

THE

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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.

Twenty-One Years.

BY VERA LAUGHTON MATHEWS.

A friend of mine, no longer young, told me recently that it always made him happy to walk down Regent's Street because the first time he saw it he was very young and it was a lovely morning in Spring and the sun was shining, so now it is a magic street and whenever he walks down it he feels twenty-one on a May morning.

In history twenty-one years is a mere fraction of time, but in human experience it represents a whole generation. Those of us who are lucky enough to be able to look back, on this twenty-first anniversary of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, to the early days of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, step at once from middle age to youth; we are back in a world of romance and thrilling interest and feel ourselves once more twenty-one on a May morning. For we are not only young, we are in the middle of the most wonderful movement that the Christian world has known, and truly did the poet sing:

"Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive
But to be young was very heaven."

There was work in plenty, sacrifice, sorrow and strife, but what are these when one is twenty-one on a May morning. Indeed they are the very things which have helped to make St. Joan's Alliance all that it is to-day.

Founded in the heat of the militant move-

ment when prejudice was at its height, the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society had every kind of difficulty to contend with and throw on them all. With a Founder whose gentle exterior hid the rock on which faiths are built; a Chairman with the tact necessary to hold together members of all shades of thought and opinion save that they were Catholics and Suffragists; a Secretary of unsurpassed fearlessness, devotion and energy; and an Editor with the courage never to shirk difficult waters and with the brain to steer clear of whirlpool and mill-pond alike, the Society has through the twenty-one years of its existence built up a reputation of which all associated with it may well be proud. Now, in its maturity, it is known among its fellow societies in the cause of women's freedom and also among its opponents to be exceptionally alert, to be full of vitality, to be fearless and tireless—above all, it has held high the name of Catholic in circles where there might otherwise have been prejudice and misunderstanding. St. Joan's Alliance is rightly famed for the prowess of its younger members and has always been ready to give youth an opportunity of coming to the front. Though its leaders are older in years, the Alliance is imbued with the permanent spirit of youth. Indeed it may truly be said to embody many of the qualities of its great Patron Saint.

Its membership has never been large, and its financial resources have been correspondingly small, but this has never limited the scope of its activities. Its membership is spread through eighteen countries and only last year a branch of the Society was founded in France.

St. Joan's Alliance in the twenty-one years of its life has seen (and has helped to bring about) a revolution of thought in regard to the position of women. It has seen the suffrage granted to women in this country and many other legal reforms which hall-mark the change in public opinion. But the work of the Alliance still lies clear before it. There is not yet equality of opportunity for women even in this country, and in many parts of the world the battle has hardly begun.

So on this twenty-first birthday, with full hearts we wish the Alliance Many Happy Returns, and in spirit may it always be twenty-one on a May morning.

Notes and Comments.

Our members will now have received Petition forms respecting the Nationality of Married Women. This Petition, which is being organised on International lines, is to be presented to the League of Nations. We ask members to sign themselves, get their forms filled as quickly as possible, and send for more. The Petition has been already signed by His Grace the Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, who writes: "It gives me very great pleasure to return your appeal signed by me. I am so glad to see that you are still keeping the flag flying," by His Lordship the Bishop of Pella, the Bishop of Orleans, and his Vicar-General, Dom Gilbert Higgins, C.R.L., who writes: "Your Petition is one that should never have been required. May the Women's Petition succeed." Dom Gilbert has collected signatures from the Abbot and from other members of his community. Many other priests have signed, including Dr. W. H. Kent, O.S.C., Don Sturzo, and members of the Franciscans and Redemptorists, a

Dominican, a Jesuit, and many secular priests. Members are asked to return the forms by end of May.

MALTA.

The Catholic Press has dealt fully with the Report of the Malta Royal Commission (1931), and our readers will have noted to what extent the clergy and Catholics of Malta have been vindicated. Two paragraphs at least directly concern us as Catholic feminists. We refer our readers to p. 32 of the Report where it is stated that Lord Strickland, in speaking of clerical hostility, is reported to have said: "The electors of this country are not women . . . If we had votes for women, perhaps I would have been afraid of similar threats, but the vote is as yet restricted to the men of Malta, and I trust the men of Malta."

"There can be no doubt," the Commissioners say, "that this statement gave considerable offence to the Church."

And what of the women we may ask? The women of Malta sent up a petition to the Commission when set up, petitioning for Woman Suffrage. The Commissioners say that in view of the conditions prevailing in Malta they are unable, at the present time, to propose that women should be admitted to the Franchise. If any desire is evinced in that direction the movement should come from Malta itself, and not be imposed from outside. We hope Lord Strickland's boorishness will spur Maltese women to action.

We ask the prayers of our readers for the repose of the soul of Professor Ryland Whitaker. R.I.P.

We offer our sincere sympathy to his widow, Mrs. Whitaker, a member of our Alliance.

FRENCHWOMEN AND THE VOTE.

We much regret that the Senate has once again blocked the way to Woman Suffrage in France. But the time will come, and that before long, when the Senators will find that they can no longer stem the tide of progress. We wish our suffrage colleagues good luck!

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.

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St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

Twenty-First Annual Report.

In spite of the economic crisis feminists continue to hold their own, although there are no great victories to record for 1931.

The Woman's Movement has sustained a severe loss by the death of two notable pioneers, Miss Margaret McMillan, champion of the Nursery Schools, and Dame Mary Scharlieb, who did so much for medical women.

