

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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THE 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.

Eucharistia Vinculum Caritatis

"We are called to the worship of the Lamb hidden above us under the white veils of mystery where the frontiers between nations shall cease to be, the restrictions of race and language shall disappear, all boundaries shall be no more."

These words of the Hungarian Professor, the Rev. T. Tóth, were the key-notes of the 34th International Eucharistic Congress held in Budapest, May 25th—29th.

It may be of interest to our readers to gather up the impressions of members of St. Joan's Alliance who were privileged to take part in the "heart-stirring and unforgettable ceremonies" of the Eucharistic Congress at Budapest. All noted the atmosphere of friendliness and help which seemed to pervade the city and make differences of language appear unimportant. All were struck by the fact that in the midst of a far from peaceful Europe, people from practically every nation of the world—even warring nations and nations at war with themselves—had gathered together in peace and concord, bound together by "the Eucharist the Bond of Love with God."

At the Solemn Opening of the Congress on Heroes Square on May 25th we heard for the first time the peal of trumpets and the Congress Anthem which, with the Papal Anthem and the Hungarian National Anthem, were to be familiar and beautiful music to our ears for the next few days. That first glimpse of the huge square filled to capacity with men, women and children—to call it impressive seems inadequate. There was the altar towering above us and behind it were still more people. The Cardinals and clergy came in in procession and the vast throng settled down to listen to the Papal Bull, read by the Suffragan Bishop of Hungary and addresses by Cardinal J. Serédi, Prince

Primate of Hungary, Privy Councillor H. E. V. de Hóman (in the name of the Hungarian Government), the Most Rev. T. Heylen, Bishop of Namur, President of the Permanent Committee for International Congresses and last, but most important of all, the address by the Cardinal Legate, Cardinal Pacelli.

The next great event of the Congress was the High Mass and General Communion for children celebrated by Cardinal Verdier, Archbishop of Paris, on Heroes Square. Our member, Mrs. Prister-Crutwell, kindly wrote the following account for the CATHOLIC CITIZEN.

Nine o'clock on Ascension Day morning. An unforgettable scene. Thousands upon thousands of children of many nations, boys and girls of all ages, once more as in Bible days, pressing around their Lord.

Blue sky and bright sunshine above and below a living garden of colour, the children in their brightly embroidered national costumes, appearing like so many flowers in a constantly changing pattern. They enter the natural arena in groups, marshalled by teachers, priests and nuns; above their heads sway the gorgeously painted banners of their various schools and guilds, as a pile of pageantry unsurpassed. Occasional groups of white, Children of Mary and choristers, stand out from the rest, while proud and solicitous parents watch the scene and occasionally walk in little family groups, leading the smaller children by the hand.

Mass begins. The children's fervour and devotion is a joy to the onlooker and their hearty singing of the old Hungarian hymns stirs the heart. One feels that this "Youth Movement" will indeed sweep the world.

As Mass proceeds, priests move quietly to and fro among the ranks with the Most Blessed Sacrament, till at last every child in that vast assembly, kneeling in their places or in little groups, has made its communion.

Mass ends and once more, as in Bible days, lads appear with baskets of small loaves lest the multitude should faint by the way; boy scouts, who were perhaps doing the most exalted good turn of their lives.

An outstanding and impressive feature of this service was the release of a thousand white carrier pigeons, bearing far and wide the message of peace.

On this same evening the marvellous Eucharistic Boat procession of the Danube took place. Some of us watched this procession from balconies overlooking the Franz Joseph Square through which the procession from St. Stephen's Basilica passed—others were watching on the river bank. Nuns bearing torches lined the route from St. Stephen's to the Franz Joseph Square which was so illuminated as to be a veritable lake of twinkling light. Other nuns in the picturesque habits of innumerable Orders filed through the square to the river bank. Through the Square on its way to the boats (and afterwards on its way back) passed the procession. First came police in perfect order mounted on milk-white horses, then infantry playing the band; the Processional Cross, then never-ending files of secular and regular clergy: Abbots, Provosts, Prelates; at last the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar borne by the Cardinal Legate. Cardinals in all their magnificent robes, their trains carried by gentlemen in waiting followed; Archbishops, Bishops; a further detachment of infantry and mounted police brought up the rear. The following is Mrs. Prister-Crutwell's account:

Christ on the Waters of Danube as truly as ever on the Waters of Galilee—in Father Martindale's words—that was the leading thought in our minds, as we watched the visionary splendour of the river procession at night. Christ able as ever to still the storms both in our own hearts and in the world at large.

