

WOMEN'S SERVICE

FILE COPY

NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

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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15th OCTOBER, 1936.

Price Twopence.

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.

Women in Austria

BY DR. FELICITAS BURESCH

In 1918 when the republic was established in Austria women obtained theoretically almost the same rights as men. Women had full suffrage rights, they could become members of Parliament, there were no restrictions for married women employed in the Civil Service, the doors to many professions and occupations were opened to them. Women played a considerable rôle in public life, though, alas, only a very few were allowed to obtain responsible posts in public or private service.

But during the last few years the unemployment problem has affected women's position in the labour market—and perhaps even more unfavourably in Austria than in other countries, since the conditions of work there have been so much worse than anywhere else. In order to decrease the unemployment among men the Government put a law into force which has become of great importance to many professional women and means a serious setback in the general status of women.

This law—the “Doppelverdienergesetz”—was issued in November, 1933, and concerns married women employed in the Civil Service—such as teachers, clerical workers, social welfare workers, nurses, etc. If a woman is married to a man in the Civil Service whose monthly salary is more than a fixed amount (roughly £15 a month) and they have not more than two children, the wife must leave her job and is pensioned.

The woman has to leave the Civil Service when she is going to marry. That means voluntary renunciation of marriage in many

cases, since the salaries earned by young men are so small that it is often impossible for them to maintain a wife (much less a family) and marriage could only be made possible by the wife working also.

It is to be feared that other restrictions will follow the “Doppelverdienergesetz.” To illustrate how necessary it is for many women to earn their own living the National Council of Women of Austria sent out a questionnaire, in which several thousands of women were asked the reasons why they carry on a profession. The answers received were very interesting and illuminating and the results of the statistics were published in various newspapers.

Of those who filled in the paper 93% said they had to earn their own living and loss of their occupation would mean starvation as they had no other means of livelihood. The other 7% said their husbands or parents could maintain them, but most of them would be compelled to work on the death of their relatives.

Very many women have to maintain not only themselves but also other people who are either unemployed or whose income is insufficient.

We learned, for instance, that among a large group of teachers 22% maintain parents, brothers, sisters, children or friends. About 53% have to support other people in part. The number of persons who are completely maintained by one professional woman varies usually from 1 to 3.

But the questionnaires did not only reveal

economic facts but also the women's mental attitude towards their employment. The greater part of these women emphasize their love for their work; they do not want to miss it; it gives them a much wider outlook. A negative attitude towards a professional job is only found where it means great physical strain, or gives no mental satisfaction. Many women say that they would consider life without a profession a failure, and they would rather do unpaid work than nothing.

Some women added to their answers to the questionnaire remarks about the dangerous position of women in present-day Europe. This position implies an even greater danger for the younger generation and future generations, for only the ideal of the equality of the sexes—the just estimation of the duties and rights of both can lead to real freedom. It should be the aim of women all over the world to fight unanimously for this ideal.

NOTES AND COMMENTS—Continued from p. 81.

At the annual conference of the Amalgamated Union of Operative Bakers, Confectioners, and Allied Workers held recently at Conway Hall, the Warrington District Board asked the Conference to consider the advisability of inaugurating wage boards for women employed in bakehouses. Mr. W. Dodd (London) said that women were not wanted in the baking trade, it was not a healthy occupation for them, and they were coming in to the detriment of men. (Italics ours.) The masters were bringing in women in order to get cheaper labour and the way to stop it was to put women on the same footing with the same wages as men. Though we are astounded at the callous attitude towards women's real interest shown by Mr. Dodd (the remark about baking being unhealthy for women was obviously a blind) we are relieved to see that he is alive to the fact that the exploitation of women leads inevitably to the exploitation of men. We are grateful to Mr. Banfield who pointed out that the increase of women in industry was now an established fact and that the task of the Conference should be to organise women, that being the best method of stopping their present shameful exploitation. He added that there were men getting decent conditions who were content to work in the same factories as unorganised women whose wages were a scandal, and that this was not the spirit of trade unionism.

Incidentally the resolution was defeated.

There are three fixtures under the auspices of the Alliance, the dates of which we ask readers to note in their diaries and to keep free.

On November 25th (8 p.m.) the Revd. Father Vincent McNabb, O.P., S.T.M., has kindly consented to give a lecture on "St. Elizabeth of Portugal—Patroness of Peace." Tickets 2s. 6d., and 1s.

On December 8th there will be a dinner in honour of Mlle. Lenoël, Founder and Hon. Secretary of the French Section of St. Joan's Alliance, and Miss Marie Carroll, Committee member of the newly-founded Australian Section of the Alliance.

