

WOMEN'S SERVICE  
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THE  
**Catholic Citizen**

Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society),  
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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.

## Women and Society.

By ANTONIA FUGGER.

It is a fatal error for women and society as a whole to listen to such slogans as: "Women's rôle is in the home, her vocation is motherhood, her profession to be a wife." Thrust back to the home and to marriage as the chief means of earning their livelihood, thrust out or squeezed out of every better job, women—poor ignoramuses that they are—try to comfort themselves with the fact that they may at least secure a husband each to provide for them. Let them, however, not believe that because so many find real refuge or real happiness in marriage this is an argument against women's bid for emancipation. Or that because some parasitic woman who seeks a husband to keep her seems so prosperous, this means that the struggling one is mistaken. It is certainly true that a large percentage of women find their fulfilment in marriage and motherhood. This is quite natural and marriage is a vocation and a full-time job too, sometimes, and if properly carried out is as skilled an occupation as any profession. And so it should be regarded and valued, rewarded and respected, as such. For her rôle alone as mother of the future generation woman should have an adequate share in the management of the life of the race.

There is, however, one feature of our time which is continually overlooked or camouflaged in all its serious implications. Most of the nations of the Continent have a larger female than male population even in peace-time. The last war destroyed millions of male lives, thus depriving large numbers of women of all chance of marriage and a family. This fact is one of the reasons for the deplorable state of morality so widely prevalent after the last war. After

this war there will again probably be insufficient men to husband every woman. And then what will those suggest who claim marriage and motherhood as the only true vocation for women? Will they suggest polygamy, perhaps?

But a more urgent question will be the labour power needed for reconstructive work—literally speaking, good hard work, physical and intellectual. And for large numbers of women the only chance of earning a livelihood and achieving a dignified and useful rôle in society, combined with happiness, will be work. And if society really wishes to settle down to reconstruction it will need this woman power very badly, need their muscles, their brains and their good-will. But if because of her status as a second-class citizen, of her unequal rights, her lack of preparedness and chances of training, and the inadequate reward allotted to her—if because of all this woman's faculties, hopes and ambitions are to continue to be thwarted—what then?

What if the attitude continues to prevail which expects women to toe the line to the utmost during an emergency, yet hints—through the law of the land, through the prejudices of society, through art, literature, and by the kind of work usually entrusted to her—that by no means must she be so "unfeminine" as to take her work seriously, that she must always, while at work, have one eye on matrimonial chances, and that she commits a grave offence against society if she attempts to be a wife and mother, yet insists on keeping her job as well?

It is this half-heartedness towards the problem of women's status, this unwillingness to see facts and read figures, the refusal to study the problem which is responsible for the fact that in

public and private life not all women rise to their full stature. It is never brought to the notice of the growing girl that it is at least as important to be efficient, intelligent and hard-working as it is to be good-looking. And that work, a profession, a vocation, is not a substitute for matrimony, nor a preparation for matrimony, but an equal source of livelihood and happiness, worth and dignity. Alas, with the majority, such an attitude belongs as yet to the future, but the struggle to spread it must be women's ceaseless aim.

### Pleasure and Profit.

It is not often that one finds a source of potential wealth untapped at No. 55, Berners Street, but I believe that in the corner of that little room that buzzes with such an infinite variety of business, with so many schemes for making ends of the most determined opposition meet, is one such rich and practically undiscovered mine. A bookcase stands modestly and unostentatiously against the wall whose contents should be filling the minds of friends of St. Joan's Alliance, and all who wish to know its aims, ideals and memories.

There are books on the Cause and its great Pioneers, tomes of theological writers whose words and works have helped it, and some that throw light on the women of Africa, and, last but not least, books by our own members, Miss Barbara Barclay Carter, Miss Helen Douglas Irvine and Miss Helen C. White. All these can be borrowed for 2d. per week, and if only all members who come to the office took one and read it slowly and lent it generously, the Cause would profit both in money and in an increase in membership—which means money too, but so much more. P.C.C.

### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

Leonora de Alberti in the "Catholic Suffragist,"  
May, 15, 1917.

"... I cannot forget that it is often the fault of Christians themselves when reformers reject the faith. It is not given to all to realise the breadth and length and height and depth of Christianity, and many may well be repelled by the narrow views put forward by pious Christians in the name of the travesty of Christianity which they profess. Christian women know that Christ only has made the liberation of women possible, but they are aware that a large number of His followers have exerted every effort to nullify His teaching."—*Feminism as Expounded in the Ecclesiastical Review.*

### Here and There.

*Brigid de Vine* in "The Universe": "My sympathy goes out to the woman civil servant who lost her temper when the Treasury announced that leave for shopping might be allowed to married women staff, but not to single women.

"If I could be born again," she said, "I would like to be the working spinster of official imagination. She seems to be a cross between a fairy and Daddy's Little Ray of Sunshine, having nobody to support, no need to save, no need even to think about what she shall eat or where-with she shall be clothed. The lilies of the field should be careworn in comparison with this nebulous creature."

"I honestly think that the people who draft, for example, the regulations governing the lower rate of compensation paid to women injured in air raids still think that every unmarried woman has either a large private income or a wealthy father—and, of course, nobody in the world to worry about, except herself."

*This and That.*

\* \* \*

*Seen in the Daily Press:* As the result of representations made by Mrs. Jennie Adamson, Socialist M.P. for Dartford, on the type of brassiere issued to the A.T.S., Sir Edward Grigg, Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the War Office, states:

"Arrangements have been made to provide a corselette with adjustable shoulder straps and suspenders for women with bust measurements of 40 inches and over."

It seems strange that a man should have to make such a statement in Parliament. Surely there must be some woman in charge of the clothing of the A.T.S. who could be trusted by Parliament to make the necessary arrangements for the official issue of essential underwear, without so much unwanted publicity?

\* \* \*

We congratulate Mme. Jurneckova and Mme. Hodinova who are to form part of the newly-constituted State Council of the Czechoslovakian Government in London. In the new Polish National Council which has been inaugurated in London, Mme. Elizabeth Korfanty and Mme. Sophie Zaleska are included, and we offer them our congratulations. Mme. Zaleska is a member of St. Joan's Alliance, and we shall have the pleasure of hearing her speak at our Annual Meeting on March 14th.

### Notes and Comments.

It is hardly necessary to remind our readers of the anniversaries of Gabrielle Jeffery, our Founder, on March 19th, and Leonora de Alberti, first Editor of the "Catholic Citizen," on March 26th. On behalf of the Alliance Mass will be offered for them at St. Patrick's, Soho, and we know all our members will remember them with affection and gratitude in their prayers.—R.I.P.

\* \* \*

We welcome the fact that the Government has considered the representations of women M.P.'s and the women's organisations, backed up by men M.P.'s of all parties, and has replaced the four men appointed to report on the amenities and welfare conditions of the Women's Services by a Committee consisting of the following: Miss Violet Markham (Chairman); Miss Thelma Cazalet, M.P.; Mrs. Walter Elliot; Major Milner, M.P.; Air Vice-Marshal Sir David Munro; Mrs. J. L. Stocks; Dr. Edith Summerskill, M.P.; and Sir Frederick H. Sykes, M.P. Miss Rathbone assured Mr. Attlee that this change will give great satisfaction and gives an indication that the Government is sometimes ready to listen to reasonable criticism. The Alliance has written to Mr. Attlee in this sense. The Committee has already got to work and Miss Markham asks that people with complaints or suggestions will send them in to her at 28, Broadway, S.W.1.

