

# THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

*Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society),  
8<sup>B</sup>, Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford 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*

## Overseas Students

By P. C. Challoner

There are roughly thirty thousand overseas students in the United Kingdom and the number is likely to increase until the countries from which they come have an adequate system of technical and higher education to satisfy the ever-increasing demand.

These students are here primarily to receive the higher education for which they have a thirst, and most of them will return to their own countries to spread their knowledge and use it for their countries' needs.

The greatest number of students from overseas are the University students, but an increasing number are attending polytechnics, technical colleges, colleges of commerce, teacher-training colleges, etc. These are not concentrated in University towns but live in the suburbs or scattered throughout the country, wherever there is a place of study to supply their need. Many, of course, are training in hospitals, or with individual firms.

In London alone nearly nine hundred are attending the University, and over one thousand are attached to the Inns of Court, while close on four thousand are following some other course of training. About twelve thousand of these students come from the British Colonial Territories (two thousand eight hundred from Nigeria, fifteen hundred and fifty from Jamaica, and eleven hundred and eighty-one from Malaya,) nearly six thousand from India, Pakistan and Ceylon, two thousand five hundred from the countries of the Commonwealth and the same number from the Middle East, nine hundred from the Far East, two hundred from Latin America, one thousand from U.S.A., and three thousand five hundred from Europe.

The majority of these students are financed by their own families or by their own governments; only an insignificant number (less than two thousand out of thirty thousand) are helped by British or International Funds. These include those studying under the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme, the United Nations Scholars, Colombo Plan trainees, British Council Scholars, etc.

Hostels are too few and time is needed before extensions which are planned can be completed. Meantime the overseas students have to compete with others in the search for lodgings and here, still, some meet with colour prejudice and feel rebuffed by the apparent coldness of the English character.

Much is done by student units that have been set up by various Colonial Governments: National Clubs and Centres do what they can and High Commissioners, Embassies and Legations also take a hand. The British Council has prepared handbooks and the script for talks in the B.B.C. Far Eastern and African Services, but all this reaches only a small proportion of the students who come to Great Britain. The Council also arranges short courses for students in various centres where they may study a special aspect of British life. The Student Welfare Department has a special section engaged in arranging introductions to British families. The Victoria League, and other societies, also do their utmost to bring the students out of their isolation into the friendly atmosphere of family life. They are tackling what is perhaps the key problem of the Commonwealth today, for the happiest memories of many overseas students are of the friendships they have formed with British families. These will take back with them, not only the knowledge they have acquired but impressions of England, which will make a valuable contribution towards good relationships between Britain and other countries in the future. It is hardly necessary to stress the vital part such relationships may play in the developing pattern of the Commonwealth.

If this is the key problem for the Commonwealth, it is surely also a key problem for Christians, whose missionary endeavours have in most cases laid the foundations of the education which enables the students to pursue their further studies here. As citizens and as Catholics it behoves us to take a full share in extending that personal friendship and hospitality to students without which all official efforts will be frustrated.

About four thousand of these students are Catholics, over two thousand of whom are in the London area. The largest single Catholic group in the London area is the Nigerian, about three hundred in number.

St. Joan's Alliance has been associated with the Catholic Committee for Overseas Students since its inception: the Committee meets each month at the Headquarters of the Catholic Chaplaincy for Overseas Students, 41, Holland Park, W.11, under the Chairmanship of the Chaplain. Here socials are held each week and overseas students are always welcome, and here they can discuss their problems with the Chaplain, Monsignor John L. Coonan. More, however, is required; the urgent need is for hospitality for the students, for a simple meal in a friendly home-like atmosphere for a week-end or a few days in holiday time.

So the ties of religion will be added to the ties of friendship, and perhaps create a force for combating the temptation of newly independent countries to fall into nationalistic religion.

The Alliance has always urged the importance of giving equal opportunities to girls and boys for education and training, and now that most Governments have accepted this principle, it is especially important that we should try and see that the men and women who come here should act in its spirit on their return.

The number of women students has increased year by year, the present ratio is about one in three of all students. All who come are in a sense pioneers and to those who are also Catholics St. Joan's Alliance holds out a friendly and understanding hand.

