

WOMEN'S SERVICE

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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

# 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.

## Employment of Married Women.

By COUNCILLOR EMILY C. FORTEY, J.P.

One of the most important aspects of the struggle of women for economic independence is the claim put forward by married women to be free to work in the profession or occupation of their choice. It is a claim apparently sanctioned by law, since the Sex Disqualification Removal Act of 1919 provides that "A person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from entering or assuming or carrying on any civil profession or vocation." Yet strangely enough Government Departments and Local Authorities whose members have the duty of administering the law, are the principal offenders against the spirit of the Act. It is therefore pleasing to recall that within the last year the Lancashire County Council has sanctioned the employment of married women as teachers under that Authority, and the Manchester City Council has enjoined a similar course on a reluctant Education Committee. In less progressive cities many anomalies are to be met with. In the case of one Corporation, married women are employed in the following positions: Medical Officer (one), teachers under the Health and Mental Deficiency Committees, caretakers, bath etc., attendants cleaners. There are no married women clerks. Health Visitors under the Health Committee are not required to resign on marriage; school nurses under the Education Committee must do so. Women Teachers

under the Education Committee can only be employed, if married, in non-provided schools, or for temporary work in provided schools. They are employed as stop gaps to fill temporary vacancies when required. As a rule they are experienced teachers and often much more efficient than those whom they replace. They must be available at any time, and could therefore equally be available at all times. Yet they are debarred from permanent employment and only made use of for the sake of convenience and economy. There can be no justification for such inconsistent action on the part of a Local Authority. No principle can be adduced which would sanction the employment of married teachers by one Committee and forbid it by another Committee of the same Council.

The great champion of women's liberty, J. S. Mills, wrote in 1869: "There ought to be nothing to prevent faculties exceptionally adapted to any other pursuit from obeying their vocation notwithstanding marriage," adding that "the power of earning is essential to the dignity of a woman if she has not independent property." It is these two ideas—the fulfilment of a vocation and the attainment of economic independence—which actuate the movement on behalf of the married women's claim. The choice of a vocation is a very intimate and in a sense a very sacred thing. Interference with it

by artificial barriers is an outrage on the personality. This is recognised by Catholics generally in the case of a religious vocation, but it is true in some measure of whatever may be claimed as the responsible choice of an individual. This choice in the case of married women is often, thank God, the care of the home and the rearing of a little family, but as the children grow this work makes less demand upon the mother's time and she will be free to pursue other work. In some cases indeed, the skilled care of the little ones even in early days may best be handed to others to whom it is a profession. The wealthy have their nurseries; the less well-endowed should have their nursery schools. Such institutions, if multiplied, would do much to take away the reproach from married women workers that the home and the children are neglected. And it must not be forgotten that if a mother can dispense with some of the personal attention she has been accustomed to give to the child's physical needs there are higher relationships which she cannot relinquish. It is the influence of her personality which will affect the child's life. Suppose that the great actress whose death we have lately mourned had abandoned her profession in order to devote herself more closely, if possible, to the bringing up of her children, is it not true that they, in common with the whole nation, would have been the losers? For if Ellen Terry had sacrificed her art it would have struck at the very root of her personality. And what is true of a great woman is true also in some degree of all who have devoted themselves to any kind of work.

It is sometimes objected against the employment of married women that it keeps young girls out of employment. Surely, however, the most important question is: Who would do the work most efficiently? In the case of teachers the married women have had, as a rule, years of experience and in the interests of the children, which should be the first consideration, they should be retained. Moreover, if marriage has enriched their own lives, they can make a greater contribution to the lives of others. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, speaking at Birkbeck College in March, is reported as saying

"I would like to correct the principle of the L.C.C. and other institutions which seem to think that women when they become married are not suitable as teachers and doctors. I think that they are more suitable."

Again the fact that there is already an income (the husband's) going into a house is often adduced as an argument against the employment of a wife. But by similar reasoning no man should be employed if either he or his wife have any private source of income; no son or daughter should add to the income of the home. The absurdity of this is apparent. To be consistent those who hold the above view are willing that the married woman should go to work if her husband is physically disabled or mentally deranged or if she is separated or divorced—thus proving that the objection to her work on the ground of possible neglect of home and children was not after all an insuperable one!

Until the claim which is here advocated is fully admitted, it is incumbent on women whether married or unmarried to unite in support of a principle which is vital to human progress, for as J. S. Mill reminds us "Every restraint on the freedom of conduct of any human creature . . . leaves the species less rich, to an inappreciable degree, in all that makes life valuable to the individual human being."

