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THE  
**Catholic Citizen**

Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society), 55 Berners Street, London, W. 1.

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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.

## Business as Usual

BY CHRISTINE SPENDER

Going into a bookshop to buy two classics I asked the question: "Business as usual?" "Yes," was the answer, "but there isn't much business in books at present."

At first glance the effect of a war seems to be to paralyse the things of the spirit. To sit down quietly with a book, to enjoy the sunshine, to listen to music, these things belong to another age. There is an increased feeling of fellowship fostered by the sense of a common danger and our instinct is to be up and doing. Some of us have a faint sense of surprise that we are alive at all now that the dreaded war has come upon us. We tend to formulate the thought that the only way to make war bearable is to buckle to and help our country in its need thus alleviating the suffering war must cause. And there is of course no doubt that "National Service" in all its many forms is of vital importance to the country. In these circumstances unless our occupation happens to be a key one "business as usual" may sometimes sound a little of a travesty. But apart from the fact that to "carry on" is to help our own morale and that of other people there are certain other things to consider.

Beyond and above the exigencies of war there are eternal things. There is our religion. *God will remain, war or no war.* Things of the spirit will also endure. The artist, the poet, the musician, the actor—it seems that they must change their avocations and become practical. Nevertheless the future of our civilisation lies enfolded in their dreams and for the sake of our children they must keep faith.

St. Joan's Alliance because it fights for the freedom of human beings to develop in their own way and thus be ready to serve when the

time comes is of the stuff that shall and must endure. It is because we are convinced of this that we shall keep our pennant flying inscribed with the words: "Business as usual" !

We have much to be thankful for since the last war. Women have now gained the Vote. The Government clamours for their war services and they no longer suffer the humiliation of having their offers of help repulsed. But there is much still to be gained, much that must be watched. There is the right of a British woman to retain her Nationality on marriage. This right, denied to her to-day, becomes still more vital in war time. There is the question of equal pay—as important to the fighting forces as to the women who replace the men or who serve equally with them in the defence of their country. There are urgent questions bearing on the "equal moral standard" and public morality. All these things and many more will continue with still greater insistence to be the special province of St. Joan's Alliance and will need our very special vigilance. The fact that numberless women will be going into fresh employments, breaking virgin ground, is enough to justify our existence as their watch dog.

Lastly we must remember that at a time when international enmity is aroused to its highest pitch, our international contacts are of the greatest value. Anything that fosters the spirit of friendship in a hate-ridden world must be the little torch that leads us back to sanity and peace. Let us be thankful, then, that St. Joan's Alliance numbers members all over the world.

So, under the patronage of the warrior saint, St. Joan, we shall march on !

## Congress at Copenhagen

XIIIITH CONGRESS OF THE I.W.S.A.

By GERTRUDE GAFFNEY

"A fairy night will be fastened in your memory," sang one of our Danish hostesses in a ballad composed for the farewell dinner given for the Delegates at Bellevue.

The truth is that so many fairy nights and pleasant days are fastened in our memory of Copenhagen that looking back upon our visit that fortnight spent in Denmark holds the quality of the sort of dream from which you hate to wake up.

It began with the magnificent opening spectacle in the Town Hall, all colour and movement, yet formally dignified, with the Prime Minister and the Lord Mayor to welcome us on behalf of Denmark; and the very pretty and extraordinarily competent Danish President; Mrs. Edel Saunte, looking like a schoolgirl in her pink print evening dress, announcing events as they proceeded, and Mrs. Corbett Ashby dashing from English into French and from German into Danish, and getting everyone to do the right thing; and Lady Astor's ostrich feathers on the top of a small black hat knowingly nodding home their wearer's points as vigorously she made her drive.

Even if we did for once live up to our unearned reputation and talk a bit too much that night, well, we can be forgiven, for it was the exuberance of enjoyment and the mellowness created by Danish hospitality already beginning to work in us.

Copenhagen has the most wonderful restaurants providing food capable of inspiring us to heights of eloquence, so it must have been of design that the Congress entertainment so often took place in one or other of them.

