

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

Organ of St. Joan's Alliance (formerly The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society).
8^B, Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford Street, London W.1.

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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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

The Common Market and Equal Pay

By P. D. Cummins

Under Article 119 of the Treaty of Rome, the member States of the European Economic Community must "ensure and subsequently maintain the application of the principle of equal remuneration for equal work as between men and women workers," i.e., that:—

(1) remuneration for the same work at piece rates shall be calculated on the same unit of measurement; and that
(2) remuneration for work at time rates shall be the same for the same job.

The date set for the implementation of Article 119 by the member States was January 1st, 1962, but on July 20th, 1960, the Executive Committee of the E.E.C. addressed a recommendation to the Governments concerned, advancing the date to June 30th, 1961, and indicating what action they should take to enable them to reach the goal. This included calling on the employers' and workers' occupational organisations to apply the principle in collective agreements, making the approval of collective agreements by the public authorities, where there was provision for this, conditional on exclusion from the said agreements of any discrimination based on sex, and if necessary by legislative, regulatory or administrative action to ensure conformity with the provisions of Article 119 in individual public relations. Article 119, the recommendation pointed out, should be implemented directly in the public services.

In May, 1961, at the request of the Council of Ministers, the Executive Committee set up a special group to "study the application of Article 119 in the light, in particular, of the Committee's recommendation of July 20th, 1960, of work already accomplished, of documentation collected, and of the discussions which took place in the Council of Ministers." The Special Group consists of two representatives of each member State and two representatives of the Executive Committee, and is aided by a body of statisticians and experts on collective agreements established by employers' and workers' organizations. The Executive Committee makes regular reports to the Council of Ministers on the work done by the Special Group.

In November, 1960, April, 1961, and again in September, 1961, the Social Committee of the European Parliamentary Assembly examined the problem of the equalisation of men's and women's wages. It reported in September, 1961, that the main obstacle to progress in the interim period of the application of Article 119 was the fact that there were divergencies as to its interpretation and that not all member States had accepted the recommendation of the Executive Committee. The Social Committee formally confirmed its approval of that recommendation, and proposed to the Parliamentary Assembly that it draw the attention of the Council of Ministers to the importance of the problem and the necessity of respecting the last date—January 1st, 1962—for the implementation of Article 119. On November 22nd, 1961, the European Parliamentary Assembly adopted a resolution inviting the Governments concerned to apply effectively the principle of equal pay contained in Article 119 of the Rome Treaty.

The comprehensive survey of men's and women's wages in the member States published by the Statistical Office of the European Communities in 1961 brings out the magnitude of the task to be done in view of the bristling difficulties. In the preface to the survey which deals with the statistical problems of international comparisons of salaries, it is indicated that no valid conclusions could be drawn from the figures with respect to wage levels in general or with respect to the particular problem of differences between men's and women's pay. Problems referred to in this preface as affecting particularly comparisons of wage differentials between men and women were:

- (a) the wide variations between the numbers of men and women employed in different sectors of the economy;
- (b) the equally wide variations in the respective levels of qualifications of men and women;
- (c) differences in age structure between men and women;
- (d) differences between salary levels in different branches of the economy;
- (e) differences in types of salaries (piece rates and time rates);

(f) differences in hours worked, in particular, overtime, and

(g) the different impact of taxation and of social security contributions.

These then are some of the major problems that confront the member States who have pledged themselves to implement Article 119. There are directives, however, which will lead them towards the ultimate solution. They must:

(1) Initiate appropriate proceedings (taking into account the national system for fixing salaries) to ensure the application of equal pay for men and women workers in such a manner that the courts may enforce this principle;

(2) proceed by statute or regulation or, when this method is organized and satisfactory, by collective bargaining, to put into effect the principle of equal pay for men and women according to the following schedule:

(i) where there is a difference in salary of more than 15 per cent, this must be reduced to 15 per cent before June 30th, 1962;

(ii) where there is a difference of more than 10 per cent, this difference must be reduced to 10 per cent before June 30th, 1963.

The member States must pledge themselves to refuse to sanction any collective agreement which, in spite of Government directions or recommendations, does not respect this calendar.

(3) Abolish all discrimination—(application of a minimum salary to men only, difference in remuneration where the same qualifications are required of both men and women, putting men and women workers into different categories, etc.).

(4) Provide a full statistical report on men's and women's salaries, and supplement this with data on collective bargaining and job assessment as practised in the Six Countries.

A commission has been set up to advise and assist the member States—note that they retain the right to appeal if they have proof that certain economic sectors are at a disadvantage because of existing differences between men's and women's wages in other countries.

It must be conceded that the implementation of Article 119 by the Member States is a herculean task, but it is a task that must, and will, be performed. It is firmly held that by December 31st, 1964, all discrimination will have ceased.

