

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

WOMEN'S SERVICE

Organ of St. Joan's Alliance (formerly The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society).
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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

Italy's First Women Police

By P. D. Cummins

The date : August 21st, 1961. The place : Milan. Reporters hurled questions at the pretty, dark-haired girl, cameras clicked repeatedly.

"Your name?"

"Virginia Nicastro."

"Were you born and educated in Milan?"

"No—my home-town is Caltanissetta in Sicily."

"How old are you?"

"Twenty-eight."

"What about the work? How do you think you'll get on?"

"Give me a chance—I've only just arrived, it's my first day on duty," laughed the girl, "And stop taking pictures of me—I'm not a film-star, I'm a police inspector!"

That, of course, was what made Virginia Nicastro news. She was one of the small force of women police, sixty-eight all told, which had just come into being in Italy. The dream of the Honourable Maria Pia Dal Canton, a member of the Christian Democrat Party, who had long urged that a corps of women police should be formed, was a reality at last, and the neat, dark-blue uniform, the smart beret appeared for the first time in Milan, Rome, Genoa, Trieste, Turin, Cagliari and Naples.

It was in 1955 that Signora Dal Canton first introduced her bill, but it met with a mixed reception, in spite of the fact that women police had been so signally successful in England, France, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Finland and the United States. The usual outcry was raised: "The work isn't suitable for women," but women thought otherwise. From every province in Italy, applications poured in, and within a short space of time, three thousand had enrolled as prospective policewomen. The arguments for and against the bill dragged on and on; finally, in 1959, the bill was passed. Each of the applicants was interviewed, but only a few were found to be suitable. The minimum age for joining the force was twenty-four, the maximum thirty-

seven; no married woman was eligible. (It was stated, however, that if a woman married after she had become a member of the force, it would not debar her from remaining in the service.) In addition, no candidate could be considered unless she held a degree in either jurisprudence or social science. The numbers were gradually whittled down, and at length the first batch of hand-picked girls began their training at the University of Rome.

The course for women recruits is an intensive one and lasts for five months. The trainees attend lectures on criminology, pathology, civil law and administration—the examination papers are stiffly marked, and not all succeed in reaching the required standard. There is also a practical side to the course—the girls learn to drive (they must pass the driving test and demonstrate their ability to carry out emergency repairs); they attend P.T. and ju-jitsu classes, and are further expected to attain a high degree of accuracy at target-shooting, even though they will not carry firearms.

At present, as has been said, there are only sixty-eight women police in Italy. A further hundred and seventy-two will have completed their training at the end of February, 1963, and the aim is to raise the strength of the force to a total of four hundred and fifty.

The women inspectors are chiefly engaged in clerical work in the various stations to which they have been assigned. They also act in an advisory capacity on all matters concerned with public morals—prostitution, etc. Unlike our own police-women, they do not patrol the streets where there is an endless need for their services—with their training, their scientific method of approach, their intuition, they could be a real power for good. Their male colleagues are too often apt to get tough, as anyone who has seen the *Celere*, the flying squads go into action, will agree—to see the *Celere* indiscriminately belabouring the heads of all who come within reach is a nauseating experience. Crime in Italy, it must be remembered, particularly in the

South, springs largely from poverty, unemployment and appalling living conditions—men, women and children are forced into every kind of unsavoury racket in order to keep themselves from starving. Women police could do invaluable work in distinguishing between those who deliberately break the law and those who are driven into doing so—with their knowledge of human nature, they could do much towards setting these last offenders on the right road. It is sincerely to be hoped that Virginia Nicastro and her fellow police-inspectors will be given far wider scope, and will not have their duties confined to mere paper-work. May they soon become as familiar a sight in the streets of Italy as the policewomen of our own towns and cities.

PRISONERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS

On October 13th, 1961, at The Suffragette Fellowship, Prisoners' Day Celebrations, a fascinating account of her work and experiences as a senior welfare officer in the prison service was given by Mrs. S. Trotter at Crosby Hall. There are only five senior welfare officers in this particular service in the country; in addition to being the only woman amongst this select few, Mrs. Trotter has the distinction of having been appointed to the largest of all our prisons, Wandsworth. No one was more surprised at this appointment than Mrs. Trotter herself. She had always been deeply interested in social work, and had in fact qualified as an almoner. Glancing through the Official Appointments one morning, she came upon one which read: "Applications are invited for the post of Senior Welfare Officer, also for posts of social workers in H.M. Prison Service." She answered it, and received a reply, asking her to come for an interview. What to wear? It was a momentous question—finally she decided not to don "sensible" mannish clothes, but to make herself as attractive as possible! Whether her appearance had anything to do with it or not, Mrs. Trotter came through the interview with flying colours, and to her great amazement was given, not the minor post which was all she had hoped for, but the plum—the board appointed her Senior Welfare Officer to Wandsworth Prison.

Mrs. Trotter never wears anything that faintly resembles uniform—she is convinced that it raises the morale of the prisoners to see their Welfare Officer charmingly dressed. Each day she visits as many of the inmates as she possibly can—she maintains that while board meetings, etc., are unavoidable, personal contact with the men is absolutely vital. A very remarkable woman indeed, Mrs. Trotter, and one who is certain to make her mark in the annals of penology.

D U P L I C A T I N G, verbatim shorthand, typing (Tapes/Mss), translating.—Mabel Eyles, 10 Beaconsfield Road, London, N.11. Ent. 3324.

DAME VERA MEMORIAL

On Saturday, October 28th, at Westminster Cathedral, members of St. Joan's Alliance joined an impressive company of Wrens and representatives of other organisations in a moving informal ceremony when Father Christopher Laughton Mathews blessed the Memorial to his mother Dame Vera. The Memorial depicts St. Nicholas, patron of seafarers, and the inscription on it reads: "Pray for Dame Vera Laughton Mathews in whose memory this mosaic was given." Father Christopher read passages from the Old Testament in praise of the valiant woman, and from the New Testament Our Lord's promise to Martha of the resurrection. After the De Profundis and a brief prayer, he blessed the Memorial and all those present.

Later in the day, representatives of the Alliance were the guests of the Association of Wrens at Alexandra House. After tea the President, Dame Jocelyn Woollcombe, presented the portrait of Dame Vera to the Director of the Women's Royal Naval Service who accepted it on behalf of H.M.S. Dauntless. The portrait, a copy by Miss Stella Schmolle of the original by Anthony Devas which hangs in the Imperial War Museum, will be an inspiration to all new recruits to the Wrens as they enter for their training. As Dame Jocelyn said: "Here is the portrait of a woman of strong character, of courage and firmness, yet also of great humanity and kindness. She is shown in an attitude which all who knew her at her desk will recognise as characteristic—ready and alert in body and mind, yet calm and wise in reflection. This is Dame Vera as we knew her."

Among the distinguished guests were Sir John Lang, past Secretary of the Admiralty and his successor Sir Clifford Jarrett and his wife; Dame Jean Railton, former Director W.R.A.C. and representatives of the Girl Guides Association, the Status of Women Committee and the Suffragette Fellowship.

As has been previously stated in *The Catholic Citizen*, after providing for the portrait and a contribution towards the Mosaic placed in Westminster Cathedral by the family and friends of Dame Vera, the interest on the remaining capital will be used for the benefit of daughters of ex-W.R.N.S. officers or ratings, to enable them to take full advantage of higher education or special training likely to develop character and potential capabilities. Thus, Dame Vera's work goes on.

We ask the prayers of our members for Magdalene Maeve Weale, and for Edith McCormick of Highgate who died recently in Australia. Both were early members of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society. R.I.P.

We send our deep sympathy to Miss Margaret Flynn on the death of her sister Teresa in Melbourne, and ask our members to pray for her.

Notes and Comments

The countless friends and admirers of the late Lord Pethick-Lawrence will rejoice to hear that there is to be a permanent memorial to his long life and work for others. The sponsors of the memorial, amongst whom are Dame Sybil Thorn-dike and the Earl of Longford, have agreed to present a portrait of him to the Village Hall in Peaslake (the Surrey village with which he was associated for so many years and from which he took his title), and to present a plaque to be erected in the Pethick-Lawrence House in Dorking. The plaque in this community centre will commemorate the great contribution that both Fred and Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence made to the emancipation of women.

