

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

Fifty-Second Annual Meeting

By P. D. Cummins

On Saturday, March 16th, the Fifty-second Annual Meeting was held at 27 Wilfred Street, Miss P. C. Challoner presiding. The secretary, Miss Gabrielle Daye, presented the Annual Report, the text of which appears in the March issue of *The Catholic Citizen*.

The adoption of the Report was moved by Miss E. D. Price. In a lively and entertaining speech, Miss Price, who began her diplomatic career in Moscow, described her first meeting with His Excellency, Monsieur Jean Leroy in Bucharest when, during the conversation he told her: "You must be very proud of St. Joan's Alliance." There was general laughter when Miss Price confessed that at the time, she had never heard of it! However from then on, she was to hear a great deal about St. Joan's for Madame Leroy-Boy asked her if she would "put into good English" an article she had written for *The Catholic Citizen*. "To my horror I found I had to translate it from French," said Miss Price, "and French is not one of my languages!" (She speaks amongst others Russian, Polish and Rumanian.) When Miss Price returned to England, her friend, our dear Dame Vera, asked her if she was a member of the Alliance, and on learning that she was not, exclaimed: "Then you must become one at once!" "Which of course I did!" said Miss Price.

Mrs. Halpern seconding the motion said she was delighted to find the Alliance in such a flourishing condition and spoke of her long association with it—members will remember that for a number of years Mrs. Halpern was responsible for "The Month in Parliament" which, thanks to her brilliancy, was an outstanding feature of *The Catholic Citizen*. Owing to her work at the B.B.C. her appearances are necessarily rare. She referred to herself, half-laughingly, half-ruefully, as a "renegade" which instantly brought a disclaimer from the Chair.

The chairman then called upon the editor of *The Catholic Citizen*. Mrs. Cummins said that the time had flown since the day when she answered an advertisement in *The Times* for a part-time secretary and emerged from Dryden Chambers overwhelmed to have been offered (subject to the Committee's approval) the editorship! She thanked Miss Barry

warmly for her unfailing support: "Without it, I wouldn't have lasted a month!" In conclusion, Mrs. Cummins said more subscribers were badly needed, and drew the attention of the meeting to the shining example set up by Dr. Heath who has enlarged the circle of readers by taking out twenty-four new subscriptions.

The treasurer presented the Financial Statement, the adoption of which was moved from the floor and carried unanimously. Miss Carr then played Dick Turpin with great verve and called upon those present to "stand and deliver". In other words, she urged them to double the amount they had intended to give. Including a generous donation of £13 10s. 0d. from three members for a year's subscription for *Hansard*, the envelopes yielded the sum of £95 12s. 6d. which, it is hoped will be made up to the round hundred.

The Resolutions were moved from the Chair and carried unanimously. As will be seen from the text on page 31, all but four are re-affirmations of policy. Members were urged to write immediately to their M.P.s to protest against the Women's Employment Bill, which will be reported to the House in April. An article on the Bill by Miss A. M. Pierotti, vice-chairman of the Status of Women Committee of which the Alliance is a constituent member, appears on the front page of the March issue of *The Catholic Citizen*. The Status of Women Committee also deals with the question of women and jury service, and in response to a request from Miss Challoner, Miss Pierotti—a welcome visitor—kindly said a few cogent words on the subject. She told the meeting that the method whereby jurors are selected remains a mystery, and said that the Committee would like to see the age for jury service raised from twenty-one to twenty-five and extended from sixty to sixty-five.

Concerning the Divorce and Reconciliation Bill Dr. Shattock said it had its good points but inherently it increased the grounds for divorce.

The re-election of the Executive Committee with the addition of Miss E. D. Price, was moved from the floor and passed, the meeting having agreed to enlarge the Committee from fifteen to sixteen members.

The proposal to raise the annual subscription from one pound to thirty shillings to meet the steep increase in printing and postage costs was then put to the meeting. Opinions were sharply divided. Miss Carr felt sure that members with small fixed incomes would be unable to find the extra amount and that, as a consequence, the loss might be greater than the gain. Mrs. Cummins suggested that a balance should be struck and the subscription raised by five shillings. Mrs. Halpern opposing, said she was convinced that if the situation were to be brought to the attention of members in *The Catholic Citizen*, members with the means to do so would voluntarily augment their subscriptions. Mrs. Halpern moved, and Dr. Marita Harper seconded, that such a statement should be made. The resolution was carried.