VOTES FOR WOMEN DAY

On February 6th, at Westminster Abbey, the Fawcett Society paid tribute to Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E. A wreath was laid on the memorial to her by Dame Irene Ward, M.P., who said that while a woman was the centre of a home, she transcended its boundaries—there had been no more shining example of this truth than Dame Millicent herself.

The same evening the Suffragette Fellowship met at the Caxton Hall to mark the anniversary of the first enfranchisement of women, when speeches were made by Miss Margaret Herbison, M.P., and Mrs. McLaughlin, M.P. Miss Barry said a few words on the increase of the slave-trade today.

ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL AT ORLEANS

The Council Meetings will take place on May 5th and 6th. The meetings are open to any member of the Alliance. We give below the provisional programme of the delightful arrangements that have been made by our French colleagues. Will those members who wish to attend the Council notify Miss Barry at the office as soon as possible.

Members will stay at the Hôtellerie Ste. Marie, which is dependent on the historic monastery at St. Benoit-sur-Loire, some thirty miles from Orleans. There is an excellent direct train service from Paris.

The Council Meeting on Saturday ends at 5 o'clock, when there will be an excursion to Sully-à-Loire. On May 6th, members will visit the ancient Carolingian church of Germigny-des-Prés.

On May 7th, there will be a tour by special coach "in the footsteps of St. Joan." Members will be taken to Chinon, will be shown each historic spot and will visit the castles of Blois, Chambord and Amboise amongst others. On the homeward journey, they will be entertained by the French Vice-President of the Alliance at her home at St. Jean de Braye, then back to Orleans for the Ceremony of the Standard.

On the morning of May 8th, members will attend the special Mass in the Cathedral at Orleans and in the afternoon, the deeply impressive traditional procession in honour of St. Joan will take place.

For those who would like to form an idea of the cost, there are *circa* fourteen new French francs to the pound. Journey from Parish-St. Benoit (2nd class), 14 francs; pension at the Hôtellerie, 20 francs per day; lunch on excursions, 7-8 francs; excursion to Sully-sur-Loire and to Germigny-des-Prés, each between 1.50 and 2 francs; tour to Chinon and the châteaux, roughly 20 francs.

OBITUARY

We offer our deep sympathy to the Misses Challoner on the death of their sister, Mrs. Margaret C. Steele, who died in Durban on February 26th. Mrs. Steele was in England two years ago when several members had the pleasure of meeting her. She was a life member of the Alliance—we know our members will remember her in their prayers. R.I.P.

With sorrow we record the death of Mrs. M. G. Ruddy in Liverpool on February 15th, for whom we ask the prayers of our members. Mrs. Ruddy was a keen member of the Merseyside Branch and represented the Alliance on the Standing Conference of Women's Organisations. She was a founder member of Liverpool University Catholic Society and a well known social worker. R.I.P.

As from March 25th, St. Joan's Alliance is moving into a new office, but most fortunately, the move consists of only two flights of stairs. Address 36a Dryden Chambers (third floor). It is hoped that the present telephone number will be retained.

We send our best wishes to the Hon. Mabel Strickland on her election to the Maltese Legislative Council and wish her success in the difficult work ahead.

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

BRITISH SECTION OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

AND
Editorial Office of "The Catholic Citizen"

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<i>Ex-officio</i> MADAME MAGDELEINE LEROY BOY, Dr en droit,	President St. Joan's International Alliance.
MRS. SHATTOCK, M.A., M.D., D.P.M., <i>Chairman</i> .	MISS VERA DOUIE
MISS F. A. BARRY, <i>Hon. Secretary</i> .	MISS GUESSARD, B.A.
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MRS. P. D. CUMMINS.	MISS CHRISTINE SPENDER.

Editor, "The Catholic Citizen."

Fiftieth Annual Report *

for the year ended 31st December, 1961

The outstanding event of the year was the golden jubilee of the foundation of St. Joan's Alliance in 1911. The jubilee was marked by celebrations on the actual day, 25th March, and more particularly on St. Joan's Day, May 30th, when the International President, Madame Leroy, and delegates from the various national sections of the Alliance were assembled in London for the International Council Meeting. A Mass of thanksgiving was offered at Westminster Cathedral by the Rev. Christopher Laughton Mathews, who gave an inspiring address, after which a visit was paid to Dame Vera's Memorial in the Cathedral.