P. C. Challoner

#### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Vera Laughton Mathews in "The Catholic Citizen" 15th March, 1932

Founded in the heat of the militant movement when prejudice was at its height, the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society had every kind of difficulty to contend with and threw on them all. With a founder whose gentle exterior hid the rock on which faiths are built; a Chairman with the tact necessary to hold together members of all shades of thought and opinion save that they were Catholics and Suffragists; a Secretary of unsurpassed fearlessness, devotion and energy; and an Editor with the courage never to shirk difficult waters and with the brain to steer clear of whirlpool and mill-pond alike, the Society has through the twenty-one years of its existence built up a reputation of which all associated with it may well be proud. Now, in its maturity, it is known among its fellow societies in the cause of women's freedom and also among its opponents to be exceptionally alert, to be full of vitality, to be fearless and tireless—above all it has held high the name of Catholic in circles where there might otherwise have been prejudice and misunderstanding.—*Twenty-One Years.*

#### NOTES AND COMMENTS

According to tradition Mass will be offered in March for Gabrielle Jeffery, founder of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, and Leonora de Alberti, first editor of *The Catholic Citizen*. Miss Jeffery's anniversary falls on March 19th and Miss de Alberti's on March 26th. We feel sure our members will remember them with affection and gratitude in their prayers. R.I.P.

Our best wishes go to the people of Ghana on the achievement of their Independence within the Commonwealth. The Alliance was represented by Miss Challoner at Westminster Cathedral on March 6th at the Evening Mass which was offered for the welfare of this new Sovereign State, and at the party to celebrate the occasion which was held at the Catholic International Chaplaincy on the following Saturday.

It is good to know that men and women have voted on equal terms, a happy augury for the future.

The Nationality of Married Women Convention was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations and signed by the permanent United Kingdom representative to the United Nations on February 22nd immediately it was opened for signature. We will deal with this more fully in our next issue.

The Maintenance Orders (Attachment of Income) Bill passed its Second Reading on March 1st and goes to a Standing Committee. Mr. J. E. S. Simon on behalf of the Government welcomed the Bill and said that its provisions represented "on the whole, a scheme that is the most suitable and reasonable in all the circumstances." The Government would help to make any improvements that might be desirable in Committee.

We were delighted to welcome in the office recently Mother Prioress of the Good Shepherd Convent, Adelaide, formerly Mother Prioress in Brisbane, with whose Sisters St. Joan's Alliance in Queensland works in close co-operation. She was accompanied by a Sister from New Zealand and the Mother Prioress from the Finchley Convent.

Congratulations to our member Dr. Delia Moclair who has been elected Master of the Dublin Branch of the Irish Guild of St. Luke, S.S. Cosmas and Damian.

We ask the prayers of our members for the repose of the soul of our member, Lady Houston-Boswall, who died on February 15th. R.I.P.

We offer our deep sympathy to Miss Price on the death of her father. May he rest in peace.

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "The Catholic Citizen"

8<sup>B</sup> DRYDEN CHAMBERS, 119 OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.1. Tel. Gerrard 4564

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Ex-officio* DAME VERA LAUGHTON MATHEWS, D.B.E., *President, St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance*  
 MRS. SHATTOCK, M.A., M.D., D.P.M., *Chairman.*  
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 MISS W. M. PRICE.  
 MISS CHRISTINE SPENDER, *Hon. Editor,*  
 MRS. WILLIAMS, B.A. "The Catholic Citizen."

## Forty-Fifth Annual Report\*

For the year ending December 31st, 1956

The outstanding event of the year was the celebration in June of the five hundredth anniversary of the Rehabilitation of St. Joan of Arc. Following our request to the Hierarchy, permission was given by the Holy See for the Mass of St. Joan of Arc to be celebrated in any church throughout England and Wales on May 30th. Mass was celebrated at Westminster Cathedral in the evening when many members of the Alliance, together with members of the Catholic Women's League and the Dames of St. Joan, were present. A short address was given by Prebendary Pilkington. After the Mass a visit was paid to St. Joan's shrine where, according to tradition, a wreath, tied with our colours, had been placed the previous evening. Members afterwards met at the Wilton Hotel for dinner. In the morning, the Rev. Christopher Laughton Mathews had offered Mass for the Alliance.