As usual the Alliance will have a stall at the annual Green, White and Gold Fair of the Women's Freedom League, which takes place on December 11th and 12th at the Caxton Hall. Gifts of money and kind are badly needed for this latter event.

Members and readers will be notified as to further details of these events.

Be sure to turn up and bring your friends.

We offer our congratulations to our member Sister Marie Margaret (Margaret Organ) who made her religious profession as a Canoness Regular of St. Augustine, Congregation of Our Lady on September 15th, at Notre Dame des Oiseaux, Verneuil.

We ask the prayers of our readers for the repose of the soul of our member, Signora Oliva Crespi, who died recently as the result of an accident.—R.I.P. We offer sincere sympathy to her husband, Professor Angelo Crespi.



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Notes and Comments

The Annual Mass for the repose of the souls of members, associates and benefactors, of St. Joan's Alliance, will be offered at St. Patrick's, Soho, on Sunday, November 1st, at 10-30. We ask our members to make every effort to attend.

* * * *

The French Vice-President of St. Joan's Alliance, Mlle. Lenoël, and the Hon. Secretary, Miss Barry, were present in Geneva during the 17th Assembly of the League of Nations. They attended various meetings and Commissions of the League as well as meetings of the Liaison Committee of International Women's Organizations.

A meeting was arranged by the Liaison Committee in order to discuss with the women delegates, who numbered 16 this year, various items on the Agenda of the Assembly of special interest to women's organisations. At this meeting, both Mlle. Lenoël and Miss Barry urged the importance of Governments including in their memoranda on the Status of Women the position of native women in Mandated Territories, Colonies, and Protectorates. With reference to the Mandates Report they stressed the importance of training native women as teachers and midwives.

We are grateful to the delegate of the Irish Free State for having emphasized this point when the Mandates Report was considered by the 6th Commission of the Assembly.

The Alliance with other members of the Liaison Committee was joint hostess at a Reception given in honour of the women delegates to the Assembly, on September 24th.

The Alliance was represented at the High Mass celebrated in the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Geneva, for the Catholic delegates of the Assembly, on September 27th, and at the Dinner given by the Cercle Catholique of Geneva on October 2nd, at which the chief speaker was the President of the Assembly, His Excellency Dr. Carlos Saavedra Lamas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Argentine Republic.

* * * *

At the Congress of the International Council of Women held at Dubrovnik from October 1st—9th, Dr. van der Pijl, of Holland, represented St. Joan's Alliance as Fraternal Delegate, and gave a speech of greeting on our behalf.

We offer Mrs. Lyons, President of the Australian Branch of St. Joan's Alliance our best wishes and prayers for a good convalescence after her recent operation, and for her complete restoration to health.

Since the public inaugural meeting at Melbourne we have been delighted at the number of subscriptions to the "Catholic Citizen" received through the Hon. Secretary of our Australian Section, Miss Margaret Flynn, to whom all communications regarding the Section should be addressed at: 391 New Street, Elwood, Melbourne, S.3., Australia.

* * * *

In co-operation with other women's organisations, St. Joan's Alliance signed a joint letter to the "Times" on September 21st drawing the attention of the British public to the Bill to Amend the Hindu Law governing Hindu Women's Rights to Property. The letter stated that this Bill is sponsored by Dr. G. V. Desmukh, of Bombay, and "provides that no Hindu woman, because of her sex, shall be excluded from the right to inherit or own property . . . Dr. Desmukh claims that a civilised government should give the right to all Hindu women to be considered as human beings and to live their lives fully, which cannot be done without some kind of economic status."

* * * *

The Women's Freedom League have received a letter from the Home Office informing them that their petition on the subject of the nationality of married women has been laid before the King, but that the Secretary of State was unable, on behalf of the Government, to advise his Majesty to issue any commands in the matter. The Women's Freedom League, in their reply, recall that in 1931 the delegate from the United Kingdom in the Assembly of the League of Nations declared that: "The British Government consider it right that all disabilities of married women in matters of nationality should be removed, and that, so far as nationality is concerned, a married woman should be in the same position as a man—married or unmarried—or any single woman." The letter urges the Government to pass into law without delay a measure which will give to British women an independent right to their own nationality.—*The Times*.