There followed a discussion on the question of the fuller participation of women in the service of the Church. It was opened by Dr. Shattock who has given much time and thought to the subject, as readers of *The Catholic Citizen* are aware. She gave a short survey of St. Joan's up-to-date activities in this important field. She said that if it should be decided by the Ecumenical Council that, as requested by the Alliance, the prayers in the Nuptial Mass, said over the bride and bridegroom after the *Pater Noster*, be so worded as to apply to both spouses, it would be a source of great encouragement even though the name of St. Joan's might never be linked with the reform. Dr. Shattock quoted the resolution adopted by St. Joan's International Alliance at two successive Council Meetings, London (1961) and Orleans (1962):

In view of the growing desire for the fuller participation of the laity in the Apostolate and in view of the dedicated work done by so many women for the Church, their work would be more firmly based if they had some outward sign of the official support and blessing of the Church.

As a concrete suggestion St. Joan's International Alliance submits that if in future diaconal duties are to be entrusted to laymen as an independent ministry, this ministry be open to both men and women.

This resolution was taken to Rome by the International President and personally delivered by Madame Leroy to the secretary of the Commission for the Apostolate of the Laity. The President of the Commission, His Eminence Cardinal Cento graciously informed the Alliance on July 10th, 1961, that our proposals were before the plenary session of the Commission and were being considered "with attention" by the Working Party appointed for this subject. The decision lies with the authorities.

In the meantime, a request for the granting of the priesthood to women has been presented to the Preparatory Commission by a Swiss woman lawyer. "Our opinion will be sought" said Dr. Shattock "at St. Joan's International Council Meeting at Freiburg in September and our responsibility is

very great. It is for you to instruct your delegates."

Dr. Shattock was followed by Miss Massingberd Ford who has been given special permission to study theology at King's College. She began by saying: "A priest once called me the only living midwife working on Fathers! I intend to live up to this reputation and outline some ways in which the Alliance might work on our present Fathers in God to give women a fuller participation in the service of the Church. Note that the operative word is service, not equality, dignity or honour." She urged the necessity of prayer. She felt that St. Joan's might petition the hierarchy to open the doors of the Senior Seminary in each diocese to laywomen as well as to laymen. Many a parish priest might be thankful if he could call on a fully qualified laywoman to preach an occasional sermon from his pulpit. She suggested that the Alliance might press for the title of Doctor of the Church to be conferred on St. Catherine of Siena and St. Teresa of Avila: an authoritative statement would make people realise that a woman's capacity for teaching in the Church was as influential as that of a man. The Alliance might also press for the restoration of the minor orders which would enable women to share in the liturgical, didactic and social work of the Church.

Miss Christitch said she felt quite sure that women would be given vocations and follow them. Her brief speech was a model of moderation and good sense. Miss Joan Morris emphasised the role played by women in the early Church, and said that there was nothing unorthodox in requesting that they should once more be permitted to give of their services as deaconesses. An article by Miss Morris appears on page 28.

Many of those present were unable to speak because of the inexorable clock.

It was decided to hold a special meeting on April 27th when members will have more time to express their views and when it may be possible to arrive at a formula acceptable to all.

After the strenuous business of the meeting, tea was most welcome. Again Miss Carr had surpassed herself, and we thank her and her indefatigable assistants Mrs. Cheux, Miss Guessard and Mrs. Willis most warmly.

HEREDITARY PEERESSES

Speaking in the debate on the Report of the Joint Committee for House of Lords Reform, Mrs. Emmet said "the admission of peeresses in their own right was a point of discussion by the Joint Committee, and it was one which had no dissentient voice. It is rather nice to think that after some fifty years of struggling to get equality for women in both Houses this recommendation has been made unanimously by the Joint Committee . . . if the recommendations of the Committee are accepted it would be possible to sign the United Nations Convention on the political rights of women."

Notes and Comments

Mr. Bernard Braine, Joint Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health, on March 20th, received a deputation from the Status of Women Committee which placed before him their objections to the Employment of Women Bill now before the House of Commons. Although this is a Private Member's Bill, it has the blessing of the Government and women fear that, if it becomes law in its present form, the Minister will have wide powers to make regulations restricting the employment of women after childbirth.

