

# THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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Daughter of the ancient Eve,  
We know the gifts ye gave and give;  
Who knows the gifts which *you* shall give,  
Daughter of the Newer Eve?

*Francis Thompson.*

## St. Joan's International Meets in London

The 1949 Council Meeting of St. Joan's International Alliance took place in London from October 7th-9th.

The Conference opened with a reception given by Dame Vera Laughton Mathews at her flat in Westminster. Members of other International Organisations and the British St. Joan's Committee were invited to meet the delegates and it was pleasant to renew friendly contacts before the beginning of much business.

The next day, Saturday, Father Worlock offered Mass for the successful deliberations of the Council Meeting. The delegates sat in Conference all day from ten in the morning until seven in the evening. There was a welcome break for lunch and another for tea generously provided by Dame Vera, who had nobly put her flat at the disposal of the Council. Food gifts from our Australian colleagues added greatly to the festivities.

Those present at the Council Meeting were: President, Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, D.B.E.; Vice-Presidents, Madame Pesson Depret (France), Dr. Maria Schlüter-Hermkes (Germany), Madame Leroy-Boy (Belgium); the Honorary Secretary, Miss Florence Barry, and the following delegates: Great Britain, Mrs. Shattock, M.D., D.P.M., and Miss Pauline Brandt; France, Madame Marie-José Russo, President, and Madame Marthe Gouffé, the International Treasurer; Brazil, Miss Spender (Proxy); Australia (Victoria), Miss Sheila Thornton and Miss K. G. Jameson (Proxy); New South Wales, Mrs. Jean Daly, President, and Miss Margaret Vaile; Germany, Frau Brauksiepe, M.P., President, and Dr. Angèle Auburtin; Transvaal, Miss P. C. Challoner (Proxy); West Australia, Mrs. Atkinson.

The Women of Malta Association was unable to send a representative but sent a report of good work done.

It was sad that neither Dr. Marga Klompé, of Holland, nor Madame Freuler-Bühler, of Switzerland, were able to attend the Council Meeting this year. Dr. Klompé was at the United Nations Assembly as a delegate from her country.

The morning session began with the formal admission of two new Sections—the Transvaal and West Australia, both of which were warmly

welcomed by the delegates. The Secretary, Miss Barry, then gave an account of the concerted action which St. Joan's International had been able to carry out with the co-operation of each National Section at the United Nations—instancing particularly work done regarding the Draft Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons. The French delegates brought good news of the safe passage, without amendment, of Article 6 of the Convention (see Resolution) through the Third Committee of the United Nations Assembly. They deplored their country's amendment in favour of the medical registration of prostitutes.

A letter was sent from the Meeting to the Trusteeship Council saying that the Alliance awaited with interest the Report of the Visiting Mission about to set out to the Cameroons and Togoland under British and French Administration, as the Petition concerning compulsory marriage and child marriage submitted by the Alliance to the Council would be investigated by the Visiting Mission.

During the Meeting, both morning and afternoon, many important decisions were taken and accounts of the work of National Sections were heard. The Resolutions passed and sent to the appropriate Authorities will be found at the end of this article. There were some touching moments—such as when Frau Brauksiepe asked for our prayers for the Alliance in Germany, prayers which, she said, were sorely needed, not so much for the Section itself, as for the soil in which it had to grow and flourish. There was a thrill when Miss Challoner reported on the foundation of the Transvaal Section, and told of the hard spadework put into this new effort.

The New South Wales Section put forward some courageous suggestions for the improvement of the exchange of news and views, throughout the English-speaking Sections at any rate.

On Sunday, October 9th, an unforgettable afternoon was spent at Hampton Court. Other members of St. Joan's Alliance in London joined in a coach trip to the famous palace and gardens. It was a perfect autumn day and the gardens lay under their golden and bronze dress in a quiet peace, typically English. Some delegates visited the palace and the pictures and others wandered

happily about the grounds. After tea the energetic French and Belgian representatives went for a row on the river. Later we drove back, tired but happy, feeling all the better for some welcome light relief.

