

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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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

Blue for a Girl*

By Elvira Mathers

The Women's Royal Naval Service is celebrating its twenty-first birthday this year. It is a most appropriate time for a new book on the history of the Service, and one hopes that with such a long term perspective a clear picture of the structure and achievements of the Wrens could result. I think it does; but not altogether by legitimate means. The author had the co-operation of the present Director W.R.N.S., and the Admiralty, and access to official records. He also interviewed hundreds of officers and ratings past and present. But this is no factual record, heavy on the hand and a leadweight of statistics on the mind, but as the rather facetious title "Blue for a Girl" suggests, the author has aimed at the popular market, and indeed this book has already been serialized in an abridgement of snippets in one of the popular daily papers. It is written in easy "journalistic" with a work-a-day humour, but there is such a very real warmth of admiration and affection running through the book, with its thrilling stories of courage and initiative, that the spirit of the Service immediately becomes alive. Above all, Mr. Drummond more than succeeds in showing the immense potentialities of women and young girls in practically every branch of shore-based naval work, and how as the pressure of war built up, more and more was undertaken and achieved. The fact that the author shows this very often through a loosely connected series of individual episodes greatly detracts from a sense of continuity, although it no doubt adds to readability.

Mr. Drummond has a personal interest in the Wrens, and this he makes quite evident in his book. As a war-time naval officer he married a Wren. One small but entire chapter headed "A Very Ordinary Wren" gives a personal resumé of his future wife's war-time career as a 'Communications' Wren in a Coastal Forces base in Northern

Ireland. Several of the chapters deal with isolated case-histories which claim allegiance to the W.R.N.S. by the merest thread. For instance we have a chapter dealing with the story of Madeleine Bayard, a French Secret Agent, who was made a Wren officer to regularize her unique war-time role, which was completely independent of Wren authority. There is another long story of a Polish girl's escape from German hands and her terrible trek across Europe until she eventually joined the Overseas Women's Naval Services, in which the W.R.N.S. played such a vital, encouraging and stabilizing part.

To most interested readers the inevitable comparison will be with the only other book on the Wrens "Blue Tapestry" by Vera Laughton Mathews. Written in 1948 "Blue Tapestry" gives a very personal account of the formation and wartime history of the Service as seen from the very centre and heart. Mr. Drummond's book, written so many years later, could have been entirely different, but he has chosen, rather naturally, to concentrate on the more exciting war years. Strangely enough, the "blurb" on the book-cover actually says: "By some strange omission, this wonderful history has never been told in any detail, and now at last . . . the story is set down."

Perhaps it is very unfair for us to compare, but since "Blue Tapestry" and "Blue for a Girl" are both personal books, one ought to feel a breadth of personality and spirit. Finding whole passages and incidents lifted from one book into the next, with no acknowledgement (except in one instance), the main reaction was how incomplete in sensibility and understanding the second version became. There is a chapter in "Blue Tapestry" dealing, with wisdom and understanding, with the moral discipline and standard of conduct expected in the Service. Dame Vera said: "There were occasions when it needed the strength and the purity of St. Joan of Arc to keep one's head".

* Blue for a Girl. By John Drummond. (W. H. Allen, 21s.)

Pointing out the great evil of accepting the lower moral standard for men, she tells the story of a naval officer's wife who rang up a W.R.N.S. Superintendent to complain of a young Wren, and was surprised to be told: "If I were the girl's father I should horsewhip your husband." This example is lifted completely into "Blue for a Girl" out of context, and into a chapter which has no real plan behind it.

For all its triteness of expression, this is a gripping book. There are four chapters which are very good. They describe the build-up of plans and the terrific enthusiasm for work before D-Day; the achievement of Invasion, and then the new work involved between D-Day to VJ-Day.

Mr. Drummond also sets down in full detail the reasons why Dame Vera was strongly in favour of placing Wrens under the Naval Discipline Act as part of the Navy. A naval rating and a Wren might be guilty of the same offence jointly and should therefore be subject to the same punishment. To be morally guilty but not legally so would lead to inferiority and a feeling of irresponsibility. However, in spite of the strong views of the Director, and the fact that the A.T.S. and the W.A.A.F. were given fuller military status, the W.R.N.S. never have come under the Naval Discipline Act.