Those who would like to join in this tribute to one of our greatest public citizens, a man who was truly dedicated, should send their donations to Mrs. Groom-Smith, 11 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, London, W.C.2.

* * *

Ten years as a Minister—that is the record of Dame Patricia Hornsby-Smith, D.B.E., who first took ministerial office in 1951 as Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Health in Sir Winston Churchill's newly-formed Government, and who resigned as Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance in September of this year in order to make a new career for herself in industry. She became politically minded at the age of sixteen, and soon established herself as a leading light in the Young Conservative Movement. It was obvious from the start that, with her ability and drive, she would go far; she did indeed justify that expectation, but one cannot help feeling that she could and should have reached greater heights. The fact, however, that she should have championed the Street Offences Bill cannot but be regarded by the women's organisations as a dark blot on an otherwise shining career.

Dame Patricia is succeeded by thirty-six-year-old Mrs. Heather Thatcher, the Conservative M.P. for Finchley. Mrs. Thatcher made an immediate impact on the House with her maiden speech when she put the case for her Bill—the Public Bodies (Admission of the Press to Meetings) Bill. In spite of violent opposition, she succeeded in steering it through with all the skill of a veteran Minister. Now, after only two years as an M.P. she is a Front Bencher—a remarkable achievement. In reply to a letter of congratulations from St. Joan's Alliance, Mrs. Thatcher expresses her thanks, and adds: "I am very much enjoying my new job."

Seventy-two-year-old Miss Norah Wilmot who has been successfully training horses for thirty years does not exist! When she applied for a trainer's licence after her father's death in 1931, the Jockey Club decided that she was "not a person within the meaning of their rules," and the licence was given to her head lad. It is under his name, not hers, that a horse she has trained is entered for a race and not infrequently wins it.

To add insult to injury, Miss Wilmot has now been told by the Newmarket Stewards that she must no longer saddle or unsaddle her horses on the race-course or superintend them in the stable-block—this must be done in future by the head lad. No wonder that she commented bitterly: "I am a most unhappy woman—after all these years as a trainer, I am nothing." When will the Jockey Club and the Newmarket Stewards come to their senses? By refusing to recognise that a woman trainer is a person, by denying her her privileges, they are making themselves utterly ridiculous.

* * *

Now that Christmas is approaching, members might like to send "A Venture in Faith" as a gift to their friends. The cost with postage is 5s. 2½d. We should also be glad to send, on behalf of any member, a copy to a library, convent, organisation, or individual likely to be interested in our history.

* * *

We have just received a generous gift of £10 to our Golden Jubilee Fund from an Irish member of St. Joan's Alliance who wishes to remain anonymous. "I know my contribution is belated, but I hope it's not too late," she writes in her letter. No, it is not too late—the Fund remains open till the end of the year.

* * *

Please to remember the twenty-fifth of November! On Saturday, November the 25th, the CHRISTMAS SALE will be held at the clubroom, St. Patrick's, Soho (12 to 5.30). So please:

Please support our Christmas Sale,
Backed by you, it cannot fail.
We need gifts for every stall,
Do please send them, big or small.
Help is wanted on the day,
If you're free, do write and say
You will come and lend a hand
With the teas or at a stand.
On you, members, we rely
To come along and buy, buy, buy.
Rally round, enjoy the fun
And make our Sale a bumper one!

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

BRITISH SECTION OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE
AND

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

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Restrictions on the Employment of Married Women

in Great Britain, Australia, South Africa and Malta

A marriage bar for women is enforced in the Foreign Service, though it was abolished in 1946 in the Home Civil Service. There is now no marriage bar for women police in England, but in Scotland this restriction is still maintained.

Three of the "Big Five" Banks—Barclay's, Midland and Westminster—and Martin's Bank, require the resignation of their women officers on marriage. They cease to be part of the permanent establishment, but may be re-engaged in a temporary capacity.