The following Acts in which women are more directly concerned have been passed during the year:

Sentence of Death (Expectant Mothers) Act piloted through the House by Miss Picton-Turbervill that a pregnant woman convicted of an offence punishable by death shall be sentenced instead to penal servitude.

The Unemployment Insurance (Anomalies Act) which amongst other things impose special conditions on married women making it more difficult for them to receive benefit.

The Maintenance of Adopted Children (Scotland) Act amending the previous Scottish Act on the subject and bringing children adopted before 1930 under the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Act.

The Wills and Intestacies Bill introduced by Miss Rathbone providing that a spouse and children should be entitled to a share in the estate, was referred to a joint select committee who reported that "such a measure was worthy of serious consideration."

While the Labour women M.P.'s. shared the fate of most of their Party and were defeated, the General Election gave us the same number of women M.P.'s. as before—that is fifteen, 62 candidates having stood. No woman has found a place in the Cabinet of the National Government.

To review the special points of our programme for 1931:

Equal Political Rights.—The position as regards Peereuses in the House of Lords remains unchanged.

Equal Moral Standard.—We are glad to be able to record that during the year the Government has taken action in the Federated Malay States, Cyprus and Hong Kong for the abolition of brothel-keeping and procuration.

Equal Pay and Opportunities.—The Report of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service proved disappointing, the Commissioners and the Treasury seem more concerned with economy and with the desire to preserve the status quo than with justice. With reference to women's economic position in general, a certain reaction is apparent, more particularly in the case of married women. This trend is world-wide and indeed in France some have even gone so far as to suggest depriving women of all paid work outside the home. With reference to the *Employment of Married Women*, we have to congratulate the Governors of Birmingham General Hospital on their reversal of the decision taken in 1929 that a married woman should not be eligible for appointment on the medical staff, and that those marrying during their tenure of office should be dismissed. Cardiff has also removed the ban on women doctors in its public institutions. The London County Council, however, still refuses to employ married women doctors.

Nationality of Married Women.—Early in January the Council of the League of Nations set up a Consultative Committee of representatives from Women's International Organisations to consider and report on the Nationality of Married Women. This committee presented an agreed report in favour of a woman's right to retain or change her nationality on marriage. The Bureau of the International Catholic Women's Leagues addressed a Memorandum to the Secretary of the League of Nations to the effect that the right of women to choose their nationality was prejudicial to the unity of the

family. St. Joan's S.P.A. immediately wrote to the Secretary General of the League and to the British delegation expressing their emphatic disagreement with the Memorandum and pointing out, *inter alia*, that several Catholic countries already have equal nationality laws between men and women, and that the same arguments had been used against the Married Women's Property Act and Woman's Suffrage. The French Section of St. Joan's Alliance, also the Centre des Recherches Féministes—composed of Catholic women and the British branch of the C.W.L., sent a telegram to Geneva disassociating themselves from the Bureau's Memorandum.

Maternal Mortality. Early in the year the Minister of Health issued a circular calling attention to the fact that there are still 3,000 deaths annually of mothers in childbirth, one half of which are preventable. He urged Local Authorities to do all in their power to check this deplorable loss. The economy campaign, we fear, is likely to prevent a truly efficient maternity service being set up—so strange is the official idea of economy.

Income Tax. We regret that the anomalous position by which a married woman's income is counted with her husband's for income tax purposes remains unchanged.

Slavery. With regard to *Mui Tsai* the position is still far from satisfactory especially as regards the inadequacy of the inspection of *Mui Tsai* and the registration of so-called "adopted daughters."

Women Police. Early in the year Mr. Clynes, then Home Secretary, promised to increase the number of women police in the Metropolis by fifty. We are still waiting for this promise to be fulfilled; meanwhile the cry is heard to economise at the expense of policewomen. In October regulations dealing with the employment and status of women police were issued by the Government, but one outstanding omission is the failure to make the swearing in of women police compulsory wherever they are employed.

Birth Control. A Memorandum from the Ministry of Health was issued in July slightly restraining the general powers of Local Authorities to establish birth control clinics, and stating that "no existing officer of a Local Authority should be prejudiced in any way by a decision of the authorities to provide facilities for birth control advice within the limits laid down by the Memorandum."

International. Seventeen women were sent as representatives from their countries to the 12th Assembly of the League of Nations. The first All-Asian Women's Conference was held in Lahore in January.

Bermuda. where less than six per cent. of the population have votes, women are persistently pressing their claims to the franchise, but so far without success.

Brazil. A limited Woman Suffrage Bill has been introduced, and women have been appointed to serve on juries.

Ceylon. For the first time women voted on equal terms with men, and one woman was elected—not nominated—to the State Council.

Egypt. Women police have been appointed, as also in *Uruguay*.

France. Several towns have decided to close their "Maisons tolérées"; the "Union Temporaire" Against Regulated Prostitution and Traffic in Women is working vigorously to destroy this iniquitous system throughout the country.

India Round Table Conference. Three Indian women were appointed delegates to the India Round Table Conference, but no British women.

Burma Round Table Conference. In response to pressure both here and in Burma, one woman—Miss May Oung—was appointed to the Burma Round Table Conference, but again no British women.

Persia. The marriage age has been raised to 16 for girls and 18 for boys.

Portugal. A limited franchise has been granted to women.

Quebec. Women are still voteless in this province, but recent legislation has given a married woman control of her own earnings and the right to be a testatrix. It has also given to separated women the same rights as a single woman or a widow.