For anyone with a daughter or relative thinking of making a peace-time career in the W.R.N.S., the last chapters deal effectively with present conditions and categories open to new recruits, and the training or general standard of education required for entry into each particular category. The book ends, rather unexpectedly, on this note.

"Blue for a Girl" is well illustrated, and there are some excellent photographs of Wrens at work.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From "The Catholic Citizen," 15th December, 1935

We offer sincere and loving congratulations to our founder, Miss Gabrielle Jeffery, who kept the Silver Jubilee of her first inspiration to found the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society on December 8th, Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The Alliance owes everything to her initiative and courage in carrying through the idea which came to her on the great Feast of Our Lady twenty-five years ago. From that time to this Miss Jeffery has worked continually for the Alliance. Today her wise counsel and help behind the scenes are things we could not do without. Her work, begun so many years ago, has helped women not only to the attainment of their political enfranchisement but also to a happier, healthier and freer life. At a party given in her honour on December 8th, Miss Jeffery was presented with a cheque which she immediately handed to the hon. editor for *The Catholic Citizen*, in memory of Leonora de Alberti. Miss Jeffery is assured of the prayers and good wishes of St. Joan's Alliance at this anniversary, with the ardent hope that she may long be with us and live to see an even fuller and nobler fruition of the seed planted twenty-five years ago.—Notes and Comments

NOTE SUR L'EGALITE DE REMUNERATION

La Belgique a signé et ratifié le 23-5-1959 la Convention Internationale No. 100 de l'O.I.T. sur l'égalité de rémunération.

L'article 119 du Traité de la C.E.E. est entré en application le 1.1.1959. Il fait une obligation aux membres de la Communauté Economique Européenne d'assurer avant 1963 l'égalité de rémunération et de la maintenir par la suite.

L'égalité de rémunération est appliqué dans les administrations publiques belges.

Dans le secteur privé où l'écart moyen était de 40 per cent environ en 1947, il tend à diminuer progressivement et à n'être plus en 1959 que de 15 à 25 per cent. Les accords pris par branche d'activité, au sein de commissions paritaires, ont favorisé cette évolution lente vers l'égalité. La Commission Nationale du Travail s'en est pré-occupée tant en 1959 qu'en 1960 et a indiqué une marche à suivre aux commissions paritaires. Celle-ci a aussi fait l'objet d'une circulaire du Ministre du Travail en 1959. A noter que l'effort porte sur les salaires minima au sein des commissions paritaires et non sur les salaires réels.

La réduction des écarts entre les rémunérations masculines et féminines est surtout le fait du secteur "employées". Dans le secteur "ouvriers" en n'enregistre qu'une diminution de l'écart de 5 per cent environ.

D'après le Bulletin des Statistiques d'octobre-novembre 1959 le gain brut par heure dans l'industrie (non compris sidérurgie et charbonnages) était en octobre 1958 de 31,33 Fr. en moyenne pour les hommes et de 18,58 Fr. en moyenne pour les femmes.

Les statistiques trimestrielles de l'O.N.S.S. font foi en 1959 de différences de 30 per cent et même de 40 per cent entre les rémunérations masculines et féminines. La situation n'a donc que peu évolué dans les secteurs industriels occupant une nombreuse main-d'oeuvre féminine. Par contre, dans le secteur "assurances" où il s'agit d'employés, un accord entré en vigueur le 1er janvier 1959, portait les barèmes féminins de 95 per cent à 97,5 per cent des barèmes masculins et prévoyait l'égalité pour l'année suivante.

Nos statistiques ne permettent pas de voir clairement si la différence de rémunération considérable, encore constatée dans l'industrie, résulte des différences de qualification, de promotion, d'âge, de rendement, etc. Le Conseil National du Travail (CNT) a insisté lors de sa dernière session (1960) pour être mis en possession de données sérieuses et précises à cet égard.