In the evening the jubilee dinner was held at St. Ermin's Hotel, Dr. Mackenzie Shattock, the British Chairman, presiding. A telegram from the Holy Father, sending his blessing, and a letter from His Eminence, Cardinal Godfrey, were read, together with numerous telegrams and messages of congratulation from friends at home and abroad. Distinguished guests included the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Miss Aline Fenwick; Miss Joan Vickers, M.P., Madame Leroy Boy, President of St. Joan's International Alliance, and Monsignor Tomlinson from St. Patrick's, the parish church of the Alliance. It was heartening to have with us the International Vice-Presidents, Madame Pesson-Depret, Madame Archambault and Frau Wosnik, the delegates to the Council meeting and many members and friends of the Alliance, including representatives of the old Suffrage Societies with which the Alliance has co-operated so happily from the beginning.

The speakers were Miss Joan Vickers, Madame Leroy Boy, Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, and the Rev. Christopher Laughton Mathews.

By kind invitation of Dr. Shattock, delegates paid a visit to her picturesque country house at Wargrave, and after a drive through lovely country by Windsor and Eton, had tea by the river.

A debt of gratitude is due to Councillor Miss Hulme for so pleasantly and efficiently organising the festivities.

The jubilee was also marked by the publication of "A Venture in Faith," a history of the Alliance, written by Nancy Stewart Parnell, a life-long member of the Alliance, so distinguished in the annals of the Society for her brilliant oratory, particularly at the time of the campaign for votes for women under thirty. Great appreciation has been expressed for this valuable history, so well written and so beautifully produced.

We are indebted to *The Tablet* and the *Women's Freedom League Bulletin* for heart-warming reviews of "A Venture in Faith" and to the Catholic press for reports of our jubilee celebrations.

Political Field

In 1961, hereditary peeresses were still debarred from the House of Lords. A motion on April 28th, tabled by the Leader of the House, that it is expedient that a Committee of both Houses of Parliament be appointed to consider the composition of the House of Lords, indicated that consideration of the question of the eligibility of peeresses in their own right to sit in either House and to vote at Parliamentary Elections, would be included in its terms of reference. There were, at the end of the year, with the elevation of Dr. Summerskill to the peerage, six life peeresses and twenty-five women M.P.s.

An Act granting the women of the Bahamas the vote and eligibility was passed by the Bahamian House of Assembly and will come into force on June 2nd, 1962, thus bringing the strenuous fight of the Bahamian Women's Suffrage Movement, aided by the women's organisations in the United Kingdom, to a successful conclusion.

Offices Bill

On March 20th the Minister of Labour stated that "It was not intended to make regulations under the powers in that Act." The regulations referred to, against which the Alliance had protested, were for restricting the employment of women in offices after childbirth.

Public Morality

Evidence continues to accumulate regarding the evils resulting from the Street Offences Act. A Social Offences Group was set up by members of both Houses of Parliament under Lord Stonham, President of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, "to keep the Street Offences Act under review and to deal with any legislation concerning sexual immorality and sexual inequality."

Equal Pay and Opportunities

On January 1st, the Civil Servants in the non-industrial grades climbed the last of their seven steps to equal pay. Lord Bridges gave a reception on February 7th in the House of Lords for the Fawcett Society to celebrate this achievement. The reception was attended by the Lord Chancellor and other distinguished guests and representatives of those women's organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance, which had taken part in the equal pay campaign. Note, however, the women in the industrial grades of the Civil Service are still deprived of the just reward of their services. The average wage of women manual workers is still half that of the men.

* Subject to confirmation at the Annual Meeting.

On April 5th the women teachers received their full pay and the National Union of Women Teachers held a victory lunch at the Café Royal which was both a celebration and a valediction.

A further step towards equality at Cambridge was taken when the proposals to remove the limitation on the number of women students at Newnham and Girton passed the Senate. Catholic women students continue to be excluded from the official Catholic chaplaincy there.

Meetings and Other Activities

On March 25th, the fiftieth anniversary of the day on which the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society came into being, members attended the mid-day Mass in Westminster Cathedral in thanksgiving. At the fiftieth Annual Meeting on the same day, Dr. Shattock presided and after congratulatory messages had been read, a message of loyalty was sent to Her Majesty the Queen—to which a gracious reply was received. Miss Christitch moved the adoption of the report and Mrs. Bentley seconded, with the support of Mrs. Hartono Sunario of Indonesia. The financial statement, moved by Miss Fedden and seconded by Miss Retchford, was also adopted.

Mrs. Hoare, O.B.E., chairman of the sub-committee which had been set up to consider ways and means of carrying on with the work, stressed the importance of recruiting new members. Dr. Shattock urged individual members to take their full share in the work of the Alliance and suggested taking out subscriptions for *The Catholic Citizen* to interest likely members.

Miss Carr's appeal for funds to make this a golden day for St. Joan's brought in the sum of £100.

Resolutions were reiterated concerning Women in the House of Lords, Street Offences Act, Domicile of Married Women, Equal Guardianship of Infants, Equal Pay and Opportunities, Taxation and Education.