Roumania. Women voted for the first time in municipal elections.

Spain. The outstanding victory abroad is the enfranchisement of Spanish women on equal terms with men. The Republic has declared all Spaniards equal before the law, and all public offices open to both men and women. Three women now sit in the Cortes.

Turkey. Fifteen women have been elected to Parliament.

St. Joan's Quincentenary Celebrations Appeal. The outstanding work of the year (which practically monopolised the activities of the Alliance for the first six months) was the organisation of England's amende honorable to St. Joan of Arc, our Patron, in connection with the five hundredth anniversary of her martyrdom. St. Joan's S.P.A. was mainly responsible for organising the Appeal. Miss Barry was the Hon. Secretary of the Appeal and the actual work of organising was done entirely from the offices of our Alliance, which were lent for the purpose to the Joint Committee of organisations of Catholic women. The report of the Appeal Committee now published shows that in all £605 11s. 6d. was raised. At the religious ceremony in Rouen Cathedral on May 30th the Papal Legate, His Eminence Cardinal Bourne, blessed the foundation stone of St. Joan's Memorial

Church. As President of the Appeal Committee he presented the Archbishop of Rouen with a Banker's Certificate for £500, the clear proceeds of the Appeal. Places were reserved in the Cathedral for four delegates from the Appeal Committee—Countess Haig of Bemersyde; Miss Butler-Bowdon, the artist responsible for the Golden Book containing the names of subscribers; Dr. Letitia Fairfield, originator of the scheme, and Miss Sedgwick, Joint. Hon. Treasurer. At the close of the ceremony the book was handed to the Archbishop of Rouen by these delegates as representing the subscribers to the National Appeal.

At the civic procession on the same day, in which His Eminence Cardinal Bourne and His Excellency the Rt. Hon. Lord Tyrrell, British Ambassador, took part, the English Delegation representing St. Joan's Quincentenary Celebrations Appeal was given a prominent place. The contingent was headed by Lt.-Colonel O'Malley carrying the Union Jack and followed by the banner lent by St. Joan's Alliance, representing St. Joan on horseback, bearing on the reverse the inscription "Homage to St. Joan of Arc from England." Ten delegates from the Alliance attended the celebrations in Rouen, taking with them a laurel wreath tied in our colours and bearing a suitable inscription, which they laid in the name of the Alliance, before St. Joan's statue in the market place.

On the same day Mrs. O'Connor and Miss Hynes placed a similar wreath at St. Joan's Shrine in Westminster Cathedral. By the kindness of the Revd. Henry Day, S.J., Mass was offered on St. Joan's feast day for the welfare of the Alliance.

Foundation of L'Alliance Sainte Jeanne d'Arc. Another outstanding event of the year was the foundation in Paris of a French Section of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance immediately following after St. Joan's Quincentenary Celebrations. Our Hon. Secretary was present at the inaugural meeting held in Paris on June 2nd at the house of Mme. Paul Archambault, when Mademoiselle Lenoël, the founder and Hon. Secretary explained the aims of the Alliance. It is gratifying to record that Mlle. Lenoël has been a member of our Alliance for several years, and comes from St. Joan's own city of Orleans.

The address of L'Alliance is Chateau de la Cour-Vesdun, par Vesdun (Cher), and the annual subscription is 10 francs, which includes the excellent paper, "Revue de l'Alliance Ste. Jeanne d'Arc," which we warmly recommend to our readers. Although our Alliance has members in eighteen different countries, France is the first to form a separate section. We hope other countries will follow this excellent example.

General Election. At the request of the Alliance, in accordance with our custom, Mass was offered on polling day at St. Patrick's, Soho, to beg Divine Guidance on the electors. Deeming it necessary to

uphold our just demands, despite the exceptional circumstances of the election, St. Joan's S.P.A. issued a questionnaire to be presented to Parliamentary candidates dealing with: Equal Political Rights, Equal Moral Standard, Equal Pay and Opportunities, the Right of Married Women to Retain or Change their Nationality, to engage in paid work, to be separately assessed and taxed, on Women Police, Birth Control and Catholic Education.

Several of our members gave help to candidates of different parties who supported our programme. We also co-operated with the Equal Rights Committee in issuing a manifesto on the General Election and the Status of Women, and a questionnaire dealing with the matter was sent to all Parliamentary candidates.

The Twentieth Annual Meeting of St. Joan's S.P.A. was held on Saturday, March 14th, at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square, Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A., presiding.

The adoption of the Annual Report, read by Miss Monica O'Connor, was moved by Miss Eleanor Fitzgerald, and seconded by Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, B.A. The adoption of the Financial Statement was moved by Miss C. Madden, and seconded by Miss Gunning. Both were approved and adopted by the meeting.

The following resolutions were moved from the chair and carried:

1. EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS.

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

2. EQUAL MORAL STANDARD.

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

(b) **State Regulation of Vice.** St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to hasten the abolition of all brothels known to the authorities within the jurisdiction of the British Empire.

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

(d) **Compulsory Repatriation of Prostitutes.** Whilst emphasizing its desires that the League of Nation's Advisory Committee on Traffic in

Women should take all possible steps to ensure that women and minor girls should be given an opportunity of repatriation to their own country if they desire it; St. Joan's S.P.A. re-affirms its opposition to any legislation directed against prostitutes only as being opposed to the principles of justice, and contrary to an equal standard of morality. It therefore calls upon the British Delegation to the League of Nations to oppose any proposals for an International Convention for the compulsory repatriation of prostitutes.