The attention of all members is urgently called to the Public Meeting, on November 26th, 8 p.m., at the large Caxton Hall, Westminster, on the report of the Street Offences Committee. It is imperative that the Government should be left in no doubt as to the opinion of the Women's Societies on the need for the immediate passing of an equal law applicable to all persons who annoy or molest others in the streets or public places, on the evidence of the person annoyed. It is therefore of vital importance that the Meeting should be of a really representative character, and we urge everyone to do their utmost to be present. The Speakers list is a notable one, and proves the intense public interest on this matter, which has been lately very much to the fore. Details of the Meeting will be found on the back page.

## Notes and Comments.

We give elsewhere a report of the special meeting of St. Joan's S.P.A., at which it was decided, as we fully expected, that the Alliance must continue to work for the remainder of its programme. Many members, both of the Old and New Guard, who were unable to be present, sent messages supporting the resolution put forward by the Executive advocating the continuance of the Alliance.

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In connection with the first Conference of the Codification of International Law, to be held in 1929, convened by the League of Nations Committee for the progressive codification of International Law, we note with satisfaction the following resolution passed by the Assembly of the League:

"The Assembly, considering that the question of nationality which is on the agenda of the Conference is of special interest to women, and that Article 7 of the Covenant embodies the principle that all positions under or in connection with the League shall be open equally to men and women, expresses the hope that the Members of the League, when invited to the forthcoming Conference, will consider the desirability of taking these considerations into account in composing their delegations."

We understand that it was through the initiative of Miss Doris Stevens that the First Commission passed this resolution, which was then passed by the Assembly. Women's societies in this and other countries are preparing lists of women lawyers to be submitted to their respective Governments.

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Norwich has appointed a woman as Sheriff—Miss Mabel Clarkson. Norwich has the honour of being the first city in the kingdom to appoint a woman Lord Mayor.

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In the London Borough Council Election, 180 women have been returned, including our member, Mrs. V. M. Crawford.

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According to various reports in the Press, five prominent Canadian women are coming

to London to appeal to the Privy Council against a recent ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada to the effect that women, under the British North America Act, are not persons, and are not eligible for the Canadian Senate. We congratulate our valiant colleagues, and wish them success. Not long ago we suffered from similar legal quibbles.

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International feminism has suffered a great loss by the death of Frau Marie Stritt, for many years a member of the Board of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance and a constant contributor to "Jus Suffragii." Frau Stritt was one of the German Delegation to the Geneva Congress in 1920. The first Congress after the War.

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We ask the prayers of our readers for the repose of the soul of Miss de Bulnes, one of our earliest Liverpool members, who died recently. Miss Barry represented the Alliance at the funeral.—R.I.P.

### Towards Citizenship.

St. Joan's has cause to congratulate itself on the approaching appearance of the book it has sponsored, the history of the long march of women towards citizenship which has been written by Miss Phyllis Challoner and Mrs. Laughton Mathews under the title "Towards Citizenship." Miss Challoner has shewn the changing position of women through the ages—in antiquity, in mediaeval times, and in the post-Reformation period, down to the days of our grandmothers. Mrs. Laughton Mathews has continued the story, telling of the battle in Britain for enfranchisement which ended in victory the other day. Both authors write with great knowledge of their subject and with spirit and grace. They have produced a very readable as well as an informative book. It costs only 2s. Buy one to keep and several more to give away for Christmas presents, especially to your religious friends of the teaching order. Recommend it to your friends. Ask for it at the library although you possess it.

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

55 BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.1. Tel. Museum 4181

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

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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MISS ELEANOR FITZGERALD.	MISS MONICA O'CONNOR.

## History of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society

(Now St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance).

(Abridged Edition)

By LEONORA DE ALBERTI.

### SECTION II.

#### RELATIONS WITH MILITANTS.

The C.W.S.S. has always been a constitutional society, but admitted militants to its ranks, always provided that the C.W.S.S. badge should never be worn by anyone taking active part in a militant demonstration. This was so well known that a member of the society arrested while watching a militant advance on the Houses of Parliament, pleaded that she was wearing the C.W.S.S. badge, which she was pledged not to wear if taking part in militancy. The plea was accepted by the magistrate and the case dismissed.