On Monday evening, October 10th, a Public Meeting was held at the Holy Child Convent, Cavendish Square, by kind permission of the Reverend Mother. Dr. Shattock was in the chair and the speakers were Madame Russo, Madame Gouffé, Miss Sheila Thornton, Madame Leroy-Boy, Mrs. Daly, Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes, Frau Brauksiepe, Mrs. Atkinson and Miss P. C. Challoner. A most appreciative and enthusiastic audience filled the large room put at our disposal and the cosmopolitan atmosphere was both inspiring and encouraging.

The Chairman refreshed the memories of those present with an account of the beginnings of the Alliance when it was founded by Gabrielle Jeffery on March 25th, 1911, with the object of working with other Societies for votes for women. She described later objectives and triumphs and went on to tell of the foundation of St. Joan's International with the French Section in 1931, the year of the Quincentenary of the burning of St. Joan. In the following order came the foundation of Sections in other countries: Brazil, 1936; Australia (Victoria), 1936; New South Wales, 1946; Malta, 1947; Germany, 1947; Holland, 1948; Transvaal, 1949; Western Australia, 1949.

Then Dr. Shattock introduced Madame Russo, who had succeeded Madame Pesson-Depret as the new French President. Madame Russo was the youngest President of a Section so far, and mother of three small children. Madame Russo thanked Headquarters for her welcome and expressed her pleasure in meeting her fellow delegates. She spoke of the importance of having a French Section in view of certain special lines of work—such as that for "native" women—undertaken by the Alliance. Madame Gouffé was introduced as the Treasurer of St. Joan's International and as a very young grandmother. Madame Gouffé appealed to those present to support the officers of the Alliance—the coffers were always empty and she appealed for funds for a good cause. She appreciated the generous welcome extended to her in England and would carry back to France unforgettable memories.

Miss Sheila Thornton, representing the Victoria Section, brought greetings from Melbourne, and gave an account of much good work done by the Section, particularly as regards the welfare of the Aborigines, the Draft Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons, and Equal Pay. She was honoured to be a delegate at such a successful Conference.

Madame Leroy-Boy, of Belgium, dwelt grate-

fully on her links with English workers in the cause of women's emancipation, and described the curious situation in Belgium when women were eligible for Parliament but could not vote. That was now changed but there was still much work to do, especially in connection with the status of married women under the Civil Code. It was interesting and stimulating to attend an International Meeting and realise what was being done in each country for the women's cause.

Mrs. Daly brought greetings from the New South Wales Section, which was about to celebrate its third Annual Meeting. She felt that the work of St. Joan's International could be linked up through the United Nations and she hoped the New South Wales St. Joan's would soon be able to work with the women of the Pan-Pacific and that delegates could be sent to Conferences in that area. The progress in Australia had been most heartening.

Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes, introduced as a member of over twenty years' standing and a very distinguished scholar in her own country, said the fact that a Section of St. Joan's could be started in Germany meant a very great deal to German Catholic women. She mentioned that for some time the *Catholic Citizen* had been the only link with the outside world and how eagerly the St. Joan's group in Germany had read it. She thought the most important contribution the Alliance had to make was the development of the image of God in every woman until at last mankind and the world in general had accepted this ideal.

Frau Brauksiepe, introduced as a member of the Western German Bundestag, said that meeting the members of St. Joan's was like an opening of windows. She described how the work of St. Joan's on the Declaration of Human Rights had indirectly helped Germany as parts of the Declaration had been incorporated in the Constitution of Western Germany. The spirit of St. Joan knew no limitations and every member of the German group was going ahead in this spirit.

Mrs. Atkinson, from Western Australia, said she felt it a great privilege to represent the newest Section which had been founded on May 30th this year. On her return to Australia she would do all in her power to promote the interests of the Alliance.

Miss P. C. Challoner gave an account of her part in the founding of the new Section in Transvaal. She said she had found her task simple owing to the spadework of Miss Marguerite Fedden, who had drawn in a number of members when she had visited South Africa. Miss Challoner said that the programme had been founded on three principles—it was confined to working for the status of women, it was open to members of

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## Notes and Comments

We offer our respectful congratulations to His Eminence Cardinal Griffin on the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of his Priesthood on November 1st.

Princess Elizabeth, speaking to the younger members of the Mothers' Union on October 18th, urged them to uphold the sanctity of marriage and pointed out the havoc wrought by the break-up of homes through divorce and separation. She said: "I do not think you can perform any finer service than to help maintain the Christian doctrine that the relation of husband and wife is a permanent one, not likely to be broken because of difficulties or quarrels."