Overhead the evening star in mid-heavens, summer stillness in the air; nature, too, we feel is joining in the homage. Lights twinkle every where along the Danube bank, bridges and hills illuminated with Christian symbols, the Chalice and the Cross; surely at last "Pax Christi in Regno Christi" is at hand.

From our window we watch the five illuminated boats pass. The first ship bears the illuminated processional cross and nuns (plainly visible from the bank) kneeling in prayer—also the trumpeters. The second is crowded with clergy.

The third boat carries the Blessed Sacrament. Shape and funnels outlined in light, the ship moves on the waters like a dazzling vision. Underneath a canopy of light, itself outlined with light is the Precious Burden. The kneeling Legate and the Cardinals, Princes of the Church, attend their King. Two more boats pass bearing official representatives.

The silent crowd kneels, and the guard of scouts lining the river banks dip their flaming torches as the Blessed Boat passes: the trumpets blare out, and we feel indeed, as we raise our heads, that Jesus of Nazareth has passed by.

When the boats finally return to the landing-stage, cannons boom, fireworks blaze and the vast thousands kneel for the Benediction of the Lord Himself.

On May 27th the Holy Hour for women was celebrated in all the churches throughout the town from 9—10 p.m., according to the various nationalities. At the parish church of the Inner City, English and French devotions were led by the French Jesuit Missionary, Father Le Tellier, who has a wonderful power over his hearers. Midnight Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Downey for all the women of the world. Throughout the Mass Holy Communion was given to rank upon rank of women among them Indian women in their picturesque Saris. It was a pity this Mass was not more widely advertised among the English speaking pilgrims for the immense church could have held some hundreds more.

Sunday, May 29th, last and greatest day of the Congress dawned and we wended our way to the Heroes Square for the Pontifical Mass celebrated by H. E. the Cardinal Legate and General Communion.

One of our members describes it thus (extract from a letter):

If we saw magnificence the evening of the Danube procession, still more wonderful in its simplicity and unaffectedness was the Mass and general Holy Communion last Sunday. The singing was lovely but quite simple, just plain chant and beautiful folk melodies. The hush at the elevation was profound. . . . All around were people going down on their knees in little groups or singly while the priests went up and down and round about that huge square giving Holy Communion to them. It was really and truly as though Our Blessed Lord was once more walking among the throngs of people on the hill or lake-sides of Galilee. We felt this the moment we came into the square because confessions were being heard by the hundred, right out in the open with either very primitive portable confessionals or just with no confessional at all. The penitent would simply kneel at his feet and whisper in the priest's ear. Everybody was so unself-conscious and what was almost the most touching of all was the way the priests made sure their penitents received Holy Communion, shepherding them about if necessary. Grace was truly abounding!

At the close of the Mass the Congress Anthem was sung and all waited breathlessly to hear the personal message broadcast by the Holy Father himself from the Vatican City. The Cardinal Legate then gave the Papal Benediction and read the Papal Bull granting a plenary indulgence and the singing of the Papal Anthem brought the service to an end.

At 4 p.m. on the same day the Blessed Sacrament was borne in vast procession from St. Stephen's to Heroes Square. The route was lined with Hungarian school children in their colourful national costumes and the long procession was itself very picturesque. Members of St. Joan's Alliance failing to find a con-

(Continued on page 61)

Notes and Comments

On May 30th, the anniversary of the burning of St. Joan, our member the Rev. T. J. Fitzgerald, kindly offered Mass for St. Joan's Alliance. In accordance with our custom, a laurel wreath tied in our colours, was placed on the Shrine of St. Joan in Westminster Cathedral.

We congratulate Miss Ellen Wilkinson on the swift passage of her Hire Purchase Bill through the House. This measure will make hire purchase law more equitable, its main purpose being to restrict the right of the owner of goods bought under hire purchase to enter the hirer's premises and take possession of the articles. At the third reading Members of all parties cheered Miss Wilkinson and Sir Donald Somervell, the Attorney General, crossed the floor to shake hands.