The attitude of the C.W.S.S. in this matter was often misunderstood, and the Catholic Press frequently called on the Society to condemn militancy. In an official letter to the *Universe*, July, 1919, Miss Smyth Pigott wrote: "We do not criticise the methods of any other society, nor sit in judgment on the consciences of our fellow-women. Neither are we theologians; we know the grave theological conditions concerning revolt, and that the Church did not condemn the Catholic Emancipation Fight. It would be an unheard of thing that we should publicly declare what is and what

is not sin. We know that the Church alone can do this."

We need scarcely say that the C.W.S.S. protested against forcible feeding, and the iniquitous 'Cat and Mouse Act,' in fact the society sent up a Petition of its own against forcible feeding.

#### SOCIETY'S WORK EXTENDED TO THE PROVINCES.

The Catholic Suffrage movement which had caught the imagination of Catholic women in London, soon spread to the provinces. In the autumn of 1911 the Hastings and East Sussex Branch was founded. In connection with this Branch we shall always remember the late Miss Isabel Willis, one of our original members, who later on joined the Headquarters' Committee, and became our Honorary Press Secretary, an office which she held until her death in 1926. Though she was over eighty when she died, Miss Willis was active to the end, and her last letter to the press, dealing with the evils of a double moral standard, appeared in the *Catholic Times* a week before her death. In our obituary notice in the *Catholic Citizen* we say: "Sanity and lucidity were the outstanding characteristics of her writing. She

carried her years so gallantly, her mind was so alert, that it came as a surprise to many to hear that she was an octogenarian. She was a staunch Catholic, and a whole-hearted feminist.—R.I.P." (*Catholic Citizen*, vol. xiii, p. 47.)

The Liverpool and District Branch was founded early in 1912, thanks to Miss F. A. Barry who held the office of Honorary Secretary until the close of 1913, when she yielded to the prayers of Headquarters, and came to London to extend the work of the Society at its source; for which we have to thank Miss Beatrice Gadsby. Since that day Miss Barry has been at the helm of the old ship, and has brought her safely to Port. Miss Rodgers, now Mrs. Anderson, and later on a member of Headquarters' Committee, served as Honorary Secretary after Miss Barry left for London. Mrs. Parnell has been a light of the Liverpool Branch since its earliest days.

Liverpool gave to us, also, Father, now Monsignor, T. J. Walshe, one of our earliest friends among the clergy. In those days it was no easy matter for a Catholic priest, especially a secular priest, to identify himself with the suffrage agitation, but Father Walshe never hesitated in proclaiming his belief in the woman's movement, and lost no opportunity of befriending us. He spoke at the first public meeting of the Branch held on May 6, 1913, and apologized for the absence of the clergy, who would have rolled up in their thousands, he said, if they had understood the meaning of the woman's movement.

Other members of the Liverpool Branch, whom we have specially to thank are Mrs. A. J. Hughes, the Misses O'Callaghan, Miss Jervis, Miss Winifred Cooper and Miss Musson, who kept the flag flying during the war. The late Mrs. MacDonald, sister to Father Walshe, was Chairman for some years.

Liverpool has been a great asset to the Catholic Suffrage movement. It was Liverpool, too, which gave us in recent years, our brilliant young member, Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell.

The Brighton and West Sussex Branch was founded in the autumn of 1912, Miss A. H. Bennett, Honorary Secretary, Miss

Fusse, Councillor Mrs. Chapman, afterwards Mayor of Worthing, Miss F. de G. Merrifield, Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, our first Chairman, Miss Brunlees, were all prominent members of this Branch.

Through the initiative of Miss Vera Laughton, now Mrs. Laughton Mathews, member of the London Executive, a branch was founded at Wimbledon in the autumn of 1913. The inaugural meeting at which Miss Abadam was the speaker, brought the Society considerable advertisement in the Press. Catholic suffragists were smarting at the moment under a course of anti-suffrage sermons preached by Father Henry Day, S.J., at the Holy Name, Manchester, which had been reported in the Daily Press as the opinion of the Catholic Church. Miss Abadam riddled Father Day's sermons, and made it clear that he spoke for himself alone. Members of the Liverpool and Manchester Branches distributed leaflets: "Why we want a Catholic Suffrage Society," outside the Church.

It was gradually borne in upon the public mind that the Catholic Church does not pronounce on questions purely political, in which Catholics are as free to follow their own views as any other body in the country.

Mrs. Forder was first Honorary Secretary of the Wimbledon branch, and was succeeded by Lady Laughton.

In connection with the foundation of our Branches we record with gratitude that Miss Abadam was always ready to go North, South, East and West, using her gift of eloquence to stir up Catholics in any given neighbourhood to work for suffrage, by explaining the great moral and social problems involved in the woman's movement.