Three new resolutions were passed: (1) placing on record the gratitude of the Alliance to all members, past and present, whose services had contributed to the victories so far achieved; (2) that the name of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance be changed to that of St. Joan's Alliance; (3) that the executive committee be enlarged to consist of fifteen members.

The committee was then re-elected with the exception of Mrs. Shirley Williams who, owing to pressure of work, was unable to stand for re-election. Two new members elected were Mrs. M. W. Bentley and Mrs. Eileen Hoare.

The text of the resolutions will be found in *The Catholic Citizen*, April, 1961.

During the year letters and resolutions dealing with points on our programme were sent to the appropriate authorities. These included a resolution sent to the Home Secretary expressing opposition to the Abortion Bill as being against the moral law.

On the question of married women's income tax the Alliance rejected the proposal to approach the Chancellor of the Exchequer asking for the separate taxation of married women liable to surtax as it conflicted with the policy of the Alliance that all married women should be separately taxed.

In co-operation with the German section of the Alliance a resolution was sent to St. Joan's International Council Meeting, expressing the desire for an approach to the preparatory Commission on the Apostolate of the Laity "to further the participation and recognition of women in the apostolate of the Church."

Congratulations were sent to Mrs. Eileen Hoare, O.B.E., on her election to the London County Council and to Mrs. Shirley Williams and Mrs. Ann Kennedy (née Whittles) on the birth of daughters.

As always, much time is occupied with work for *The Catholic Citizen*, answering many and various enquiries from home and abroad, with reading and analysing numbers of documents and keeping a watchful eye on the press.

Co-operation with other organizations

The Alliance is represented on the following committees: the British Commonwealth League, the British Vigilance and National Committee for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons, the Catholic Committee for Overseas Students, the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child, the Status of Women Committee and the Women's Advisory Council of the United Nations Association.

We regret the passing of two societies with which we have co-operated for so long: the National Union of Women Teachers, as its object, equal pay for equal work in the teaching profession was achieved; and the Women's Freedom League, which was disbanded after fifty-four years of unremitting work for the Woman's Movement.

Representatives attended the annual meetings of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, the Anti-Slavery Society, the Open-Door Council, the Women's Freedom League; and various functions of the British Commonwealth League, including a reception given by the High Commissioner for Ceylon and Mrs. de Souza; its Annual Conference on "Self-government within the Commonwealth—its Effects on Women"; and the Christmas Fair, opened by Viscountess Kilmuir.

Members were present at the annual gathering at Westminster Abbey on February 6th, the anniversary of the first instalment of votes for women, to pay tribute to Dame Millicent Fawcett; and at the annual gathering of the Suffragette Fellowship. On July 14th they laid flowers at the foot of Mrs. Pankhurst's statue in Victoria Park Gardens, and on October 13th attended the Suffragette Fellowship's Prisoners' Day Celebrations.

Representatives attended several meetings of the International Alliance of Women, a reception for its President, Mrs. Deraniyagala; and a meeting for Miss Gwilliam of the Colonial Office, who spoke on the women's seminar at Addis Ababa, and for Miss Frieda Miller of the Liaison Committee in New York.

There was a reception at the House of Commons for Mrs. Srimavo Bandaranaike, the first woman Prime Minister, by courtesy of Miss Joan Vickers; and a farewell party for the Indonesian Ambassador and Mrs. Sunario.

In October, the Sword of the Spirit celebrated its twenty-first birthday in a Mass of thanksgiving at Westminster Cathedral followed by a reception.

In November it held a Conference on "The Church in Africa," when Miss Challoner took part as a representative of the Alliance. Miss Challoner also attended various functions of the Catholic Committee for Overseas Students at the Chaplaincy and she also arranged for several members of the Women's Group of Students to hear a debate in the House of Commons.

The Status of Women Committee

The Alliance is a constituent member of the Committee which, under the Chairmanship of Miss Pierotti, concerns itself with the abolition of the remaining legal discriminations against women.

Work continued on the Guardianship of Infants Bill. Several Members of Parliament were asked if, should they be fortunate in the Ballot, they would introduce an Equal Guardianship Bill.

The Committee's statement on Married Women's Income Tax was sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to all women Members of Parliament and the Life Peeresses.

United Nations

A Statement on the Convention on the Age of Marriage, Consent to Marriage and Registration of Marriages and also on Ritual Mutilations was sent to the Foreign Office prior to the meeting of the fifteenth session of the Status of Women Commission. Later, a letter was sent to the Foreign Office which, while regretting that no legal universal minimum age of marriage is specified in the Convention, nevertheless welcomed the Convention and ex-

pressed gratification that the United Kingdom delegate had taken the initiative in sponsoring the Convention. Appreciation was expressed of the work of Miss Vickers at the Commission. Her re-appointment as United Kingdom delegate to the Commission was warmly welcomed by the Alliance.