\* \* \*

We are grateful to Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.P., for her speech on the second reading of the restoration of Pre-war Trade Practices Bill. The purpose of the Bill is to restore after the war the trade practices departed from during the war, in accordance with the Government's pledge "to re-establish temporarily the practices existing immediately before the war." Miss Rathbone expressed her anxiety about the effect of the Bill on the post-war condition of women in industry. Though, said Miss Rathbone, there was no desire by women to take advantage of the war situation to carve for themselves a new place at the expense of their male colleagues, will it be the case after the war that women may be excluded from jobs, and that this Measure will operate as a kind of stone wall, a stratification of the pre-war position of women in industry? Mr. Ellis Smith said that, though at the present time the rate for the job is sup-

posed to apply, women in many cases are nowhere near receiving the appropriate rates, and if employers take advantage of the situation during the war, our men are thinking, "What will they do after the war?"

\* \* \*

We are glad to know that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is at last seriously considering the separate taxation of husbands and wives, a reform for which we have worked for very many years. We understand that the Inland Revenue Staff Federation has also suggested this reform to do away with administrative difficulties. The removal of joint taxation may assist the war effort as many wives at the present time feel it hardly worth their while to do war work when they know that much of their present earnings will be swallowed up in the joint tax on income.

\* \* \*

The Minister of Health recently announced in Parliament that he had appointed regional advisers on child care in consultation with the President of the Board of Education. They will be concerned with the development of measures to be taken by Maternity and Child Welfare Authorities and local Education Authorities for the care of the children of women in employment, and will work in collaboration with regional staffs and H.M. Inspectors of Schools.

Following is the list of advisers:—Midland Region, the Marchioness of Reading; North-Western Region, Lady Openshaw; Southern Region, Mrs. Eva M. Hubback, M.A., J.P.; Northern Region, Mrs. F. Todd. In the London Region, Mr. H. U. Willink, K.C., M.C., M.P., Regional Commissioner for the Care of the Homeless, has, at the request of the Minister of Health, undertaken general supervision of this work.

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"What Lancashire does to-day England does to-morrow!" A three days' drive to obtain signatures for the petition for Equal Compensation for war injuries was conducted in Liverpool from February 19th, when our Liverpool Branch took part. The campaign was pressed in shops, cinemas and factories, where stalls were set up for people to sign their names.

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen"

55 BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.I. Tel. Museum 4181

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

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## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

### 31st Annual Report.

In order to save time, expense and paper, this Report must be brief. Members seeking more detailed information will find it in the "Catholic Citizen."

During the past year the status and welfare of women has been brought before Parliament by men and women members on innumerable occasions—sometimes in full dress debate, as on woman power, sometimes with a division, as on equal compensation for war injuries. Warm tribute must be paid to the women members of all parties, who with vigilance and persistence have challenged each case of sex discrimination as it arose.

#### Conscription.

In 1941 a revolution took place in the position of women in this country. In February the Minister of Labour announced a system of registration of women for National Service; later this was followed by conscription of unmarried women and childless widows between 20 and 30 who are liable to compulsory call-up to the Women's Auxiliary Services or compulsory "direction" into certain specified vacancies in industry. The attitude of the Alliance is summed up in the following resolution which was sent to the Minister of Labour on the introduction of the National Service (No. 2) Bill:—

"St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, while not expressing any opinion on conscription as such, calls upon the Government to treat married and single women alike, under the National Service (No. 2) Bill, with the same rights for both married and unmarried, to be exempt from service on the ground of reservation, deferment or individual hardship. It further calls upon the Government to ensure that women conscripted for the Auxiliary Services, Civil Defence or Industrial work, shall receive equal pay with men in similar services, with equal pension rights for themselves and their dependents, equal compensation for war injuries, the same statutory right of registering as conscientious objectors and the same right of reinstatement in their work on release from war services."

The rights of conscientious objectors were recognised, and women can appeal to an independent Tribunal on grounds of conscience or exceptional hardship or to an independent Board against compulsory direction.