Clause I of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, reads that "A person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to or holding any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering or assuming or carrying on any civil profession or vocation . . ." It was believed at the time it was passed that the wording safeguarded the position in employment of the married woman, and that it would make illegal their dismissal by reason only of marriage. Test cases were brought on behalf of certain women teachers dismissed on marriage by Local Education Authorities (*Price v. Rhondda U.D.C.*, 1923; *Pennell & others v. The Mayor etc. of East Ham*, 1925, and *Short v. Poole Corporation*, 1925), and as a result of these proceedings it was established that, while marriage did not disqualify a woman from holding any post, it merely empowered, but did not compel employing bodies to retain the services of women who married. The dismissal of married women teachers was made illegal by the Education Act, 1944, Clause 24, Sect. 3 of which reads: "No woman shall be disqualified for employment as a teacher in any county school or voluntary school, or be dismissed from such employment, by reason only of marriage." But it would seem that, as a result of the decisions given in the courts in 1923 and 1925, women in other employments are not protected by law.

With full employment and a shortage of female labour, few women are likely to be affected at the present time, but one or two Local Authorities recently proposed to meet the need to provide employment for the abnormal number of school-leavers owing to the post-war "bulge" in the birth rate by the dismissal of married women employees.

* * *

While there are no known restrictions in Australia, South Africa and Malta on the employment of married women in private undertakings, in the public services it is a very different story.

Let us take Australia first. Section 49 of the Commonwealth Public Service Act, 1928-1956 states that:

- (1) No married woman shall be eligible for employment, either permanently or temporarily, in the Commonwealth Service unless the Board certifies that there are special circumstances which make her employment desirable.
- (2) Every female officer shall be deemed to have retired from the Commonwealth Public Service upon her marriage unless the Board certifies that there are special circumstances which make her employment desirable.

If, however, a married woman continues to be employed "in special circumstances" in the Commonwealth Service, any benefit she may gain is offset by Section 4C, sub-section I of the Commonwealth Superannuation Act which reads: "A married woman who becomes an employee after the commencement of this section shall not be entitled or required to contribute to the Fund or to the Provident Account." In other words, she is debarred from retaining her superannuation rights, and forfeits her pension.

Women who marry and are deemed automatically to have retired from the Commonwealth Service also receive shabby treatment. They may only claim back the amount they have been compelled by the Superannuation Act to contribute; even though they may have been contributing for a long period and interest has accrued on the sum paid in, they are not entitled to one halfpenny of this interest.

Widows and divorced women who were employed in the Commonwealth Service prior to their marriage and have been re-employed cannot claim any benefit in respect of previous service—marriage has effectively cancelled that out. What is truly outrageous, however, is the following fact. In the event of their father's death, each child of a widower or divorced man who has been employed in the Commonwealth Service is awarded an annual pension until he or she reaches the age of sixteen, but the children of widows and divorced women are totally excluded from this pension scheme, despite the fact that these same widows and divorced women have been required to pay approximately the same contributory rate as their male colleagues. The root of this glaring injustice lies in Section 33 of the Superannuation Act which makes provision for the children of deceased widowers and divorced men, but makes no mention whatsoever of widows and divorced women.

The Commission of Enquiry into Public Service Recruitment is now reviewing the position of married women employees, and has strongly recommended that Section 49, sub-sections 1 and 2, of the Public Service Act should be amended. The Committee considers that these sub-sections are anachronistic, and that the retention of the services of married women should be the rule and not the exception. It is good to be able to record that at least one step has been taken in the right direction.

The same restrictions on the employment of married women in the public services are to be found in South Africa. Those who wish to marry must give notice of their intended marriage and the date to the head of the Department, and are expected to resign; if they do not, they are dismissed in accordance with Section 14 of the Public Service Act of 1957 which reads: "A female officer who marries shall be deemed to have retired voluntarily from public service with effect from the date of her marriage unless the Committee recommends and the Minister or Administrator approves that she be retained in the public service." This proviso, however, might just as well have been omitted, for in actual fact, women who marry are *never* kept on.

The Public Service Act does not lay down that married women must not be appointed in a permanent capacity, but it is the Commission's policy not to appoint married women, and no exception to that policy has ever been made.