Twenty-five years ago, on the occasion of the five hundredth anniversary of St. Joan's martyrdom, St. Joan's Quincentenary Celebrations Committee organised an appeal for a gift from England to Rouen as an *amende honorable* to St. Joan for the part played by the English in her death. This Committee now saw the culmination of its twenty-five years' work Under the patronage of His Eminence the late Cardinal Griffin, and the British Ambassador to France, a delegation from England took an official part in the celebrations, held in Rouen to commemorate the Quincentenary of St. Joan's Rehabilitation. The delegation had an honoured position in the Market Place beside St. Joan's shrine, at the laying of the foundation stone of a national monument to St. Joan by the French President, Monsieur Coty. The English contingent took part in the procession, walking behind the Union Jack and the banner of St. Joan. Dr. Shattock, who had succeeded to the chairmanship of the Appeal Committee on the death of Miss C. M. Gordon, had a seat in the tribune. The delegation attended Pontifical High Mass in the restored Cathedral in the presence of four Cardinals, including our own Cardinal Griffin. The Papal Blessing was conveyed over the radio in the Pope's own voice.

The window, the gift of the English and the work of Max Ingrand, is erected in St. Joan's Chapel in the Cathedral and bears the inscription "From the English in Homage". The delegation was present at the blessing of the window by the Bishop of Clifton in the presence of the Archbishop of Rouen. Finally, a Golden Book, beautifully illuminated and inscribed by Mrs. Hastings-Gray with over a thousand names of donors to the Appeal from 1931 to 1956, was presented by Cardinal Griffin to the Archbishop of Rouen for preservation in the Cathedral.

\*Subject to confirmation at the Annual Meeting.

The whole of the organisation of the Appeal which entailed a great deal of time and thought was done from the office of the Alliance, its hon. secretary being also hon. secretary of the Appeal Committee.

#### New Office

The chief event in the domestic history of the Alliance was the removal to the new office. Owing to demolition of the Berners Street block, after forty-three years, we were obliged to seek a new home. After extensive search an office was found at 119, Oxford Street, a stone's throw from the old office, but at a greatly increased rent. It is sufficiently spacious to hold papers and workers without undue strain, and to permit buffet suppers and committee meetings, and even meetings of members. The removal took place on May 26th. Warm thanks are due to those who helped in this task, particularly to Miss Cheke and Miss Graham.

The office was blessed by Monsignor Smith, parish priest of St. Patrick's, on July 16th, when a house-warming, too, was held and many friends armed with gifts paid the new headquarters a visit. We are indebted to Dr. Isabel Powell Heath for the gift of a carpet.

#### Political

Proposals for reforming the composition of the House of Lords were mentioned in the Queen's Speech. In the subsequent debate, Lord Salisbury stated in reply to Lord Pethick-Lawrence: "I should expect that (the admission of women) to form part of the scheme—I cannot go further." Letters were sent to Lord Pethick-Lawrence and Lord Salisbury.

#### Equal Pay and Opportunities

The third instalment of equal pay in the teaching profession and in the non-industrial grades of the Civil Service falls due in 1957. It will not be till 1961 that equal pay will be an accomplished fact, even in these categories.

On February 29th, the following resolution was passed by the Equal Pay Campaign Committee: "That this meeting, holding that no useful purpose can now be served by the continuance of the Equal Pay Campaign Committee and Advisory Council, recommends that these be immediately dissolved, and at the same time calls on the constituent organizations to relax no effort for the implementation of Equal Pay."

At its Annual Meeting in April the Alliance called upon the Government to "establish equal pay throughout the Government Services without delay."

The Status of Women Committee, of which the Alliance is a constituent society is pursuing the matter of equal pay in the industrial grades of the Civil Service. Dame Irene Ward, M.P., elicited information from the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the numbers and categories of the women workers concerned, 50,387 of which 8,087 were part-time workers.

A resolution was sent from the Annual Meeting of the Alliance calling upon the Government to oppose the resolution adopted by the European Regional Conference of the I.L.O., i.e., that the minimum pensionable age for women should be five years lower than that fixed for men."

#### Equal Moral Standard

The Alliance was represented at the Conference convened by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene at County Hall on the legal and social implications of Prostitution and was represented at the Annual Meeting of the Association. The Departmental Committee of Enquiry into sexual offences has completed its hearing of evidence but its Report is still awaited.