The Government's inclination to flirt with woman power has been trying for all concerned. Cajolery has alternated with compulsion and domestic difficulties have not really been smoothed from the path of the willing. Single women between 20 and 30 are now subject to the Restriction of Engagement Order, forbidding them to find employment or to terminate it except through a Labour Exchange, a burden not imposed on young men in similar circumstances.

#### Equal Pay and Opportunities.

"Arguments in favour of a greater approach to equality will be listened to and considered with understanding and sympathy." (Sir John Anderson.) "To me, as Minister of Labour, men and women are producing units for the war effort, and, as such, I approach the problem of using their capacity on terms of equality." (Mr. Bevin.) "It is service, not sex, that counts." (Mr. Arthur Greenwood.)

Encouraged by such utterances as these, we had hoped that "the rate for the job" had been accepted by governments, trade unions and employers. We find that this is by no means the case. One can hardly take up a newspaper without reading some fresh ruling laying down lower rates of pay for girls and women. Our report would fill a volume were we to enumerate all the inequalities of pay persisted in in the new developments caused by the war. Here are a few typical examples:—

In the Government Training Schemes (December 1941) for precisely the same hours and training, the minimum rates of wages for men and boys start at 65/6 rising to 75/6; for women and girls 43/- to 49/-, again with differential allowances for keep for men and women. This is a real set-back, as the Government's original scheme of pay and allowances for engineering trainees showed only the difference of 1/- less pocket money for women. The Amalgamated

Engineering Union still denies membership to women. The Civil Service and Teachers' increased war bonus for cost of living shows 10/- for men and 7/6 for women. In the Retail Drapery, Outfitting and Footwear Trades, nine employers' bodies and four Trade Unions fixed minimum wage rates at 21/- for boys of 16 to 65/- for men of 25; for girls of 16, 19/6 to 43/- for women of 24. With regard to the training of the disabled, men receive from 17/- a week for those of 16-17, to 42/- for those of 21 and over. Women of the same ages get 15/- to 32/-. Needless to say, the Alliance sent protests to the appropriate quarters.

A letter was also sent to the Minister of Reconstruction urging that contributions and benefits should be the same for men and women under all national insurance and pension schemes.

One bright spot is the equal increase of rates in National Health Insurance, Sickness and Disablement Benefit, though the basic rates remain the same, and another is the resolution passed by the Transport and General Workers' Union continuing to demand the "rate for the job" and calling for joint action by the whole Trade Union movement to establish this principle in all industries.

We understand that equal pay is limited to those women employed in municipal transport and engineering trades who have actually replaced men called up. Apparently the Trade Unions have adopted equal pay only as a protection to men and not as an act of justice to women.

#### Pre-War Practices Act (1918-1919).

Lest the Minister of Labour should be under any misapprehension about our post-war policy, a statement on the subject published in the "Catholic Citizen," 1940, was sent to him with a covering letter, demanding that all employment be open to women on the same terms as men, with the proviso that a woman should relinquish any job where it was understood that she replaced a man for the period of the war only.

#### Equal Compensation for War Injury.

Early in the year, the Government announced the extension of its scheme to cover those both "gainfully employed" and "ungainfully employed" with considerably lower rates of compensation for women. A letter of protest was immediately sent to the Minister of Pensions with a request for equalisation of the rates.

The Alliance co-operated in a protest meeting on January 20th, convened by the N.F.B.P.W., when it was decided to send a deputation to the Minister of Pensions and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. This deputation, representing 44 Organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance, was received by the Minister of Pensions and a representative from the Treasury. Accompanied by seven women M.P.s, the speakers were: Mrs. Tate, M.P., Dr. Edith Summerskill, M.P., Miss Godwin and Miss Colwill, LL.B. The deputation was a very lively one, and for one hour the Minister listened to the arguments put forward in favour of equal compensation, after which he was questioned and heckled and left in no doubt as to the resentment of women over this injustice. The Minister promised to put their claim before the War Cabinet, and later in Parliament he said the rates were open to revision. There has been a slight increase in the amount of compensation awarded to

the non-gainfully employed woman. Many of our members co-operated in the campaign by writing to and interviewing their M.P.'s. Indeed, one of these letters was quoted in the debate in the House.

