "Equal Status Campaign." L'Alliance gave valuable help in connection with the Memorandum on the Position of the Women of "Native" Races presented to the League.

The *Bulletin de l'Alliance Ste Jeanne d'Arc* continues to do much valuable propaganda. It has published articles on the Semaine Sociale of Clermont Ferrand ("Woman as a Person").

L'Alliance has collaborated in the work of the Feminist Studies Committee of the Musée Social.

Members attended a retreat given by Rev. Father Lambert, S.J., for the "Union Spirituelle des Femmes."

We regret to record the death during the year of Mme. J. Aubey, a devoted member of l'Alliance, and sister of the Hon. Secretary, Mlle. Lenoël. Mme. Aubey supported l'Alliance in every way and acted as its president at a very difficult time.—R.I.P.

League of Coloured Peoples

The Seventh Annual Report of the League of Coloured Peoples contains an account of the question of the admission of coloured nurses to our leading voluntary hospitals for training as probationers. A letter sponsored by the League and signed by many eminent people was sent to *The Times*. The following extracts speak for themselves:

With regard to nurses, while we appreciate the fact that the London County Council hospitals as well as Guy's and St. Mary's in London, and the Birmingham General Hospital, admit coloured probationers, the Overseas Nursing Association made enquiries at eighteen hospitals in London and the Provinces and were told that none of these would admit coloured probationers.

To make what is practically a colour bar among medical students and nurses, creates bitterness and has unfortunate effects overseas.

We realise that some prejudice exists in this matter and that the Hospital Managers and Matrons have this in mind. But British people are tolerant and we believe that, if the opportunity were given, experience of the ability and courtesy of these students and nurses would alter this attitude where it is present. It is not possible for some of these training facilities to be got in many Empire countries, and even when some training is given, exclusion from the possibilities of obtaining the higher British qualifications and experience shuts out also promotion to the highest overseas posts.

"Our latest information," states the League, "is that the Colonial Office has set up a committee to study this matter. We have been interviewed by this committee which will no doubt produce a report in due time."

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LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Miss Bowden, 22 Fern Grove, Liverpool, 8.

A meeting was held on Friday, March 11th, at 25 Croxteth Road, by kind invitation of Mrs. McCann.

Miss Tidd Pratt, Leader of the Liverpool Women Patrols, was the speaker.

We hope to have Dr. Mary Cardwell in April to speak on the Sterilisation of Mental Defectives. "Why Not Sterilisation?" will be her title.

OLDHAM BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Miss Stella Mannion, 46 Hillside Avenue, Clarksfield, Oldham.

The Oldham Branch of St. Joan's Alliance was formally founded at a meeting held, by kind permission of Mrs. Kilcoyne, at her home, on February 18th. Mrs. Kilcoyne was elected Chairman, Miss V. Schofield, Hon. Treasurer, and Miss Stella Mannion, Hon. Secretary. Plans were discussed for increasing the membership and for distribution of the *Catholic Citizen*. A Beetle Drive was arranged for the near future, and several members hoped to attend the Annual Meeting in London.

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