#### Status of Women

The Alliance is a constituent society of this Committee. Arising out of the Report of the Royal Commission on Marriage and Divorce, a Memorandum prepared by Mrs. Earengy on domicil was sent to all Members of Parliament. A further Memorandum, dealing with points from the Report related to the objects of the Committee, including domicil and income tax, was circulated to the constituent societies for possible action. The Guardianship of Infants Bill, on the lines of Mrs. Wintringham's Bill, 1924, designed to give equal guardianship rights to mothers is under active consideration. The Committee urged the Government to appoint a delegate who was conversant with the Woman's Movement to the Status of Women Commission and recommended its Chairman, Dame Vera Laughton Mathews as a suitable candidate. In this connection also, The Alliance put forward the name of Mrs. Corbett Ashby. The Status of Women Committee is taking appropriate action with reference to the refusal of the Birmingham Stock Exchange to admit a fully qualified woman on the grounds of sex.

#### United Nations

Under the auspices of the Women's Advisory Council of the United Nations Association its representatives met Dame Lucile Sayers before and after her attendance as the United Kingdom delegate at the Tenth Session of the Status of Women Commission, and Mrs. Walter Elliot before she went to the General Assembly as a full delegate from the United Kingdom.

The British Section was gratified that Miss Challoner was chosen by St. Joan's International Alliance to represent it at Geneva at the Tenth Session of the Status of Women Commission, and also at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries to consider the Draft Supplementary Convention on Slavery, details of which will be found below. A letter was sent to the Minister of State requesting support for the amendments desired by the Alliance to this Convention.

The Forty-fifth Annual Meeting was held on April 14th at 63, Bayswater Road, the Chairman, Dr. Shattock presiding. The Annual Report was presented by the Hon. Secretary and its adoption moved by Miss Margaret Clarke, seconded by Miss Cory. The *Catholic Citizen* Report was presented by Mrs. Williams, in the unavoidable absence of the editor, Miss Christine Spender. The Reports were adopted unanimously. The Chairman spoke of the forthcoming celebrations in Rouen. She referred to the necessity for continuing the campaign for equal pay and congratulated Miss Challoner on her

work in Geneva. The Hon. Treasurer, Miss Noreen K. Carr, presented the Financial Report and made an appeal for funds which produced £143 16s. The International President, Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, spoke of the success of National Sections in bringing about an important amendment to the United Nations Draft Convention on Slavery, and customs similar to slavery. She referred to the Silver Jubilee of St. Joan's International Alliance. Miss N. S. Parnell then outlined suggestions for a campaign to recruit new members. Resolutions on Equal Pay, Slavery, Equal Political Rights, Solicitation Laws, Domicil, Taxation, Retirement Age for Women, and Education were passed unanimously and sent to the appropriate authorities. (For text of these resolutions see *The Catholic Citizen*, May, 1956).

The executive committee was re-elected and at its first meeting, the executive committee re-elected its officers. Later in the year, Miss McGovern resigned on leaving London and Miss Margaret C. Clarke was co-opted in her place. We thank Miss McGovern for her work on the committee.

Other meetings during the year included a New Year's Party on January 31st when Mr. Mathew Mbu, Federal Commissioner for Nigeria, and Mrs. Mbu were the guests of honour; a Ways and Means Discussion on February 28th at the Guide Club, when many valuable suggestions for propaganda were put forward. Two meetings were held in the office, on September 25th when Miss Challoner gave an account of her work at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Slavery Convention in Geneva, and on October 25th, when Dr. Amy Fleming spoke on the Trade Union Restrictions on Women's Work. On November 4th, after attending the evening Mass for deceased members, associates and benefactors of the Alliance at St. Patrick's, members met for dinner in Soho.

#### Co-operation with other Societies

The Alliance was represented on February 6th, the anniversary of the granting of the vote to women at a gathering in Westminster Abbey, when a wreath was placed beneath the memorial plaques of Dame Millicent Fawcett and her husband. Tributes were paid by the Dean of Westminster and Miss M. J. Buchanan. Members also attended the ceremony on July 14th at the new site of Mrs. Pankhurst's statue in Victoria Gardens nearer to the House of Lords. The Minister of Works unveiled the new inscription—"This statue of Emmeline Pankhurst was erected as a tribute to her courageous leadership of the movement for the enfranchisement of women."

Other gatherings attended by representatives of the Alliance were: The Annual Meeting of the Open Door Council; the housewarming of the Fawcett Society; meeting of the Married Women's Association to launch a campaign for the enforcement of the payment of Maintenance Court Orders; meetings of the Women's Council co-operating with Women of India, Pakistan and Ceylon; Women's Freedom League at Home to meet Viscountess Astor, and a meeting convened by the International Alliance of Women to hear Miss K. M. Kisch of South Africa speak on the Black Sash Movement.