Sir George Maxwell in an article in the *Manchester Guardian* of April 5th strongly criticises the Draft Children and Young Persons Ordinance published in the *Ceylon Government Gazette* of December last. He says that in spite of "a formal resolution of the Ceylon State Council a practical promise by the Ceylon Government and an assurance given to the League of Nations by His Majesty's Government" the draft ordinance completely ignores the recommendations of the Ceylonese Committee which reported on the "employment (domestic service) of women and children" in 1935. The Committee dealt with the question of quasi-adoption which Sir George Maxwell says bears a striking resemblance to the Mui Tsai system and has inherent dangers. Amongst other things the Committee recommended the registration as "custodians" of persons taking charge of "unwanted" children and orphans; the prohibition by law of the transfer of children for a money consideration; and the registration of children and young women under sixteen in domestic employment at a distance from their parents. The report was debated in the State Council and a formal resolution was passed accepting it in principle. "Until legislation complies with the resolution of the State Council there can be no 'Children's Charter' in Ceylon," writes Sir George Maxwell.

We were delighted to hear from our member Dr. Mary Cardwell that she recently gave evidence, before the Interdepartmental Committee on Abortion. Having been requested

'to prepare a Memorandum for the Royal Commission, she did so on behalf of the Union of Catholic Mothers. The Memorandum was very favourably received.

We congratulate Father Joseph P. Thoonen of St. Joseph's Foreign Missionary Society, a friend of St. Joan's Alliance in its work for African women, on his success in obtaining the Doctorate of Missiology with the highest distinction possible—*summa cum laude*.

We congratulate Miss Sylvia Terry on her election as Vice President of the National Association of Women Civil Servants and Miss Sybil Warnecke on having been elected to the Executive Committee. Both are members of St. Joan's Alliance and civil servants working in the Royal Courts of Justice.

Fr. Vann, O.P., has sent us a small pamphlet explaining the purpose and conditions of membership of the Union of Prayer for Peace. Copies will be sent free on application (stamped addressed envelope) to: Rev. Fr. Gerald Vann, O.P., Laxton, Stamford.

At the first Congress of the Czechoslovak Catholic Women's League held in Prague at Whitsuntide, St. Joan's Alliance was represented by Miss Moclair.

The Rally of Catholic women at the Albert Hall on May 24th for which St. Joan's Alliance was jointly responsible with other societies was a great success. Women from all over the country filled the great hall to capacity. The speakers were His Eminence Cardinal Hinsley, Mr. Robert Bernays, M.P., on behalf of the Minister of Health, Dame Meriel Talbot, D.B.E., Dr. Genevieve Rewcastle, Dr. Letitia Fairfield, and Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell. The new Minister of Health, Mr. Walter Elliot was enabled to come and speak at the last moment and was received with much applause. The platform was filled with Catholic M.P.s and members of the House of Lords, Catholic women representatives from overseas (including representatives of the Alliance in Australia and Mrs. de Silva from Ceylon), and representatives of Catholic Societies.

Members are invited to a Garden Party, to hear about the Budapest Congress, on Sunday, June 26th, by kind invitation of Miss Gadsby. Apply to the Office for particulars.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

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

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Women Under Mandate

The Minutes of the 33rd Session of the Permanent Mandates Commission* (November 1937) show that the position of "native" women is being kept well in view by the persistent and intelligent questioning carried on year after year by Mlle Dannevig. It is both a tribute to Mlle Dannevig and an encouraging revelation of the value of co-operation between the accredited representatives of the mandatory Powers and the members of the Commission that M. Besson (for the Cameroons and Togoland under French Mandate) could say that "Mlle Dannevig's observations had to a great extent been responsible for the reform introduced by the Mandatory Power" in the Cameroons. He was referring to a decree introduced in 1936, modifying the status of native marriage.

M. Palacios speaking of the "very little information on religious matters" contained in the Cameroons report mentioned a significant decree of October 1937 stating that the "admission and discharge of female Boarders of religious institutes should be reported to the Administration twice monthly." M. Palacios hoped that the next report would give all necessary information about this new decree and would state, in particular the reasons for the provisions which it contained. We think the decree is probably in connection with girls who oppose native custom by fleeing from forced marriage to the Missions.

Of polygamy M. Besson said, in reply to several questions by Mlle Dannevig, that in the French Cameroons

"Polygamy was, of course, losing ground among the peoples who were becoming Christian, but it was still very firmly established in the north of the territory and among the fetishists . . . It would be given up last by the chiefs who were the wealthiest section of the people."

* C. 551. M.. 388. 1937. VI.

