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WOMEN'S SERVICE

# 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.*

## Tribute to a Friend

In our last issue we recorded with sorrow the sudden death of His Excellency, Archbishop Hughes on July 12th, in his forty-seventh year. Archbishop Hughes was staying with his family at Ewell when he died of heart failure. R.I.P.

At the time of his death Monsignor Arthur Hughes was Titular Archbishop of Aprus and Apostolic Internuncio to Egypt. He entered the novitiate of the White Fathers in 1918, at the age of sixteen, was ordained in 1927 and was sent in 1933 to Uganda where he became secretary-general for the Catholic missions. On the outbreak of war with Italy he was made responsible for the Vicariate of the Equatorial Nile in Northern Uganda. In 1943 he was transferred to the post of Regent of the Apostolic Delegation in Egypt and Palestine and in 1945 he was appointed Titular Bishop of Hieropolis. He became the first Internuncio to Egypt in 1947 when the status of Vatican representation was raised to diplomatic level and at the same time he was translated to the Titular Archbishopric of Aprus. Monsignor Hughes did much to increase the friendliness of the relations between the various Catholic rites and other Christian bodies and also between the Catholics and the Moslems; he was beloved by all sections of the community. Held in regard by Arabs and Jews, he was greatly concerned with the plight of Arab refugees, and just before he left Egypt he was received by King Farouk, who asked him to express to the Pope his gratitude for the relief work done by Catholics among the Arab refugees from Palestine.

In 1933, just before his departure to Uganda, St. Joan's Alliance had the honour of making Father Arthur Hughes' (as he then was) acquaintance when he lectured to us on June 26th at a meeting on Slavery as affecting women, which was held under our auspices at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square. What he said then was typical of much he was to write to our secretary in letters throughout the years to come.

"Nothing could be done without sound principles," he insisted. "For instance, one should not

denounce war and then make money on the manufacture of arms; one should not uphold feminism and yet speak of women as beings of imagination and sensibility, and talk of their pitfalls." He went on to speak of the sufferings of African women. "Wives in Africa represent slave-labour and therefore riches; they are also considered as breeders of slaves, and not a quarter of the evidence collected in this respect has come before the League of Nation's Commissioners." He urged the Alliance to be a "voice" for these inarticulate women. Later, when Father Hughes was in Uganda, he gave invaluable help with our questionnaire regarding the status of African women.

In 1946 we again had the honour of hearing—this time—Monsignor Hughes speak. He was now the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Arthur Hughes, Bishop of Hieropolis and Delegate Apostolic to Egypt and Palestine. He spared us a precious evening and brought with him his mother and sister-in-law and Brother Francis of the Brothers of Christian Doctrine, an African from Uganda. Introduced by Dr. Shattock, Monsignor Hughes chose as the title of an extraordinarily illuminating talk—"The Longest Advent." He explained his title: "The Virgin, the Mother of the Redeemer, was venerated as a symbol of what womanhood could attain, but Christianity was not fully achieved until the glory and liberty that Almighty God intended for women was fully realised; redemption of the race was not yet achieved, nor the emancipation of women and we are awaiting this time; we are waiting for the longest Advent to come to an end." Bishop Hughes went on to talk of the women of Africa, more especially in regard to his experience of Uganda. He talked of women's education in Uganda—of the triumph of the founding of a Girl's Secondary School, "which crowned the founding of other schools," and of how one chief on his deathbed gave the hundred acres for a Girls' College on Nabbingo that he had refused during his lifetime. He was too modest to mention that on his arrival in Africa there were only seven schools for girls; on his departure there were



over two hundred. Bishop Hughes ended his talk by repeating that we were still passing through the longest Advent. "Advent is associated with ideas of worthiness and readiness, and during 'the longest Advent' feminists should think things out and read and meditate so that they could speak with ever more conviction. Full equality, liberty and emancipation is the completion of the Christian ideal. Our Lord by allowing devotion to Our Lady to become an integral part of our Catholic Faith paved the way for feminism—when He came to earth practically everything had still to be done towards the emancipation of women, not only equality had to be achieved, but something more, therefore external marks of respect towards women should be maintained and expected. *Your crusade is associated with the longest Advent. Pray and work with greater courage.*"

The next—and alas—the last—time we heard him he had become Archbishop Hughes, Papal Internuncio. The occasion was a few days before his death when having rung up the office, he asked if he might attend a small gathering of St. Joan's members which took place at the flat of Dame Vera Laughton Mathews (Westminster). He introduced to us Madame Marie-Catherine Boulad, a Catholic and a distinguished Egyptian journalist, and at the same time he told us how glad he was to be among us once more and how he had always followed our work with the greatest interest. He was particularly glad to know of the formation of the Transvaal Section of the Alliance.