F. Baetens

Notes and Comments

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance will celebrate the Golden Jubilee of its foundation next year. On March 25th, 1961, fifty years will have passed since the inaugural meeting of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society at Alan's Tea Rooms, Oxford Street, on the Feast of the Annunciation, 1911, when the new Society was placed under the patronage of St. Joan of Arc. As March 25th next year falls in Passion Week the celebrations will take place on St. Joan's Day, May 30th. St. Joan's International Council Meeting will be held during the weekend of May 27th/28th and delegates will join the British Section in the celebrations.

Her Majesty the Queen, during her visit to Oxford on November 4th, was presented with an address of welcome by the Chancellor of the University in the Sheldonian Theatre. In her reply she expressed her delight that the women's colleges now had equal status with the men's. She hoped that women's right to have equal opportunities in education was now generally accepted and spoke of its great value to the community. "There is much need for women in the professions," said the Queen, "and who can doubt that a mother and children will be the better for it if she has a cultivated mind." No longer need a woman "barter her intellectual life for the happiness and deep satisfaction of bringing up a family."

After lunch at Trinity College and the laying of the foundation stone at St. Catherine's College, the Queen visited Lady Margaret Hall and St. Anne's College where she and the Duke of Edinburgh had tea.

The success of Miss Joan Quennell in the recent by-election at Petersfield brings the number of Conservative women M.P.s to thirteen and the total number to twenty-six. It is good that a woman was offered this "safe" seat and Miss Quennell is to be congratulated on winning such support from a constituency where tradition seemed to be all on the side of men.

The Minister of Pensions and National Insurance on November 24th rejected the appeal from the National Council of Women for the abolition of the earnings rule now applied to widowed mothers.

A deputation to the Minister was led by Mr. Will Griffiths (Lab) and the case for the abolition was put by Mrs. Joan Robins, president of the N.C.W., who was supported by M.P.s from all three political parties.

Mr. Boyd Carpenter, while expressing the Government's sympathy with the widowed

mothers, considered that it would be more suitable to increase the basic rates of allowances for mothers and children as was being done in the National Insurance Bill now before the Commons.

The Under-Secretary for the Home Office, during the debate on removing the Aliens Restriction Act, 1910 from the Statute Book, discussed the suggestions made by the National Council of Women concerning *au pair* girls. He revealed, *en passant*, what is surely a very serious lack in the immigration service. He said, "*There are no women officers in the service*" (italics ours) and that it would be extremely difficult to organise the service on a basis of some of its members having duties only of a particular kind. Surely there are other immigrants, besides *au pair* girls, e.g. women with young children, who, without disparaging the kindness and consideration of men officers, would find it easier to talk to women.

Mr. George Dow, divisional traffic manager of the London Midland Region of British Railways, after a meeting called to discuss objections to the recruitment of women passenger guards, said "We have advertised and re-advertised our vacancies for guards but have met with little response. *Women proved they could do the job satisfactorily during the war.*" (Italics ours.)

The men say that it will mean that they will have to work more early morning and late night shifts as, by the Night Work Convention of the I.L.O., no women are allowed to work earlier than 6 a.m. or later than 10 p.m.

On the death of Gilbert Harding we would like to record that, in opening St. Joan's Christmas Fair in Westminster Cathedral Hall on November 20th, 1954, he said he was never too busy to spend time in support of the women's cause and thought it a pity that more men had not the same view.

In December 1953, he spoke in favour of equal pay at the meeting organised by the Equal Pay Campaign Committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Cazalet Keir, and paid a special tribute to women teachers who, in his opinion, worked far harder than most of their male colleagues and were just as good at keeping their classes in order. May he rest in peace.

Miss Betty Varley is the first woman to be appointed a head postmaster. She took over her duties at Louth on December 1st and will control fifty-four sub-post offices in the Louth postal area.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

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Margaret Roper*

Margaret Roper would herself rejoice that she should mainly be known through her relations with her beloved father whom she was said to resemble "as well in stature, appearance and voice, as in mind and general character," but it is good that an attempt should be made to present her as a separate and distinct personality.

Mr. Reynolds has done his best but, though he painstakingly collects evidence of her scholarship, the few letters that have been preserved; her translation of Erasmus' Treatise on the Paternoster; her education both before and after her marriage; and her care for the up-bringing of her own children; it is only in relation to her father that she seems to come to life.