The deputation was introduced by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Miss A. M. Pierotti, who explained that the Committee was composed of sixteen national organisations (including St. Joan's Alliance) working to secure the full political, economic and social equality of men and women; that one of its aims is to secure equal opportunities for men and women in employment and that its Manifesto on that point included "Incapacity for work on account of maternity should be dealt with under the same regulations as apply to absences owing to illness, injury or disability."

The speakers included Professor Dame Kathleen Lonsdale who outlined the effect that the Bill might have on the position of the professional woman who is used to organising her life for the double role of career and motherhood. A consultant obstetric surgeon urged that "forced unemployment" should not be imposed upon women by regulations, especially as the period of recuperation needed after childbirth depended upon a number of factors varying in individual cases.

Other speakers expressed their concern lest the provision that an employer would commit an offence if he knowingly employed a woman within a specified period after childbirth might give rise to a situation in which women would be at the mercy of informers.

After a long and detailed discussion, Mr. Braine thanked the representatives for coming to see him and undertook to consider some of the points raised.

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Baroness Elliot of Harwood is to be the first chairman of the New Consumer Council, the aim of which will be to ensure that the housewife gets full value for her money. The Council will inform itself about Consumers' problems, consider what steps must be taken to safeguard their interests, and provide advice and guidance, chiefly through the citizens' advice bureaux and other appropriate organisations, and by its own publications.

Baroness Elliot has been vice-chairman of the Consumer Association since its foundation. She has had a distinguished political career, and has several times been a delegate to the United Nations. As Chairman of the Consumer Council, she will receive an honorarium of £1,000 a year.

The Cambridge Union Society has again refused women admission despite the efforts made by Angus Calder, son of Professor Ritchie Calder, who said: "We must try and push it through before Ken Clark, next term's President, takes office." Mr. Clark has pledged himself not to admit women to the Union. "The fact that Oxford has admitted them does not impress me—they will soon realise what a mess they are in," he said within minutes of his election. The new President apparently is still living in the dark ages—may he soon realise how ridiculous he is making himself!

* * * *

At last fully qualified physiotherapists have won State recognition and will be able to put the letters S.R.P. after their names. They are golden letters which constitute, as the Chairman of the Council of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists, Professor Ruth E. M. Bowden, said: "a great safeguard for the public". A great safeguard indeed, for there are up to 30,000 unqualified physiotherapists in Britain, some of whom have taken correspondence courses on an "earn as you learn" basis, while others are "call girls".

* * * *

Before an independent tribunal, a case for income tax relief which may affect thousands of doctors was argued in camera. The dispute was over the amount of relief that a doctor may claim for his wife's secretarial services. A British Medical Association spokesman said: "We regard this as a test case and are certainly interested in its outcome."

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Congratulations to Flying Officer G. Lord, Flight Officer S. Grieve, and Pilot Officer A. Scougal, the first three women to become qualified air traffic control officers.

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At the annual conference of the women's section of the Amalgamated Engineering Union held at Eastbourne, delegates passed a resolution instructing the executive to press for a wage increase. They wish the claim filed at the same time as that being made by the men. The President, Sir William Carron assured them that the Confederation would continue to press its policy for equal pay.

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We had hoped to give some details of the programme of our International Council Meeting to be held in Freiburg from September 5th-8th, but unfortunately Dr. Bardenhewer, President of the German section of the Alliance, has broken her arm; we wish her a speedy recovery. Her committee will be meeting shortly to make arrangements. We can say, however, that members who are able to attend will be fascinated by the small historic city, with its cathedral, its ancient gates and winding streets, set amidst vineyards and forest-clad mountains.

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

BRITISH SECTION OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE
AND

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

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The Ministry of Women in the Early Church

Members will remember that when Père Daniélou's thirty-page article on the Ministry of Women in the Early Church appeared in *Maison-Dieu (Paris)* in 1960, it was the subject of a brilliant critique by Dr. Shattock in *The Catholic Citizen* in June of that year. Père Daniélou's article has been translated into English by the Right Reverend Glyn Simon, D.D., Bishop of Llandaff and published in pamphlet form by the Faith Press. (Price 2s.) Miss Morris once more draws attention to this work which is of outstanding importance to all those who hope to see women participating more fully in the service of the Church.—Editor's Note.

All those not conversant with French will welcome the English version of Père Daniélou's scholarly article on a subject which is of the utmost importance to us and has aroused so much controversy. Many people are staggered to find that the position held by women in the early Church was far more developed than it is today. Père Daniélou illuminates the part they played in the service of that Church.