At the solemn Mass of Requiem sung by Father Howell, Provincial of the White Fathers, at Stoneleigh Church, prior to the burial at the White Fathers' College, Bishops Waltham, Dr. Shattock represented St. Joan's Alliance. The Alliance was represented by Dame Vera Laughton Mathews and Miss I. R. V. Welch at the Solemn Requiem at Brompton Oratory on July 21st. Both Requiems were sung in the presence of the Apostolic Delegate.

St. Joan's Alliance mourns the loss of a radiant personality, a generous and ardent supporter who was particularly *understanding* in his support and invariably gentle and courteous in his dealings with us. He spared time from an arduous career to write often and encouragingly to our Hon. Secretary, and never failed to show interest in our work, writing with touching gratitude to ask that the member who subscribed for the *Catholic Citizen* to be sent to him regularly might be specially thanked. We shall miss his sympathy and encouragement greatly. We know our members will remember him in their prayers.

## Daughter of Josephine Butler

**State Regulation of Vice.** The evils to which we have become acclimatised because they form part of our physical or moral surroundings, may seem less terrible than those which are unfamiliar, and it may only be the voice of one who has attained a true sense of proportion and of justice which will shock us into their full realisation. The voice of Antonietta De Silvestri rises clear and strident against Regulated Prostitution in the Italian Review *Il Ponte*. She is courageous, aggressive and sarcastic in turn, she does not believe in "lesser evils". Her cause is not a popular one. She claims that prostitution and regulation are not identical evils; that registration and tolerated houses are closely related. The inmates of these houses are relatively few, they cannot be maintained in "good health" for long—but their recruitment is active and often arduous; their fate might be envied by some, as it is in some ways sheltered and luxurious, did it not lead the shortest way to Hell, a Hell which precedes the grave. Once admitted their case is hopeless; they cannot accuse others without accusing themselves. Signora De Silvestri knows what she is talking about, she records what these women have said to her and what those say who derive a comfortable, lucrative and often respectable living from this form of slavery. She reminds us that many slaves consent to slavery and that this does not salve the consciences of the slave-dealers. It is impossible to doubt the factual material recorded, chapter and verse is given for the majority of statements and opinions advanced.

Regulation involves corruption of the officials who enforce it, be it in the special form of a tolerated house or in registration. The latter evil is in some ways even more regrettable in its consequences. It leads to persecution of "innocent" women, to blackmailing and to a degrading and even dangerous form of medical inspection; the healthy and the infected are herded together; they are sometimes made to wait four persons in one bed and the inspection is carried out with instruments which are insufficiently cleansed, or contaminated. The physical evils are indeed great, but they are no greater than their moral equivalents. These involve a complete disregard for the most elementary human rights and for the dignity of the human person.

This is not a nice story—nothing could make it so—but those who have fought regulation in all its forms (not least in its modified version as Regulation 33B) will rejoice that this courageous woman has been raised, and will wish this daughter of Josephine Butler success and God speed in her difficult task in Italy. F. M. SHATTOCK.

## Notes and Comments

We offer our heartiest congratulations to our Chairman, Dr. Shattock, on having obtained the further degree of M.D. in Psychological Medicine, and on having been awarded the Gold Medal of London University for a thesis embodying research work in Psychiatry.

\* \* \*  
On July 28th, Lord Reading's motion that women peers should no longer be disqualified from sitting in the House of Lords was passed. It called for legislation "as soon as may be practicable." This was the first time such a motion has not been defeated. Four times previously it has been thrown out, since 1919. In a letter to the *Times*, Lord Pethick Lawrence pointed out that two issues were involved in the debate:

(1) whether admission should be confined to existing peeresses in their own right—described by some as an "extension of the hereditary principle"—or on a wider basis, and (2) whether the admission of women should precede or form part of a larger measure of House of Lords reform. It is curious that these disagreements reproduce very closely the disputes of 30 years ago relating to the enfranchisement of women. The differences then were (1) whether the vote should be given to women on the same terms as the existing male franchise—described by some as "votes for propertied women"—and (2) whether woman suffrage should precede or form part of general electoral reform. In the end both these issues were resolved by a "Speaker's Conference" which found a sensible compromise. Would it not be possible to-day for a "Lord Chancellor's Conference" or some other suitable body to be entrusted with the similar task of finding a way through the admitted entanglements of the present problems and of producing a workable solution?