#### British Commonwealth League

Mrs. Kinsella and Miss Burgess, members from Australia, represented the Alliance at the Conference on the Position of the Married Woman in Commonwealth Countries held at Newnham College, Cambridge. Members also attended other functions of the League.

#### Representation on other Organizations

Members serve on the following Committees: British Commonwealth League, 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

Open Door Council; the Status of Women Committee; the Women's Council Co-operating with the Women of India, Pakistan and Ceylon.

#### Press

A vigilant eye is kept on the press. Letters from Miss Challoner, hon. press secretary, appeared in *The Catholic Herald* on Married Women and Professional Work, and in *Time and Tide* on the Slavery Convention. Other letters sent by us which do not appear nevertheless do their work. Members often draw our attention to statements in the press which they would like us to take up but a reply from a private individual is sometimes more effective than a letter from an organization whose views are well known. In connection with the Rouen celebrations, the Alliance was given good publicity in the press both in France and in this country and many excellent photographs were reproduced.

#### Visitors from abroad

We were happy to welcome during the year—from Australia, Miss Burgess, Mrs. Coombs, Miss Ruth Gibson, Mrs. Kinsella, Miss Phillips and Miss K. Ward; from Belgium, Mademoiselle Pourvoyeur; from Ireland, Miss Horne and Miss Maxwell; from Malta, Miss Buhagiar; and from the United Nations, Mrs. Tenison-Woods.

#### Obituary

The Alliance records with sorrow the deaths of His Eminence, Cardinal Griffin and His Grace, Archbishop Myers, both good friends of the Alliance, and of the following members: Dr. Victoria Bennett, Miss C. M. Gordon, a former Chairman of the Alliance; Miss C. E. L. Grant, Miss Seabourne, and Baroness de Thierry. Mass was offered in March for Gabrielle Jeffery, founder of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society and for Leonora de Alberti, first editor of *The Catholic Citizen* whose anniversaries occur that month.—R.I.P.

#### Congratulations

Were sent to Miss Sylvia Terry on the occasion of her election as Mayor of Ilford; to Mrs. Halpern on her appointment as Senior Producer on the North American Service of the B.B.C.; and to Mrs. Clynes, Mrs. Mathers and Mrs. Mbu, on the births of their children.

#### Hon. Treasurer's Report

Although it would appear from the financial statement that our receipts and donations have risen since last year by over £550, this is accounted for by legacies and by the generous response to the appeal for the office rent from our members at home and abroad. We are particularly grateful for the generous donations received from our National Sections in Australia, Brazil, and France and from kind friends in U.S.A. amounting to £83 10s. making a total from the Appeal of £132 10s.

The Alliance received two legacies—£337 2s. from the estate of the late Miss Ursula Buckmaster; and £50 from Miss C. E. L. Grant of Barnstaple. Owing to the heavy liabilities for the new office we were obliged to hold two jumble sales in addition to the Christmas Sale. One jumble sale brought in £37 1s. 9d. for *The Catholic Citizen* while the proceeds of the other, together with the Christmas Sale, amounted to £141 10s. 10d. A grant of £33 was given from the general fund to balance the accounts of *The Catholic Citizen*.

The Alliance is fortunate in still having the regular help of Miss Jameson in the office. Without her efficient service it would be difficult to carry on. We are indebted also to Miss Cave and Miss K. Davis for clerical assistance; to Miss Cheke and Miss Fry for arranging our jumble sales; to Miss Sheelah Hynes for keeping up our Press book and to Miss Gadsby for so kindly auditing our accounts.

**The Catholic Citizen.** The paper goes all over the world and we receive many appreciative letters from home and abroad. With present costs, however, it is impossible to make it pay its way, and though subscriptions and advertisements remain at a steady level, receipts from these fall short of the cost of printing and postage by some £90.

To commemorate Woman Suffrage Day, we published the talk on the Suffragette Movement given by Dame Vera Laughton Mathews on February 6th in the B.B.C. Television Programme. We printed two Memoranda written for the Status of Women Committee: one on the Guardianship of Infants and the other on the Report of the Royal Commission on Marriage and Divorce in so far as it related to the objects of the Status of Women Committee, and we published a valuable article by Dr. Amy Fleming on Trade Union Restrictions applying to women's employment. These expert articles are of the greatest value in our parliamentary work, which requires legal accuracy and technical knowledge. We are grateful to Mrs. Halpern, whose masterly summaries of "The Month in Parliament" are also much valued.