(Continued on page 80)

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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Monogamy and the Family

Criticism of the family is as old as the institution: inequalities and injustices are inherent in human systems and the dissatisfied have always sought redress in reform or in violence. More recently the system itself has been attacked. One Government conducting a social experiment on a large scale disrupted the family unit and assumed guardianship of the children, regrouping the population in larger state-controlled units. The state supplanted the parent and interfered directly with a system based on the dual responsibilities and necessities of sexual and parental instincts. The benefits secured to the state were not commensurate to its losses. We have now witnessed a withdrawal, a half-hearted return to the older order as the results became too obvious to be misinterpreted.

In his interesting "Social Studies,"* Don Luigi Sturzo devotes a chapter to the family system. He notes that apart from Biblical evidence we have no historical information about the earliest forms of family life and do not know if monogamous or polygamous systems prevailed. It is certain that at one time or another many peoples and races adopted a polygamous system which is still found to-day in the majority of non-Christian peoples, and that some form of family system has always existed.

The Christian conception of family life excluded polygamy. It also introduced a new element and new values, raising the whole system to a supernatural plane. Procreation would still secure the continuity of life on earth, but it would also assure to the offspring a share in super-natural life, membership of the community of saints. The dignity of parenthood was raised to a new height.

* *Essai de Sociologie.* By Luigi Sturzo. (Bloud et Gay, Paris. 20 frs.).

Don Luigi Sturzo is at pains to demonstrate that polygamous unions are founded directly on the assumed inferiority of women and subject women to a form of slavery. They led to the formation of caste systems, raising new social barriers, and securing outstanding prominence to those able to surround themselves with a large polygamous family-unit. Slavery, exploitation of women, prostitution and other forms of vice, including child-murder could often be traced to them. Polygamy and the adoption of dual moral standards always debase normal sexual relationships and introduce disharmony between sexual and parental instincts. Don Sturzo considers that the slow progressive development of Western and European civilisation was made possible by the monogamous system. The three elements on which it is founded are, firstly, sex-equality. As long as a man can have several wives sex-equality does not exist. Only under the monogamous system does the woman cease to be a slave, giving and receiving on an equal footing, in a community of body and mind that cannot be extended to others.

The second factor supporting the structure of Western civilisation is the particular relationship of parent and offspring. This is a second unity of the family and only under the monogamous system can it be untroubled by inherent jealousies and divided loyalties. A third, less universal factor is the formation of larger units, centring in the family system. These have played important parts, especially in rural communities, and could only develop where monogamous conditions are observed. Monogamy is the purification of the family, founded on equality of the sexes. This equality rests securely on the Christian claim of the equality of man and woman before God.

F. M. SHATTOCK

Status of Women

As we go to press we have received from the League of Nations Document A 33. 1936. V., being the first instalment of replies received in response to the Resolution adopted by the Assembly of the League in September 1935, which requested Governments, Women's International Organisations and the International Labour Office to examine the question of the Status of Women for consideration by the Assembly at a subsequent Session.

Replies have so far been received from the following countries: Union of South Africa; Belgium; Brazil; United Kingdom; China; Colombia; Czechoslovakia; Estonia; India; Latvia; Monaco; Netherlands; New Zealand; Norway; Poland; Danzig; Turkey. An important communication from the Pan-Pacific Women's Association, with which we should like to associate ourselves, runs as follows:

We should esteem it of great value to this enquiry if you could draw the attention of Governments to the desirability of including in their replies a summary of the laws affecting women in the colonies, protectorates and mandated areas under their jurisdiction, and also information on all native marriage customs, sanctions, sales, purchase and/or arbitrary disposal of the persons of women or their property.

The women of the Pan-Pacific Women's Association attach great importance to these problems as affecting the well-being and peace of the Pacific countries. They are within the competence of the League of Nations Council directly as far as the mandated territories are concerned, while some of their aspects may be treated by the Slavery Commission.

But still, it seems, a number of these problems are outside the competence of these bodies though well within the framework of Article 23 of the Covenant. These customary restrictions and/or abuses may not come within a survey of strictly national law, but still ought, having the effect of law, to be included in any real survey of the position.

St. Joan's Alliance stressed the same point of view at the meeting of the Liaison Committee for Women Delegates to the Assembly, held in Geneva last month.

We note that the British Government in submitting its statement points out "that its study of the subject is not yet complete and that it may be necessary to supplement the information given by a further memorandum in due course."

We trust that all Women's Organisations will press the Government to include in its survey the position of native women in its Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, for no survey of the position of women can be complete if the position of the most inarticulate women is omitted.