\* \* \*  
We congratulate Elvira Laughton Mathews on her marriage to Mr. Dale Mathers on July 23rd. Dr. Shattock represented the Alliance at the wedding at Westminster Cathedral and afterwards at the reception at Admiralty House. It seems only like the other day that Elvira, aged two-and-a-half, was present at the High Mass at Westminster Cathedral, offered by request of the Alliance in thanksgiving for the granting of Equal Franchise. To quote the *Catholic Citizen* of July, 1928, after Mass when a procession led by our founder, Gabrielle Jeffery, passed round the Cathedral to the Shrine of St. Joan: "Little Elvira, dressed in our colours and wearing our badge, walked in the procession holding her mother's hand, and with great dignity placed a nosegay in our colours on the shrine of St. Joan." This was an historic occasion—when leaders of the Suffrage campaign, including Dame Millicent Fawcett and Mrs. Despard, joined with us in this act of thanksgiving at Westminster Cathedral. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Dale Mathers every happiness in the coming years.

Two women were among the delegates to the European Assembly at Strasburg: Miss Margaret Herbison, M.P., from Great Britain, and Dr. Marga Klompé, from the Netherlands. Dr. Klompé has again been appointed alternate delegate for her country at the forthcoming Assembly of the United Nations.

\* \* \*  
Out of 402 members, twenty-six women have been elected to the Bundestag in Germany. Ten are Christian Democrats and twelve are Social Democrats. We are delighted to know that among them is the new President of the German Section of St. Joan's International Alliance, Frau Aenne Brauksiepe. We congratulate her and look forward to seeing her at the Council Meeting of St. Joan's Alliance in London in October.

\* \* \*  
We ask the prayers of our readers for the repose of the souls of the following who have died lately: Mrs. Aylward, a very faithful member and one of our champion paper-sellers who died on July 14th, aged eighty-four years; our member Miss Mary Elizabeth Hanlon who had been awarded the Cross pro Ecclesiae et Pontifice for her services to Catholic education; our member Miss M. C. Keenan; Miss May FitzGerald, sister of our member Miss Eleanor FitzGerald and of the late Kathleen FitzGerald, first chairman of the Alliance; and Mrs. Turner, mother of our member Miss Turner.—R.I.P.

\* \* \*  
On July 12th, the Ministry of Fuel and Power arranged a meeting at Westminster, of the main Committee of Women's Organisations, on which St. Joan's Alliance is represented.

The pressing need for the release of anthracite for export to Canada as a dollar-earner was stressed and an appeal was made to all anthracite users to switch over to coke.

A visit was arranged to the Headquarters of the Women's Advisory Council on Solid Fuel to see their Exhibition of "New Hearths for Old."

\* \* \*  
On Saturday, September 17th, there will be a party at Hampstead to welcome Mrs. Jean Daly, President of the New South Wales Section of St. Joan's Alliance.

On Monday, October 10th, at 7 p.m., there will be an open meeting at the Holy Child Convent, Cavendish Square, W.1 (by kind permission of the Rev. Mother). Speakers will be the delegates to the Council Meeting of St. Joan's International Alliance, from Australia, France, Belgium and Germany—also Miss P. C. Challoner, recently returned from South Africa. Dr. Shattock will be in the chair. All are welcome.



## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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## Congress in Amsterdam

The Fifteenth Congress of the International Alliance of Women was held in Amsterdam from July 18th—23rd, under the Chairmanship of its President, Dr. Hanna Rydh, of Sweden. Present at the Congress were official delegations from twenty-seven different countries. Among newcomers a great welcome was given to women of the near East who came as delegates from Ceylon, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan and we were delighted to see again old friends from Egypt, India and Turkey.