A great opportunity for propaganda was afforded by the annual Catholic Congress, as we have already said. Thus we find a Branch being founded at Plymouth during the Congress week, when Miss Abadam, and Miss FitzSimmons were the speakers. Another Branch was formed at Cardiff when the Congress met there. Miss O'Sullivan went down ten days beforehand to work up the meeting. A decorated car, provided by Mrs. Head, caused considerable excite-

ment, not to say alarm, since certain prominent persons at the Congress conceived the ridiculous idea that members of the C.W.S.S. intended to interfere with the Congress procession. As usual the suffrage cause obtained a splendid advertisement—the C.W.S.S. made good copy, and like their colleagues of other societies Catholic suffragists were good advertisers.

A very successful meeting was held, the speakers being, Miss Abadam, the Hon. Mrs. Walter Roch, and Mr. Francis Meynell, with Miss Kathleen FitzGerald in the Chair. At Cardiff we made a life-long friend in Father Fennell.

The Manchester Branch was founded by Miss FitzSimmons, who (with the Hon. Secretary, Miss Sullivan), was the moving spirit of it until her death, 1914.

We find other branches existing at this time at Birmingham, Stirling, Wakefield, and a Midlothian Branch with Mrs. H. More Nisbett as Chairman. Mrs. Finlayson-Gauld was an active worker in Edinburgh. All the Branches continued their work until the passing of the first instalment of woman suffrage, 1918, when owing to the difficulties of the post-war period they dissolved, with the exception of the Liverpool and District Branch. Many members of the old Branches were, of course, transferred to Headquarters.

To return to the suffrage agitation prior to the European War, it was after the Conciliation Bill had been "torpedoed," to use Mr. Lloyd George's expression, and the loss of the Government's Franchise Bill of 1913, that the societies concentrated on demanding a Government measure, and nothing but a Government measure. Members of the Executive of the C.W.S.S. were picketing the House of Commons, when news came through that the Speaker had ruled that if women were included in the famous Government Franchise Bill, which had replaced the Conciliation Bill, it would constitute a new measure. This meant that the Bill was stifled at birth. As the news spread, it was amusing to see all the neighbouring shops boarding up their windows for fear of militant reprisals. One of the offices of the great 'Liners' hung out a placard: "We send women to lands where women vote—avenging angels

pass on."

The C.W.S.S. was in a very flourishing condition and making good headway in 1914, when the war broke out. In the May of that year we had our first special Mass at Westminster Cathedral on the Sunday within the Octave of the feast of our Patron Blessed Joan of Arc. About four hundred members attended, and at the end of Mass formed up in procession, and—led by Mrs. Alice Meynell, with Miss O'Sullivan bearing a laurel wreath tied in the colours, Miss Kathleen FitzGerald and Miss Abadam—they filed round the Cathedral to the shrine of Blessed Joan, where the wreath was placed. It was a most impressive demonstration as Mrs. Meynell wrote at the time.

#### THE OUTBREAK OF WAR.

Then came the war! It was the supreme test for suffragists—their faith was on trial. Looking back, we may say that the majority, while giving what help they could in the national crisis, did not abandon their belief in the importance of woman suffrage and kept vigilant watch to safeguard women's interests.

For ourselves, we use the following brave words in our Annual Report, 1914: "But though we are confident that our members, individually and collectively, will give what service they can during these pitiful times, we would remind them that no calamity, national or international, can detract from the importance of the woman's movement. On the contrary, the appalling events happening on the continent make it doubly important that women should have power to help in the rebuilding of civilization. When the war cloud has passed, things will never be quite the same again. It is the most solemn duty of every suffragist to see that the suffrage movement does not flag. The State will not easily relinquish the tremendous powers it has, at this crisis, rightly assumed. Meanwhile women are still voteless, and a very heavy responsibility lies on the shoulders of suffragists; it rests with us to see that the position of women is not worse after the war than it was before. A very dangerous tendency to make rules and laws penalising women only has been apparent in this emergency, the only way, of

checking this tendency is to keep the suffrage flag flying. The Government must feel that the Suffrage Societies are watching and waiting . . ."

We see nothing to withdraw in those words.

#### "THE CATHOLIC SUFFRAGIST."

But our supreme act of faith was the foundation of our paper the "Catholic Suffragist." Like the Society the paper was born of a chance conversation, this time between Beatrice Gadsby and Leonora de Alberti, while engaged in the homely task of scrubbing the office floor. Miss Gadsby said the society needed an organ of its own; Miss de Alberti questioned the possibility of raising the necessary funds. Miss Gadsby said the money would be forthcoming, it was the Editor who was lacking; she further suggested that Miss de Alberti was cut out for the purpose. The latter, though surprised, swallowed the bait with an alacrity possibly born of ignorance, for she had no journalistic experience.