On May 1st Mrs. Tate moved in the House that the Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act be annulled in order to remedy the grave injustice of inequality between the sexes, and that the pension should have relation to injury and not to sex. The motion was lost by 80 votes to 30, and the Division List published in the "Catholic Citizen," so that members could pursue the matter with their M.P.s.

The Alliance co-operated with other women's organisations in the demonstration in Trafalgar Square and in joint meetings on the subject in Edinburgh, Liverpool, Manchester and Nottingham, also in the Mass Meeting in Kingsway Hall. Members also collected signatures for a petition asking M.P.'s to press for the re-opening of the question in Parliament. Mrs. Tate hoped to move an amendment on the Woman Power Bill, but was ruled out of order.

Towards the end of the year the Alliance was notified of the setting-up of a Campaign Committee for Equal Compensation for War Injury for men and women, under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Tate. St. Joan's Alliance was happy to have its name included among the supporting societies. As the year ended we were busy collecting signatures for a new Petition organised by the Campaign Committee.

#### Nationality.

The position is still very unsatisfactory, though Orders were made exempting women who have lost British nationality by reason of marriage to aliens from most of the war-time restrictions to which they were subjected by the Aliens' (Movements Restrictions) Orders 1940-1941, and they were also relieved of the obligation to obtain a permit from the Ministry of Labour before taking employment. Many British-born women married to Austrians, Germans and Italians have had, on application, their British nationality restored to them.

On March 31st a Deputation of Women's Organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance, was received by Mr. Peake, Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Home Office. The Deputation pressed for an amendment to the Nationality Law to provide for the independent nationality of a British woman married to an alien, and that British nationality shall not automatically be conferred on a foreign woman who marries a British subject. Mr. Peake spoke of the difficulty of undertaking legislation of this kind in war-time. The Deputation reminded him that, during the years of peace, women's organisations had consistently pressed for this reform and that there had been ample opportunity of implementing it.

#### Diplomatic Service.

The Foreign Secretary announced to the House of Commons, on June 11th, a revision of the system of entry into the Diplomatic and Consular Services, opening this career "to all the talents." The Alliance immediately wrote asking if this meant that the bar to the entry of women into the Services would be removed. Mr. Eden replied that "it was not suggested to make any change from the existing practice in this respect."

A Deputation organised by the Woman Power Committee, on which our Alliance was represented, was received by Mr. Eden on September 17th. Mr. Eden listened for an hour to the claims, familiar to our readers, ably put forward by the speakers, led by Miss Cazalet, M.P. Mr. Eden said that the door was not bolted, though it was not open, and that he would consider the arguments and see the Deputation again.

### Women Police.

In spite of the urgent need for policewomen, not only for duties in which they have proved their worth during the last 25 years, but also for help in the war-time problems connected with evacuees, aliens, military establishments and munition factories, the number is ludicrous—326 regulars; 81 attested W.A.P.C.

A Home Office circular issued in August stresses the importance of releasing men of military age still being employed on duties which could be performed by women, but still there are a number of police forces which employ no women at all. With the Women Police Campaign Committee of the N.C.W., of which our Alliance forms part, we have asked that certain agreed duties should be made compulsory of performance by policewomen, that a pool of trained women from approved training centres be made available to chief constables and that a woman inspector of constabulary be appointed.

### Welfare of the Forces.

Though we took it for granted, we were glad to see an official statement that all Catholic chaplains to the Forces are instructed in set terms that men and women are equally their charge. The welfare and status of women in the W.R.N.S., the A.T.S. and the W.A.A.F. has been before Parliament on many occasions. It is satisfactory that dependants' allowances are now paid to the members of these Auxiliary Services. The A.T.S. and the W.A.A.F.S. have during the year been given full military status; officers now hold commissions.