Meetings of the several Commissions and of the Board were held on July 16th and 17th; the Commissions of Peace, Civil and Political Rights and the Finance Commission all presented their reports of work done during the year and resolutions to be passed by the Congress. Resolutions on the Nationality of Married Women, on Equal Pay for Equal Work and Equal Education Facilities, on the Property Rights of Married Women, and the Legal Incapacity of Married Women were duly passed by the Congress. A resolution on the Equal Moral Standard, after affirming belief in the necessity of the same high moral standard for both sexes, called upon "all Governments to abolish State regulation of prostitution and to make all third-party exploitation a legal offence." Controversy arose over voluntary versus compulsory measures for the treatment of V.D. Mrs. Abbott, from Great Britain, made an able plea for the upholding of the system of voluntary treatment, while the Scandinavian delegations stood for compulsion. When put to the vote the resolution in favour of voluntary methods was passed. A further resolution called upon the U.N. Assembly to adopt the Draft Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and "to reject any amendment to Article 6 . . . which would permit the card-indexing and periodical examination of prostitutes by the Health Authorities on the grounds of hygiene."

A resolution on Peace pledged the Alliance's support to the United Nations and its specialised agencies, and called upon member societies to

assist this end in various ways. A controversial resolution on the Position of Illegitimate Children was sent back for consideration at the next Congress.

Notable speakers at the session entitled "Closer Relations with Women of the less-developed Territories" were Madame Eboué, Madame Jeanne Vialle and Miss Chave-Collison. Miss Mildred Fairchild, representing the I.L.O., spoke of the 1950 I.L. Conference which would include the question of equal pay on its programme. Senator Signora Merlin and Deputy Signora Jervolino both spoke of their work for the Bills introduced into the Italian Parliament, for the abolition of State Regulation of Prostitution. Both paid tribute to the expert assistance of Signora De Silvestri.

The formal opening session of the Congress took place in the University hall in the presence of representatives of the Queen and of the Dutch Government and the Municipality of Amsterdam. There were speeches of welcome from Dr. A. M. Joekes, Minister of Social Affairs, and Mrs. H. P. Everts-Goddard, President of the Dutch Society, while Dr. Hanna Rydh made the Presidential Address. A roll call of the delegations took place when representatives of each country shook hands with the President and made their bow to the Queen's representative and to the Minister. Greetings followed from Mrs. L. Menon, representing the United Nations, and Mademoiselle Chaton, representing Unesco, and a General Resolution on the programme and work of the Congress was put to the meeting and passed. Colour was added to this session by the singing of the Amsterdam Women's Choir and by the masses of lovely flowers on the platform. The remainder of the sessions of the Congress took place in the Hotel Krasnapolsky.

There were many social events in connection with the Congress. On the Monday evening there took place the reception of the Alliance Board when there were short speeches from fraternal delegates from other Women's International Organisations and delightful Dutch folk-dancing in

the costume of the country; Mrs. Daly, President of our New South Wales Section, brought greetings from St. Joan's International Alliance. On Tuesday there was a tour, by launches, of the picturesque Amsterdam canals and harbour. On Wednesday there was a reception by the City of Amsterdam at one of their beautiful museums. An all-day expedition which included Hilversum, the Loos lakes and Scheveningen took place on Thursday, and on the way back to Amsterdam the coaches stopped at the Hague where everyone was entertained to tea in the lovely garden of Mrs. Stikker, the wife of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. On this same day, ten representatives from the Congress had the great honour of an audience with Queen Juliana of the Netherlands. In the evening, a dinner was given by the Dutch Society at the Hotel Krasnapolsky.

On Friday, elections for the new Board took place. Following the afternoon session, those who knew Rosa Manus, a former devoted Dutch member of the Board and superb organiser of the Alliance, visited the Amsterdam cemetery for the touching ceremony of the unveiling of her memorial. It was recalled that during the Nazi occupation, Rosa Manus was removed to the Concentration camp of Ravensburg, where she died. Beautiful flowers were placed on the stone by Dr. Hanna Rydh and Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who had been Rosa Manus' dear friend, spoke in her memory; her speech was followed by a moving tribute from Madame Simon-Bidaux of France. On the Friday evening, members of the International Archives of Women gave a reception in the Woman's Club when a famous Dutch actress impersonated St. Joan, and all the other characters as well, in scenes from Bernard Shaw's play of *St. Joan*.

No words can express the kindness, friendliness and helpfulness of our hostesses of the Dutch Society, and of the people of Amsterdam generally. They combined to create a particularly happy atmosphere which was felt throughout the Congress. Nor must we forget to thank here the many kind hostesses in Amsterdam who gave our delegates generous hospitality during their stay.