The Missionary Role of Women

In the Epistles of St. Paul, Père Daniélou cites many examples of women missionaries: Phoebe, deacon (servant) of the Church in Cenchræ; Prisca and Aquila, fellow-workers in Christ with St. Paul; Mary, whose good works were manifold; Eudokia and Syntyche who laboured with St. Paul, Clement and others.

As early as the second century, we find Tertullian taking exception to the missionary role of women. He discredited Tecla, and labelled the Asian priest who wrote her life heretical. But Tertullian himself after only ten years became a member of the heretical Montanist Church. Père Daniélou considers that his opinion is exaggerated and due to an anti-feminist bias. Deaconesses, of course, for centuries after Tertullian continued to look after the pre-baptism of women by immersion.

Prophecy is listed by Père Daniélou as an important role in the ministry by women in the early church. There are many references to prophetesses in the New Testament. In the Acts of the Apostles

for instance, we read of the four daughters of Philip, who were prophetesses. St. Paul mentions women prophets when he insists that unlike men, women should cover their heads. But the interesting part of this passage is not the question of the veil, but the fact that we have evidence here of the prophetic function being exercised in the Christian congregation by men and women alike on the same plane. The Didache, which records the instructions of the Apostles, links prophecy with "the giving of Thanks" (a phrase often associated with the celebration of the Eucharist) when it says "Let the prophets give thanks as they will." Here we have a part played by women in the congregation which is in contradiction with the passage in 1. Cor. 14, v. 34, which commands women to keep silence in churches. This very naturally has aroused controversy. It is interesting to note here that in a few manuscripts this injunction comes at the end of the chapter after verse 40, and not in verse 34. The explanation of this could be the insertion of a marginal note by some scribe. Such interpolations are known to happen quite frequently.

The Participation of Women in Liturgical Prayer

Père Daniélou mentions a recent study by Mgr. Romito, in which he argues that it is only by the spirit of toleration that women take part in liturgical singing, a thesis which has been contradicted by Dom Olivier Rousseau. Père Daniélou agrees that participation of women in liturgical prayer is highly traditional, and supports his opinion with examples.

The Order of Widows and Deaconesses

No one disputes the existence of the service of Widows and Deaconesses although some have held that the formulae of consecration which are to be found in a number of manuscripts are only blessings and not an Ordination properly speaking. But there is plenty of evidence, carefully recorded by Père Daniélou, that these Ordinations were in fact Minor Orders. The Ordinations are witnessed by Canon 19 of the Council of Nicea, and Canon 15 of the Council of Chalcedon. Clement of Alexandria speaks of Widows after mentioning the three male Orders and refers to them as "elect persons" (Paed 3, 12. 97.). This links up very significantly with the 2nd Epistle of St. John which is addressed to a "Lady Elect". Some commentators, including Knox, have held that the "Lady Elect" refers to a local Church. However, a note in the Douai version, which is known to follow the most orthodox views says the general opinion is that it refers to a lady of eminent piety.

The Sacerdotal Office

Père Daniélou tells us he was present at the 1958 Lutheran Church Assembly in Sweden at which the question of women being admitted into the priesthood was discussed. The argument put forward in favour was that as the general status of women had changed and as they were now doctors, lawyers, members of parliament, etc., there was no longer any reason for preventing women from exercising the priestly office. Père Daniélou takes the view that a good proportion of the theological reasons advanced against this argument do not hold.

Conclusion

Père Daniélou sums up by saying that women were excluded from the priesthood strictly so called, but that they gave religious instruction, especially to women. They were permitted to carry out special functions in connection with worship. Deaconesses had the right to prepare the chalice and in the absence of the Deacon, to ascend the ambo, incense the Book and read the Gospel, and distribute Communion to women and children. They took part in liturgical prayers and in the chanting of the psalms.

Père Daniélou has compressed a great deal of invaluable information into a very short space. All this information proves that there is nothing unorthodox in requesting that women be permitted again to play a greater part in the ministry of the Church.

Joan Morris

We ask the prayers of our members for the repose of the soul of Mabel Morison who died on March 4th. For over forty years Mrs. Morison was a staunch and generous member of the Alliance. May she rest in peace.