Miss Ruth Tomlinson reported on the Seminar on the Participation of Women in Public Life held at Addis Ababa, and on March 13th at the House of Commons; Madame Grinberg-Vinaver, Chief of the U.N. Section on the Status of Women, discussed the agenda for the forthcoming meeting of the Commission with representatives of women's organisations; again on May 17th, Miss Vickers gave an account of the work of the session. Lady Tweedsmuir, U.K. delegate, reported on the work of the General Assembly at the Women's Advisory Council of U.N.A., and Miss Belcher, U.K. delegate to the Seminar at Bucharest on Women in Family Law, reported on its work and conclusions. A discussion was also held by the W.A.C. concerning more active relationships with the national committee of U.N.E.S.C.O.

Obituary

We record with sorrow the death of the following members: Miss Eleanor FitzGerald, one of the earliest members of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society and a staunch friend to the end; Miss Grace Conway, of *The Catholic Herald*; Miss Edith McCormick, Mrs. L. de Fonseka, Miss Magdalene Maeve Weale and Lady Wijeyekoon. We also mourn for Lord Pethick Lawrence, Mrs. Adela Pankhurst Walsh, youngest daughter of Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Charlotte Marsh and Miss Marian Reeves, colleagues in the fight for the vote and after. May they rest in peace.

On October 28th, the memorial mosaic to Dame Vera in Westminster Cathedral was blessed by Father Christopher Laughton Mathews. Members joined with the Association of Wrens, and other societies, in this moving ceremony and later they attended at Alexandra House where Stella Schmolle's copy of Anthony Devas' portrait of Dame Vera, now in the Imperial War Museum, was presented by Dame Jocelyn Woolcombe to the Director of the Women's Royal Naval Service to inspire new recruits in the training depot, H.M.S. Dauntless.

On the first Sunday in November, the annual Mass at St. Patrick's, Soho, was offered for deceased members, associates and benefactors of the Alliance.

The Catholic Citizen. After two long terms of office, 1934-1943 and 1945-1961, Miss Christine Spender, the Hon. Editor, relinquished her post owing to pressure of other work. The Alliance is indeed grateful to her for her long service and for continuing as editor until a suitable successor could be found able to carry on in the spirit and tradition of *The Catholic Citizen*. The Alliance wishes to place on record its appreciation of the high standard maintained under the editorship of Christine Spender.

In November we were fortunate in securing the services of the new editor, Mrs. P. D. Cummins, who has a long record of literary achievement behind her. She was cradled by her mother in The Women's Freedom League, and has always had deeply at heart the ideal of equality of the sexes.

It is gratifying that subscriptions and sales have increased by about £50 and that a grant of only £16 from the general fund was required as against £70 in 1959. The remaining deficit was covered by the summer sale.

During the year detailed information has been published on various points on our programme: the inheritance laws, married women's income tax, liability in tort between husband and wife, restrictions on the employment of married women. First-hand reports have been given on the Fifteenth Session of the Status of Women Commission, the Addis Ababa Seminar on the Participation of Women in Public Life, the Seminar in Bucharest

on the Status of Women in Family Law and the I.A.W. Congress in Dublin. We are greatly indebted to the experts who have so generously written these articles—Miss Douie, Mademoiselle Baetens, Miss Pierotti, Mrs. Earengy, Mrs. P. D. Cummins, Mademoiselle Archinard, Miss Challoner, Madame Leroy-Boy and Miss Chave Collisson.

The Golden Jubilee number (May) gave messages and congratulations from friends at home and abroad. The July issue published the telegram from the Holy Father conveying his paternal apostolic blessing and an article by Dr. Bardenhewer describing the jubilee festivities; it also gave a report of the International Council Meeting.

International Notes reports news of interest from many quarters, and Madame Archambault, H.E., Mrs. Fernandez Hall, Mrs. Hortono-Sunario and Dr. Lotti Ruckstahl contributed articles on special aspects of women's status in their respective countries.

We are grateful to Miss Cheke for "The Month in Parliament," and to our book reviewers, and to those who supply information.

Our thanks are again due to Miss E. C. Challoner and Mrs. Coast for kindly addressing wrappers and to Miss Graham and Miss Hope Robson who come with unfailing regularity to send out the paper.

A complete file of *The Catholic Citizen* from 1915-1962 has been donated to the Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College Library, U.S.A., and bound volumes from 1915-1950 to the National Library of Australia in Canberra.

By letters from distant parts of the world we are constantly reminded how far our paper carries its message and how much it is valued. It is exchanged with innumerable Catholic and feminist papers to our mutual advantage.