There was the reception at Nimb's, all scarlet carpets and crystal lights and trailing greenery, with its terrace into Tivoli, Copenhagen's great amusement park, so many of us may be forgiven if we followed the reception by rides on the switch-back railway and other hair-raising contrivances, and tooting around a fairy lake in infant motor boats, and altogether having the time of our lives.

We had a sumptuous luncheon at Copenhagen's great department store of Illum. The mother of the present proprietor was one of the pioneers of the Suffrage movement in Denmark, and brought up her daughter and son good suffragists—hence the latter's desire to fête the delegates to the Congress.

The Lord Mayor's reception in the Town

Hall was one of the high lights of the Congress. Never, said the delegates, had they been presented with such enticing things to eat; the tables looked like brilliant flower gardens, so colourful was the array of delectable dishes and drinks. And the Hall itself, over which they were shown by the worshipful lady who is Deputy Lord Mayor, it is one of the sights of Copenhagen.

The night at Bellevue, on the edge of the sea about half an hour's journey from the city, was indeed unforgettable. We dined in a big restaurant whose windows overlooked the sea, and saw the little white steamers twinkling with lights come and go at the landing stage across the tree-bordered road. Afterwards we all went into the woods that run down to the water's edge for a Camp Fire. There a mountainous bonfire was ablaze in the night, flinging its glowing sparks far up into the trees to come down on top of us like fiery rain.

We all gathered around in a circle, hundreds of us, and one of our hostesses stood out in the middle of the circle of light from the bonfire and told us the legend of the bonfires that blaze all over Scandinavia on Midsummer's Eve.

But we have heaps of other memories, too, the unofficial ones of strolls along the sea at Langelinie with tea at the Yacht Club and a nod to the Little Mermaid, and peeps into the steamers of many nations that daily come and go; and of sunbathing on the beach at Klampenborg after a swim in the tideless sea; and of little thatched farm houses in the midst of richly cultivated fields; and, one of the last memories, of climbing out of the train to the top deck of the ferry to drink good Danish coffee and view the scene as the train was transported across the sea from island to island on our way back to Esbjerg—and England.

The Copenhagen Congress gathered together 250 delegates representing 21 countries. Among resolutions passed were those dealing with Suffrage (the Congress sent a petition to Governments of all countries where women have not yet obtained equality of political rights), Nationality, Equal Moral Standard, The Legal Status of Women, Protection of Maternity, Like Conditions of Work ("that regulations dealing with hours of work, night-

(Continued on page 82)

## Notes and Comments

As in the last war, by request of St. Joan's Alliance, Mass will be offered regularly at St. Patrick's, Soho Square, for Peace and for all killed in the war, at 9-30 on the second Sunday of the month.

Mass for this intention has already been offered on September 11th.

We ask our members in all countries to unite with us on the second Sunday of the month to offer their Mass for this intention.

\* \* \* \*

We know that each member of St. Joan's Alliance is serving her country in this time of stress in whatever way she deems best.

As our front-page article points out St. Joan's Alliance must carry on its work. In the last war, experience showed the vital necessity of keeping our organisation in being to guard against any encroachment on women's hard-won liberties.

The office, which we have on lease till 1941 will as far as possible remain open and the CATHOLIC CITIZEN be published as usual.

Funds of course will be more than ever a difficulty but we are confident that our members will not fail us.

\* \* \* \*

Any information which members may glean in the course of their activities, touching on the work of the Alliance, will be welcomed by the Editor.

\* \* \* \*

St. Joan's Alliance has written to the Home Secretary begging the Government to introduce as an emergency measure and to pass into law without delay Lord Alness' British Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill. Other organisations are also pressing for this Bill to be passed immediately.

\* \* \* \*

We congratulate Miss Florence Horsbrugh, M.P., on her appointment as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health.

\* \* \* \*

Miss Billing and Miss K. Davis represented the Alliance on July 14th at the celebrations in honour of Mrs. Pankhurst's birthday when they laid flowers at the foot of her statue in Westminster and afterwards were present at the Dinner at which Dame Christabel Pankhurst was chief speaker.