The work of the United Nations is closely followed. A Report of the Tenth Session of the Status of Women Commission was given in detail; the speech of Mrs. Grabinska before the special drafting committee in New York for the Supplementary Convention on Slavery was published in full; and the Conference of Plenipotentiaries which drew up the final Convention was reported.

Among other contributions we were glad to have an article from Dr. Magda de Spur on the condition of the Navajo Indian women. For the title pages of the June and July numbers, which were dedicated to the Quinquenary Celebrations of the Rehabilitation of St. Joan, we reproduced a photograph of St. Joan's Statue in the Place des Pyramides, Paris, and we were privileged in being able to publish Prebendary Pilkington's address which was given in Westminster Cathedral on the feast of St. Joan.

We are grateful to our faithful reviewers, who keep up a high standard of criticism and good writing; also to the member who generously paid for the indexing and binding of the paper for 1948 and 1949. Funds have not been available yet for bringing the binding up to date. Our thanks are due to Miss Graham and Miss Hope Robson for help in sending out the paper each month and to Mrs. Coast and Mrs. Morison for addressing the wrappers—both tedious but necessary jobs.

#### Merseyside Branch

On January 26th a meeting was held at which Miss Keeley reported on the Pax Romano Congress at Nottingham, and Sister Monica of the White Sisters gave an interesting talk on the education of women in Uganda.

Holy Mass was offered on the feast of St. Joan and again in November for deceased members.

On April 5th a meeting was held at the Convent of the White Sisters. Dr. A. E. Norel (Sister Anne Elizabeth) who is a specialist in gynaecology, and has been seven years in West Africa gave a talk on social conditions there. A coloured sound film: "If Thou Wilt" was also shown.

We were glad to welcome Madame Pesson-Depret on a flying visit and heard an interesting account of her work in Paris for the abolitionist cause. Madame Pesson visited the Josephine Butler Training College with us.

On August 22nd a successful meeting was held at Birkenhead by kind permission of the Misses Barry. Miss F. Barry described the celebrations at Rouen, in which the English delegation had taken part.

Miss C. Brady has been elected a member of the Housing Sub-Committee of the Standing Conference of Women's Organizations. Mrs. de Rouffignac has been appointed Chairman of the Housing Committee of the Eastern Park Hospital Board. We are also represented on the Board of Catholic Women.

## ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

This brief report of 1956 must begin with an expression of sorrow at the deaths of two of the most valuable officers of the Alliance. Miss Maria Herminia Lisboa who founded l'Aliaça Santa Joanna d'Arc in Brazil in 1935, and devoted to it and other social work a long life of service, and Madame Marie José Russo who was president of l'Alliance Jeanne d'Arc and whose early death has deprived the French Section and the St. Joan's International of a devoted and dynamic member, and a great hope for the future.

At the Quincentenary Celebrations of St. Joan's Rehabilitation in Rouen, members from the British, French, Victoria, German and New South Wales Sections came to do honour to St. Joan. This gave the opportunity to hold an informal meeting to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of St. Joan's International which had been founded when the French Section was formed in Paris in 1931 by Mademoiselle Lenoël, following the Quincentenary of St. Joan's Martyrdom. The meeting was held by kind invitation of the president, Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, on board her yacht Vivanti which she and her son, David, had brought to Rouen for the occasion. Greetings were sent to Mademoiselle Lenoël and other absent friends and a brief report of the International work was given by the Hon. Secretary.

The Quincentenary year was celebrated by National Sections everywhere. The British Section, as reported above, joined in the official delegation from England as an *amende honorable* to St. Joan; flowers were laid in Paris at the foot of St. Joan's statue in the Place des Pyramides by Madame Pesson-Depret, Madame Poinso-Chapuis, Madame Leroy-Boy and Miss Barry, on the second Sunday in May; and a meeting of friends and members of l'Alliance was held at Madame Pesson-Depret's always hospitable home. Dame Enid Lyons, Australian president, sent special greetings for St. Joan's feast, and each Australian Section, by Holy Mass, Corporate Communion, Retreats, meetings and gifts, joined in the Rouen celebrations and the Silver Jubilee of the Alliance.

In Queensland a hymn to St. Joan, composed and set to music by Isabel Russell, one of the members, was sung at the High Mass in Brisbane Cathedral. The Alliance received a gift from Miss Lisboa and her last message of sorrow that she had not been able to come to Rouen.