We deplore the fact that brothels are still not placed out of bounds to H.M. Forces and that it is still officially indicated to the men that prophylactic packets are available. A fine protest to the Federal Government of Australia was made by the Archbishop of Hobart for spending the people's money to provide "incentives to sin." Correspondence on this subject, both by us and by St. Joan's Alliance in Australia, has not had satisfactory results.

We are pleased to state, however, that the Minister for Air, at our request, investigated charges with regard to certain lectures to the W.A.A.F.S. He stated that "they were not in accordance with the instructions prescribed," and an assurance given that there would be no further cause of complaint.

### St. Joan's Alliance.

The Thirtieth Annual Meeting was held at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square, on March 16th. Though most of our members are engaged in work of national importance—from our late Chairman, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, Director of the W.R.N.S., to our youngest member engaged in office work—there was a very satisfactory attendance. A full account

of the meeting, together with the resolutions passed, will be found in the "Catholic Citizen," April, 1941.

Throughout the year Mass has been offered, by request of the Alliance, at St. Patrick's, Soho, at 9.30 on the second Sunday of the month, for Peace and for all killed in the war. In March, Mass was offered for the repose of the souls of Gabrielle Jeffery and Leonora de Alberti (R.I.P.). On St. Joan's Day, Canon Reardon kindly offered Mass for the Alliance, and a laurel wreath tied with our colours was placed on the shrine of St. Joan in Westminster Cathedral. Our annual Mass for deceased members, benefactors and associates of the Alliance was said on the first Sunday of November at St. Patrick's.

Through the kindness of the Rev. Mother of the Secondary School of the Ladies of Mary, Croydon, Miss Challoner lectured to the girls on "The Woman's Movement," with Miss Billing in the chair. The girls listened with evident interest and asked many relevant questions.

A questionnaire sent to candidates at by-elections dealt with: equal pay and opportunity; equal compensation rates for war injuries; women and the Diplomatic and Consular Services; nationality of married women; elimination of all sex discriminations in pensions and insurance legislation.

*Oxford University Chaplain.* A letter was sent to the Archbishop of Birmingham expressing our pleasure that at long last the Oxford and Cambridge Catholic Education Board has appointed a chaplain to take spiritual charge of the women as well as of the men undergraduates at Oxford.

### Co-operation With Other Societies.

The Alliance took part in the following conferences and meetings:—Catholic Social Guild—Jubilee Celebration of *Rerum Novarum*; University Catholic Federation on Catholics and Social Work; Women's Freedom League on Conditions Necessary for the Social and Economic Emancipation of Women and Equal Status of Women; National Council of Women on the Diplomatic and Consular Services; Open Door Council, Annual Meeting; British Commonwealth League on Women in the Northern Rhodesia Copper Belt. The Alliance joined with 18 other representative women's organisations in sending a message of greeting to the All-India Women's Conference, and this message was broadcast by Mrs. Corbett Ashby on December 31st.

### International.

Though the war has restricted our work abroad, it has given us the opportunity of making friends with women of many countries who have taken refuge with us. The Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations (which includes St. Joan's Alliance) convened three conferences, which were attended by women of many countries. The subjects treated were the position of women in various countries; post-war relief and reconstruction; and education. A statement signed by eleven international women's organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance, was circulated to the Press, expressing the conviction that the equalising of the status of men and women is an essential element if post-war conditions are to satisfy the community. A further statement of fundamental principles on which all schemes of reconstruction

must be based, was drafted by a Sub-Committee of the Liaison Committee and was adopted by the Alliance here and in Australia.

We are indebted to the Polish Hearth for kind hospitality, a great deal of information, and invitations to interesting lectures.