\* \* \* \*

"For our part we would propose an immediate increase in the number of women police and their

posting to all centres where young people are congregating during this rearmament and conscription period. The women police did wonders during the last war in abating certain menaces. Now that similar conditions obtain again their help should be sought."—*Catholic Times*.

Now that war has broken out it is more than ever necessary to appoint women police to these centres.

\* \* \* \*

The League of Nations Advisory Committee on Social Questions recommended to the Council that the terms of office of the twenty-eight organisations which had served for the past three years as correspondent members should be renewed, and that, in addition, the National Council of Women in India and the International Abolitionist Federation should be appointed correspondent members. It made practical suggestions for strengthening the collaboration between the correspondent members and the Committee and invited the Secretariat to study certain aspects of this problem and to submit a report. The "twenty-eight organisations" include St. Joan's Alliance.

\* \* \* \*

**U.S.A.** We are grateful to Dr. Georgiana P. McEntee, a Vice-President of St. Joan's (International) Alliance for representing the Alliance at the Conference of the Williams-town Institute of Human Relations held at Williams College, August 26th—September 2nd. Dr. McEntee who is Associate Professor of History, Hunter College, New York, spoke on "What Women's Organisations Can Do in Intercultural Relations."

\* \* \* \*

We ask the prayers of our readers for the repose of the souls of the Rev. T. Dawson, O.M.I., and Miss Helen Colt. Our friend Father Dawson appreciated the Alliance from the first and was a regular subscriber and reader of the CATHOLIC CITIZEN from the first issue, often sending us words of appreciation. Miss Colt, who was a member, was a well-known expert on gardening being horticultural assistant of the botany department of the Bedford College for Women and having written books and articles on this subject. She was a member of the Institute of Journalists and Paris representative of the Society of Women Journalists.—R.I.P.

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

*Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":*

55 BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.1. Tel. Museum 4181

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

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## British-Born Women "Enemy Aliens"

The outbreak of war has had an immediate effect upon the position of British-born women who are the wives of German or Austrian subjects. By the laws of this country these women forfeited their British nationality on marriage, since Germany and Austria accord their nationality to the alien wives of German and Austrian nationals. By an Order of the Home Office made in 1933 it was not necessary for British-born women who married aliens but continued to reside in the United Kingdom to register with the police. The new Registration of Aliens Order makes it obligatory for all British-born wives of German or Austrian nationals to register with the police. They become, in fact, "enemy aliens" in their own country. They have to report to the police whenever requested to do so, they may not change their residence without informing the police of their new address, and they have to report to the police in their new district within twenty-four hours of arrival there. While British-born women married to enemy aliens are required to submit to these regulations, no such restrictions apply to alien women of any nationality who have married British subjects and thereby acquired British nationality. If it can be seriously contended that the former may constitute a danger to the State, then the same applies to these latter women.

It is well to remember too, that after the last war the property of many British-born wives of enemy aliens was confiscated under the agreements of the Versailles Treaty. The Home Secretary stated in the House of Commons that "in any exceptional case, such for example, as that of a woman who has for some time been separated from her German husband, it will be open for the police to recommend that she be exempted from the requirements of the new order." Sir John Anderson did not state that under the present British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act a British-born woman married to an alien whose

country is at war with Great Britain has the right to reclaim British nationality. Many of these women may have no wish to do so, but it should have been publicly stated that they have this right, to enable those who wish to regain British citizenship to make immediate application to the Secretary of State for Home Affairs. Serious delays in the granting of British nationality to the British-born widows of aliens who have exercised their right to regain their nationality of birth have been occurring during the past two or three years, so that even greater delays may now transpire before these British-born "enemy aliens" can become British again, but at least it will be of some consolation to them to know that they have the right to this safeguard.