The British delegation comprised delegates from the three auxiliaries: St. Joan's Alliance, The Women's Freedom League, The National Women Citizen's Association and a delegate from the adhering society, The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. St. Joan's Alliance was privileged to arrange the Mass said for the success of the Congress which was attended by the Catholic delegates at the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul.

Three members of the Board sent in their resignations, but Madame Melaterre-Sellier, of France,

who had been on the Board for over twenty-five years, was unanimously elected a Vice-President of the Alliance. Mrs. Spiller and Miss Barry, the other two retiring members, were both warmly thanked for their work on the Board, the one as Hon. Treasurer and the other as Chairman of the Equal Moral Standard Commission.

The resignation of Mrs. Bompas, the devoted Secretary of the International Alliance of Women, was felt as a great loss by the Congress. Staunch and uncompromising in her feminist principles, she had placed her outstanding gifts at the service of the Alliance for over a quarter of a century. Fortunately, Mrs. Bompas consented to stand for the Board and her name stood first in the list of those ultimately elected to the new Board.

CHRISTINE SPENDER.

While in Amsterdam, the St. Joan's delegation was happy to meet Dr. van der Pijl, a faithful member of the Alliance for over twenty-five years; also Count and Countess d'Hollosy, who were in London during the war and thus known to many members.

We congratulate the Countess and the Count on the birth of their sixth child on August 2nd. She is named Else Florentine Marie, and our Hon. Secretary is the godmother.

At the Hague, while Parliament was sitting, Miss Barry had the pleasure of meeting two Dutch M.P.s who are also members of the Alliance, Dr. Marga Klompé and Miss Agnes Nolté.

We thank the delegates who so generously attended the Amsterdam Congress on behalf of St. Joan's Alliance: Miss Brandt, Mrs. Daly, Miss Graham, Miss Leslie, Mrs. McFadyan, Miss Spender and Miss Vaile. Miss Barry attended in her capacity as member of the Board of the International Alliance of Women.

### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO *V. M. Crawford in the "Catholic Citizen", September 15th, 1924.*

*St. Joan* was so ably reviewed in our columns by Christopher St. John when the play was first put upon the stage, that it is needless to write of it further in book form. But the preface, like all Mr. Shaw's prefaces, is extraordinarily interesting and raises many controversial points. His vivid, candid analysis of Joan's character as it must have appeared to her contemporaries will appeal to all feminists. There were, as he says, only two possible views of her; one was that she was miraculous, the other that she was unbearable. If he fails partly to appreciate her sanctity—we cannot accept her as a "first Protestant martyr"—he at least brings out the full force of her genius which Catholic writers are apt to minimise. It is useful, too, to be reminded that St. Joan was one of those "unwomanly women" who insist on doing men's work. That lay at the root of much of the anger and jealousy she excited.— *St. Joan*.



## Parliamentary Notes

On July 5th, in opening the debate on the *Education Estimates*, Mr. Tomlinson said that one of the main problems was the shortage of women teachers. He gave three reasons for this: (1) the emergency training scheme turns out twice as many men as women; (2) the increase in the birth-rate which hit the infants' schools first; (3) the elimination of the unqualified teacher means mainly a demand for more trained women. Generally speaking, Mr. Tomlinson said, men cannot be employed as teachers of infants. He knew that suggestions had been made that the problem should be solved in that way, but his experience taught him that the younger the child the more confidence he had in women rather than men.

One wonders if there may not be another reason, not mentioned, of course, by the Minister, for the infants' departments being kept as a women's preserve. The pay for infant teachers is lower than for those in the junior and secondary schools. At present, however interested a man may be in the teaching of infants, he cannot become an infant teacher, and women are correspondingly discouraged from training for the higher paid posts. Mr. Tomlinson said that there were more men seeking training than the colleges could take, whereas it was questionable if there would be enough women candidates for the number of places. No suggestion was made that equal pay might attract more women to the teaching profession. During the debate the merits and demerits of the tripartite system—of modern, technical and grammar schools was discussed. Mrs. Paton, in a long speech, regretted the tripartite system which, she said, involved not only educational but class distinction, and she was in favour of the comprehensive school under one roof. Mrs. Nichol deplored over-specialisation for younger children in order to obtain grants and scholarships. Mr. Christopher Hollis mentioned the denominational schools and the heavy financial burden falling on the Catholic community.