### Australia.

We have been glad to receive news from our colleagues from time to time, and we are assured that they are carrying on in the true tradition of the Alliance. They have been working particularly on the welfare of the troops—moral and otherwise; equal pay, etc. We hope to receive their Annual Report, from which we may be able to publish extracts.

### France.

Members will be glad to know that we have had news from our French colleagues that they are well and waiting to resume work as soon as circumstances permit.

### Press.

The Press Book, kindly kept by Miss Billing, shows that the Alliance and the "Catholic Citizen" continue to gain wide publicity both at home and abroad. Our active participation in the national campaign for Equal Compensation for War Injuries brought us many Press notices in, for example, the "Scotsman," "Glasgow Herald," "Catholic Herald," "Birkenhead News," "Liverpool Daily Post," "Edinburgh Evening News," the "Universe" and "Unitas"; also the Hampstead papers during the Parliamentary by-election. As a result of a letter from the Alliance, by Miss Spender, on "Women and Citizenship" in the "Catholic Herald," and of the many reports of our activities, which they so kindly published, we have obtained several new members. We are also indebted to the "Universe" for Brigid Devine's several references to the "Catholic Citizen." Under the title "Glaring Legal Disabilities Regarding Women" the "Catholic Gazette" published a long extract from an article of Miss Spender's in the "Catholic Citizen." The "Woman Teacher" and the W.F.L. Bulletin have frequently quoted us.

With "The Church and the People" (Prinknash), the "Tablet," the "International Women's News" and the "Labour Woman," we have had considerable correspondence regarding statements published in these papers which appeared to us to misrepresent either Catholic or feminist principles. We are glad to say that "The Church and the People" published an apology, together with the definition of feminism from Webster's Dictionary which we sent them. To a "Silly Season" article on "Feminism A Meditation" in the "Tablet," Miss Douglas Irvine sent a witty reply which they did not publish, but which appeared in the "Catholic Citizen." A letter was published from Miss Challoner replying to a statement wishing to limit the "College Education" of Women. We regret that this paper, which consistently supported Woman Suffrage from the days of Cardinal Vaughan, has now apparently become anti-feminist. The "International Women's News" published an article by Miss Challoner—"The Catholic Woman Looks Back"—and finally inserted our correction of a misleading statement on the Church's teaching on birth control.

Two of our South African members drew our attention to an article in "The Southern Cross" adversely criticising the Alliance and Miss Joan Morris's "Women and Work" in the "Catholic Citizen, 1940. The Alliance sent a reply article by Miss Morris, which was not acknowledged; we therefore published it in the "Catholic Citizen. A long extract from the original article was reprinted in the "Movement Feministe" of Geneva. Cuttings from Australia show that the activities of that very much alive Section have had favourable publicity.

### Treasurer's Report.

Thanks to generous donors of gifts in money and kind, and to the arduous work put into the office, barrow, "bring-and-buy," and Christmas sales, we were able to close the year with a small balance of £13, as well as wipe out last year's deficit of some £24. This is splendid, but members must realise that with our depleted staff and no diminution in our work (rather the contrary) it is impossible to run these sales and give as much time and thought to the proper work of the Alliance as we should. This year there is a welcome increase of £34 in annual subscriptions and donations, but we must remember that the Gabrielle Jeffery Memorial Fund last year brought in £105 15s., whereas this year it amounts to £48 5s. This fund, as members know, is earmarked for the provision of regular clerical help at the office.

The "Catholic Citizen" subscriptions show a very slight decrease but street sales show a big drop, as also advertisements. The cost of production has gone up exactly 50 per cent, and some solution must be found to cover this added expenditure.

### "Catholic Citizen."

The standard of the paper has been well maintained and we have been able to bring before a wider circle addresses such as that of His Eminence Cardinal Hinsley to the Women in the Forces and Miss Mabel Shaw's address on Bantu Women, given to the B.C.L. We are indebted to experts for their articles on specific subjects regarding the position of women. We have been quoted by our contemporaries on many occasions. Our paper circulates in as many parts of the world as our censorship permit allows. Back numbers were sent to the Women's Service Library (now at Oxford) to complete their files.