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

Subscriptions and donations show an increase of £460 over last year, chiefly owing to the very generous donations of members and friends for our jubilee, so that at the end of the year we were able to transfer £200 to the Gabrielle Jeffery Memorial Fund. There has been a considerable increase in membership. Rent and rates were again responsible for the major part of our outgoings but by the end of the year we were negotiating for a less expensive office. 'A Venture in Faith' cost just under £100 and sales are steady.

Two sales were held, one in September at Golders Green which reduced the deficit on *The Catholic Citizen* by £21; the other our usual Christmas Sale at St. Patrick's which, with donations, brought in over £100. We are grateful to all who in their various ways helped so generously in these money-making efforts.

We are greatly indebted to those voluntary workers whose regular help in the office alone makes it possible to carry on, particularly to Miss Brandt and Miss Challoner and to those on whom we can call for occasional help.

Words cannot express our gratitude and appreciation of the efficient and devoted work of Miss K. G. Jameson whose services we were fortunate to count on so regularly till circumstances obliged her to cease work in the summer.

Merseyside Branch

Hon. Secretary: Miss Brady, 19 Fairfield Street, Liverpool 7.

Two delegates and two observers regularly attend the meetings of the Standing Conference of Women's Organizations each month. Mrs. Ruddy reported to members on the work of the Conference at a meeting in the summer and Miss Herbison gave a spirited account of her visit to Rome to attend the Golden Jubilee celebrations of W.U.C.W.O. Another meeting was held in Birkenhead when Miss Barry spoke of St. Joan's Golden Jubilee festivities. Copies of "A Venture in Faith," a history of the Alliance by Nancy Stewart Parnell, were on sale.

As we go to press we learn with sorrow of the death of Mrs. Ruddy. She will be greatly missed by her colleagues in the many organisations with which she worked. May she rest in peace.

St. Joan's International Alliance

The eighteenth Council Meeting of St. Joan's International Alliance was opened in London at Crosby Hall on March 27th by the President, Madame Leroy-Boy, with her usual efficiency and charm. The meetings were timed to coincide with the celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of the Alliance on St. Joan's Day, May 30th.

The President greeted the delegates from the following countries: Argentine, Australia, Belgium, Ceylon, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Lebanon, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The President then introduced the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Miss Aline Fenwick, who brought greetings from the United Nations, and gave a detailed account of the work of the fifteenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

The President warmly welcomed Mrs. C. H. de Martinez, President of the Centro Femenino de Cultura Civica Argentina, whose application for affiliation was received with enthusiasm.

The Hon. Secretary reported on the work of the Alliance with the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies and the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations.

Reports from National Sections were presented by their delegates, or, in their absence, read. Former resolutions with slight amendments were reiterated on Political Rights, Marriage, Maintenance, Ritual Mutilations, Equal Moral Standard, Equal Pay and Opportunities, Age of Retirement and Right to Pension and Education.

A new resolution was adopted: "That the name of St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance be changed to that of St. Joan's International Alliance." Another Resolution was adopted concerning the fuller participation of the laity in the Apostolate, "submitting 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 later to Rome by the President and delivered to the Secretary of the Preparatory Commission on the Apostolate of the Laity for submission to that Commission.

In the evening of May 27th a delightful reception was given at Crosby Hall by the International President when brief speeches were made by the President, Miss Aline Fenwick, Miss Retchford representing the Liaison Committee and members of the twelve countries present.

During the proceedings an interview between Frau Strecker of the women's department of Radio Frankfurt, Dr. Bardenhewer, President of the German section of the Alliance, and Miss Pauline Brandt on the subject of the late Dame Vera Loughton Mathews and the work of the Alliance was recorded. This was relayed in Germany on June 11th.

United Nations

St. Joan's Alliance has consultative status with ECOSOC; it is on the I.L.O. special list of Non-governmental Organizations and also on the register of organizations with which the Director-General of UNESCO has "informal relations".

Status of Women Commission

The Alliance submitted statements on the Age of Marriage, Consent to Marriage, Registration of Marriages, and on Ritual Mutilations to the fifteenth session of the Commission held in Geneva in March. These were circulated (documents E/CN.6/NGO/103 and 104) and Mademoiselle Archinard, on behalf of the Alliance in Geneva, made interventions when these subjects were discussed by the Commission. She also intervened at the

Committee on Non-governmental Organizations of the Economic and Social Council in July when these matters were again considered.

The Alliance continued to press for a universal legal minimum age of marriage of not less than sixteen years. It regretted that no specific age was laid down in the Convention, but finally welcomed the fact that a minimum age was included in the Recommendation, albeit only of fifteen years.