In a discussion on polygamy in Ruanda-Urundi M. Halewyck de Heusch accredited representative for that territory declared that polygamy was not very common there. Mlle Dannevig referring to the difficult problem of the repudiated "wives" of converted Christian polygamists trusted that the Administration concerned itself with their fate. Keeping in mind that monogamy will raise the status of women in Africa, perhaps more than anything else, we do not quite like the tone of Mlle Dannevig's remarks at this juncture. The repudiated wives, she said, "found themselves in that position largely owing to missionary propaganda."

"Was it not a fact that the Protestant missionaries showed themselves less strict in the matter of polygamy among the newly converted natives than did the Catholic missionaries?"

We appreciate, however, her final remark.

"The position of these women had occupied the attention of the women's organisations, who interested themselves in the status of women in Africa and would like to have as much information on this point as possible."

Mlle Dannevig suggested that the position of women in Togoland under French Mandate was better than elsewhere in Africa. M. Besson agreed and said further that "in many cases the native law was more liberal than the Napoleonic code." No case of a girl refusing to contract a marriage and seeking refuge in the mission had been reported to the authorities and Miss Dannevig asked

"Did it mean that there was no reason for appealing to the missions, or—on the contrary—that family influence was so strong that it would be impossible for a girl to take refuge in a mission, even if she wished to do so?"

M. Besson did not make any direct reply to this question but stated that:

"What was far more important than a written rule was the influence exercised by the presence of European women in the territory. It was growing and was becoming distinctly stronger. For some time

St. Joan's in Budapest

Twelve members of St. Joan's Alliance journeyed to Budapest to take part in the 34th International Eucharistic Congress (see front-page article). These included members from Australia, Ireland, U.S.A. and Great Britain. True Magyar hospitality was shown to us by the Hungarian members of our Alliance and members of other women's organisations.

Representatives of the Alliance were welcomed by Mrs. Miskolczy Meller who entertained us to lunch. A tea party was given by her Society the "Feministak Egyesulete" at which an opportunity was given to us to meet Hungarian feminists and at which Miss Barry gave a brief outline of the work of the Alliance paying tribute to that splendid Hungarian feminist Monsignor Giesswein. At the International Club we had the pleasure of hearing Madame Wanda de Lada ex-M.P. from Poland. Our member Mrs. de Spur gave us the hospitality of her flat and balcony where we had a marvellous view of the Danube procession. Dr. Marie Egger of the Federation of University women and a member of our Alliance, and her mother, entertained us to lunch and showed us something of the city. A delightful musical party was given by another member of our Alliance Mrs. Norah de Kresz and her husband the well-known violinist, to which we were invited. We had the pleasure of hearing Mrs. de Kresz' beautiful piano-playing and also a little girl of ten, her pupil, a child prodigy whom no doubt we shall hear of again. Mrs. de Kresz kindly gave us two seats in her box at the Opera, a lovely feast of sound and colour. On another occasion two Catholic women M.P.s showed us round the Houses of Parliament.

The Countess Apponyi kindly gave a tea-party in our honour at her home at which we had the pleasure of meeting officers of the National Council of Women of Hungary. Mme Julie Vajkai and her sister, pioneers of the children welfare movement of Hungary entertained us to tea and invited us to see one of the schools founded by them. Our final invitation was to supper with the Sisters of Social Service where we met our old friend Sister Elizabeth Slachta, and the founder of the Society, Sister Margit Slachta, Hungary's first woman M.P. The Sisters told us much of the work of their up to date modern order which in its efforts to wake up women to take their part in public life has affinities with St. Joan's.

(Continued at foot of previous column)

past, young married administrators had been coming to the territory, and these households of young Europeans had a very good influence on the black population."

One cannot help hoping that the individuals concerned are conscious of this faith!

Mlle Dannevig drew attention to the following passage of the Annual Report for the Cameroons.

"In the southern region, the number of widows who avoid the customary obligation automatically to become the wife of an heir of the deceased husband has increased considerably. Their position is greatly improved thereby, and there is no very marked objection on the part of the heirs. The woman can return to her family of origin; only in the case of re-marriage would she be required to refund the dowry."

She asked whether a widow could inherit from her husband; for if she could it would be easier to refund the dowry (in case of re-marriage). Further information was promised on this point. Another encouraging fact remarked by Mlle Dannevig was:

"That women in the Cameroons were skilful and able to earn a livelihood was sufficiently indicated by the rate of the tax, which was about the same for women as for men."