Miss de Alberti, backed by Mrs. Meynell, was anxious to call the paper "The Newer Eve," with the quotation from Francis Thompson, which is well known to our readers, since it is to be seen on every copy of the paper. The Committee saw danger in the title, and decided that while retaining the quotation the paper should be called *The Catholic Suffragist*, and by that name it was known, until it became *The Catholic Citizen*, after the passing of the Representation of the People Act, 1918.

The production of the paper, which was timed for October 1914, was deferred owing to the European War, but to the astonishment of many the first number appeared on January 15th, 1915. Our first Leader was by Alice Meynell, who introducing it to the public says: "The production in war time of a new paper dedicated to the cause of Votes for Women, should remind us that though thousands are suffering acutely, splendidly and conspicuously, millions are suffering chronically, inconspicuously, and with little hope, evils against which the whole Suffrage movement has set its face. Crime has been lessened by the War we hear; but we cannot hope that sin has been lessened.

And the difficult and arduous work of the women reformers is essentially and fundamentally a moral work. A Catholic suffragist woman is a suffragist on graver grounds and with weightier reasons than any other suffragist in England." . . . And in concluding her article she says: "Great work, great devotion, great power, great ability are spent by those reforming women who have temporal evils to correct and temporal good to try for. Is it not then a wonder that all Christian women and therefore all Catholic women are not in the forefront of much a movement? For their aim, their pain, their compassion, their hope, are for things material and temporal, but also for things spiritual and eternal."

The very fact of its production during the war gave considerable advertisement to the new paper, and the Suffrage Press, especially gave it a cordial welcome and was loud in praise of the courage of the promoters. From the start the paper has been a great asset. For one thing it was no longer easy to traduce the Society, for the paper was there to prove the orthodoxy of Catholic Suffragists. It was a protection instead of being a danger as some of our friends had feared. Nevertheless the *Catholic Citizen* has never shirked any task however unpleasant, and has ever been ready to demonstrate where prejudice has usurped the voice of authority in Catholic circles. Nor has it feared to cross swords with opponents of woman's freedom, however highly placed.

It is also an asset internationally, as it circulates in many lands, and has brought the society in touch with colleagues in distant places, and cheered many a lonely pioneer. By the zeal of our paper-sellers it was—and still is—brought to the notice of Catholics as they come from Mass on Sunday mornings, and by the generosity of our members, many of whom are professional writers, we have been able to keep up a good literary standard.

Though a Catholic Editor prophesied that there would never be a second number, the paper has been running fourteen years, and our enemies have not as yet caught us tripping.

We owe a special tribute, and our warmest thanks, to our paper-sellers, who have braved

all weathers and much unpleasantness in the course of years in their task of bringing the paper to the notice of Catholics. They have rendered a truly gallant service. Among the most noted paper-sellers we have: Misses R. Atkinson, Bain, Barry, Bullen, F. and M. Cochrane, D. J. and I. Collier, Fedden, Gadsby, Jeffery, Jervis, Mrs. McDonald, the Misses Murray, O'Sullivan, Smyth-Pigott, Mrs. and Miss Parnell and Miss Whateley.

Miss Brady was the first Hon. Treasurer of the paper, and was succeeded by Miss Fedden, who still retains the post.

(To be continued).

### Victory-and-after Celebrations.

The Equal Political Rights Committee are to be congratulated on the success of the luncheon and evening reception organized by them on October 24. Lady Rhondda presided at both functions. At the luncheon, (at the Hotel Cecil) the speakers were Dame Millicent Fawcett, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Doris Stevens—Chairman of the Inter-American Women's Commission, Mrs. Abbott, Mr. Laurence Housman, Mr. Brailsford, and Mr. Pethick Lawrence. In the evening, the Caxton Hall—scene of so many militant gatherings, was crowded with suffragists, old and young. Short speeches were given on the suffrage fight by Lady Rhondda, Miss Nina Boyle, Miss Nancy Lightman and Mr. Victor Duval; followed by short speeches from Miss Gimingham, Miss Holtby, our own Miss Monica O'Connor, and Miss Woodman on behalf of the new voters. But the great event of the evening was the performance of 'How the Vote was Won,' first produced at the Royalty Theatre in 1908. The audience were delighted with the play, written by Cicely Hamilton and Christopher St. John, and cheered the artists enthusiastically.