It is interesting to note that the Union of South Africa has included a short paragraph on the social status of the native woman in the Mandated Territory of South West Africa, mentioning "that succession to the chieftainship in a number of tribes in the territory is through the mother and that the 'lobola' system is not practised." On the other hand the Netherlands states that "an account of the status of women not subject to European law in the Netherlands overseas territories would not appear to serve any useful purpose."

International Notes

The July number of *Rays of Light* (India) contains an instructive article on "Eugenics, Sterilization, and Euthanasia" by a woman doctor, a Medical Missionary of the Society of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Madras). The article was prepared for the International Congress of Catholic Doctors held in Vienna from May 28th—June 2nd, this year. The author makes a plea that "in every Medical School and Training School for Nurses throughout the world steps should be taken to give the Catholic students and nurses a thorough training in Catholic principles. This instruction should not merely be broad and general; it should come down to details; and opportunities should be given for discussion."

Among other things the article emphasises the importance of the provision of a Catholic Medical College for Women in India, "for there are millions of women who may not seek help from a medical man."

Mlle. van den Plas, Secretary of "Le Féminisme Chrétien" (Brussels) informs us that eight women have been elected to the Provincial Councils of Belgium, 185 to the Communal Councils, and that there are 16 women Burgo-masters.

We learn from *Jus* that in Brazil Dr. Bertha Lutz, President of the Brazilian Federation for Women's Progress, has been called upon to take her seat in Parliament. In Brazil no Bye-elections are held, but the non-elected member of the party to whom the vacant seat belonged, who polled the largest number of votes, fills the vacancy.

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to the first woman M.P. of South America.

(Continued on page 85)

Reviews

The Life of Emmeline Pankhurst. By Sylvia Pankhurst. (T. Werner Laurie. 3s. 6d.)

This book, written with admirable detachment, will be read by "old brigade" feminists—Suffragist and Suffragette alike—with avid interest. For those who knew her, the memory of Emmeline Pankhurst can never die, even though the knowing was no more intimate than that of humble rank and file followers of an inspired leader. But details grow dim with the passing years and it is well that we should have this faithful record of a gallant struggle, carried on with heroic singleness of purpose. In reading Miss Pankhurst's account of the active campaign for Women's Suffrage, although one had lived through all the hopes and disappointments she so dispassionately describes, one is impelled to pause and dip back into the past to recall that things really were as black as she has had to paint them. Alas, for political weakness and stupidity, not one word she writes is exaggerated or overstated. All the insincerity, subterfuge and bad faith shown towards the women by all parties and all governments are unfortunately historical facts. The old indignation blazes up anew when one reads, for instance, of how Mr. Dickenson's Bill was "talked out" (the "talker out" being rewarded with a knighthood) although the Prime Minister of the time—Asquith—had promised that he would "with much pleasure" give it his support. Those who remember the galvanic effect of Mrs. Pankhurst's mellow voice and the effortless flow of her eloquence, will read with amazement that "despite her husband's ardent encouragement she declared herself incapable of public speaking; even to utter 'I second the resolution' was a tremendous ordeal to her." This book should be read and pondered by every British girl on reaching the age at which she can record her parliamentary vote.

E. FITZGERALD

The Status of Women in Public Administrations. (International Labour Office, Geneva.)

This document (R.C.F. VI/3—1936) concerning the status of women in public administrations is an analysis of the relevant regulations at present in force, and of existing practice, in a number of countries. There is still much to be desired regarding women's status in the public administrations of the large

majority of these countries. Brazil, Denmark, Spain and the U.S.S.R. approach nearest to perfection, at any rate in theory. But the I.L.O. assures us that restrictions found in Scandinavian countries, apart from Denmark, are due to "the positive nature and immediate practical value of Scandinavian laws" while in Brazil and Spain "existing social custom certainly does not allow of the same degree of emancipation" thus putting forward a doubt as to how far Brazilian and Spanish women have been able to make use of their equality of status in the civil service, etc. However, from a reading of this document, one gains the impression that the women of Scandinavian countries (Denmark always excepted) have a good deal to attain before they gain complete equality with the men in public administrations.

In a general survey the I.L.O. gives us some interesting information regarding the different methods employed in the various countries concerned of excluding women from important posts in public administrations! However, there are many forward steps to record, notably the abolition of segregation in the civil service in most countries, the attainment of women to diplomatic and high governmental and judicial posts in the U.S.A., and U.S.S.R., and the fact that measures aimed at the exclusion of women have often been cancelled "either because of the strong objection aroused, or because of anomalies which resulted out of their application." One may be sure that the women's organisations have had a good deal to do with these cancellations.