In Malta, there is no legislation prohibiting or restricting the employment of married women in public service, but legislation or not, the Government has set its face against the retention of married women—those who intend to marry are invariably asked to hand in their resignations. Married women teachers are not debarred from the schools, nevertheless they are severely penalised—the salary they receive is far lower than that of their unmarried female colleagues. "Take it or leave it"—that is the Government's attitude towards married women teachers.

It is worth noting that the Civil Code of Malta lays down that a wife cannot contract any obligation without the consent of her husband—in other words, if she wishes to go out to work, she must first obtain his permission. While it is unlikely in this day and age that a husband should refuse his permission, he is nevertheless empowered to do so. Surely the time has come when this piece of archaic nonsense which classifies a woman as the property of her husband should be struck out of Malta's Civil Code.

P. D. Cummins

LOGIC!

For years it has been understood that the National Association of Schoolmasters was fundamentally opposed to the principle of equal pay for men and women teachers, which would, reads one of its pamphlets, "result in an injustice to either the teacher or the public."

Now, faced with threatened strikes of teachers, the Minister of Education has come to an agreement with the N.A.S. that they may have representation on the Burnham Committee, from which they have hitherto been excluded, provided they accept the fact that equal pay is national policy and will not allow opposition to it to obstruct the working of the Committee.

The resulting situation seems confusing, even to N.A.S. members for, while their General Secretary explains that no concession has been made and the Association retain the right to oppose equal pay, the Hon. Secretary of their Middlesex Federation claims that many N.A.S. members agree with "the philosophy of equal pay"—What they want is separate consideration of salaries for men and women teachers; and if a scale that is suitable for men is also paid to women, the Association would not object.

If these men both speak for their Association, it seems that the N.A.S. is, as we always thought, opposed to equal pay: all they want is more pay for men teachers, but they will not object if women have the same pay as the men. If this does not make sense, its protagonists may, at least, enliven proceedings on the Burnham Committee.

International Notes

Afghanistan. A new law concerning consent to marriage, minimum age of marriage and registration of marriages was promulgated in Afghanistan on 19th October, 1960. Article 1 of the law provides that marriages, concluded with the consent of both parties, shall be registered by a competent court which issues a written certificate of the marriage. The new marriage law fixes the minimum age of marriage at 15 for men and women. The marriage of a woman under such age is valid only when the competent authority agrees to register the marriage and to issue a certificate to be delivered to her legal representative. Article 19 of the law provides that the marriage of a minor woman (who is defined by the Act (Art. 2) as a woman under 15 years of age) cannot take place when her legal representative is not of good repute or when it is considered that the marriage is against the minor's interests. — *News letter on the Status of Women—United Nations.*

Australia. The Marriage Act, 1961, received the Royal Assent on May 6th, 1961, and applies to all States of the Commonwealth and to Norfolk Island. This Act applies to the marriage of a person domiciled in Australia wherever that marriage took place. Section 11 of the Act establishes the minimum age of marriage at eighteen for men and sixteen for women. Marriage below this age, sixteen for boys, fourteen for girls may be ordered by a judge if he is satisfied that "the circumstances of the case are so exceptional and unusual as to justify the making of the order."

A marriage must be solemnised by or in the presence of an authorised celebrant after receipt of notice given by the parties and in the presence of at least two persons over the age of eighteen years.

Part VI of the Act makes provision for legitimisation of children by the subsequent marriage of the parents whether before or after the commencement of the Act and regardless of any legal impediment to the marriage existing at the time of birth.

The first new series of stamps to commemorate great women of Australia was issued on September 20th. It carries the likeness of Dame Nellie Melba, the centenary of whose birth falls this year.

Belgium. The loss of Madame Ciselet's services as a Senator is a matter for deep regret. Just how great that loss is can be measured by these words of the Belgian Open Door Council which appeared in the Bulletin of the National Council of the Women of Belgium: "Without entering into politics or expressing an opinion on the causes that have brought about this state of affairs, the fact that

Mme Ciselet is no longer Senator is a severe blow to the woman's cause. She stood up resolutely for women's rights, and they could count on her absolutely whenever it was necessary to obtain support in Parliament for the woman's point of view."