### Women Mayors.

Women have been elected as Mayor at Aldeburgh, Christchurch, King's Lynn, Sandwich, Stratford-on-Avon, Thetford, Wrexham, Welshpool, Whitehaven, and Tynemouth.

## International Notes.

*The Week* (Bombay), contains an account by its late editor, Dr. H. C. E. Zacharias, on his recent visit to France. He speaks of that most interesting "new type of religious order" of which France contains eminent examples, and which consists of "lay people gathered together in an association of good works, open for all the world to see, but whose hidden power and directive force consist in the private vows which the members take as individuals." The majority of the members of these orders in France are women. The *Auxiliares Familiares* or Family Helpers of Rouen are typical of them, and they "deliberately seek anonymity." They are thus in contrast to an analogous order which has lately reached France from Italy and "believes in publicity on an almost Transatlantic scale," the *Opera Cardinal Ferrari* or company of St. Paul, founded in Milan eight years ago. This community now numbers twelve priests, 199 laymen and 188 laywomen. In Paris the centre of the activities of its women members is at No. 21 Rue Blanche where there is a social service centre, distributing medical aid and legal advice. The company is about to open in the university quarter a Palace of Youth, which will include a chapel, reading-rooms, lecture-rooms and facilities for recreation of every kind.

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The October issue of *The Little Flower Magazine* (Oklahoma City), contains a very interesting account, by Fr. A. F. Valenson, O.C.D., of St. Teresa of Avila, who is one of the October saints. He comments on her sanctity, her intelligence and her great literary power, and on her practical work which reformed the Order of the Discalced Carmelites and secured a position for them throughout Europe. Within and outside the Church she is now accepted as an authority on mystical theology, although, as Fr. Valenson says, she certainly never dreamed that the best theologians of the Church would turn to her writings to dissect them, to study them as if they were sucking the milk of divine science from them."

H. D. I.

## The Future of St. Joan's Alliance.

The special meeting convened on October 27 to consider the future of St. Joan's S.P.A., voted with enthusiasm for the resolution moved from the Chair by Miss H. Douglas Irvine on behalf of the Executive: "That the Alliance shall continue to work for the remainder of its programme, i.e., to secure the political, social and economic equality between men and women, and to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens." The Chairman, in moving the resolution, begged members to bear in mind that the Alliance is an equalitarian society, and not attempt to drag in extraneous subjects. There are peace societies for pacifists to join, temperance societies for those specially interested in temperance—let members join as many societies as they choose, but let St. Joan's remain an equalitarian society. She enumerated the many items on our programme still to be won, equal pay, equal opportunities, equal moral standard, women police, raising the age of marriage, opening of diplomatic service, etc., etc.

The second resolution, moved by Miss Wall, seconded by Mrs. Myott, asked that St. Joan's S.P.A. "shall concentrate on giving help and encouragement to our co-religionists the women of the Latin countries in their fight to achieve political freedom."

Miss Douglas Irvine, Miss Barry and Miss de Alberti pointed out that the Alliance is already working in many ways for Latin women, and in fact, it did not seem possible to do more. Miss Brandt moved that the word "concentrate" should be altered to "do its utmost, to give help and encouragement, etc." The amendment was carried by a large majority.

It was round the various "peace" resolution that discussion raged. The first moved by Miss Havers asked: "That the resolution bearing on 'any movement likely in the judgment of the committee to promote a permanent world peace already passed at the annual Meeting of 1923 be now embodied in the constitution." The second resolution on peace work was withdrawn by Mrs. Laughton Mathews in favour of the following amendment, moved by Miss Eleanor

FitzGerald and seconded by Miss Butler-Bowdon, "While giving its moral support and sympathy to any movement likely in the judgment of the majority of the committee to promote a permanent world peace, the Alliance shall not embody any active participation in work to that end in its constitution, but shall continue to endeavour to carry out its original programme." Miss FitzGerald said that to incorporate active work for peace in the constitution, would be a distinct danger to the original objects for which the society was founded. She was supported in this view by Miss Butler-Bowdon, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, Miss Fedden, Miss Hynes and Miss C. M. Gordon. Though all are lovers of peace, opinions are divided on the many proposals for securing world peace. Miss Barry pointed out that if the Alliance was to initiate work for peace, some person must be appointed to make a study of the subject, and funds raised for the purpose. In passing, she reminded her audience that the society had had a Mass offered every month 'for peace, and the repose of the souls of those killed in the war,' during all the years of war. Let members join societies which specialised on peace. After hearing the discussion, Miss Patricia Hall announced that she intended to vote for the amendment, although if passed the resolution which she was to move on disarmament would automatically fall to the ground. She had realised the difficulties which would arise if the Alliance were to initiate work for peace. The amendment being put to the meeting, was carried by a large majority. The Chairman announced that as a result of the ballot for the vacancies on the Committee, Miss Eleanor FitzGerald and Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A., had been elected.