The General Assembly accepted the three substantive articles of the draft Convention adding a clause to allow for marriage by proxy. The Draft recommendation was not debated and priority was assigned to this and the remaining articles of the Convention at the seventeenth General Assembly.

The text of the three substantive articles of the draft Convention follows:

Article 1

No marriage shall be legally entered into without the full and free consent of both parties, such consent to be expressed by them in person after due publicity and in the presence of the authority competent to solemnize the marriage and of witnesses, as prescribed by law.

Notwithstanding anything in paragraph 1 of this article, it shall not be necessary for one of the parties to be present when the competent authority is satisfied that the circumstances are exceptional and that the party has, before a competent authority and in such manner as may be prescribed by law, expressed and not withdrawn consent.

Article 2

States parties to this convention shall take legislative action to specify a minimum age for marriage. No marriage shall be legally entered into by any person under this age, except where a competent authority has granted a dispensation as to age, for serious reasons, in the interest of the intending spouses.

Article 3

All marriages shall be registered in an appropriate official register by the competent authority.

I.L.O. Information was obtained from Australia, Great Britain, Malta and South Africa and sent to the I.L.O. in reply to its questionnaire on Discrimination in Employment and Occupation on the Basis of Marital Status. Extracts from these were published in the November *Catholic Citizen*.

Seminar at Bucharest

At the Seminar at Bucharest in June on the Status of Women in Family Law, Madame Leroy-Boy and Madame de Martinez represented St. Joan's. They made valuable interventions on the age of marriage, civil capacity of married women, dissolution of marriage, equal guardianship and inheritance rights.

Liaison Committee of Womens' International Organizations

Valuable work continues to be done by this Committee, of which the Alliance is a constituent member. It is represented in London by Miss Barry and Miss Retchford, in Paris by Madame Pesson Depret, in Geneva by Mademoiselle Archinard; in New York by Mrs. Grabinska and Miss McGillicuddy.

The Alliance was represented at the memorial service for Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary-General of the United Nations, at Westminster Abbey on October 23rd.

This brief summary cannot take into account the work of the individual National Sections or of the many matters with which the Alliance has to deal.

The Month in Parliament

HOUSING

Mr. J. Mackie opened a debate on Housing asking the Government to treat the matter as one of top priority. He gave many instances of the acute distress arising from problems caused by the private ownership of land and the system by which it is purchased. Miss Joan Vickers said: "The Government can be well pleased, though I do not suggest they should be satisfied, with the progress they have made." She insisted that people who could afford to pay high rents should vacate Council houses and buy their own. Mr. Sherriff pointed out a fact not generally realised, that tax relief on the mortgages of owner occupiers is higher per house than the subsidies to Council house tenants. Mr. Costain agreed that the housing situation is urgent enough to be the subject of a military operation. (February 2nd).

ADVERTISEMENTS

Mr. Lipton asked for the Home Department to introduce legislation to prohibit shop-window advertisements by prostitutes, this in view of the recent court decision that such displays are legal. Mr. Fletcher-Cooke replied that the Minister, as at present advised, does not consider such legislation necessary. (February 5th).

SMALL INCOME GROUPS

Dame Irene Ward asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer to give an assurance that the claims to a share in the national prosperity, of those living on small fixed incomes, would not be overlooked. The required assurance was given; but when she asked that a survey should be made on the circumstances of old people, the Prime Minister said that such a survey was not called for. Miss Jenny Lee agreed that a survey was not necessary, because, as she said, everyone, except the members of the Cabinet, is aware that old people cannot be kept warm and nourished on the present rates. (February 6th).

THE PATRIARCHS

On the resumption of the Committee discussions of the Immigration Bill Miss Judith Hart drew attention to a measure of sex discrimination: a Government amendment provides that the wife of an immigrant may be allowed unrestricted entry. She suggested that the word "spouse" be substituted for "wife" so that the husband of an immigrant should be treated in the same manner. Mr. Renton replied: "We have strong reasons for not treating husbands and wives in the same way. In the Bill, as in our nationality laws, we have assumed that the husband is the head of the family and that the wife acquires his domicile." Mrs. Slater said that the debate showed up how little progress we have made on the question of equality.

"Men still regard women almost as chattels" she added. (February 6th).

Mr. Diamond sought to remove another item of sex discrimination by amending the wording of the clause allowing unrestricted entry to the child of an immigrant, from, "whose father is ordinarily resident," to "whose parents (or either of them)." Mr. Renton again insisted that the original wording was right, in that it was consistent with our nationality laws. Mr. Diamond objected, saying that the Government were permitting an injustice in the interests of patriarchy. Mr. Thomson also protested. He accused the Government of making an unjust discrimination by arguing a precedent in relation to the nationality laws. Mr. Parkin was grateful that the Minister had at least been frank in giving the real motive for the Government's resistance, namely, that they support the "utterly outdated principle that a woman cannot give her nationality to her child." Mr. E. Wainwright expressed surprise that the Government would not give way on this matter. "Why," he asked, "should a woman not be considered an equal in the marriage partnership?" (February 7th).