REVIEWS

The House Stands Firm—Family Life in West Africa. By Soeur Marie André du Sacré Coeur W.S. Translated from the French by Alba I. Zizzamia. (The Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee \$4.)

In this book by the well-known White Sister Soeur Marie André du Sacré Coeur, the fruits of her great experience, legal knowledge and love of Africa, are presented in simple language, excellently translated for the ordinary English-speaking person who would find her more scholarly books in French somewhat difficult.

In stories of the women she has known so intimately, the complex problems arising from the evolution of African society and the impact of Christianity on pagan beliefs and customs are made clear, so that readers may understand the part played—and suffered—by women in African society; and the part they will play in the future that is evolving. "When the woman is within, the House Stands Firm." P.C.C.

Diabolical Possession; True and False. By J. Lhermitte. Faith and Fact Books. Translated by P. J. Hepburne-Scott. (Burns Oates, 9s. 6d.)

This rather inconclusive discussion on diabolical possession leaves us with the heartening impression that its manifestations are rarer in this country than the author's account might suggest. What psychiatrist over here (and one might doubt which theological consultant) is likely to see a case of possession, true or false, once a week, and how often does he call on the services of the exorcist?

J. Lhermitte is a neurologist of international fame and a Catholic familiar with the relevant Scriptural texts. What we should like to hear from him is whether he meets in his clinical practice cases he can unhesitatingly describe as "truly possessed" and whether their differentiation from the more spurious ones is humanly possible. In this country, mentally disturbed patients are more likely to locate the devil (of whom they have as a rule the vaguest concept) in their environment, rather than in their own persons. This may be a case of "ignorance is bliss" but it has served to limit the spread of morbid suggestion and has circumscribed its more distressing manifestations. F.M.S.

The 1963 report of the Roman Pontifical Institute, Regina Mundi, now in its ninth year, lists twenty-one students who have obtained their *Diploma Magisterii* in Sacred Sciences. The number of resident students is now over three hundred, twenty-two of whom are "lay", that is, not members of religious orders. It is interesting to note that after the Spanish section the English-speaking section is the largest.

The Month in Parliament

Defence

During the debate on defence Miss Joan Vickers said that it is no longer the rôle of women to just "watch and wait", for the same danger threatens us all. "What we are considering," she said, "is how to keep the peace; the only differences between us are about how this can best be done." She pointed out that we must not begin to think of "conventional weapons" as comparatively harmless and instanced the great misery inflicted on the people of Holland and Belgium by them. She warned the House that all progress in disarmament must deal with both nuclear and "conventional" arms. She asked whether, in view of the danger from China to her neighbours and their need to feel protected, it was not unrealistic to refuse China's admission to the United Nations. Little progress could be made in general disarmament while so powerful a potential aggressor was excluded from the discussions. (5th March.)

The Right to Sit Down

Three new clauses were added to the Offices, Shops and Railways Premises Bill, whereby provision will have to be made for the workers in these places to be able to dry their outdoor clothes, hang up their coats, eat their meals and sit down when it does not interfere with their work. Male members noted with satisfaction that the clause about seats "concedes to men what hitherto has only been conceded to women".

The Prison Commission

Against considerable opposition the Government obtained a majority on the Order to dissolve the Prison Commission and make the prison service a department of the Home Office. Mrs. Braddock said that the Home Office was responsible for the deficiencies of the prison service in that it had repeatedly disregarded the recommendations and suggestions of the Commissioners. Mr. Greenwood complained that women prisoners were being subjected to V.D. tests without their permission being sought. He said that the winter clothing for women was inadequate and that pregnant women were not given the diet recommended outside. Mr. Brooke replying to Mr. Greenwood said: "The Hon. Gentleman spoke of women being given V.D. tests in Holloway without permission. That is completely untrue—any woman in Holloway can refuse to undergo a V.D. test if she wishes." Miss Alice Bacon said she hoped that it would be made clear to women prisoners that they have a right to refuse to take V.D. tests. Mr. Gardner expressed concern about the number of young girl offenders, and the shortage of efficient classifying centres, especially for girls; he was very concerned about the increase in delinquency among girls. Mr. Brooke replied, "Crime among young girls . . . is far less than crime among young boys of a comparable age." He added that it was his policy to keep girls under 21 out of prison altogether. (March 12th.)