"I believe there is a great fear in our generation of being labelled as priggish. In consequence, people are sometimes afraid to show disapproval of what they know to be wrong, and thus they end by seeming to condone what in their hearts they dislike. I am sure that it is just as wrong to err on that side as it is to be intolerant and over-critical."

The following resolution was passed by the Equal Pay Campaign Committee (of which St. Joan's Alliance is a constituent organisation) on October 26th:

The Equal Pay Campaign Committee, while recognising the gravity of the country's present economic position, is resolved to continue to press for the adoption of Equal Pay, maintaining that changing circumstances cannot affect the fundamental principle of justice and that it is unjust to require women workers to continue to bear the burden of lower rates of pay in addition to the sacrifices asked of men and women alike in the national crisis.

Dr. Genevieve Rewcastle, a past president of the Catholic Women's League, has been adopted as Conservative candidate for West Willesden.

In the *International Women's News* of November there are interesting notes from the Society affiliated to the International Alliance of Women in Western Australia, to questions on various points on the Alliance programme. We note with amusement the following reply:

Admission of Women to the Church, West Australia. R.C. Sisters and Mother Superiors only.

Doris Scott, aged 30, of Monkton, beat twelve men in a Thanet ploughing contest.

### HON. TREASURER'S NOTE

It would be a great help if those few members who have not yet paid their subscriptions for 1949 would do so without delay. Minimum subscription 10/6 which includes the "Catholic Citizen."

On November 1st a pleasant yet sad occasion took place when friends of Mrs. Katherine Bompas gathered at the Minerva Club to present her with the cheque collected as a farewell gift from the societies attending the Amsterdam Congress of the International Alliance of Women. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, in the Chair, said it was a pleasure to tell Mrs. Bompas exactly what she thought of her for once—as she valued her so highly. She could not get used to the idea of Mrs. Bompas no longer being in charge of the International Alliance of Women as secretary, but fortunately she had been voted on to the Board and they would have the benefit of her wise guidance. Mrs. Ashby read a message from Mrs. Abbott of the Open Door International who was unable to be present. In it she spoke of Mrs. Bompas' valour and quoted Pericles, who deemed that "happiness consists in freedom and freedom in valour."

In a gracious and humorous speech, Mrs. Bompas expressed gratitude for her presentation gift and said she would never forget the comradeship and friendship of the Woman's Movement. She could only say: "Dear, dear friends, thank you for everything"—and she thanked Mrs. Corbett Ashby especially for a beautiful bunch of lilies, and her kind hostess, Miss Marian Reeves, "the hostess of the woman's movement." When everyone had sung "For she's a jolly good fellow!" spontaneous tributes to Mrs. Bompas followed from many representatives of societies present and from individuals. Old and new friends gratefully united in praise of Mrs. Bompas and in hoping that she would often come among them again.

The party was arranged by the three British Auxiliaries of the International Alliance of Women and took place at the Minerva Club through the kindness of Miss Marian Reeves, who provided delicious refreshments.

The R.A.F. is to enlist women school teachers in its Education Branch.

### CHRISTMAS SALE—November 26th

We should be grateful for contributions, either in kind or cash, to be sent to the office as soon as possible. It is only ten days till the Sale and we have much to collect. New and secondhand goods are welcome, as well as food, and, of course, money. As you will remember, the Sale takes place in St. Patrick's Club Rooms, Soho Square, from 12 to 5.30. We shall hope to see all of you there with your friends and we can assure you of a warm welcome. There will be delicious lunches and teas.

N. CARR, Sale Secretary.

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

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

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.*  
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### The Sacrament of Marriage

It used to be quite common to hear women described as the "weaker sex," but after they had gained a measure of economic and legal equality and as the examples of their endurance and fortitude accumulated, this description was used mainly in jest.