We record two outstanding gains: the Sudanese Republic's legislation forbidding the most objectionable form of female circumcision; and the passing of the Convention for the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery, which includes specifically child-betrothal, the sale and lending out of wives and the inheritance of widows.

**United Nations.** The Alliance has consultative status, on the Register, with the Economic and Social Council, its representatives being Mrs. Wanda Grabinska and Dr. Magda de Spur in New York and Madame Leroy-Boy in Geneva. Both Mrs. Grabinska and Madame Leroy-Boy are vice-presidents of St. Joan's International Alliance.

The Alliance is included on the I.L.O. special list of Non-Governmental Organisations and in the Register of Organisations with which the Director General of UNESCO has informal relations.

**Slavery.** In January, Mrs. Grabinska spoke for the Alliance in New York before the Committee set up to consider the Draft Supplementary Convention on Slavery. She pleaded for the elimination of words giving a loophole for delay in the Articles in the Draft which asked for the Abolition of institutions and practices similar to slavery as they affect women; the inclusion of words to cover child betrothal; the fixing of a universal minimum age for marriage of not less than fourteen years; and means to ensure the free consent of both parties to a marriage. The Alliance was gratified that this Committee accepted the amendment to cover child betrothal.

At the Conference of Plenipotentiaries which met in Geneva in August to draw up the definitive Convention, Miss Challoner represented the Alliance and pressed for the other amendments. Finally, a Recommendation, sponsored by the Portuguese delegate, was attached to the Convention, asking ECOSOC to initiate a study on the question of marriage with a view to establishing free consent and a minimum age of marriage "preferably of not less than fourteen years." St. Joan's representatives in Geneva had the support in this work of the representatives of the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations and of the International Alliance of Women. Co-operation on certain points was given also by the World Union of Catholic Women's Leagues, The International Federation of Women Lawyers, and the Anti-Slavery Society.

**Status of Women.** Meantime The Status of Women Commission had met in March for its tenth session in Geneva. A memorandum was circulated to the Commission embodying resolutions passed at the Council Meeting of St. Joan's International Alliance in 1955. Miss Challoner, Madame Leroy-Boy and Mrs. Kinsella represented the Alliance. Interventions were made by Miss Challoner on Women in Private Law and by Madame Leroy-Boy on Economic Opportunities for Women. The Commission passed a resolution calling for a report from the Secretary General on Polygamy, Child Marriage, Bride Price, and Guardianship Rights for Women.

As a constituent member of the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations the Alliance is represented on its Committee in London, New York, Geneva and Australia.

The Alliance was represented at the Meeting of the International Federation of University Women in Paris and at the Twentieth Congress of the International Abolitionist Federation in Frankfurt-am-Main by Madame Pesson-Depret. At the latter, Madame Leroy-Boy gave a masterly survey of the position of prostitution in the world to-day. Dr. E. Bonneman represented the Alliance at the Meeting of the World Women's Christian Temperance Union at Bremen, and Miss H. R. Walmesley at the Meeting of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom at Birmingham.

This brief account does not include the valuable work done by the National Sections of the Alliance. The response to any call for national action on an international matter is always immediate, generous and efficient.

The Alliance is proud of individual members who give distinguished service, nationally and internationally: Mrs. Tenison-Woods, Chief, Section of the Status of Women, United Nations; Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes, member of the Executive Committee of UNESCO, who intervened energetically on the Board regarding UNESCO's negligence in the matter of discrimination against women in education; Dr. Marga Klompé, Minister of Social Welfare and first Woman Cabinet Minister in Holland; Frau Brauksiepe, Member of the German Bundestag; Madame Lefebvre and Mademoiselle Dienesch, deputies in the French Assembly; and Dr. Eileen Hickey, a Member of Parliament of Northern Ireland.

We are grateful to Mrs. Grabinska for representing us at the meeting of the special drafting Committee of the Slavery Convention in New York; to Madame Leroy-Boy for representing us at the meeting of the Human Rights Commission and ECOSOC, and the Status of Women Commission in Geneva; to Miss Challoner and Mrs. Kinsella for representing us at the Status of Women Commission, and to Miss Challoner for her valuable work at the Slavery Conference. The Alliance is greatly indebted to these and all its representatives for their generosity in expenditure of time, thought and energy.