### Personal

Our grateful thanks are due to the following who have helped regularly with clerical work and in sending out the "Catholic Citizen":—The Misses E. Barry, K. Davis, E. and K. FitzGerald, Lowe, Mills, Organ, Hope Robson and Mrs. McFadyen; to Mrs. Harrington and Miss O'Hart for hard work on our market barrow, and to all who have helped in various ways with all our sales. Also to Mrs. Benjamin for so kindly auditing the accounts.

### Obituary.

We ask your prayers for the following members who died in 1941: Miss Elizabeth Bowden, for five years the devoted Hon. Secretary of our Liverpool and District Branch, who was killed by enemy action in May. Also for Miss C. Buckley, Miss Carlyle,

Mlle. Colin, Mrs. Cosgrave, Mrs. Finlayson Gauld, Mrs. Stephen Gwynn, Mrs. Cameron Head, Mrs. Huggett, Miss O'Gorman and Mrs. de Zaro (R.I.P.).

Through the kindness of Miss Billing and Miss K. Davis, who presented us with the photograph and block, we were enabled to print the beautiful Gabrielle Jeffery memorial card sent to every member which was reproduced in the "Catholic Citizen."

#### Liverpool and District Branch

(Hon. Secretary, Miss A. MacNeish, 61, Rosedale Avenue, Crosby, Liverpool 23.) The Branch suffered a severe loss by the death in May by enemy action of Miss Elizabeth Bowden. Mass was offered for her soul and the Headquarters Hon. Secretary attended the Requiem and burial. Tributes to Miss Bowden appeared in the "Catholic Citizen" and the Catholic and local Press.

Much work has been done on Equal Compensation for War Injuries. Letters were sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Minister of Pensions, and local M.P.'s. Meetings in Birkenhead and Liverpool organised by the Branch passed resolutions and sent them to the appropriate quarters. We co-operated in the Mass Meeting at the Central Hall and collected signatures for the petition. The Annual Garden Meeting was held in Birkenhead in August, when Miss Spender and Miss Douglas Irvine spoke on equal compensation, with Mrs. McCann in the Chair. In November a meeting was held to welcome Miss Challoner, Chairman of Headquarters Executive, at 9, Greenheys Road, when a resolution was passed asking for the removal of the ban on women in the Diplomatic Service. Letters were sent to the Birkenhead Town Council pressing for the appointment of an adequate number of fully attested policewomen; jointly with other organisations to the Government urging the allocation of funds for the provision of social amenities for women in the Forces in Liverpool. The Branch is represented on the Liverpool Council of Social Service, Women's Organisations Committee, and work is being done with the Merseyside Associations for Equal Compensation for Civilian War Injuries. Mrs. Hart represented the Branch at a meeting of the Regional W.V.S. to discuss Rest Centre Work. We are grateful to Miss MacNeish, who in August kindly undertook to act as Hon. Secretary, and to Mrs. Brady, who agreed to act as Hon. Treasurer and Paper Secretary. The Branch owes much to the Chairman, Mrs. McCann, for carrying on during this difficult year.

#### Oldham Branch.

(Hon. Secretary, Miss Muldowney, 43b, Roscoe Street, Oldham.) Early in the year, protests were sent to the Minister of Pensions, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the local M.P.'s asking for equal compensation for men and women. The Annual General Meeting was held on August 5th, Miss Kilcoyne presiding. We were sorry to be obliged to accept her resignation as Chairman, and that of Miss Agnes Walsh as Hon. Secretary, owing to pressure of work. We are very grateful to them for their work in this capacity during the last two years, and to Miss A. Mannion and Miss Muldowney, who have kindly agreed to serve as Chairman and Hon. Secretary respectively.

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

#### MEMBERSHIP.

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