WIDOWED MOTHERS

Mr. W. Griffiths moved the second reading of the National Insurance (Widowed Mothers) Bill, which is designed to remove about 20,000 mothers from the effects of the earnings rule, a disability which has never had to be endured by mothers whose husbands were lost as a result of an industrial accident or war. Mr. Griffiths hoped that his motion would be accepted immediately. He said that members on both sides of the House had been energetically lobbied by the women's organizations, and that he did not expect one M.P. to raise any objection; but the House was not prepared to accept the motion until time has been found to debate it. (February 9th).

GUARDIANSHIP OF INFANTS BILL

This Bill was introduced by Miss Joan Vickers on March 7th and will be dealt with fully in our next issue.

NURSES' PAY CLAIM

Miss Herbison complained to the Secretary of State for Scotland that six months had elapsed before a claim to an increase in salary for nursing staff was considered, whereas the Minister responsible had, without any questions, imposed on some of the people concerned higher rents, with no right of redress. "Is he aware?" she asked, "that these nurses are among the most devoted we have and that it is all the more important that the Government should treat them in a reasonable and generous way." (February 7th).
C. M. Cheke

NOTES AND COMMENTS

At long last, women undergraduates have gained admittance to debating membership of the Oxford Union. Mr. Wynford Hicks, of Christ Church, who first proposed the motion to admit women in the Union debates—it was carried by 730 votes to 307—said that the result was a “break-through” in Oxford in the position of women in the University, as well as a significant reflection on the general position of women in society. “It’s all right as long as it doesn’t go any further,” proclaimed Mr. Kedar Malik, of St. Peter’s College, “But I still believe that women aren’t equal with men.” What a naive admission of immaturity! It is to be hoped that the thirty-seven women who have been admitted to membership will succeed in bringing him to a more adult frame of mind—or can it be that Mr. Malik and all those who voted against Mr. Wynford Hick’s motion are suffering from inferiority complexes?

* * *

History was made in the House of Lords on February 22nd when Lord Vaux made his maiden speech in the course of a debate on youth service—a Benedictine monk, he is the first member of the Order to address the House for four hundred years. He stressed the need for assistance to the denominational youth clubs, and referred to his ancestor, the third Lord Vaux, who was confined for a long period in the Fleet Prison because he was “stiff-necked” in matters of religion, and so heavily fined that he could not attend King James’ coronation because he had been obliged to pawn his robes. “I hope the House will show me greater tolerance,” he added amidst laughter.

* * *

It is with great interest that we learn of the existence of a Sainte Jeanne d’Arc Association on the Ivory Coast—at Treichville, Abidjan. Its President is Madame Claire Yace, and the Treichville Alliance, inspired by her, unites the Christian women of the Ivory Coast in friendship and vigorously stands up for their rights.

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IRELAND

The Government of Ireland has decided on a five-year programme of Law Reform. Of the reforms under consideration, two will be widely welcomed by women. It is proposed to amend the existing law on the guardianship of infants so as to give both parents equal rights in regard to the custody and bringing up of the infant and the administration of such property as the infant may possess, and to provide that, on the death of either parent, the surviving parent will be the guardian, and that both the mother and the father shall have equal rights to appoint a testamentary guardian to act jointly with the survivor. The proposed comprehensive Bill to deal with the descent of property after death will be equally welcome—it will be a great step forward if the distinction between the rights of inheritance of males and females is abolished. Reform of the Intestates Estates Act is long overdue, and, as will be seen, is particularly unfair to women. If the surviving relative is:

a widow, she takes one-third of estate, child or children two-thirds. If no issue, widow takes a first charge of £4,000 and one half of the remainder; the other half is divided amongst next of kin.

a widower, he takes the whole estate.

a mother, brothers and sisters of deceased, they share equally in estate, and children of deceased brothers or sisters, take by representation of their parents.

a father, mother, brothers and sisters of deceased: *the father takes all.*

The comprehensive Bill will also deal with the problem of the will which disinherits or makes insufficient provision for the testator’s dependants; this will greatly encourage the band of devoted women in Ireland who have made such efforts to arouse public opinion on behalf of the disinherited spouse.

ST. JOAN’S ALLIANCE

NON-PARTY

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Patron: Saint Joan of Arc. Colours: Blue, White and Gold
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OBJECT

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.

MEMBERSHIP

All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of £1 which includes *The Catholic Citizen*. Men are invited to join as Associates, on the same conditions, with the exception that they may not elect or be elected to the Executive.

Life Membership £10.