### Noël!

Noël! Members wanting Christmas cards—and who does not?—should purchase those specially designed by Miss Erica Butler-Bowdon. They will have something exclusive and different to the usual type of cards, and will be helping the Society as well. (Advert. on last page).

## Reviews.

*The Open Door Council.*

The second Annual Report of the Open Door Council is an amazing record of increasing activities. Meetings, interviews, circular letters to meet any emergency, no attack on women's work escapes the vigilant O.D.C. It is round the demand for freedom to work that the feminist campaign is likely to rage, during the next few years. A paternal Government is not afraid of curtailing women's work, in various spheres, without evidence that women are unfitted to do such work. The existence of the International Labour Office makes the danger very great. We may find restrictions in one country reproduced in others, all of course, in the name of "protecting" women. The 'protection' being a euphemism for depriving them of a livelihood.

The O.D.C. has a vast field to cover; and it is most fortunate that the Council was founded. St. Joan's S.P.A. is associated with the Council, and our Chairman, Miss Douglas Irvine, spoke at the Annual Meeting.

The O.D.C. is calling an open Conference on Friday, November 16, in the Ante-room, Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Road, to discuss the Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery, the I.L.O. and Equal Pay.

*Recollections of a Ransomer.* By the Rev. Philip Fletcher, M.A. Sands and Co. 3s. 6d. (paper cover 2s. 6d.)

The late Father Fletcher did a great work for Catholicism in England. By his League of Our Lady of Ransom he made the Catholic Church known to his fellow countrymen. One may say that he advertised the Church, and established the right of Catholics to hold processions in the streets, as freely as Salvationists or any other body. The right is now unquestioned. In this book we have Father Fletcher's own story of his conversion, and of his work, told in a simple and unaffected style. The Church lost a good servant by his death, and ourselves a good friend.

*Public ce que tu sais.* Par le Docteur Martha Bertheaume. Editions de la Vraie, France.

In her new novel, Doctor Bertheaume gives us a study of the conflict between professional knowledge and maternal love. Doctor Aumaury, who has learnt in her professional capacity of a shady incident in a young girl's life, is suddenly confronted with her son's determination to marry the girl with whom he has fallen desperately in love. Dr. Bertheaume traces with ability the various pitfalls and temptations which Dr. Aumaury surmounts, and has written an interesting story of a modern problem.

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

The next Open Meeting of the Alliance will be held on Monday, December 3, at 6 p.m., at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square, W.

The speaker will be Miss Fedden, who will give her postponed lecture on "The Nationality of Married Women." Miss Butler-Bowdon in the Chair.

\* \* \* \*

We were glad to read in the *Universe* that Poland is about to drop the vow of obedience from the marriage service, thus coming into line with the Marriage Services used in most parts of the Catholic world. And so the light spreads from country to country, and continent to continent.

\* \* \* \*

We read of Mrs. Despard's accident with the deepest regret, and we are glad to hear that she is progressing favourably, and is expected to make a complete recovery.

## Committee to Inquire into the Working of Police Courts.

The Home Secretary has appointed a Committee to enquire into the working of the police courts and juvenile courts in the Metropolitan district, and to consider and report after consultation with the magistrates, whether any changes are desirable in the organization of work at the courts, or of the work of the Courts as a whole, or as regards the jurisdiction, in the district of police court magistrates and county justices respectively. Six men, including Lord Cornwallis as chairman, have been

appointed, but no women. This omission is so deplorable and astounding, that we wonder whether the Home Secretary cannot yet be persuaded to rectify it.

\* \* \* \*

Since the above was written St. Joan's has received the following letter: "The Home Secretary, desires me to say, in reply to your letter of yesterday's date, that having received representations from various quarters, he has decided to add two women members to the Committee to which you refer."

## Miss Froud on Education.

St. Joan's S.P.A. holds public meetings on the first Monday of every month at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square, at 6 o'clock, and we have been very fortunate in the eloquent and distinguished speakers who have addressed us. On November 5, Miss Froud of the National Union of Women Teachers gave a very spirited address on "Education—Equalities still to be won," at the close of which the following resolution was passed unanimously:

"This Meeting affirms the need for equal educational opportunity for girls and boys.