Employment of Women

In reply to questions from Mrs. Butler and Mrs. Hart, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Hare), told them that in March 1961 he had been asked by the Trades Union Congress for provision to be made, in the Offices, Shops, and Railway Premises Bill, prohibiting the employment of women for seven weeks after childbirth. Mrs. Hart asked whether the Minister had received representations from women associated with the T.U.C. or from any other women's organisations about the Bill introduced by Lord Balniel. Mr. Hare replied, "No. It was thought that this matter would be better dealt with in the Bill introduced by my noble friend." Dame Irene Ward asked if it would not be more helpful if women members were consulted before such a Bill were introduced. Mrs. Hart then asked the Minister to state the cases where by law an employee is required to give personal information. The Minister's reply did not include a need to give the date when a child had been born. She asked if the Minister did not realise that he was supporting a measure, supposed to protect women, that most women opposed, that by Lord Balniel's Bill an employer would be liable to a fine if he did not obtain information about the private and personal life of new women employees, and that this would lead to compulsion being brought on women. Mr. Hare did not think it was the right time to go into such matters. (13th March.)

Mrs. Hart returned to the fray later, during questions. She asked the Minister how many prosecutions had been made against employers for allowing a mother to work within the time prohibited by the Factory and Works Act, 1901, and the Public Health Act, 1936. Mr. Braine said that the information was not available. Mrs. Hart thought that this proved that such legislation is a dead letter, and that fresh legislation should be fully debated in the House. (18th March.)

Parliamentary Reform

Mr. Pannell moved a resolution "to maintain Parliament as the paramount forum of the nation and to bring its practices and procedures into harmony with this end and in accord with the needs of 1963." Miss Jennie Lee said that we should ask ourselves the vital question: if we discard the House of Commons as the place to discuss our problems and seek to find solutions, what instrument shall we use? She pleaded for a diversity of background. She thought there was a place in Parliament for people of all ages and both sexes. Mr. Lubbock said that we have a long way to go before we get to the stage when the nation is fully represented: he instanced the very small proportion of women in the House. (15th March.)

C. M. Cheke

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 16th, 1963

House of Lords

St. Joan's Alliance regrets that hereditary peeresses are still debarred from the House of Lords and calls upon the Government to pass legislation to enable these peeresses to sit and vote therein.

Street Offences Act, 1959

St. Joan's Alliance reaffirming its belief in the principle that the equality of all citizens before the law, whether for punishment or reward, is fundamental to justice, demands that the Government delete from Clause 1(1) of the Street Offences Act, 1959, the term "common prostitute" which discriminates against one class of citizen, and so amend the Act to make it an offence for "any person" to loiter for the purposes of prostitution to the annoyance of any inhabitant, occupier of non-residential premises, or passenger.

The Alliance further demands that the burden of proof of this offence should not rest solely upon the evidence of the police.

Domicile

St. Joan's Alliance calls upon the Government to introduce and pass into law a Bill giving a married woman the right to her own domicile.

Equal Guardianship of Infants

St. Joan's Alliance calls upon the Government to introduce and pass into law a Bill giving both parents equal rights of guardianship over their children.

Employment of Women Bill

St. Joan's Alliance calls for the withdrawal of the Employment of Women Bill introduced by Lord Balniel which seeks to make regulations for restricting the employment of women for reward during the period following childbirth as being detrimental to the employment of women and an interference with their personal liberty.

Equal Pay

St. Joan's Alliance urges the extension of equal pay to women employed in the industrial grades of the civil service and in commerce and industry generally.

Taxation

St. Joan's Alliance calls for the separate taxation of married persons and the removal of all sex discrimination in taxation.

Education

St. Joan's Alliance demands full equality for Catholic schools in the national scheme of education. Education should be directed towards the full development of the individual as a human being and urges that in all schemes of education and in the allocation of scholarships, equal opportunity be made available to boys and girls, both in this country and in all territories under British administration.

Slavery

St. Joan's Alliance, aware of the Government's concern at the continuance of the Slave Trade urges the setting up of a committee of experts to investigate and to advise on the best means of implementing the 1956 Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery and the Slave Trade. The Alliance calls upon the Government to give its support at the United Nations to any proposal to this end.

Private Employment Agencies

St. Joan's Alliance views with concern the potential dangers to young women, foreign as well as British, seeking employment through agencies which in many areas are subject to no control, except registration of name and address. It urges the Government to introduce legislation to provide for a system of licensing and supervision of private employment agencies.