The position as regards the education of native women by the Mandatory Administrations does not appear particularly encouraging. In reply to a question by Mlle Dannevig as to the training of a staff of native nurses, midwives and teachers in the Cameroons M. Besson said that the training of the native women staff still suffered from the women's traditional position of inferiority in native society. Of Ruanda-Urundi, Mlle Dannevig noted that not a single woman had been trained as nurse or midwife in the State services.

On the whole these minutes are encouraging as regards the position of "native" women and it is to be hoped that steady questioning at the hands of shrewd and sympathetic investigators, such as Mlle. Dannevig, will stimulate the Mandatory powers to rise to the level of the best.

P. C. CHALLONER.

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(Continued from next column)

We are particularly grateful to Miss Gaffney and Miss Moclair (Ireland) and to Mrs. Prister-Crutwell for their loyal co-operation with the Hon. Secretary and Editor in all aspects of our activities at Budapest.

Silver Jubilee

The Silver Jubilee of the Liverpool Branch was celebrated by a dinner at the Palatine Café, Liverpool, and was combined with a meeting on "The Status of Women." Mrs. McCann, Chairman of the Branch, presided, and among the guests were Mrs. Laughton Mathews, Headquarters Chairman, and distinguished women representing various aspects of public life in Liverpool. Alderman Miss Mabel Fletcher, J.P., in proposing the toast of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, mentioned that she had always longed to visit the home of St. Joan, and last year attained her ambition when she had the happiness of entering the house where St. Joan was born and of visiting the Church near which St. Joan heard her "Voices." She spoke of the excellent work done by the Alliance which she hoped would continue as the status of women is not yet what it should be. More women should enter public life.

Mrs. McCann, in reply, spoke of the early days of the Branch, and paid tribute to Miss Florence Barry, founder of the Liverpool Branch, and to the early workers, some of whom were now far afield, some even in Australia, several in London, among them Miss Nancy Parnell, who had acted as Hon. Secretary of the Branch for nearly eight years. Of those members who had passed to their reward Mrs. Parnell and Mrs. Stewart Mason (R.I.P.) stood out as enthusiastic workers.

Mrs. Laughton Mathews expressed her appreciation of the work of the Liverpool members, past and present, and gave a comprehensive survey of the work of the League of Nations Status of Women Committee. She emphasised the difference between altering the status of women by law, and in fact, as there is tremendous difficulty in sweeping away age-long ideas and customs.

From her experience in the children's courts, Miss Blackburn, J.P., spoke feelingly of the injustices borne by the "The Woman in the Little House," who is usually left the major part of the worry of finance and children. Couldn't something be done to make the man bear a greater share of the responsibility of the children's upbringing, and of the difficulty of balancing the budget, instead of leaving all to the "missis?"

Mrs. Handley gave a brief account of the work and aims of the Josephine Butler Memorial House, of which she is Sub-Warden. Though much has been done, there is still not an equal and high moral standard for men and women.

Mrs. Tidd Pratt, Leader of the Women Police Patrols, spoke of their work.

Miss Stella Mannion, Hon. Secretary of the Oldham Branch, who brought a contingent of members, spoke of the need of finding a way of attracting young women members.

Miss Twemlow, Hon. Secretary of the National Council of Women, Liverpool Branch, made an impromptu speech on the need for women on hospital committees. She was followed by Mrs. Munro, of the League of Nations Union, who spoke of the great educational value to men if they could be included in feminist societies.

The Women's Citizens Association of Birkenhead was well represented; Mrs. Greggains on their behalf made a lively speech and deplored the proportion of women on public committees. In Birkenhead it was two to sixty. Miss Hickey, F.C.C.S., spoke of the need for women in international politics, concluding with Francis Thompson's beautiful words on the "newer Eve."

Miss Evelyn Johnstone, late treasurer of the Branch, proposed the Toast "Our Guests," and Mrs. Murray one of the original members of the Branch that of our Chairman at which point the meeting broke into song "For she's a jolly good fellow."

Miss M. M. Johnstone delighted the guests by her singing, Miss O'Donnell being at the piano.

Congratulations and apologies for absence were sent from Miss Jeffery; Miss Barry and Miss Spender who were at the Eucharistic Congress in Budapest, Miss Fedden and Miss Nancy Parnell. Letters of encouragement were sent by Mgr. T. J. Walshe and Father Vincent McNabb, O.P., both old friends of the Woman's Movement.