It believes that it is a matter of vital importance to the future of education that women should be eligible, equally with men, for appointment to the headships of mixed schools (Elementary, Central and Secondary), administrative posts, and the inspectorate, and that the best candidate, irrespective of sex, should be appointed.

It desires further to emphasise its adherence to the principle of Equal Pay for men and women teachers of the same professional status."

Mrs. Smiley was in the Chair.

## LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

Hon. Sec.: Miss N. S. Parnell, B.A.,  
45 Falkner Street, Liverpool.

During the past few weeks the Committee have been endeavouring to secure a suitable and permanent meeting-place for the Branch, but so far without success. Suggestions from members would be welcome. The next two

meetings of the Branch will give members an opportunity of learning the aims and programmes of the Labour and Conservative parties respectively, to be followed in December by an address on those of the Liberal party. Members are especially asked to keep November 23 free, as on that evening Miss Mabel Fletcher, C.C., J.P., is to address us.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

October 1 to 31.

	£	s.	d.
Alberti, Miss L. de A. ...	2	6	6
Anon. ...	2	6	0
Bacon, Miss Harley ...	5	0	0
Bain, Miss ...	5	0	0
Brunlees, Miss ...	2	6	0
Butler-Bowdon, Miss E. ...	3	0	0
Connolly, The Misses ...	17	6	0
Douglas Irvine, Miss H. ...	2	10	0
Dupplin, The Viscountess ...	2	6	0
Fedden, Miss ...	1	0	0
FitzGerald, Miss E. ...	1	5	0
Gadsby, Miss B. ...	5	0	0
Gordon, Miss C. M. ...	2	0	0
Havers, Miss ...	2	0	0
Hynes, Miss S. ...	1	0	0
Laughton, Lady ...	1	1	0
Liveing, Mrs. ...	2	6	0
Lowndes, Mrs. Belloc ...	7	6	0
Mathews, Mrs. Laughton ...	5	0	0
O'Connor, Mrs. ...	1	0	0
O'Hart, Miss ...	7	6	0
Parnell, Miss Nancy ...	1	0	0
Robson, Mrs. Hope ...	3	6	0
St. John, Miss Christopher ...	17	6	0
Singleton, Miss ...	1	0	0
Smiley, Mrs. ...	5	0	0
Somers, Miss ...	2	6	0
Stammers, Miss ...	1	5	0
Stephen, Mrs. ...	8	0	0
Tilsley, Miss ...	1	0	0
Wall, Miss ...	5	0	0
Minimum Annual Subscriptions ...	6	0	0
	£38	18	0

## TREASURER'S NOTE.

Members will be interested to hear that the Alliance has moved to a larger office on the third floor in the same building, with an additional room. Those who have visited the office of late will realise that it was no longer possible to carry on all the work in the very limited space at our disposal. Our move has, of course, involved a large increase of rent, which is now £100 per annum, with light and heating, but we feel it is a reasonable one for the accommodation, and is a necessity with the growth of the Alliance.

Many members included in the list above kindly gave donations at the Special General Meeting towards this expense. If three more would promise £5, our rent would be secure. Others may be able to send smaller sums, which will be equally acceptable.

G. JEFFERY.

**ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND  
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To band together Catholics of both sexes, in order to secure the political, social and economic equality between men and women, and to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens.

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All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of 1s. Men are invited to join as Associates, on the same conditions, with the exception that they may not elect or be elected to the Executive.

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**Report of the Street Offences Committee.**

**PUBLIC MEETING**

To press for legislation on the lines of the Public Places (Order) Bill.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26th.**

8 p.m.

**Large Caxton Hall,**

(Westminster),

Speakers:

The Lord Balfour of Burleigh (Chair)

The Viscountess Astor, M.P.

Mrs. Bramwell Booth

Mr. F. W. Pethwick-Lawrence, M.P.

Miss Alison Neilans

Mr. T. J. O'Connor, M.P.,

and Others.

Admission Free. Reserved Seats 1/-.

Apply—The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene,  
14 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

**Council for the Representation of Women in the  
League of Nations.**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29th,

at Women's Service House, 35 Marsham Street,  
Westminster.

Business Meeting at 3-30. At 5 p.m. DAME EDITH  
LYTTELTON (British Substitute Delegate) will speak  
on the work of the Ninth Assembly of the League.

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