There is one sense, however, in which one might speak of weakness or, rather, of the disproportionate effort required of many women. They continue to bear the main burden imposed by the rearing and care of children and frequently undertake the care of their aged parents. In most cases they do this gladly, without grudging the labour and the constant anxiety which the care of young children and old people involves. Although these duties are cheerfully accepted, many women feel that our social system does little to lighten the weight of this burden and gives them few opportunities to maintain their interests and exert their influence on the larger community outside the home circle. Should a woman be specially gifted, the sacrifice of what may rightly be regarded as God's special gifts to her, may involve much mental suffering and, incidentally, a loss to the community. With a little foresight and with a more generous recognition of the hardship involved, it should be possible to devise measures which will allow the mothers of young families to enjoy periods of rest and occasional moments of privacy. As Catholics we have the immeasurable advantage over other well-disposed planners and social reformers in that we need not dispute about the values which we wish to retain and those we decide to discard. This assurance will prevent our adopting "remedies" which are worse than the difficulties they seek to remedy. We do however require, in many cases, to understand better and more fully the help which the practical application of the tenets of our Faith can give us and the mind of the Church on the problems with which we are concerned. We could not wish for a clearer, more erudite and reverent exposition of the prob-

\* "The Mystery of Sex and Marriage," by Rev. E. C.

lems of sex and marriage than that which we owe to the Rev. E. C. Messenger, Ph. D. In three volumes,\* an Introduction, a volume devoted to the Mystery of Sex and Marriage and one to the Practice of Sex and Marriage, Father Messenger has given us a documented analysis of the Church's mind on these subjects. He deserves the gratitude of all those who wish to see woman restored to the place assigned to her by her Creator and of those who realise that her worst disabilities have arisen from a disregard of the doctrines of Christianity. We need only think of such abominations as organised prostitution, child marriage, selling of brides and, nearer to us, of the sale of contraceptives by the slot machine.

It is impossible to give an adequate idea of the erudition of Father Messenger's work in this short notice. Every important point is submitted to a thorough and patient analysis and his conclusions are always convincing and helpful. The physical factors of human reproduction are treated with frankness. This does not detract, but rather enhances the reverence with which the facts of human procreation are presented. "Since the creation of the world, God's invisible attributes, His everlasting power and divinity are to be discerned and contemplated in His works." The chapter on the difficult subject of "shame" is particularly useful, as this subject is treated here with great erudition and wisdom. When dealing with the subject of modesty, and clothes, Father Messenger reminds us that St. Thomas allows for considerable variation in standards of clothing, "according to time, place and circumstances." St. Thomas Aquinas could not be included among those who condemn as sinful the use of male garb by women, upon occasion, provided there is good reason for this. Our Land girls should have been fortified with this information, as it was not unknown for them to be rebuked for their lack of modesty by those who would surely have deferred to the wisdom of St. Thomas.

Messenger, Ph.D. (Sands 3 Vols., 22s. 6d.).

If criticism of two minor points is permissible, one might suggest that although moodiness and other mild mental disturbances during menstruation figure prominently in most textbooks of gynaecology, they are quite exceptional in healthy, active young women. It can also be said that the differences in the mental characteristics of the sexes have been proved by recent anthropological studies to be very dependent on custom and other environmental factors. Male and female characteristics may differ as much in members of the same sex, who belong to different tribal cultures, as they differ between members of the opposite sex who belong to the same culture, but curiously enough these differences are usually complementary in members of the opposite sex within the same culture.

F. M. SHATTOCK, M.D., D.P.M.

### ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL—

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all races, and it included as a special point the integrity of the Bantu family. She referred to the status of women in South Africa under the unsatisfactory Roman Dutch law, and ended by reporting that besides the new Transvaal Section she had left a liaison officer for St. Joan's in Natal, and also an officer in the Cape.

Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, in proposing the vote of thanks, expressed gratitude to the delegates for coming to the Council Meeting. She had found the Conference most inspiring and encouraging and tremendously worthwhile. It was encouraging to see young women and old pioneers and mothers and grandmothers gathered together round the table; St. Joan's International had made tremendous strides since the end of the war. There was to be a Council Meeting every year, according to the Constitution—and there had already been three since the war—in Brussels, in Paris and in London. It was hoped to hold an open Conference next year in Italy during the Holy Year. It was evident to all that much work remained yet to be done in every country and also internationally. Miss Fahie seconded the vote of thanks.

So ended the official side of the Council Meeting, but for a short while longer we were able to enjoy the visit of our foreign delegates to this country. The British members were very glad to be able to offer them hospitality in however humble a fashion and very sorry to see them go. It is hoped that they returned to their own countries strengthened for work in the year ahead.

M.B.S.

### RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE COUNCIL MEETING OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE, LONDON, OCTOBER, 1949.

#### Universal Declaration of Human Rights

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance welcomes the adoption of the universal Declaration of Human Rights whereby the General Assembly of the United Nations reaffirmed its "faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women." St. Joan's International Alliance calls upon all State members to implement the principle of "equal rights of men and women" by abolishing all legal and administrative discriminations, based on sex. It further urges that in the Implementation of the Covenant, individuals and groups should have the right and opportunity to Petition the United Nations in respect of violations of the Covenant.

#### Traffic in Persons.

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance calls upon the Assembly of the United Nations to adopt the Draft Convention for the suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of others as sent to the Assembly by the Economic and Social Council. It calls upon the Assembly to reject any amendment to Article 6 of the Convention which would permit the card-indexing and periodical examination of prostitutes by the Health Authorities on grounds of hygiene; and points out:

- that such measures are merely a camouflage of the State Regulation of vice, substituting the Health Authority for Police Control.
- that a compulsory periodical examination of prostitutes or suspected prostitutes and their registration with any authority is the heart of State Regulation of Vice;
- that such a system has long proved not only morally degrading but also hygienically futile;
- that by permitting these exceptional measures this system creates and maintains a class of women who are especially vulnerable to exploitation and the trafficker;
- that any amendment permitting or condoning such a system would be directly contrary to the spirit, meaning and purpose of the whole Convention and would destroy its integrity and is a direct violation of the Declaration of Human Rights.

#### Status of Women

(a) St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance records its appreciation of the work done by the Status of Women Commission and is gratified that equality of Status has been accepted in all the relevant articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It considers that on the basis of that equality, work concerning the status of women should now be transferred to the Human Rights Commission, and that the Status of Women Commission should be terminated as a separate Commission.

(b) St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance pledges itself to continue its work for the following five points:

No child or woman, whatever her race, shall be treated as a chattel to be sold by her father or alleged proprietor.

Every woman shall be permitted to choose her own partner in life despite any contract entered into in her name by any other person.

No marriage contract shall be made for any girl under fourteen nor for any woman over fourteen without her consent.

There shall be no lending out of wives under any pretext.

Widows shall not be inherited. They should be free to dispose of themselves and their children as they think fit, remain with the husband's family, go back to their own, be independent or re-marry.

*St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance reaffirms the following Resolutions passed at its Council Meeting in Brussels in 1947:*

#### Political Rights

St. Joan's Alliance expresses its satisfaction that equal franchise and eligibility for men and women have been granted in so many countries. It calls upon those Governments, which have not already done so, to grant women the same political rights as men.

#### Economic Rights

St. Joan's Alliance calls upon all Governments to establish equal pay for equal work for men and women throughout their services with equal opportunities for training, employment and promotion. It demands that in all labour legislation, equal protection shall be given to men and women against exploitation, industrial accident or disease; that all insurance or pension schemes shall be based on a system of equal contributions and equal benefits for men and women.

#### Education

St. Joan's Alliance believes that it is essential for a peaceful democracy that education should be based on religion and spiritual values.

St. Joan's Alliance urges all Governments and also Administering Authorities in Trust Territories to ensure that in all schemes of education, equal opportunities shall be available for boys and girls, men and women, irrespective of religion or race.

#### Marriage

St. Joan's Alliance believes that the Sacrament of Marriage entails an indissoluble monogamous union entered into with the full consent of both parties; with a full sense of responsibility and without the intention to restrict procreation by artificial means.

It demands that those laws which still impose a measure of civil incapacity upon the wife and married mother shall be rescinded.

- (i) A married woman shall have the same rights as other citizens—
  - (a) regarding nationality and domicile;
  - (b) to contract, earn and to exercise rights over her own earnings and property.
- (ii) A married woman should exercise equal rights with her husband over the children born of their marriage.
- (iii) There should be no legal bar to a woman undertaking work outside the home, though she should not be forced to do so by economic necessity.
- (iv) The economic status of the housewife should be raised. It should be legally recognised that both are partners, and each of them is entitled to share in the family income.

#### Equal Moral Standard

(a) St. Joan's Alliance reaffirms its belief in the same high moral standard for both sexes. It calls upon all Governments to abolish State regulation of prostitution and to make all third party exploitation of vice a legal offence.