Until she was twelve, she and her sisters and brother had the companionship of their father, who himself supervised their education, "beguiling them with cakes and apples and beating them with peacock's feathers." We may be grateful to the King for drawing away so loving an instructor, for his absences were responsible for many letters, which were lovingly preserved and copied by Thomas Stapleton, when the originals, "almost worn to pieces" were taken into exile by members of the More household. It is of the eldest daughter that he is thinking when he writes to one of the tutors charged with the education of the children, of the genuine fruits of learning, "nor do I think that the harvest will be affected whether it is a man or woman who sows the field. They both have the same nature, and the power of reason differentiates them from the beasts." He gives in a letter to his beloved daughter the one genuine touch of character. "Even when a tiny child you could never endure to be decked out in another's finery," this apropos of the praise he gladly passed on from distinguished men to whom he showed her letters, which they could scarcely believe to be her own unaided composition.

The love the father and daughter bore each other was untouched by differences that arose

between them—they differed but they never quarrelled, and so profound a respect had St. Thomas for his own and other's integrity that it never seemed to occur to him to use his authority to enforce agreement. The real dislike which Margaret's husband felt for the father-in-law who tried to argue him out of his heretical opinions must have been a grief to her, but there is no sign of any dispute—and prayer succeeded where argument failed.

The vital point on which Margaret differed from her father was of course the oath on the King's supremacy. The "lamentable letter" which she wrote begging her father to take the oath, hurt him deeply, but he continued to answer her, not by blaming her for taking the oath herself, but by refuting her plea that his refusal was a "scruple" and pleading only that he himself could not in conscience submit. She does not seem to have comprehended the strength of his conviction nor the clearness of his vision in this matter—indeed her blind love seems to have been used by Cromwell in an attempt to conquer the steadfast will—in such a "vehement and piteous manner," we are told, did she plead with her father—hoping thereby to save his life.

Only when it was clear that pleading was of no avail did she acquiesce, and by her loving vehement farewell earn the praise that brings her before us at last as living flesh and blood. "I never liked your manner toward me better than when you kissed me last for I love when daughterly love and dear charity hath no leisure to look to worldly courtesy."

She to whom he sent his last message, "You have long known the secret of my heart," will not greatly care if she has no greater commendation to our interest.

P. C. Challoner

* Margaret Roper. By E. E. Reynolds, (Burns Oates, 16s.)

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

The Women's Freedom League, with which St. Joan's Alliance has co-operated so often and so happily, held its 53rd Annual General Meeting on October 22nd at the Minerva Club.

Miss Reeves showed in her presidential address how faithfully the Women's Freedom League lives up to the watchword of its founder Mrs. Despard, that "the price of freedom is eternal vigilance." "That," said Miss Reeves, "is our chief reason for existence."

The following resolutions were passed unanimously:

Status of Married Women

"That this Conference, believing that the fundamental right of the married woman to be accepted as a person should be recognised both in law and practice, maintains,

- that the income of married persons should be assessed and taxed separately, each party to the marriage being entitled to the ordinary personal abatements and sharing between them any children's or other allowances made on account of liabilities for which they are jointly responsible;
- that married women should be insured in their own right under the national insurance scheme and should be entitled to the same allowance as other insured persons;
- that married women should be entitled to acquire or retain a domicile of choice in the same way as a man or single woman may do;
- that the married woman should share guardianship and custody of children of the marriage, equally with the husband."

Women in Public Life

"This Conference protests that full use is not made of the contribution of women to public life. On many committees no women are appointed to serve.

"It urges that much further use should be made of women's ability and experience and that national and policy making Committees should have a full quota of women selected on the ground of their ability."

Equal Opportunities for Education and Training

"That this Conference asserts that girls must be given equal facilities with boys at all stages of the educational system. It maintains that the curriculum for girls at the secondary stage of education should be such as to facilitate their entry into all professions and occupations, that technical education of a wide and comprehensive kind should be provided for girls and women on the same terms as for boys and men and that opportunities should be made available for girls, equally with boys in all universities and university departments. It further urges that apprenticeships should be open for girls as well as for boys."