3. EQUAL PAY AND OPPORTUNITIES.

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

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

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

4. NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that a British woman should have restored to her the right of retaining her nationality on marriage with an alien, which was taken from her in 1870; and that, irrespective of marriage, she should have the same right as a man to retain or change her nationality. It calls upon the Government to pass legislation, embodying these principles, and to instruct the British Delegation to the 1931 Assembly of the League of Nations to support similar action.

5. SLAVERY.

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to take all possible steps to discountenance among indigenous peoples any practices whatsoever involving the bartering of women and children into domestic or other forms of slavery.

(b) *Mui Tsai*. (1) St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that registration of *Mui Tsai*, including "adopted daughters," should be made compulsory; (2) that an adequate system of inspection, control and remuneration be enforced; (3) that all *Mui Tsai* be informed personally that they are now free, and that proper accommodation and training for them be provided.

6. MATERNAL MORTALITY.

St. Joan's S.P.A. notes with satisfaction the awakening of public opinion on the question of the high rate of maternal mortality. It calls upon the Ministry of Health to provide adequate mater-

nity services throughout the country, and further urges upon its members the duty of pressing their Local Authorities to carrying out to the full their powers in this respect.

7. INCOME TAX.

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

8. WOMEN POLICE.

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

9. AGRICULTURE.

St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that in all schemes for the rehabilitation of agriculture equal treatment be accorded to men and women.

10. UNEMPLOYMENT.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls upon the Government to allocate for the training and relief of unemployed women an equal sum of money in proportion to their numbers, as is expended upon men.

11. CATHOLIC EDUCATION.

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

12. BIRTH CONTROL.

St. Joan's S.P.A. deplores the change in the policy of the Ministry of Health in allowing, in certain cases, information on artificial birth control to be given at centres maintained out of public funds—thus contravening the pledge of the Ministry without any reference to Parliament. It urges its members to watch the matter in their Local Councils.

13. POLITICAL PARTIES.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls upon the political parties to embody the above reforms in their programmes.

The Chairman expressed the pleasure of the Alliance in again welcoming a contingent from Liverpool, and hoped it would be stronger each year.

As a result of the ballot for committee, Miss C. Madden, F.L.A., and Mrs. Shattock, M.B., B.S., were elected to fill the vacancies caused by the resignation of Miss C. M. Gordon and Mrs. McMahon, who were leaving London. It was announced that Miss Douglas Irvine, M.A., had been elected chairman. Miss Pauline Brandt kindly accepted the office of Hon. Treasurer, and Miss Barclay Carter that of Hon. Press Secretary. We take this opportunity of again thanking Miss Gordon for her work as Chairman and Mrs. Laughton Mathews for her work as Hon. Treasurer.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, a public meeting was held, at which Miss E. H. Pratt spoke on "What Country Women Do and Might Do," Miss Douglas Irvine presiding.

OTHER MEETINGS, ETC.

By the generosity of our member, Dr. Shattock, a delightful *New Year's Party* was held in her house in Regent's Park, which added to the funds of the Alliance. We were kindly entertained by Miss Edith Delaney, Miss E. FitzGerald, Mrs. Fox, and the three children of Dr. Shattock.

On June 8th several of the pilgrims who had attended the Quincentenary Celebrations in Rouen, gave an account of the ceremonies to an interested audience at a meeting in *St. Patrick's Club Room*; Miss Fedden presiding. Dr. Letitia Fairfield and Miss Barclay Carter were the chief speakers. The Golden Book was on view.

On July 16th the Alliance gave a *Dinner at Pinoli's Restaurant* in honour of our member, Miss McEntee, Ph.D., Instructor in History, Hunter College, New York City. Miss Douglas Irvine in the Chair, voiced the welcome which St. Joan's Alliance always extends to overseas members. Miss McEntee gave an interesting account of the position of women in the United States. She regretted there was no society in her country equivalent to St. Joan's Alliance. She also spoke of the article on Women in the "Catholic Encyclopedia" and the movement to have it amended in which she was taking an active part.

In July delegates of the *Swiss Suffrage Society*, who came to London on a "Study Visit," were entertained by Miss Barry and Miss Jeffery at Hampstead, and after a walk across the Heath to Highgate, by Miss Gadsby at tea.

In connection with the *World Disarmament Demonstration* held in the Albert Hall on July 11th, at which the leaders of the three Parliamentary Parties spoke, a contingent of the Alliance walked with its banner in the procession organised by the Women's International League from the Embankment to the Albert Hall. Several members of the Alliance helped during the year to collect signatures for the World Peace Petition to the Disarmament Conference.

OUR MAJORITY.

On March 25th, 1932, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance attains its majority and on December 8th, a family party was held at the Junior Liberal Club, St. Ermin's Hotel, in honour of our founders, Miss Gabrielle Jeffery and Miss Kendall. It was on the feast of the Immaculate Conception twenty-one years ago that our founders met outside Holloway Gaol, when waiting to welcome suffrage prisoners due for release. As our members know it was from this providential meeting of these two Catholic girls that the idea of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society was born. Miss Douglas Irvine presided at the party, and presented Miss Jeffery in the name of the Alliance with a reproduction in gold and enamel of the first badge of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society. Miss Jeffery, in replying, said no gift could have pleased her better. We regretted Miss Kendall could not be with us owing to family reasons.