A full account is given of the maternity regulations in existence in those countries in which married women are employed in the public administrations. They vary considerably, but most countries appear to think that maternity cannot be ignored or considered as a merely private matter, and offer various "advantages" to married women members of their public services who wish to have a family. Whether in truth these regulations prove to be advantageous to the women concerned is a matter into which the I.L.O. might with advantage enquire.

The attitude of the I.L.O. to their own analysis is best summed up in the following sentence:

In some ways, differences of treatment based on sex place women in a less favourable position than men and limit their rights. In others, however, women, owing to their special physiological and social characteristics, enjoy certain privileges.

C. S.

The Aims, Methods and Activity of the League of Nations. (Secretariat of the League of Nations.)

This handbook, which is due largely to the joint efforts of the Information and Intellectual Co-operation Sections of the Secretariat of the League of Nations, is "an attempt to supply the general public with a useful account of the League's origins, organisation, methods and achievements." It gives a comprehensive survey of the work of the League both in the political and social order, and there are also chapters on the work of the Permanent Court of International Justice and the work of the International Labour Organisation. C. S.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES—Continued from p. 83

We congratulate Miss Hesselgren of Sweden on her election to the Second Chamber of the Swedish Parliament. *Jus* tells us that: "Miss Hesselgren was put on a special list by the Popular Party, but she is not a member and has reserved the right to sit as an independent member. It was her own reputation and the enthusiasm of women which secured her election."

* * * * *

It is with the greatest pleasure we announce that Dr. Ingeborg Hansen of Denmark is now a member of the Landsting, the Upper House or Senate of the Danish Parliament. Dr. Hansen has for some years been on the list of substitutes and has now taken her place as a member to fill a vacancy.—*The International Women's News.*

* * * * *

In Germany, in July, a formal order was issued which closes to women a career as judge or advocate. Those who have passed the earlier stages may be given posts of a subsidiary kind, such as secretaries, etc. No women can serve on a jury, whatever the nature of the case. Women law students may hope to find employment in welfare work, private or public, or in business life, but not in the profession of law.—*The International Women's News.*

* * * * *

Mrs. Corbett Ashby in a letter to *Le Mouvement Féministe* (Geneva) tells Swiss feminist enquirers why the "causerie féminine," which had been announced by the Geneva Radio for September 28th, did not take place.

"My intention," she writes, "in undertaking this talk on the women of my country was to show how much the position of our women has been advanced by the courageous struggle they maintained to obtain their rights as citizens

... It is impossible to imagine that the excellent laws pressed by women in parliament would have been realised so completely had it not been for women's co-operation in political life. I could hardly understand that the Geneva Radio was not going to allow me to tell intelligent Swiss women what has taken place in 'an unknown country.' But that is what happened."

Our readers probably know that Swiss women have not yet been given the vote.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS September 1st to October 1st

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Flynn, Miss Margaret	1	0	0
Jeffery, Miss	5	0	0
Placide, Miss	2	0	
Spender, Miss	5	0	0

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*Jubilee Gifts

HON. TREASURER'S NOTE

October is here, which reminds us that the end of the financial year is drawing to a close. Unfortunately a large number of subscriptions are still due. Would those who have forgotten please hasten to send their subscriptions. Together with these may we beg for a Jubilee gift which will enable us to retain office help, so necessary now that our work is so widespread.

On Saturday, November 14th (7-30 p.m.), there will be a Whist or Bridge Drive and refreshments at 3, Church Road, Hampstead, N.W.3 (next to Dominican Priory). Hostesses: Misses Billing and Davis, and Mrs. Garrard. Entrance fee 2s. Will those who wish to come please send word to Mrs. Garrard by Thursday morning, November 12th.

Have you anything warm you can send for the barrow, please? These dry cold days are good for barrow sales.

C. J. GARRARD.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Miss Bowden,
22 Fern Grove, Liverpool 8.

The winter session was opened on the 28th September at 6 Blackburn Terrace, Liverpool, by courtesy of Mrs. McCann. An enjoyable evening was spent in Whist, Table-tennis and various other diversions.

On Monday, November 16th, Miss Fedden, one of the earliest London members of the Alliance, has promised to pay a visit to the Branch, and will speak on "Random Reminiscences." Miss Fedden has been right through the Suffrage campaign and her talk should be of the greatest interest. We hope all members will make a special effort to come and hear her and will bring their friends.

We are sorry to have to report that two of our most loyal and devoted members, Mrs. Mason, our late Hon. Secretary, and Mrs. Graham are seriously ill, but we hope to have them with us again later in the year. We ask the prayers of the Alliance on their behalf.

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