The Home Secretary, Sir John Anderson, added to his statement that: "Many of these cases are cases for which we must have every sympathy." Sympathy is not enough. The time has come for the Government to accord not merely sympathy (for circumstances, it should be pointed out, which are of their own making), but *justice*. It is intolerable that a woman's nationality should be at the mercy of outside forces, that a woman should have to confide in the police details of her private affairs in order to obtain certain consideration. War demands enough sacrifices of us all without such disgraceful and unnecessary burdens being added to the lot of anyone. The women's organisations must lose no time in undertaking this essential piece of "war-work," to do all that lies in their power to bring about the revision of the present nationality laws: not merely demanding the rescinding of such Orders as the registration of British-born women married to Germans or Austrians, but urging the complete reform of nationality legislation so that a woman has the same right as a man to her own personal and independent nationality.

Isabel Donzé.

## INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

*Technical and Vocational Education and Apprenticeship*

The following letter was sent by St. Joan's Alliance to the Chairman of the International Labour Conference:

31st May, 1939.

Sir,  
 I.L.O. *Draft Recommendation. Technical and Vocational Education and Apprenticeship.*

Our Alliance has given careful consideration to the Draft Recommendation re Technical and Vocational Education and Apprenticeship, particularly Part IV Section (1) and (2), which it has studied in connection with Part IV Section 5 (1).

We should like to suggest two amendments to these Sections, which in their present form we feel have the effect of weakening the demand for a "network of technical and vocational schools" as set out in Part IV, Section V (1).

We suggest the deletion in 10 (1) of the sentence—"provided that women and girls are not required to undertake work which they are prohibited from performing on grounds of health."

Attendance at these classes is not compulsory. We submit that a woman who wishes to train in certain trades should not be debarred from such training if she considers it may be useful to her, even if for the moment any wage-earning in that trade is forbidden her, e.g., house decorating. Women in many countries are forbidden to use white lead paint, but a technical school might provide in its training, methods in the safe use of lead paint.

We also suggest that 10 (2) be amended to read:

"A sufficient number of schools for domestic science should be established."

Such schools are not only necessary where women are "mainly employed," but also in districts where women are not so much employed in factory and industrial work, and where women in the home or about to marry, might benefit by a domestic course and to limit them to certain districts seem a mistake. Yours, etc.

We are glad to note that the recommendation in its final form showed some amendment on the original draft in Section 10 which now reads:

(1) Workers of both sexes should have equal rights of admission to all technical and vocational schools, provided that women and girls are not required to engage continuously on work which on grounds of health they are legally prohibited from performing, a short period on such work for the purpose of training being however permissible.

(2) Appropriate facilities for technical and vocational training should be provided for occupations in which women and girls are mainly employed, including domestic employments and activities.

Thanks to the British and Yugoslav Governments and the Workers' Representative the amendment to (1) was framed in such a manner as to make it permissible for girls and women to learn even the trades into which they were not ordinarily admitted, for familiarity with these trades is necessary for certain posts such as those of factory inspectors, for instance which are open to them.

Paragraph 9 (2) reads as follows:

(2) The curricula should include courses in domestic subjects, attendance at which might be

either compulsory or optional for young workers according to circumstances.

The representative of the Secretary-General explained that the text had been drafted in a flexible manner, having regard to the replies to the questionnaire, which showed that some of the Governments desired that courses in domestic subjects should be available for boys though attendance might not be compulsory for them.

*Regulation of Contracts of Employment of Indigenous Workers*

We rejoice that special provisions relating to women form no part of the final text but that certain measures for the welfare of the family form part of the draft Convention.

## Civil Defence Services

A deputation comprising representatives of a number of important women's organizations (including St. Joan's Alliance) was received on August 1st by the Lord Privy Seal, Sir John Anderson. The deputation was introduced by Mrs. Tate, M.P., and put before Sir John Anderson the objections which were felt by the organizations to the differentiation between the rates of allowances for men and women giving whole-time service in war in the civil defence services. The members expressed the satisfaction of women at being called upon by the Government to undertake an equal part with men in the civil defence services, and their great disappointment at the rates of allowances which had been announced. These rates, they considered, meant that a woman and her services were assessed at two-thirds the value of a man.