On July 8th the *Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill* was considered on report and read the third time. The Bill deals with anomalies with regard to the Divorce Law. Among other matters, it provides that a woman resident in this country for three years, may have recourse to the English courts, notwithstanding that her husband is domiciled outside their jurisdiction. A new clause, put forward in the name of Lt.-Col. Lipton (separation for seven years to be grounds for petition for divorce), was ruled out of order by the Speaker as not being within the scope of the Bill which he said was uncontroversial and merely intended to correct some anomalies. Sir Patrick

Hannan said that he very much regretted the continued extension of facilities for divorce and he thought it a pity that so much attention was given in the House to breaking up family life in this country; he considered that this extension of the Divorce Law must have a most deplorable effect. The Lord Advocate said that the grounds for divorce remained identically the same as they were prior to the Bill—only the grounds of jurisdiction were to be extended. People who accepted the extension of jurisdiction might well bitterly oppose any extension of the grounds for divorce. Sir Patrick replied that the extension of jurisdiction must inevitably extend the facilities for divorce and his attitude remained unchanged.

On July 20th Mr. Creech Jones stressed the need for more doctors, agriculturists, veterinary surgeons, teachers and engineers in the Colonies. Mr. Donner complained of our lack of clear aims in the Government plans for education in the Colonial Empire. This lack precluded full co-operation with the missionaries, and he emphasised the need for enlisting the services of European women for social service among native women who would in turn influence the transitional generation. He wanted a Royal Commission to study the requirements of education in widely differing areas. Mr. Thomas Reid said that the terrible problem of the Colonies was the question of population. We could not undertake the task of educating sixty million people unaided, and he suggested that the U.N. and its member states should put up the money for the good of the Colonial peoples and the good of the world. He did not agree with the suggestion of a Royal Commission as educationalists who have worked for years in the Colonies were better able to frame a policy than a roving commission sent from England. Dr. Haden Guest, referring to the shortage of doctors, said that the Colonial medical schools that had been set up could not begin to supply any large number of medical officers for several years and suggested employing medical auxiliaries working under medical direction.

On July 8th, the *Analgesia in Childbirth Bill*, sponsored by Mr. Thorneycroft, was defeated on third reading by 108 votes to 44. The Government claimed that the Bill was rendered unnecessary by the National Health Service (Amendment) Bill.

Mrs. Ayrton Gould, on July 22nd, brought up the subject of children who are neglected in their own homes and who do not come within the scope of the Children Act.

The House adjourned on July 30th until Tuesday, October 18th.

P. M. BRANDT.

## Woman's Place in Modern Egyptian Life

By Marie-Catherine Boulad.

The old idea of the East was the veil and the harem for women. A study of the conditions of life in those old days is not without interest, but they are old days and no longer exist.

In Egypt today hardly any women are veiled and the harem has died out both through the impact of Western civilisation, with its respect for woman's liberty, and as a result of economic conditions which make it impossible for most men to have a second wife. The theory of the Moslem religion allowing polygamy still remains, as far as the Islamic population is concerned, but in practice monogamy is the general rule for both Moslems and Christians in modern Egypt.

In the towns the appearance of the woman does not differ from that of a European woman. The fashions followed are those of Paris and London. Most women, except on ceremonious occasions, go hatless and their "hair-do's" are the same as yours. In the villages the women are dressed in long black clothes and it is not customary for them to enjoy the same freedom of movement as women in Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said or Assiut. Their heads are covered, though not their faces.

Women have not, of course, yet acquired the importance that they have in England, they do not enjoy the privilege of the vote, or entry into Parliament: but the professions are open to them, especially the legal and the journalistic professions. Women secretaries, as you understand it, are not yet much in evidence, and women doctors are so far nearly non-existent. Even as nurses it is only in recent years that proper training as nurses has been begun for women. In these respects the position of women is lower than that which prevails here. Nowhere are female nurses employed in male sections of Egyptian hospitals; and the equivalent of the district nurse has hitherto been largely the male nurse.

The movement for the emancipation of women began shortly after the general movement for Egyptian independence. Women cast off the veil after the 1914 War and have never re-assumed it. They began to enjoy greater liberty of movement, although even today Moslem women, even of the highest classes, do not always accompany their husbands to dinners or receptions, and some hostesses are not seen when you receive invitations to the table of the master of the house. This custom is, however, dying out; and, most important, men now allow their wives to be visible when they invite their friends or guests of honour to lunch or dinner.