The Street Offences Act

"This Conference declares that the Street Offences Act, 1959, is wrong in principle and dangerous in practice. The Act passed in face of the advice of the informed women's organisations, supported by a large body of public opinion, embodies the principle of the inequality of the law as between the sexes and is driving into underground channels, the organisation of sexual vice. The Conference therefore calls upon the Home Secretary to re-examine the position and to introduce an amendment to the appropriate clauses so that they apply to all citizens, men and women alike, who cause annoyance and nuisance by loitering or soliciting in the streets and public places."

MONICA WHATELY MEMORIAL MEETING

A meeting was held in Room 11 at the House of Commons on December 5th to pay tribute to the memory of Monica Whately. Lord Pethick-Lawrence presided and the speakers were Edith Summerskill, M.P., Fenner Brockway, M.P., Vera Brittain, Charlotte Marsh, Malcolm Purdie and finally, Mrs. Hunkins-Hallinan, chairman of the Six-Point Group who was responsible for organising the meeting.

A large number of friends and representatives of the organisations devoted to the numerous causes in which she was interested were present, including members of St. Joan's Alliance.

All the speakers stressed Monica Whately's gaiety, courage and indomitable spirit. R.I.P.

JANE ADDAMS

Jane Addams was born a hundred years ago in Illinois, U.S.A. She founded Hull House, Chicago, one of the first social settlements in the United States. From the internationalism of Hull House with its principles of racial equality and justice for all, she was led to the internationalism of world peace. To her the "disorder of war" was the disorder of the slums writ large. It was natural to her to find her way to the Hague in 1915 to preside over the International Women's Congress, out of which came the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, which still carries on her work. In 1931, she was given a Nobel Prize for her work for peace; in 1935 she died.

To commemorate her centenary the various national sections of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom collected 30,000 dollars, of which £2,750 was raised by the British section. This was handed to Dr Lindt, U.N. Commissioner for Refugees on August 25th for "Jane Addams House"—which now houses refugee single women in Carinthia, in the midst of the cottages built by the people of the Netherlands for refugee families, in memory of Dr Heuven van Goedhart, the first United Nations High Commissioner.

THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

The Second Session of the Forty-Second Parliament opened on November 1st. The Queen's speech in outlining the Government's programme of legislation for the Session referred also to Her Majesty's projected visits to the Commonwealth.

A rather dull evening was enlivened by Dame Irene Ward, pressing for discussion on the needs of people living on small fixed incomes. She warned the Speaker that she would think up some action that would draw the attention of the public to the continued resistance of the Treasury to the genuine claims of certain groups of people. Dr. Horace King welcomed the references to war pensions. He charged the Government with having deliberately added to the cost of living, of land, of money, of house building, of rates and of rents, resulting in hardship not only for those classes that Dame Irene was chiefly concerned about, but for all with low wage packets. He gave instances of a grim situation caused in his own constituency by the Rent Act. Dr. King also referred to the grave shortage of teachers and the need for a major enquiry into Primary Education.

On November 7th, Mrs. Harriet Slater spoke on the recruitment of teachers. She expressed the hope that the Minister of Education would withdraw a letter he had sent out relating to Training Colleges mainly for Primary school teachers. "We are at the stage in education," she said, "where we need to unite the profession not to break it up into groups or classes." Miss Margaret Herbison accused the Minister of having merely sailed off from the problem of attracting married women teachers back to the profession by saying that the way to recruit them was to get the unmarried teachers to tell them that they would be very welcome. "Perhaps," she added, "the married women who are still teaching will tell them that it is not worth while because of the penal taxation that obtains at present." Mr. G. M. Thomson asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he would press the Scottish colleges not to refuse married women as teacher students. Mr. Maclay promised that the matter would be looked into.

On November 17th, Mr. Butler moved the second reading of the Criminal Justice Bill, which is designed to make more effective and appropriate measures of detention and punishment for young offenders. Mr. Wilkins asked the Home Secretary if he would also consider the matter of televised films depicting callous shootings of human beings. Mr. Butler agreed. Mr. Hobson made a very good point about the care of the health of primary school children. He pleaded for the same concern for their mental health as is shown for their physical condition. This he said would result in fewer juvenile delinquency problems.