Miss Edith Delaney and Miss Doris Waymark gave us some charming songs; Miss Eleanor FitzGerald told some of her delightful Irish stories. Our family party has left a pleasant memory.

Meetings afford a welcome opportunity for members to foregather, and they are useful as a medium for education and propaganda. But it must not be forgotten that they are not the sole or most important work of the Alliance. Unceasing vigilance is

required to watch the movements of the political world and of Government Departments, as they affect our aims and when necessary to act instantly. This work, the extent of which is perhaps unknown to the average member, can only be carried on by a vast amount of research and hard and relentless office work.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

In February Mlle. Lenoël presented on our behalf a report on Married Women's Work outside the Home to the Conference organised by the *Union Féminine Civique et Sociale*, in Paris. At the *Congress of the International Abolitionist Federation* held at *Strasbourg* in April, we were represented by Mme. Gemähling. Miss Barclay Carter represented us at the Conference of the *Action Démocratique et Internationale de la Paix* held at *Constance* in August. We were represented by Mlle. Lenoël at the *International Disarmament Conference* in Paris in November at which the French Section of the Alliance was also separately represented.

At the Annual Conference of the British Commonwealth League held in London in June, Miss C. M. Gordon, on behalf of St. Joan's Alliance, moved the resolution welcoming the efforts already made by the Colonial Office to abolish the system of *Mui Tsai*, and calling for an adequate system of inspection with a view to ensuring that none of these child victims are allowed to slip through the Government net, and for the provision of suitable accommodation for those who wish to leave their employers, and for their training in occupations in which they can earn their livelihood. Other subjects discussed included "Economic Opportunities for Women Overseas" dealt with by speakers from Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

Several members of the Alliance were present at the Dinner to *Dame Rachel Crowley*, organised by the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, on June 25th, at the *Café Royal*, as a token of appreciation on her retirement from her position as head of the Opium Control and Social Questions Department of the League of Nations; more especially as a tribute to her work for the abolition of the traffic in women.

LETTERS AND RESOLUTIONS

have been sent to the authorities concerned on the following subjects:

Woman Suffrage in Quebec; the *Nationality of Married Women*, both to our own Government and the League of Nations; the *Wills and Intestacies Bill*; on the *Prohibition of Night Work for women only*; *Chaplaincy of Students at Oxford*; *Humane Slaughter of Animals*; protesting against the *Compulsory Repatriation of Prostitutes*; and urging representation for the *National Union of Women Teachers* on the *Standing Joint Committee on Teachers' Salaries*; that no discrimination against any claimant for benefit should be made on account of sex or marriage in the *Insurance Bill*; the appointment of a woman to fill the vacancy of the *Chief Woman Officer of the Ministry of Labour* for Scotland; the appointment of Indian and British women to the *Round Table Conference* and suggesting suitable delegates; the appointment of Miss May Oung to the *Burma Conference*; Mrs. Corbet Ashby as a suitable delegate to the *Disarmament Conference*. This last request, which we are gratified to find has been acted upon by the Government, was first put forward by our Alliance.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER SOCIETIES.

The Alliance is affiliated to the International Woman's Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship and the Open Door International, and is represented on the committees of the following Societies:

The Catholic Citizens' Parliament, where members of the Alliance led for the motion on two occasions; the Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union; The Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations; The Equal Rights Committee; The National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child; The Women Peers Committee; The Parliamentary and Legislative Committee of the National Council of Women; The Joint Committee of the three British Auxiliaries affiliated to the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship; The British Commonwealth League; The Nationality of Married Women Pass the Bill Committee; the Women's Council on Indian Questions; and we are also affiliated to the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene and the Open Door Council.

Miss Hynes represented the Alliance on the *Deputation to the Under Secretary of State for India*, organised by the London Committee of the Women's Indian Association, on the subject of the selection of women delegates to the Round Table Conference.

At the Conference called by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship to lay the views of the Women's Organisations before the *Women Delegates appointed to the Assembly of the League of Nations*, we were represented by Miss Butler-Bowdon; and by Miss Barry to hear Dame Edith Lytton's report on her return from Geneva at a meeting organised by the same body.

Miss de Alberti, Miss Harley Bacon and Mrs. Laughton Mathews were our representatives at the *League of Nations Union Conference of Women's Societies* held to hear the report on the Assembly by the returning delegates.

At the Conference of the Women's Freedom League on the position of *Women in the International Labour Office*, Miss Whately moved a resolution on our behalf on the subject of the lead paint convention. Miss Madden also attended as a delegate.

On May 4th the French Circle of the Lyceum Club gave a dinner in honour of St. Joan of Arc, to which the officers of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance were invited, and at which Mrs. Laughton Mathews spoke on our behalf.

In July at the dinner organised by the Women's Freedom League, Miss Butler-Bowdon voiced the gratitude of the Alliance to Sir Robert Newman as a tribute to his long and faithful service to the Women's Cause, and in the same month Miss Butler-Bowdon again represented us at another dinner of the Women's Freedom League given in honour of Mrs. Morrell and Miss Rees, delegates of the Bermuda Suffrage Society to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

On July 14th, the anniversary of Mrs. Pankhurst's birthday, the Alliance, together with other societies, placed flowers at the foot of her statue in the Victoria Tower Gardens.

In September our Chairman was the guest at a dinner of the Women's Indian Association at a brilliant gathering at the Lyceum Club in honour of the three women delegates to the Round Table Conference.