(b) St. Joan's Alliance demands that laws to safeguard public order shall apply equally to men and women; and that all measures taken to prevent the spread of venereal disease shall be free, voluntary and confidential.

#### PARLIAMENTARY NOTE

With commendable speed, Mr. Ede, Home Secretary, has sent to local authorities the text of the model bye-law to ban the *sale of contraceptives from slot machines*, announced in Parliament on October 20th. They have been requested to deal with the matter urgently.

The text reads: "It shall be an offence to offer a contraceptive for sale by means of an automatic machine so placed that it can be used by persons who are in the street." The text contains a careful definition of "street" and an account of fines to be imposed on offending persons.

On October 20th, Sir Henry Morris-Jones asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department "if he is aware that automatic slot machines for the sale of contraceptives are placed outside cinemas in certain areas of Greater London, in Kent and in Surrey; and what steps he is taking to draw local authorities' attention to the urgent need of counteracting the danger to the health of our people contained in this open invitation to juveniles to indulge in indiscriminate sexual intercourse?" Mr. Lipsom and Mr. William Teeling asked similar questions.

Mr. Ede replying, said: "I have given the most careful consideration to this question, and I have come to the conclusion that the social mischiefs involved are so serious as to require immediate action. I have accordingly given instructions for a model bye-law to be drafted prohibiting the sale of contraceptives by means of automatic machines. This model bye-law will be circulated to all county and borough councils for their consideration, and, if adopted, will be subject to confirmation by me."

Sir H. Morris-Jones declared that the whole nation would be relieved at this attitude. He was not sure, however, whether the question was being dealt with on quite a national basis and he asked how soon the procedure announced by Mr. Ede would be completed in view of the extension of the evil. Mr. Ede answered that he would see it carried through with "the greatest expedition." He thought that the reception given by the House to the question would indicate "to the people who have been engaged in this particular activity . . . the state of the public conscience in the matter."

Mr. Eden asked the Home Secretary why he chose to proceed by way of a model bye-law and not by legislation, "because will not that be optional?"

Mr. Ede: "We should have to make arrangements for enforcement by some local means and . . . therefore, to secure the active consent and approval of the local authority concerned would probably be a very good way of ensuring that the law will be enforced. I am quite sure the House will agree that we do not want, whether by way

of legislation or by bye-law, merely to pass some words, and that we want to be quite certain that the bye-law or the law will be effective."

Mr. Ronald Chamberlain asked the Home Secretary to enter into consultation with the President of the Board of Trade to look into the matter of marketing the machines to gain dollars, as that had been one of the main purposes of installing them.

Mr. Ede: "No, Sir. These are not special machines that are manufactured for this purpose only. If a receptacle of the same size is used these machines can be used for other purposes and a coin of the same weight will work them. There are no special machines for this purpose. What we are proposing to do is to prohibit the sale of contraceptives from the machines."

#### INTERNATIONAL NOTES

**Italy.** Before a packed House, on October 13th, Senator Merlin introduced her Bill for the abolition of the *maisons tolérées* in Italy.

Before discussing the Bill, Signora Merlin told the House she had been inundated with suggestions from all sorts of people who wished to submit counter-proposals. She had received insults and even threats from those whose interests were directly menaced, but, she declared, "nothing can shake my faith."

She quoted from letters received from some of the inmates of these houses of ill-fame and told of what she herself had seen when she had visited them. Life there, she said, was based on exploitation—from the State to the proprietor, from the doctor to the chemist and the policeman. She spoke of the White Slave traders in places like Turin where there were well organised agencies for recruiting these girls and how they are enticed by fair promises of employment.

But most deplorable of all, said the Senator, is the fact that the State sanctions these houses by the levying of a tax on "*illicita morale*." Italy was one of the few countries left which had State Regulation of Prostitution.

Further discussion on the Bill was adjourned. We congratulate Signora Merlin and trust that her campaign will shortly be brought to a successful issue.

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**South Africa.** Congratulations to Mrs. McGrath, President of the Transvaal Section of St. Joan's International Alliance, on her re-election as Independent, to the Municipal Council of Roodepoort-Maraisburg; also to our member, Mrs. Maytom, M.P.C., on her election as Deputy-Mayor of Durban.