Maria Verone

We regret to record the death of Maître Maria Verone the ardent French feminist and distinguished lawyer well-known not only in France but internationally. She was leader of the more militant section of the woman suffrage movement in France and President of the French League "Pour le Droit des Femmes."

Madame Verone was one of the first women in France to enter the legal profession and was delegated by the International Council of Women to present the feminist claim at the Conference for the Codification of International Law at the Hague in 1930.

Status of Women Day

A Public Demonstration of Women's Organisations at University College on May 14th celebrated the setting up by the Council of the League of Nations of a Committee of Experts to make a world survey of the status of women. A delegate conference in the morning discussed the points where British law was still unequal between men and women, Mrs. Laughton Mathews of St. Joan's Alliance speaking on the removal of the restriction on married women's right to earn. Other points discussed were equal pay and opportunity in the civil and local Government services; Jury service; Peeresses in the House of Lords; special laws against "common prostitutes"; "restraint on anticipation"; married women's income tax; nationality and domicile; equality in all insurance schemes; "protective" legislation.

Professor Gutteridge, Chairman of the Committee of Experts was entertained to lunch and subsequently addressed the afternoon meeting giving a comprehensive account of the plans of the Committee for making the survey. He was very willing to answer questions and clear up difficulties. The International Labour Office, he said, dealt with wages and hours of work but the *right* of women to enter professions and employments was likely to be a matter which would fall within the scope of the Committee's survey. With goodwill on both sides any difficulties as to overlapping would be overcome. Primitive law was the greatest difficulty, he continued, but the door was still open for the inclusion of "native" women in the survey if some practical way could be suggested for this end. In answer to a question on this point he stated that "any suggestions sent in by St. Joan's Alliance would have the most careful consideration of the Committee."

Many distinguished speakers addressed the meeting, among them Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell of St. Joan's Alliance who asked for the opening of the Diplomatic and Consular Service to women.

In conjunction with this demonstration many meetings have been held in the provinces. St. Joan's Alliance initiated the Liverpool meeting and in Birmingham Mrs. Whittles of St. Joan's Alliance was one of the chief speakers. The Alliance also co-operated in meetings at Birkenhead, Oldham and Nottingham.

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Eucharistia Vinculum Caritatis

(Continued from page 56)

tingent of their own delegation marched to the Square, welcomed by members of a Hungarian University Society. On arrival at the Square, a thunderstorm which had miraculously held off all day burst in drenching torrents over the waiting crowd. A peal of thunder sounded at the elevation of the monstrance for Benediction as though the Devil himself were there roaring and raging but powerless. The crowd held its ground, the Congress Anthem triumphantly rose above the storm—and the Congress was over.

Owing to the rain Cardinal Pacelli was unable to give his closing address on Heroes Square. But it was broadcast in the evening. "Ye shall be my witnesses, this is the passport that is given all of you, my beloved brethren, by the Eucharistic Redeemer," he said. "The spirit of God is not only found in the gentle breeze but sometimes even in the roaring fury of the hurricane" (how curious that the Congress should have closed in storm!) He quoted words of the Holy Father—unforgettable—"I give thanks to God every day that I have to live in these times . . . Good and evil are fighting a mighty duel with each other. *At this moment nobody has the right to stand aside.*"

Of all the many meetings—International and Sectional—there is no space to tell. But we must end with gratitude in our hearts for magnificent and simple things—for the beautiful city of Budapest with its unequalled position on river bank midst wooded hills, for the miraculous clearing of the storm before the opening ceremony of the Congress on Heroes Square, for the colourful costumes of the peasants and children which delighted our eyes during many days; for their devotion, mystic in its intensity, which put us all to shame; for the nuns sitting in a vast group on Congress Square, passing in smaller groups to and from the ceremonies, or shepherding the children with tender solicitude. For all these things and many more which were as much part of the Congress as the great ceremonies described, and for these as well—*Deo Gratias!*

Eucharistia vinculum caritatis. Sursum corda!

The film "From the Manger to the Cross" now showing at the "Cameo," Charing Cross Road, deserves Catholic support, and the "Cameo" is to be congratulated on enabling thousands to hear and see the Gospel story in dramatic and dignified guise.

Correspondence

The following letter was received too late for publication in our last issue, as we went early to press on account of the Budapest Congress.