Ethiopia. The Emperor has appointed Miss Judith Imru Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Ghana. In the reorganisation of Ministries, two women have been appointed as Deputy Ministers, Mrs. Susana Al-Hassan, first Member of the Northern and Upper Regions, and Miss Regina Asamany, Member for Volta Region.

Ireland. In the General Election recently held in Ireland, three women were returned: Mrs. Brigid Hogan O'Higgins, Fine Gael candidate for Galway East, Mrs. Celia Lynch, Fianna Fail deputy for Dublin North East, and Mrs. Honor B. Crowley, Fianna Fail deputy for Kerry South.

Mrs. O'Higgins, who is twenty-nine, is the youngest of the trio, dark-haired, vivacious and charming. She prefers the country to the town, and spends her free time on the three hundred acre farm which she and her sisters have inherited. Mrs. Celia Lynch is a widow, the mother of seven children, the youngest of whom is ten. Despite her large family, however, she serves on numerous committees, amongst them the Dublin Health Authority, the Dublin Housing Committee and the Dublin Vocation Committee—this is her third term in office. Mrs. Honor Crowley is also a widow, she was born and educated in London, and has been a member of the Dail for sixteen years.

These three women members have very different personalities, but they have one thing in common—each of them has political affiliations. Mrs. O'Higgins is the daughter of Mr. Patrick Hogan who became first Minister for Agriculture at the age of twenty-nine, and the wife of Michael O'Higgins, the Fine Gael Deputy. Mrs. Celia Lynch's husband was prominent all his life in politics; Mrs. Crowley's father, Mr. John P. Boland, was Nationalist M.P. from 1900-1918, and her husband was deputy for Kerry from 1927-1945. It has often been asserted that no candidate would be returned in Ireland unless he had political affiliations—I would go so far as to say that where women candidates are concerned, this is the plain, unvarnished truth.

Ruanda-Urundi. Women were granted the right to vote in time for the first legislative election held recently.

Uganda. The process of the canonisation of the Blessed Martyrs Charles Lwanga, Matthias Kalembo Mulumba and their Companions has been resumed forty years after their death. There are no women in this Company of Martyrs, but, as *Missions and Missionaries* tells us, there were Christian women, as well as Christian men, who were prepared to die for their faith. Amongst them was Princess Claire, daughter of King Mutesa, who, at the risk of her life, refused to join with the people and pay tribute to an amulet that was an object of their religious worship. Another heroic woman, the sister of one of the Martyrs, looked at her brother's body and said to his executioners: "If you slew him because you hated his religion, know that I too am a Christian. Kill me as you killed him." Her courage and fervour impressed the chief executioner so deeply that he ordered her life to be spared.

Paraguay. Under the law of July 5th, 1961, women now have "the same rights and obligations as men."

United Nations. *The Countrywoman.* Reviewing the UNESCO Conference of African States on the Development of Education in Africa which was held earlier in the year at Addis Ababa, Mrs. Pumla Kisosonkole, who acted as observer for the Associated Countrywomen of the World and the International Council of Women, spoke of the great dearth of women at the Conference—there was only one woman—delegate from the Ivory Coast. Mrs. Kisosonkole, the former president of the Uganda Council of Women naturally felt it was her duty to stress the importance of including women in national delegations since they had a vital part to play in the establishment of a wider field of education for women and girls. She was so carried away that she spoke with even greater vehemence than she had intended; at the end of her speech to this "conference of men," she sat down with misgivings, but to her relief none of them took exception to her words. On the contrary, many of them came up to her afterwards, and asked her if she would give them advice that would enable them to improve the position of women in their own particular countries.

The General Assembly of the United Nations has elected the first woman chairman of the Fourth Committee (Trusteeship), Miss Angie E. Brooks (Liberia), who represents her country on the Trusteeship Council. To the Third Committee (Social Humanitarian and Cultural), Miss Judith Imru (Ethiopia) has been elected vice-chairman and Miss J. D. Pelt (Netherlands), Rapporteur.

Personalite de la Femme Katangaise*

Parmi les innombrables volumes qui traitent avec plus ou moins de passion d'une Afrique en ébullition, il est réconfortant de rencontrer un ouvrage scientifique, écrit en toute sérénité sur la personnalité de la femme katangaise.