On October 25th, our Hon. Secretary was present on the platform at the London celebrations of the 40th anniversary of "Rerum Novarum."

We were able to supply Miss Neilans, of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene with some useful introductions on her recent visit to Syria in connection with Abolitionist work.

"CATHOLIC CITIZEN."

"The Catholic Citizen" has now completed seventeen years of useful work. We are fortunate in being able to procure articles from experts on the varied subjects with which the paper deals, and owing to their generosity "The Catholic Citizen" maintains a high standard. We are constantly being reminded by messages from distant parts of the world, how far our paper carries, and how much it is valued. "The Catholic Citizen" is exchanged for 56 papers, chiefly foreign.

In the earlier part of this year "The Catholic Citizen" gave help to St. Joan's Quincentenary Appeal Committee by publishing articles calling attention to the work of the Committee, also to the celebrations in Rouen.

PRESS REPORT.

In connection with the St. Joan's Quincentenary Celebrations Appeal, to which our own Hon. Press Secretary, Miss Barclay Carter, gave her services, the Alliance, as one of the four organising Societies, received very considerable publicity in the British and French press.

An article appeared in *The Woman's Leader* entitled "From Lambeth to Rome" commenting upon the Holy Father's Encyclical on Marriage and misrepresenting the attitude of Catholic women towards Birth Prevention. A letter of protest, signed by all the Officers of our Committee, was published by *The Woman's Leader*.

A correspondence on the subject of Married Women's Work was carried on in *The Catholic Times* by Miss Madden and Miss Douglas Irvine, and a letter from our Hon. Secretary appeared in all the chief Catholic weeklies, reminding readers with parliamentary and municipal votes to ascertain that their names were on the Annual Register of Electors. In *The Universe*, Miss Douglas Irvine, "dumbfounded and unable to comment," quoted the definition of the word "Woman" in the latest edition of *The Catholic Encyclopaedic Dictionary*: "As individuals men and women are morally equal—socially man is superior; that God intended this is shown by man's physical and intellectual equipment." A letter signed by our Chairman appeared in *The Woman's Leader*, protesting against the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship holding a luncheon at the Criterion Restaurant, on account of its prohibiting entry to "single ladies from 9-30 p.m. or two or more from 10-30 p.m."

Co-operating with other Societies, the Alliance contributed letters to *The Times* on "Married Women in Employment" and "No Woman in the Government." In connection with the latter, our Hon. Secretary was interviewed by press representatives and her comments appeared in many London and Provincial newspapers. In co-operation with the Women Peers Committee, a joint letter was signed on behalf of the Alliance on the subject of Peeresses in the House of Lords.

PERSONAL.

We congratulate the following members
Sister Mary Bernard (Miss Dorothy Stevens) on her profession as a Franciscan Missionary of Mary. We wish her much success in Uganda, where she has gone to work with Mother Kevin; Miss Joan Rafferty on her marriage to Mr. Farmer; Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Dr. Delia Moclair Horne on the birth of sons, and Mrs. Mills on the birth of a daughter.

During the year we had the pleasure of welcoming Frau von Matsch from Austria, Miss Machin from Costa Rica, Sister Mary Joseph of the Sisters of Social Service from Hungary, Mrs. J. K. Shennan from South Africa, and Miss McEntee and Miss Alice Paul from U.S.A.

We owe thanks to many of our members who have assisted the work of the Alliance in various ways. It would be invidious to single out particular names except that of Miss Butler-Bowdon, who as in past years, has given devoted and full-time service to the Alliance to whom therefore the wholehearted thanks of her fellow-members are due.

OBITUARY.

We much regret to record the deaths of Miss Nellie Blackledge, Mrs. Connolly, Mrs. D'Arcy Fox, Dr. Margaret Lamont, Miss O'Callaghan, Canon Rooney, and Viscountess Dupplin (1932).—R.I.P.

The Annual Mass for the repose of the souls of the deceased members, associates and benefactors of the Alliance, was offered at St. Patrick's, Soho Square, on November 1st.

LIVERPOOL BRANCH.

The year just passed has been one of quiet consolidation rather than of expansion in either membership or activities. Though several valuable recruits have joined our ranks, removals and death have robbed us of an almost equal number of members, and we especially miss the help and interest of Mrs. Lyon and Miss Mary McCurdy, B.A.

Following the Annual Meeting on January 2nd, at which Miss Barry gave us a rousing send-off, five ordinary meetings of an educational character have been held. The speakers at these have been Mr. Das, of the Commonwealth of India League, the Hon. Secretary, Miss Hardwick, Organising Secretary to the Diocesan Board of Moral Welfare, Miss Curtaue, author of *St. Catherine of Siena* and other works, and Mr. Granville Roberts, of the Merseyside Hospitals Council. They dealt respectively with "India," "Restrictive Legislation," "Recent Developments in Moral Welfare at Home and Aboard," "The Paradox of St. Catherine" and "The Part Played by Women in the Development of Voluntary Hospitals." We are very much indebted to Mrs. Johnstone for her hospitality to us for the meeting on India, and to Mrs. McCann for her generous contributions to the refreshments throughout the year.