Archbishop's House
Westminster, London, S.W.1.
May 9th, 1938.

To the Editor:
"The Catholic Citizen."

Sir,
The Archbishops and Bishops of England and Wales at their last Annual Low Week Meeting, decided to commend to the generous support of our Catholic people, the work of the Catholic Committee for Refugees from Germany and Austria, recently formed under my presidency. It is my earnest hope that, despite the needs of our own parishes, schools and poor, which it is our first duty to meet, this appeal will find a ready response. For it is one that gives expression most clearly to the supernatural unity of Catholics which has its foundation in their membership of the Mystical Body of Christ. It is one that affords opportunities for the practical exercise of that charity enjoined upon us all in the parable of the Good Samaritan, where it is the kindly foreigner who did minister to the needs of the afflicted Jew by the wayside.

From Austria and the rest of the German Reich, there comes the sad tale of many of our fellow Catholics who, through no fault of their own, are suddenly deprived of their means of subsistence, simply because they have some Jewish blood in their veins. They are of the race of Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother.

Nor are these the only Catholics forced into an unwilling exile. Many of them find themselves homeless, and even destitute, because of the part that they have played in the public life of their own country, be it in the Christian Trades Unions, in the Centre Party in Germany, or in the Fatherland Front in what was Austria.

Others again were members of the Catholic Youth organizations which, despite the Concordat between the Holy See and Germany, have been driven out of existence. Then there are those who, consequent upon the suppression of so many Catholic Schools in Germany, are compelled to seek outside of their own country that Catholic education for their children which they feel in duty bound to give them.

In seeking to come to the aid of these unfortunate men, women and children, our Catholic Committee has no political motive or function whatsoever. While its members share "the burning anxiety" of Our Holy Father for the Church in Germany, they are well aware that their co-religionists in the Reich have, as a whole, accepted the existing form of government. They have no desire to meddle in German or in international or in any other politics. Their sole concern, as it is my own, is that among those who have been forced to leave their homes in the Reich, there are many fellow Catholics who are in dire distress and in immediate need of help. It is for us to prove ourselves to be worthy disciples of Christ, and worthy of our Christian name, by providing for their immediate wants and doing so promptly.

I beg all our Catholic people to give what they can afford even though for many their utmost be but a few shillings, or a few pence. The office of

our Catholic Committee, 120, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1., will gladly inform enquirers of the various practical ways apart from gifts of money, in which they can co-operate and render real service. Let all remember with what kindness and generosity the Catholic Refugees from these shores were received on the Continent of Europe in the days of their own sufferings for the Faith three centuries ago, and that as the Church is to subsist in all ages, so too must that spirit of charity which is her greatest characteristic. It must not be said that among our fellow citizens who are not Catholics, many have been more ready than we have been to come to the aid of the German Refugees. Honour to all who help their fellows in distress, but to us, the time to do our part is now.

Yours sincerely,
A. CARDINAL HINSLEY,
Archbishop of Westminster.

International Labour Conference

55, Berners Street,
London, W.1,
May 13th, 1938.

To the President of the 24th Session of the
International Labour Conference

We, the undersigned international organisations having noted that the Governing Body of the International Labour Office has placed on the Agenda of the forthcoming 24th Session of the International Labour Conference the question of "Regulation of Contracts of Employment of Indigenous Workers," draw the attention of the International Labour Conference to the concern with which we view Part VII, Section 18 a and b of the Draft Questionnaire to be considered by the Conference, which runs as follows:

- (a) Women not to be permitted to conclude contracts except when accompanying, and for employment with, their husbands or adult male relatives, or for employment as domestic servants.
- (b) young persons . . . not to be permitted to conclude contracts except, in the case of female young persons, for employment in domestic service or as nurses, or, if they are with their families, on light agricultural work approved by the competent authority.

We realise fully that the intention of the International Labour Conference is to safeguard and promote the well-being of indigenous workers under contract of employment. But we urge the Conference to realise that with the spread of industrial development women's employment is bound to grow, and that regulations of the kind proposed in the questionnaire will be greatly to the detriment of women in earning their living.

We recall to the conference that if indigenous women are permanently made dependent on their male relatives for economic subsistence such retrogressive tribal practices as forced marriage and inheritance of widows against their wills, will be perpetuated since the women will have no alternative to marriage. Under these regulations a woman will not even have a chance of buying herself free from marital contracts entered into on her behalf but against her will.