Miss Alice Bacon expressed disappointment with the Ingleby Report after four years of work. Even so, she added, not all the recommendations of this committee are embodied in the Criminal Justice Bill. She said that the question of approved schools, Borstals and detention centres had not been adequately studied. Miss Bacon deplored the number of people in prison, with criminals, for non-payment of fines and hire-purchase debts. "There are many women in prison," she said, "merely because they have become the victims of over-persuasive salesmen." She deplored also the fact that, because the number of female prisoners is only one-eighth that of men, the classification of women prisoners has not progressed as it has with men. Except for three institutions, all the accommodation for women prisoners, including girls' Borstal accommodation, is in blocks of men's prisons. She was also concerned with the dangers surrounding young girls leaving Borstal institutions, many of them having no parents or homes, and she stressed the pressing need for adequate after-care.

On November 22nd, Mr. Hector Hughes asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he proposed to remove the anomaly whereby, in Scotland, adopted children of intestate parents cannot inherit the property of the adoptive parents as they do in England. Mr. Maclay replied: "The succession right of adopted children must be considered along with other aspects of the law of intestate inheritance in Scotland. I can give no undertaking to introduce a Bill on succession during the present session of Parliament."

Like the child who resorts to unconventional ways of securing the attention it feels is its right, members of Parliament must sometimes do unusual things on behalf of those they serve; and on Wednesday, November 23rd, Dame Irene Ward carried out her earlier promise. The press had not made much of her frequent pleas for a debate on retirement pay and Service pensions, but when she did something really naughty, to wit, took a seat on the Treasury Bench traditionally reserved for Government V.I.P.s and remained there throughout question time, the reporters sat up and took notice. So without a word being spoken in the Chamber, a large number of people heard about her concern for the claims of those living on small fixed incomes. To M.P.s who enquired what it was all about, Dame Irene afterwards said: "I hope to make my Government aware of the fact that some of us would like action taken on behalf of those who cannot strike or go to arbitration. I was doing a little demonstration in support of the people in whom I am interested."

C. M. Cheke

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

France has ratified the United Nations International Convention on the Recovery of Maintenance Abroad. The Convention does not modify national laws, but sets up a simple procedure to resolve individual cases of hardship, when husbands or fathers, having escaped their obligations by crossing frontiers, leave the community to support their families.

The Convention has already been ratified by China, Ceylon, Czecho-Slovakia, Guatemala, Haiti, Denmark, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Morocco, Norway, Sweden, Germany and Pakistan.

* * *

Ghana The only woman District Commissioner in Ghana is Ramuta Baba, who is responsible for the District of Eastern Dagamba in the Northern Region. She was educated at Achimota School on a scholarship awarded by the District Council of Dagamba.—*Ghana News*.

* * *

A Seminar on "The Participation of Women in Public Life", organised by the United Nations in co-operation with the Government of Ethiopia, is being held in Addis Ababa from December 12th—23rd.

St. Joan's International Alliance is represented by Miss May Stella Abakah, of Ghana, barrister-at-law.

* * *

India. The Upper House of the Indian Parliament has passed a Bill, making it an offence to demand a marriage dowry "either directly or indirectly", with penalties of fines of Rs.5,000 (about £375) or imprisonment of up to six months. The Lower House approved the ban on dowries but refused to accept the penalties. This amendment was rejected by the Upper House and now the Bill can only be passed by a session of both Houses together.

The Bill also attempts to control the value of the customary marriage presents, which have become too heavy a burden.

* * *

Mother Anna Dengel, founder and superior general of the Medical Missionary Sisters, has been named "Catholic Woman of Achievement for 1960" in New York. Mother Dengel is a member of the British Medical Association and the only woman to be elected an honorary Fellow of the International College of Surgeons.

* * *

Miss Frieda Miller, former Director of the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labour, has been commissioned by the I.L.O. to make a survey of child labour conditions and the problems of young workers, in Cyprus, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Lebanon and the United Arab Republic.