Besides these meetings, a very enjoyable Social was held on January 21st in order to augment our funds, and also to give members an opportunity of getting to know each other. A very delightful Garden Party took place on June 13th, when we were all the guests of the Misses Barry in Birkenhead. Here, we inspected the Golden Book, and heard a most vivid account from Miss F. Barry of

In the Dominion and Foreign Press; among other references to our Alliance, *The Horizon* (Australia) reprinted from *The Catholic Citizen* Miss Barclay Carter's article on "Mère Javouhey—Apostle of the Blacks." *The Commonwealth* (U.S.A.) published a long commentary on Don Sturzo's "A 'Mise au Point'" which appeared in *The Catholic Citizen*. *Equal Rights* (U.S.A.) reprinted another article from our paper by its Editor, on Equal Rights and Protective Legislation for Women. Sympathetic reference was made to the Alliance in *Le Mouvement Féministe* (Geneva) in connection with our action at the League of Nations on the Nationality of Married Women. *La Française* gave a hearty welcome to the French Branch of St. Joan's on its formation.

We wish to thank the Editors of *The Tablet*, *The Catholic Times*, *The Catholic Herald*, and more especially *The Universe*, for reports of our activities which they have published throughout the year. We also thank the Editors of *The Vote*, *The Woman's Leader* and *The Woman Teacher* for their kindness in advertising our meetings under their "Forthcoming Events." We are indebted to *The Woman's Leader* for an article entitled "St. Joan" which spoke of our Alliance in very laudatory terms.

Much gratitude for generous and invaluable help is offered to Miss C. M. Gordon and Miss Barclay Carter who acted as our Press Secretaries during the past year, also to Miss Hynes, who so carefully continues to keep our press book up-to-date.

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Our subscription list for 1931 is unfortunately lower than in 1930 by nearly £50. The cause of this is principally the St. Joan's Quincentenary Celebrations Appeal. Many of our members gave very generously to this and were therefore unable to spare as much as usual for the funds of the Alliance. Also the work of the Quincentenary Appeal entailed a great deal of expenditure of time so that the Alliance was unable to concentrate on as many money-making activities as in former years. Unfortunately we have ended this year with a deficit of thirteen guineas. In 1932 we hope to make up for what we have lost in 1931.

The first money-making event of the year was the party given, by kind permission of Dr. Shattock, at her house, and this brought us in nearly £5. We also held two jumble sales, kindly organised by Mrs. Hand, one in July and one in December, which together realised about £15. The Christmas Sale at Caxton Hall, which is always a very important item in our finance, brought us in about £35. Thus these sales brought in £59 11s. 3d., this amount including the takings from the permanent office bazaar.

The rent of the office continues to be the chief item of expenditure of the General Fund. Some of our members give a yearly donation of £5 for this object. We are most grateful to them, but we urgently require more contributions before the question of the rent ceases to be a pressing anxiety.

We still need many more subscriptions to "The Catholic Citizen" before it can pay its way.

Our special thanks are due to Miss McEvoy, who has so kindly assisted us during the year by doing duplicating work, and to Miss Butler-Bowdon who designed and made us a gift of the beautiful Christmas cards, which were sold for the benefit of the Alliance.

the Quincentenary Celebrations in Rouen. We also had the pleasure of making or of renewing acquaintance with Miss Gordon, the ex-Chairman of the Alliance, who gave us a most interesting address on the whole feminist position.

The due celebration of the Quincentenary of the martyrdom of St. Joan occupied a great deal of our time and energies. Over fifty cards of "faggots" were disposed of by members, and the £5 raised at the end of 1930 was duly dispatched to London that the name of the Branch as a whole might appear in the Golden Book. On the actual anniversary, every member received a small picture of St. Joan suitably inscribed, as a souvenir of the occasion. Holy Mass in her honour was offered up at the Pro-Cathedral at the special request of the Branch, which was attended by many lovers of St. Joan outside our ranks. The day concluded with an informal dinner at Reece's, and a visit to the Playhouse.

Relations with Headquarters have been as happy as ever, and nine members of the Branch attended the Annual Meeting in London last March, while two represented us at the recent presentation to Miss Jeffery, our founder. In order to meet our obligations as £5 guarantors towards the rent of the London Office, we held a dance last February, which proved to be one of the most successful functions in the history of the Branch.

There have been fewer joint efforts among Liverpool societies this year than usual, but we are still represented on the Catholic Ball Committee, the Women's Peace Crusade by the Hon. Secretary. The latter organisation was responsible for an effective piece of propaganda in support of disarmament, in the form of an impressive procession of women through the streets of the city to the Picton Hall, where a largely attended demonstration was held. We are also represented on the Disarmament Campaign Council by the Hon. Secretary, who at one of the mass meetings arranged by this Council, seconded the Resolution. Several of our members are making brilliant successes of their girls' clubs, a matter of importance to the whole Branch, since it is largely in return for their efforts that we are allowed the use of the L.U.G.C. premises on such moderate terms. Although, through a misunderstanding, we were not asked to co-operate in the Conference on Social Service organised by the C.W.L. here last summer, the Hon. Secretary was invited to speak on "Catholic Women in Public Life."

Apart from the despatch of numerous resolutions, some correspondence concerning the nationality of married women, and a few questions to candidates for Parliament, the Branch has done little political work this year.

As regards "The Catholic Citizen" fair numbers were sold by Miss Fox Taylor and the Misses Parnell at the annual pilgrimage to the grave of Teresa Higginson, and every member received a copy of the current number at the time of the General Election. We are very much indebted to Mrs. McCann for acting as Paper Secretary towards the end of the year when Miss Johnstone was unable to do so.