We point out, moreover, the increasing practice of the employment by Governments of indigenous women workers married or unmarried in employments such as secretarial, typing, teaching, etc.

We note that domestic service has been excluded from these regulations but we urge the Conference to consider that to confine the paid work of such women to domestic service alone risks raising grave moral problems which should not be neglected by those who are seeking to promote the well-being of women workers.

Similarly, we urge the Conference to ensure that any regulations in their final form shall make it clear that no employment of a native labourer shall give the employer a right to the service of the wife of such a labourer.

If therefore, it is held desirable to regulate written contracts of employment of indigenous workers, we beg the International Labour Conference, when dealing with women workers, to take a long-sighted and comprehensive view and so to frame the regulations that they shall truly protect indigenous women workers from exploitation, without raising at the same time other problems which may prove very difficult of solution.

(SIGNED)

D. E. Evans (Acting Chairman), Equal Rights International.

A. de Graaf (President), International Abolitionist Federation.

Margery Corbett Ashby (President), International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship.

Marthe Boël (President), International Council of Women.

Lena Madison Phillips (President), International Federation of Business and Professional Women.

Agatha Dyrande Thévenin (President), Int. Fed. of Women Magistrates, Barristers and Members of other Branches of the Legal Profession.

Winifred Le Sueur (Hon. Secretary), Open Door International.

Vera Laughton Mathews (President), St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

G. R. McGregor Wood, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Agnes E. Slack (Hon. Secretary), World's Women's Christian Temperance Union.

St. Joan's Alliance in Australia

Hon. Secretary: Miss Margaret M. Flynn,
Catholic Central Library, Collins Street,
Melbourne.

At the April meeting of the Alliance held in the Central Catholic Library, Melbourne, Miss K. Walsh presiding, Miss M. M. Flynn gave an address to members on the history and aims and objects of St. Joan's Alliance. She traced the growth of the movement from the time of its foundation as the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society and stressed the necessity of Catholic women taking their place in public life. A discussion followed re the registration of contracts of employment of indigenous

workers and it was decided that the matter be left in the hands of Miss Flynn who would get in touch with Trades Hall officials.

The following office-bearers and members of the committee were appointed: General President—Dame Enid Lyons, Deputy President—Miss Margaret M. Flynn, Vice Presidents—Misses Kathleen Walsh and Anna Brennan, Hon. Secretary—Miss M. M. Flynn, Hon. Assist. Secretary and Treasurer—Miss Marie Carroll, Press Secretary—Miss Isabel Gartlan, Committee—Misses McMahon, Fleming, Wardell, Meehan, Dooley, Gartlan, Hogan and Burgess, Mesdames Henry, Johnson, Horan and Harrower. Leave of absence was granted to two committee members, Mrs. Johnson, who is at present in Europe and Miss Fleming, who leaves shortly for an extended tour abroad.

The Executive Committee and about twenty other members attended a week-end retreat at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Burke Road. St. Joan's Day was kept on May 29th when members attended Mass and made a general Communion in the Church of St. Francis followed by morning tea at Victoria Hotel.

Miss Flynn has recently been invited to fill a vacancy on the Victoria Aborigines Group Committee as a representative of St. Joan's and the National Council of Women Housing Sub-Committee now includes a St. Joan's member. The Alliance has co-operated with the League of Women Voters in protesting against clauses in the National Insurance Bill which propose unequal contributions and benefits between men and women.

At the May meeting of the Alliance the guest speaker for the evening was "Sparks" of the Australian Broadcasting Commission who gave members a most interesting talk on "The Phases of Women's Work in the Mercantile Marine." This is a sphere that few people know women inhabit at all, yet there are, besides the staffs of stenographers, trained nurses and hostesses on the ships themselves, the women on land who are engaged in the designing and interior decorating of ships. "Sparks" told of many amusing adventures that he has had, amongst them, his encounters with women captains of ships in Russia. He also paid a tribute to the great work of women light-house keepers. A vote of thanks was moved to the speaker by Miss Anna Brennan.

We take this opportunity of congratulating our member, Mrs. G. McNaughton, who has been re-elected for the third time as President of the Federation of Mothers' Clubs, Victoria.

We had much pleasure in welcoming our Australian members, the Misses Bineham, Jackson and Sexton at a tea-party in Hampstead on May 15th. All three were at Budapest for the Eucharistic Congress.

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