## REVIEWS

**The Women Police of Poland, 1925-1939.** By Stanislaw Paleolog. (The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, 5s.)

This book gives a first-hand account of the formation of independent Poland's Women Police Force in 1925; and of its heroic struggle to deal with prostitution, traffic in women, and juvenile delinquency, the legacy of the Partition years of the War.

The writer was a Major in Poland's Underground Army before the Liberation after the first World War, and took a full share in the fighting after the outbreak of war again in 1939.

She was appointed Chief Commandant of the new Polish Women Police in 1925 when Poland had for many years been the centre of an international organisation for Traffic in Women, which exploited the poverty and misery of Poland's women and girls to entice them into a life of prostitution.

Josephine Butler had visited Poland during her tour of Europe, and her spirit had led progressive Poles to spread her doctrine of abolition inside their country even under Partition. Major Paleolog was a convinced abolitionist and under her firm and able guidance the fight against the traffickers and against regulationist policy advanced. Legislation was prepared and the success of the struggle was such that an international trafficker declared that he would not go back to Poland while "that woman" was there. Then came 1939.

The book has a foreword by Miss D. O. G. Peto, O.B.E., formerly Superintendent of the Metropolitan Women Police in London. Major-General Zamaski, formerly High Commissioner of the Polish State Police and who was chiefly responsible for the initiation of the Women Police in Poland, pays tribute in an epilogue to the Chief Commandant and her young women police for their services to independent Poland and for their sacrifices in the terrible years after 1939.

The book is excellently translated by Mrs. Eileen Garlinska. **P.C.C.**

**The Militant Suffrage Campaign in Perspective.** By Mary Phillips. (1s. 6d. from Miss M. Phillips, c/o Edward O. Beck, Ltd., 43 Villiers Street, London, W.C.2.)

This excellent summary of the birth and development of the Militant Suffrage Movement comes out at a time when, as Lord Pethick-Lawrence says in the foreword, "men and women have become used to equality between the sexes at the ballot box and in their mutual relationships and they ask what all the fuss was about."

Mary Phillips felt that, as the ranks thinned of those who understood the policy that lay behind

the "Votes for Women" Campaign, 1905 to 1918, someone should leave on record an explanation of that policy. As one who herself took part in carrying out this policy, she is well qualified to supply the need, and this pamphlet is brief enough for all to read; it is the "barest outline" but it is an admirable and fascinating account of a revolt which stirred the world.

**P.C.C.**

**Purple Times.** By Michael Hollings. (Burns Oates, 6s.)

THE POSITION OF WOMEN ON THE  
CHERTSEY ESTATES

(Extract from the Chertsey Abbey Court Rolls. The Abbey was surrendered in 1537.)

On Chertsey Manor the economic position of women seems to have been very secure. A woman villein remained a villein, even if she married, and although she might surrender her land to her husband (there was obviously no compulsion on her to do so) we frequently find that if she predeceases him the land passes at once from him to her heirs. Her heirs pay her heriot and a phrase frequently met with is: "He has nothing in the said tenement save in right of his wife." If she has no heir, he can ask for the land but then it apparently becomes quite a new tenancy.

Husbands are not their wives' nearest heirs; this position appears to have been held by the eldest son or daughter, but there are also examples of land passing from a dead married woman to her brother, even when she has a husband living.

She might on marriage decide not to surrender her holding, but hold it herself and allow her husband, as far as can be judged, no right of interference.

She could be a full villein with villein's rights and duties. More usually she did surrender it on marriage and then she and her husband got the holding in joint tenancy, though in this case there was almost invariably a clause providing for its surrender to the heirs of the wife, not of the husband. It is for this reason that we often find a small son or daughter inheriting land from its dead mother and the father being constituted guardian. The wife and not the husband only, had heirs and transmissible rights.

Further, the husband on marriage frequently surrendered his land and received it back in joint tenancy for himself and his wife though with remainder this time to his heirs.

Purchases of land were generally made in the names of both and consequently the widow sat securely in her husband's tenement and often

took it for her lifetime to another husband. On one or two occasions we find her even trying to pass it on to her heirs in preference to his by a surrender during her lifetime and there were several such cases brought before the Manorial Courts.

Women could claim land in the Courts on equal terms with men.

A further evidence of the high position held by women under this Abbey is the way in which, when heiresses marry, they so often keep their maiden names, while husbands change theirs to their wives' names.—*Published by the Surrey Records Society.*

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