In reply to the deputation, Sir John Anderson said that there was no question at issue in this field of equal pay for equal work; it had been necessary for practical reasons to adopt a flat rate of pay in war time for the new civil defence services, irrespective of the varying degrees of skill, effort, and risk involved. The Government believed that the rates represented allowances such as enabled men and women at large to give their services in an emergency on terms that were, broadly speaking, in consonance with the principle of equality of sacrifice.

As "Opportunity" points out the women's protest is precisely that a flat rate has *not* been adopted, but *two* flat rates on very different levels, one for men and one for women.

The monthly meeting of St. Joan's Alliance was held on July 7th at the Interval Club, Dean Street. The subject was "Equal Educational Facilities," the speaker being our Vice-Chairman, Miss P. C. Challoner, M.A., while the Chair was taken by Miss E. Billing.

### Congress at Copenhagen

(Continued from page 78)

work, dangerous or unhealthy work shall be based upon the nature of the work and designed for the adequate and scientific protection of all workers irrespective of their sex"), Equal Pay, Provision of Recreation for Soldiers, Family Allowances (accepting the principle of further economic provision by the community for dependent children).

Much controversy was aroused over the proposed widening of the constitution (afterwards carried). The British delegation was more especially opposed to this as they felt that the Alliance was founded to work for the vote and for equality of opportunity between the sexes, and that there was still plenty of work to be done in most countries on this head. Defence of Democracy and human rights in general was admirable they felt, but made the aims of the Alliance so far-flung that unnecessary disputation was bound to be the outcome. Moreover it was for both men and women to unite on these wider questions. Several resolutions of a general type were proposed and carried after the widening of the constitution, though a resolution on the Refugee question caused the Egyptian delegation to leave.

Two resolutions proposed on behalf of St. Joan's Alliance by Miss Barry and Miss Spender respectively, and carried, were as follows:

(1) Whereas the League of Nations Assembly decided in September, 1937, that a comprehensive survey be made of the legal status "enjoyed by women in the various countries of the world"; and whereas the Committee for the study of the legal Status of Women has decided that it is unable to take responsibility for dealing with the Status of Women of Primitive Peoples in the survey at present being undertaken by them:

This Congress begs the Assembly to set up a Committee competent to deal with the Status of Primitive Peoples, consisting not only of jurists, but of persons with special knowledge of the conditions of the populations concerned.

(2) Believing that the freedom of choice in the marriage contract is a fundamental right of every human being.

This Congress urges all governments to ensure that among the indigenous populations for which they are responsible:

1. No contract of marriage or betrothal be made by any girl under 14 years of age.

2. No contract be made for a girl over 14 years of age, without her consent.

3. Any person who coerces any girl or any woman to enter a marriage union against her will shall be guilty of an offence.

Among many interesting speeches were those on "Woman as Home-maker" (Mrs. Linda Littlejohn); "Women as Consumer" (Dr. Posthumus van der Groot and Karen Braae); "The

Duties of Citizenship" (Lady Astor, Madame Leuch); "Women's Influence in Public Life" (Madame Ivanova and Dr. Hanna Rydh).

Our young member, Miss Margaret Shattock took a prominent part in the discussions of the Youth Council and made a brilliant and much praised speech on the subject of the continuation of careers after marriage.

A full account of the Copenhagen Congress may be obtained from the International Suffrage Alliance, 12 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1.

### Notes From Brazil—Some Nominations with which we rejoice

Senora Leontina Sicinio Cardoso, who for many years worked in the Brazilian Foreign Office, finally as consul, is now first-class consul in Rome. Miss L. Cardoso is a member of the Brazilian Branch and was a devoted contributor to *A Candeia*, organ of *Alliança*.

Senora Odette de Carvalho e Souza was in December, 1938, promoted 2nd Secretary in the Brazilian Legation at Berne, Switzerland. Miss Carvalho e Souza is a good writer and has occupied many important posts among which that of Technical Councillor for Brazil at the International Labour Office, Geneva. She is a Catholic and a good feminist.