The Committee has met six times at 45 Falkner Street by invitation of the Misses Parnell. It has distinguished itself by its regularity and its zeal for the welfare of the Branch. Our special thanks are due to Miss Fox Taylor, the assistant Secretary, without whose help the Branch could not have carried on. We are also very grateful to Miss Mary

Parnell, the Refreshments Secretary, who has always made herself responsible for the general arrangements of the meetings, as well as for the catering. To these, and to all other members who have rendered us services during the year we give our grateful thanks, and we hope that they will continue in their generosity and loyalty to the Branch, that it may one day take its rightful place as a really forceful body in the city and archdiocese of Liverpool.

N. S. PARNELL, B.A. (Hon. Sec.)

DR. OGILVIE GORDON.

We offer our sincere congratulations to Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, President of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, who has been awarded by the Geological Society of London a Lyell Gold Medal, together with £30 from the Lyell Geological Fund, in recognition of her geological work in the Dolomites.

In the *Woman Engineer*, March, Miss Amy Johnson says: "The only argument that men can bring forward against woman's intrusion (into aviation) is that of physical strength, but this seems to be very poor grounds for establishing and retaining a monopoly. . . . In engineering there are many jobs beyond a man's strength. What does he do? He fetches an instrument. What did I do when I found a job beyond my strength? At first I used to fetch a real he-man engineer, and if he couldn't do the job he'd fetch some tool that would. I soon learned that it saved time to fetch the tool right away."

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International Notes.

ABOLITIONIST VICTORY IN HONG KONG.

We have to thank the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene for the following good news:

"We have just received the official announcement made by the Government in the Hong Kong press on December 4th, 1931, that "all brothels are to be abolished as soon as practicable."

Some months ago, the Government made a beginning by serving notices on the owners of foreign brothels in the Colony that they must close by the end of 1931. This order is now extended as follows:

Non-Chinese brothels (i.e., houses catering for the foreign clientele) shall be closed in six months from January 1st, 1932.

Chinese Brothels It is intended that these houses shall all be closed within three years. To that end, no new women will be registered as from now, nor will any transfer of women from one house of ill-fame to another be allowed, and any woman leaving a house for a month will have her registration cancelled. The position will be reviewed in twelve months and, if necessary, the extinction of brothels will be hastened.

We note with special pleasure the following press comment:

"The Government, in the action it has taken, has the support of the responsible members of the Chinese community. The District Watch Committee has unanimously and loyally promised its co-operation. . . . The Government hopes to do more in the suppression of venereal diseases as was stated in the last Budget speech. Clinics are being set up and it is expected that the Chinese public dispensaries will co-operate."

The International Women's News (February) reports that they have learnt by cable that the women of Peru have been granted the Municipal vote, and that the law with regard to the nationality of married women will be altered to meet the claim of women to retain their nationality on marriage with foreigners. The Latin countries are beginning to forge ahead.

The Legislature of Quebec has postponed for six months consideration of the Woman Suffrage Bill. Meanwhile Mlle. Idola Saint Jean, President of the Alliance Canadienne pour le Votes les Femmes du Québec, has sent us a Souvenir Album of the Alliance for 1931. This records certain gains for feminism, which are plainly heralds of further victories, and it will not be long we feel sure before women of Quebec will vote.

A. A. B.

MRS. SEN'S ADDRESS.

Under the auspices of St. Joan's S.P.A., Mrs. Hannah Sen, Hon. Secretary of the London Com-

mittee of the Women's Indian Association, gave an address, at St. Patrick's Club, Soho Square, on February 4th, on the woman's movement in India. She prefaced her remarks by thanking St. Joan's S.P.A. and other British societies, who had stood by those Indian women of India who desired political equality, and who were definitely opposed to special "privileges" such as reservation of seats for women in the Legislative Council. Indian feminists preferred to be elected. Indian feminists, said Mrs. Sen, count themselves as part of the whole women's movement.

The Montagu-Chelmsford reforms which gave certain political rights to men, left it open to Indian men to confer the same rights on women, and the latter had not found it difficult to persuade their men to perform this act of justice, perhaps because, unlike British men, the women would not be in a position of economic rivalry as here. The Indian Woman's Association, and others, when agitating for certain reforms such as the abolition of child marriage, had found that British officials had obstructed such reforms, no doubt for fear of giving offence to some orthodox Indians. This had made an unfavourable impression.

Mrs. Sen handed round copies of the Memorandum, in favour of equality for Woman in the new Constitution of India, presented to the Round Table Conference, signed on behalf of The All-India Women's Conference, the Indian Women's Association, and the National Council of Women in India.

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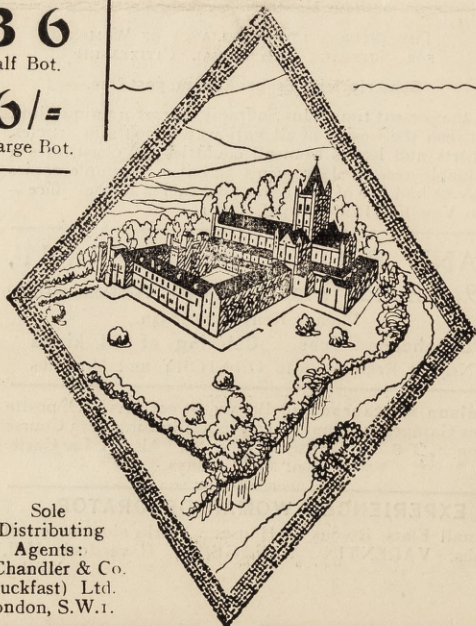
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