The name most associated with the emancipation of Egyptian women is that of Madame Hoda Charaoui who died recently, and whose daughter

has taken her place at the head of a group of women still actively pursuing the ideals of equality of women.

Egyptian women increasingly take an active part in philanthropic work and social reform. Princess Chevekiar founded the Mohamed el Kebir Society for assisting the sick and poor, and Mme. Sirry Pasha's name is associated with the Red Crescent, together with a large band of helpers. The ladies of the Mohamed el Kebir and Red Crescent are predominantly Moslem ladies with a good sprinkling of Christians.

It is always our hope that an international meeting of women's societies will one day have the courage to choose Cairo as its venue.

I wish I could encourage you in this. I have been somewhat disappointed by the frail flutterings and fears you have seemed to entertain hitherto, thinking our capital dangerous or our country some savage spot where your delegates would not be safe! Please let me enhearten you! Please do not listen to the insinuations of those many men who would gladly use any excuse to prevent our good cause from spreading and prospering.

Every kind of international society has met in Cairo in recent years, and all the delegates got away safely. It is not worthy of the ardent and courageous feminism that you have preached and practised to show fear of coming to Egypt where there is very much to be done and where you might be able very greatly to help us, and where you will be very welcome.

## Review

DAUGHTERS OF BRITAIN, by Vera Douie (to be obtained from: The Author, 12, Charlbury Road, Oxford. 7s. 6d.).

The Librarian of the Women's Service Library is to be congratulated on a fine piece of co-ordinated research in this achievement of "a bird's-eye view of the work of British women during the war." In twelve chapters the author covers every aspect of women's mobilisation and the work of the unmobilised during the nation's "state of emergency." There can be no doubt that the great need of working power and the response of women to that need did much to break down traditional prejudices as to woman's place in the life of the country. It is as yet too early to know if there will be a swing of the pendulum in the opposite direction, but certain obstacles have been permanently overcome and there are barriers overturned which can never again be erected.

The chapter on Trade Unions is one of the most masterly accounts I have yet seen of women's slow entry into the Unions and the difficulties inherent in the achievement of equal pay. Evasion of the issue was widespread during the war—even agree-



ments that women should receive the same pay as men when doing the same processes were successfully by-passed and the only real example of "equal pay for equal work" was in the replacement of men by women as conductors in trams and buses.

Throughout the progress of the war there does not appear to have been anything that really baulked women. From the young parachutists dropped into France in 1945 (see the description on p. 44) to the housewives who acted in every known capacity on the home front, there seems very little shirking to record. What is so striking is that women evidently enjoyed life in spite of many discomforts and tragic separations. Their sense of achievement and personal value in doing a good day's work—and often earning a good wage—and their enjoyment of unusual companionships combined to offset troubles and worries. It is a pity that more of this spirit cannot be carried over to peace-time; it would do much to solve our present difficulties and labour shortages.

This book will undoubtedly become the bible of woman's achievement in the nation's hour of need and will be increasingly read as the war recedes and our still vivid war memories fade. As it constitutes a valuable historic work and at the same time a book of reference, it is regrettable that there is no index of subject matter and that even the chapter headings have no page references. Perhaps these omissions can be rectified in any future issue, together with the addition of a bibliography of more detailed accounts of women's sectional war activities.

Meanwhile we hope that *Daughters of Britain* will be found in every circulating and public library throughout the country, and that the B.B.C. will duly notice the book in *Woman's Hour*. We are proud that the author is a member of St. Joan's Alliance. C.S.

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS** by Charles Winter (Stevens 4s.).

**MADONNA OF NAZARETH**, Mystery Play, by Rev. S. J. Draugelis (The Marian Fathers, Eden Hill, Stockbridge, Mass.).

#### MERSEYSIDE BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Keating, 34, Danehurst Road, Wallasey.

For the first time for five years the annual "Garden" Party was able to be held in the garden in wonderful weather when members enjoyed the hospitality of the Misses Barry, at Birkenhead. Mrs. Calvert, who had recently returned from residence in Czechoslovakia, gave a most interesting account of conditions there since the end of the war. Mrs. McCann, in the chair, welcomed Mrs. Calvert, and mentioned that she was the daughter of Lyon Blease who, as an undergraduate, had taken a prominent part in the votes for women campaign. Various money-raising efforts caused great pleasure and resulted in £6 4s. being handed to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Brady, who generously gave half to Headquarters. Members were glad to welcome the new Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Keating.

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