Senora Stella de Faro, President of the Catholic Women's League of Brazil, and Senora Eugenia Haman, President of the S.O.S. of Rio (Society for Social Work) are now members of a recently organized official council for social work.

These nominations, however, are the result of posteriorly acquired consideration and do not signify any specially good disposition towards women generally. Reaction against women's work is in many instances clearly visible.

The intellectual and technical advancement of women is noteworthy. Not only the State assures equal tuition to both sexes in all grades, but also great progress is observed in private foundations. A recently-arrived Congregation of Ursuline nuns has started a small social science university to which the best professors of Rio are contributing. His Eminence Cardinal Leme highly approves and encourages this initiative, and it is likely that the example will be followed by other religious girls' schools. Some time will have to elapse before practical results are obtained.

M. H. LISBOA, *President of Alliança Santa Joanna d'Arc.*

### Status of Women-League of Nations Committee of Experts

The Committee of Experts set up by the Council in January, 1938, to conduct a study of the legal status of women concluded its third session last week.

The Committee examined the studies submitted by the different research institutes into matters of private law, penal law and public law affecting the status of women. These studies relate to law of the Western type.

The Committee has further been able to arrange to provide, by the side of its study of Western law, a survey of a number of important and typical forms of Oriental law.

The Committee is organising its future work with a view to publishing its study before the meeting of the 1941 Assembly.

The Committee "does not feel able to take responsibility for directing the compilation for primitive races of a survey such as is contemplated by the Assembly's resolution," but it adds that "this, of course, does not prejudice the question whether such a study should be made by the League."

The Committee in its First Report expresses great satisfaction at the help which it is receiving from the women's international organisations, with whose representatives it has discussed the measures it is taking and the ways in which the organisations can best assist it.

### Books Received

**Does God Matter for Me?** By C. C. Martindale, S.J. (Rich & Cowan, 3s. 6d.)

**Crisis for Christianity.** By William Teeling. (The Religious Book Club, 121 Charing Cross Road, 2s. 6d.)

**Our Yesterdays.** Book III. By Margaret M. Elliot. (Edward Arnold, 2s. 6d.)

**Nutrition and the Public Health.** Proceedings of a National Conference on the Wider Aspects of Nutrition, April 27, 28, 29. (British Medical Association, 2s. 6d.)

**The Faith in Practice.** By Fr. Philip Hughes. (Catholic Book Club, 2s. 6d.)

### Hon. Treasurer's Note

It would be a great help if those who have not paid their subscriptions to the Alliance (minimum 1s. and "Catholic Citizen" 2s. 6d.) would do so without delay. Also if members would send a donation for our office rent which falls due this month.

### LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH

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

A most enjoyable Garden Party was held at 66 Park Road South by kind invitation of the Misses Barry. The weather was ideal and there was no need to go indoors as is usually the case.

Miss F. Barry gave an interesting account of her recent visit to the Copenhagen Congress. We missed some familiar faces, Miss Spender and Miss McCurdy being unavoidably absent.

An interesting addition to our numbers was a family of Catholic Austrian refugees who took charge of the darts and other money raising efforts.

As a result, we were able to hand over £1 to Headquarters besides retaining a welcome addition to our own funds.

### OLDHAM AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Miss Agnes Walsh, 33 Hillside Avenue, Clarksfield, Oldham.

We have been very active in regard to the Nationality Bill, all our members having written individually to urge the M.P.s for Oldham to do their utmost so that this reform will take place in the near future. The Editor of the Women's Page in the local Oldham paper was written to, and as a result of this letter she came to see the Secretary. A result of this interview was a very good article on our work more especially with regard to Nationality, and the Editor says she will willingly publish accounts of our work in the future. We are most grateful to her.

Equality of pay as regards workers coming under the Civil Defence Bill was discussed at our last meeting and it was agreed that the Secretary should write a vigorous protest to the local M.P.s before we protested individually.

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