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**U.S.A.** Mrs. Eugenie Anderson has been nominated by President Truman as Ambassador to Denmark.

#### Reviews

**The Taxation of Women.** By W. G. Barlex. (Hallmark Books, 1s. 6d.)

This timely pamphlet, published at the modest price of 1s. 6d., excellently summarises the incidence of taxation on women and the various anomalies that exist. The author states that its primary concern is to encourage those who are agitating for reform. But it surely ought to have a far wider appeal. Many taxpayers do not join in agitation as they are unaware of its necessity and in taxation matters especially there is woeful ignorance. A copy of this pamphlet should be in the hands of all parents in the middle income groups where the wife is not "gainfully employed," as they have a real taxation grievance which is simply and clearly explained. They would then be in a position to press for some easement of their burden. Married surtax payers, where the wife has a separate income, will also find it of great interest. B. GADSBY.

**The Legal and Economic Status of Women.** By Florence Earengy. (National Council of Women, 1s.)

Mrs. Earengy's paper on the Legal and Economic Status of Women, which she read before the Medico-Legal Society last June, is now issued in pamphlet form by the N.C.W., of which she is President. It is full of interesting matter and reveals the slow but sure process of the removal from the law of disabilities based on sex. If one had to criticise so useful and complete a summary, told with many light and amusing touches, it would be on the lines that she has perhaps regarded the process of emancipation as continuous, whereas it seems truer to history to regard it as "staggered." Surely, for instance, the women of the Christian Renaissance were, even in England, freer than their sisters of Puritan and Restoration times. When Mrs. Earengy speaks of Canon Law's insistence "on the wife's subjection to her husband and her utter obedience to his will" as surviving in the "older" form of marriage service she is obviously thinking of the Anglican Prayer Book of Edward VI, when the words of which she complains were interpolated into the marriage service under the influence of Cranmer and the German Protestant Divines. In the still older Catholic marriage rite the vow, which is the essence of the Sacrament, is identical for both spouses. P.C.C.

**Dark Extremity.** By Marguerite Fedden. (Burlington Press, 7s. 6d.)

This is the story of Guy Ford who is condemned to blindness as the result of an unnoticed injury by blast in the last War. He releases his fiancée Lois—who accepts release rather too willingly—

but Rose, a friend of his sister's, loves him dearly and they end by marrying. The couple go to Quebec, where is found the unexpected solution of Guy's difficulties. Guy brings Rose back to England and settles down to his first ambition—farming. Rose adopts Lois' child, on her death, and has a son of her own—and all ends happily.

This is a mere outline of an eventful plot, full of character and action. It is essentially a friendly story—one becomes fond of the people in it. Apart from the journey to Quebec, most of the action takes place in Bath, which Miss Fedden evidently knows and loves well, but interesting as are certain historical details dealing with Bath and Quebec, they somewhat interrupt the flow of the tale. The background is Catholic, and well sketched in. C.S.

#### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

*Marguerite Fedden in the "Catholic Citizen,"  
November, 1924.*

But on second thoughts we may deem we have done good work in silencing the scoffer, breaking down ignorance and disarming prejudice. Scoffing, for did not a laughing Canadian youth ask if the stones with which we weighted our papers were the self-same with which we were pelted in the old days? Ignorance, for an assiduous worker inviting people to sign the petition, was able to lighten the darkness of at least one individual.

"Come in and sign our petition," she said brightly.

Member of British Public: "What for?"

Assiduous Worker: "Equal Franchise."

Member of British Public, with eyes glistening at the idea of a new murder drama: "Who's he?"

Prejudice, for the dreamy Oxford man who strolled in for a chat, has now realised that the suffrage women do not all sport stiff collars and ties, nor do they adopt the divided skirt of his boyish nightmares.

The Yorkshire millhand, the Sheffield steel-worker, the Welsh collier, have come up in their thousands and have learnt that the suffragettes, whom they had been taught to call "the wild women," are merely ordinary, intelligent people, keen on their work for the cause of humanity. And a great propaganda has been done from our little Hut by giving out leaflets and literature to countless people, who have slipped the pamphlets in their free sample bags, for perusal at their leisure on their way home in packed excursion trains. Who knows how the seed sown at random may find good soil and fructify, thus abolishing sex antagonism and injustice.—*I.W.S.A. Pavilion at Wembley.*

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