PARTY FOR MRS. PANDIT

A most enjoyable party was given on November 23rd in the Members' Dining Room of the House of Commons by the women's organisations, to say farewell to Mrs. Pandit, who is to relinquish her post as High Commissioner for India, though we are glad to know her departure has been postponed until next spring. The hostesses were Dame Irene Ward, M.P.—fresh from her sit-down demonstration on the Front Bench of the House—and Miss Herbison, M.P.

After tea, during which representatives of the various organisations were presented to the High Commissioner, Dame Irene gave Mrs. Pandit a warm tribute. She was followed by Miss Watts, chairman of the Fawcett Society, representing the women's organisations, and then Mrs. Pandit replied in a charming speech in which she paid tribute to the kindness of the British people and the friendliness she had received from the women's organisations. She rejoiced that her prolonged term of office would cover the Queen's visit to India and the Commonwealth Conference, and explained that while she loved England, where she said her stay had been a most happy and enriching experience, she had been away from her own country too long—and she was anxious not to miss the growing up of her grandchildren.

REVIEWS

"If You Wish Peace Cultivate Justice." By Stuart Maclure. (World Federation of United Nations Associations. From any U.N.A. or I.L.O. office, 1s. 6d.)

The title is the motto of the International Labour Organisation and the booklet was prepared as a practical way of celebrating the fortieth anniversary of its foundation. It is an admirable study-guide, which could serve either as an introduction to this quite unique and important agency of the U.N. or as the basis of an appraisal of its possible rôle in our rapidly changing world, where there is so much that is fresh, stimulating and controversial, it seems a pity that the author could not have broken with the tradition of such publications and included some reference to the conflicting views about protective legislation for women held by feminists and their opponents respectively. One hopes, too, that the committee mentioned by Mr. Maclure as being concerned with the employment of women, including the possible effects of automation, will not adopt the familiar paternal attitude which, in our view, has marred much of the work of the I.L.O. in this sphere in the past.

N.S.P.

The Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa have devoted the latest number of their magazine *White Sisters* to "a general though inadequate view of the feminine situation in Africa today."

White Sisters quotes the wish of the great apostle of Africa, Cardinal Lavigerie: "May Mary, the Woman blest above all others, guide these mothers and wives whom God made equal to men, and by them, integrate all families into the immense Mystical Body of Christ."

The question of education for girls is vital and its development is still hampered by "traditional conservatism regarding women, the bread and butter value of boys' education . . . and the bride-price." On the other hand, the women are demanding equal rights with the men: the Congress of African Women at Bamako attacked the customs which deprive women of their rights as man's equal, including polygamy; young Algerian women are determined to carry on a tenacious fight against the veil and marriage without consent; and the National Union of Tunisian Women petitioned President Bourguiba to give them the same rights as are enjoyed by men.

The African Sister is taking her place amongst her own people, staffing clinics and teaching. One novice, when asked if she had thought seriously of what she was giving up answered, "If I had to cook meals for a husband I would not have the time to teach the pagans the way to God."

Throughout Africa the women are awake, "their wings are sprouting and they want to fly."
P.C.C.

In the October number of *Vita e Pensiero* (Milan) Eugenia Martinez tells the little known story of England's seventeenth century Catholic Colony of Maryland. Here the refugees from homeland persecution were allowed freedom of worship.

Margaret Brent was for a time in charge of the colony and it is recorded that she raised a body of volunteers to defend it when it was threatened. As landowner and administrator, she asked the Assembly for the right to vote, but was refused as she was a woman. She has been called "the first suffragette".
F.M.S.

CHRISTMAS SALE

The annual Christmas Sale was held at St. Patrick's Club room, newly decorated and looking most festive, on Saturday, November 26th. It was a happy occasion for friends and members to meet and also a profitable one. We made £90 and hope by Christmas to have the £100 we have learned to look for. It was a pleasure to see the O'Connor grandchildren following the tradition of the family in carrying round the dips.

Thanks are due to all those who helped by dressing stalls and selling, by bringing and buying and by sending gifts or cash donations. Miss Carr and her band of helpers produced, as usual, lunches and teas which were highly appreciated and a great help to the funds.

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

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