Jury Service

St. Joan's Alliance welcomes the setting up of a Committee to enquire into the law concerning qualifications and exemptions for jury service. It trusts that the recommendations of the Committee will serve to enable more women to qualify for jury service.

Divorce

St. Joan's Alliance protests against those clauses of the Matrimonial Causes and Reconciliation Bill which provide for additional grounds for petition of divorce.

Annual Subscription

That it be stated in *The Catholic Citizen*, St. Joan's Alliance does not intend to raise the basic subscription so as to avoid penalising members on small fixed incomes or otherwise financially embarrassed, but that all members who can possibly afford it be asked to raise their subscription voluntarily by an extra ten shillings per annum and that this plea be repeated annually with the reminder of subscriptions due.

EQUAL RIGHTS

We are indebted to a correspondent in the U.S.A. for the report which appeared in *Monitor* on 2nd January, 1963, of the action taken by the National Council of Catholic Women. The N.C.C.W. has reaffirmed its opposition to the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution which has been before Congress for more than thirty years, and has addressed a letter signed by its President, Mrs. Joseph McCarthy, to every member of the Senate. Mrs. McCarthy was requested to voice this protest by the federation of directors at its annual meeting in Washington.

The proposed amendment provides that equality of rights under the law "shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

One passage in the letter to the Senate reads: "In our view the amendment tends to flaunt nature itself. Men and women are endowed by the Creator with differing characteristics and functions. To attempt to make them equal in all things is to overlook their fundamental differences, and remove the true foundations of woman's dignity . . . Again we strongly reiterate our opposition to the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution as a threat to the nature of woman which individuates her from man in God's plan for His Creation . . . Under the guise of equality it would in reality wipe out the many legal safeguards which protect women's position in the family."

The attitude of the N.C.C.W. is basically the same as it was in 1931 when Leonora de Alberti in the June issue of *The Catholic Citizen* 1931 wrote in her wisdom, after having read the pamphlet by the Reverend Dr. Ryan voicing the opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment by an earlier generation of the N.C.C.W.: "Our co-religionists are, of course, as free to oppose as we are to advocate the principle of equal rights . . . none of the dreadful prophecies uttered when women were enfranchised have been fulfilled, and we firmly believe that civilisation and the Christian family will bear with a like serenity the shock of 'Equal Rights'."

The Bulletin of the Centro Feminino de Cultura Civica, the Argentine Centre affiliated to St. Joan's International Alliance, the president Madame de Martinez reports on the Liberian meeting of the World Federation of United Nations Associations she attended in May last year as alternate delegate. Her delegation intervened to secure for the housewife a reclassification in the Constitution, a transfer from inactive to active category. The classification was based on the absence of monetary reward and is derogatory. The motion proposed by the Argentinian delegates was carried by acclamation.

Madame de Martinez also reports the remarkable contribution of African women to this conference and mentions particularly that of Madame Yacé who, under the banner of St. Joan, is president of a group of forward-looking and enthusiastic African women.

BOOK RECEIVED

"In Time of Sickness". Prayers for the Sick, selected and arranged by Father McEvoy, S.J. (Burns Oates, 15s.)

STOP PRESS!

The Employment of Women Bill was talked out at the report stage on April 5th.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From "*The Catholic Citizen*", April 15th, 1938

A deputation representing the Aborigines Progressive Association, and including two women of aboriginal race, was received by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. J. A. Lyons, on January 31st. Dame Enid Lyons was present. Among requests put forward by Mr. J. T. Patten were:

The raising of all aborigines to full citizen status and civil equality; equal educational opportunities with white people; benefits of legislation, workers' compensation and insurance and old age and invalid pensions; wages in cash and not by orders; issue of rations; apprenticeship systems; similar marriage laws to whites and no marriage colour bar; equal opportunities for settling on the land; maternity allowance and free hospital treatment for all aboriginal and half-caste women.

"Women protectors and welfare officers both in town and country are essential. Where practical these should be women of aboriginal race. The appointment of women protectors in outlying districts who have been trained as nurses would be of great benefit to both aborigines and whites."

The deputation opposed the policy of segregation, but urged the retention of present aboriginal reserves as sanctuaries for aged or incompetent aborigines.

In reply, Mr. Lyons said the Government was in sympathy with the deputation and was prepared to call a conference of the States to discuss the whole question with a view to finding what was best to be done.—*Australian Aborigines*

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