Premier volume publié par l'Institut de Psychologie et de Pédagogie de l'Université Lovanium, à Léopoldville, il s'agit de l'oeuvre posthume d'un membre regretté de l'Alliance, Maria Leblanc, une auxiliaire féminine internationale qui, après de brillantes études de philosophie à Louvain, se spécialisa en psychologie scientifique à l'Université de Chicago. Déjà touchée à mort, elle repartit en octobre 1958 enseigner à l'Université de Lovanium, à Léopoldville; elle y termina sa thèse de psychologie juste avant de mourir à 33 ans.

Par la méthode des tests scientifiques et d'une patiente et pénétrante investigation, l'auteur retrace l'évolution de la personnalité de la femme katangaise; on reste confondu devant l'ampleur et la complexité des problèmes posés par la nécessité d'un ajustement individuel constant qu'imposent les transformations accélérées de la société, engendrées elles-mêmes par le développement toujours croissant de l'industrialisation et de l'urbanisation.

Devant ce beau travail qui sait unir la rigueur scientifique et la chaleur humaine, on regrette une fois de plus la disparition prématurée d'une personnalité pleine de promesses. Cet ouvrage est aussi réconfortant car il permet d'espérer qu'un Congo, actuellement déchiré, pourra avec l'aide de ses femmes comme de ses hommes, jouer encore un rôle constructif dans la nouvelle Afrique.

M.L.B.

* Par Maria Leblanc—Docteur en Psychologie, Maître de Conférence à l'Université Lovanium de Léopoldville. Ed. E. Nauwelaerts—Louvain—1960.

REVIEW

The Shield, October, 1961, organ of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene (price 2s. 6d.), appears in a new and particularly attractive cover. The delicate and beautiful drawing of Josephine Butler stands out strikingly against the vivid orange background—the colour is symbolic of the flame she lit and which will never be allowed to go out.

The President of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, the Right Hon. Lord Stonham, O.B.E., writes of what has impressed him most during his first year in office. He records small victories hardly gained, and stresses that the Association's most important task is to make every effort to bring about the drastic amendment of Section I of the Street Offences Act.

Also in this issue is the address recently given by Mr. Anthony Greenwood, J.P., M.P., to the I.A.F. Congress at Cambridge on The Street Offences Act and its Operation. In an illuminating article, "Recent Legal Decisions," Henry Toch draws attention to the problems arising out of the Street Offences Act. Mr. Toch points out that, while the Act does not mention it, a "common prostitute" is always a woman. A homosexual who solicits is a male prostitute, but in law he is not a "common" prostitute. No man, comments Mr. Toch acidly, can be as common as that!

BOOKS RECEIVED

The True Face of Padre Pio. A Portrait of Italy's "Miracle Saint". By Maria Winowska. Souvenir Press, 21s.

Go Well, Stay Well. South Africa 1956-1960. By Helen Stanton. Hodder & Stoughton, 16s.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

D.B. in "The Catholic Citizen", 15th Nov., 1936

Fr. Hull informs us that "the sublime is an embodiment of strength, power and greatness; the beautiful is the embodiment of the smooth and soft and gentle"; that "in the ideal type of the sexes man stands for the sublime and woman for the beautiful"; and that "woman is amateur in everything that comes in her way. She is not supposed or expected to be great in any one thing." But what of the sublime heroism of the martyr saints mentioned in the Mass, Felicity, Perpetua and the rest? And were the achievements of St. Teresa of Avila, St. Catherine of Siena or Madame Curie "amateurish"? Father Hull says of woman that "God has made it so easy for her to be good," but that "capriciousness, vanity, jealousy and vindictiveness" are the characteristics of her sex. Nevertheless he writes rhetorically, "to the lazy husband she must be a stimulus . . . to the hot-blooded husband a cooling breeze, and to the cold-blooded husband a gentle zephyr." We are told only "by way of exception can some women sometimes keep a secret," and that "woman never demands any amusement at all. She only takes amusement when she has nothing else to do. Work is her amusement."—"Love, Courtship and Marriage," by Ernest R. Hull, S.J.

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