

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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

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Price Fourpence.

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.

The Pilgrimage of Perseverance

By Vera Laughton Mathews

This is a first-rate little book,* delightfully written and full of information. It is just the right book for those wanting to learn something of the woman's movement, and even for those cradled in the movement, so to speak, there is much that is new, for it is by no means a "scissors and paste" production and much is the result of original research and personal knowledge.

In a book of this kind giving an historical survey over many centuries, there is always the choice of dealing with the matter chronologically when subjects overlap and have to be returned to at different stages, and of dividing the book into sections dealing with the various aspects separately. Mrs. Wood has chosen the latter method, wisely for a short book, and after giving the background of the position of women from Anglo-Saxon times to the present day, she groups her matter under the headings of Government, the Professions, Social Service and Organisation, ending with a brief but interesting survey of the future. In each chapter the history of woman's position is traced with clarity and sympathy, and at times with humour.

It is striking how each section, when dealing with the early years, refers to the influence and powers of women emanating from their position in the life of the Church, of the authority of abbesses and their great service in education and medicine.

"In the Anglo-Saxon Church a distinctive trait seems to have been the part played by women, and the relationship between the men and women members was a particularly charming one, free from taint of scandal and based on spiritual and intellectual intimacy."

In Anglo-Saxon days there were a number of mixed Religious Houses, and there is no record of one of these being ruled by a man. "At the close of the 7th century there were in Kent alone

five such settlements, all governed by women, who ranked just below Bishops."

In the Parish Councils of the early centuries women voted with men. "Generally speaking every Parish had its own Church where the inhabitants met to perform their civic duties as well as to unite in worship . . . all records of pew dues in mediæval England show them to have been paid by women, who were not infrequently churchwardens."

Mrs. Wood emphasises the adverse effect which the Reformation had on the status of women, not only from the blow at the authority of the Church and the lowering of personal standards of morality, but "the abolition of abbeys and with them of abbesses, wiped out a considerable number of women property-owners."

Readers of the *Catholic Citizen* will profoundly agree with Mrs. Wood when she speaks of the new element introduced into human relationships by Christianity—the atmosphere of Love with the divine origin of man as the basis of relationship. "Christians have found all sorts of excuses for ignoring this vital foundation, but they have done so in violation of and not in obedience to the teachings of Jesus." And in summing up, Mrs. Wood states that the only remedy for the present fearful state of the world "is to return to the simple faith that puts spiritual values first, and considers the importance of Man as a human individual greater than that of Man as an economic unit."

She believes that women should introduce into public life a more human outlook, amplifying rather than duplicating the work so long in the hands of men only, and seeing a nation not as so many millions, but as so many million individuals.

The illustrations are particularly charming and include some interesting old prints.

This is a book that should be widely read.

* *The Pilgrimage of Perseverance*. By Ethel M. Wood, C.B.E. (National Council of Social Service, 6s.)

GENERAL ELECTION

At the General Election there were 125 women candidates out of a total of 1,864. Twenty-one women were elected out of a total of 625 Members. They are:

Labour.—Miss A. Bacon, Mrs. E. M. Braddock, Miss E. Burton, Mrs. B. Castle, Mrs. F. Corbet, Mrs. A. Cullen, Mrs. C. S. Ganley, Miss M. Herbison, Miss J. Lee, Mrs. J. Mann, Mrs. L. Middleton, Mrs. D. Rees, Dr. Edith Summerskill, Mrs. E. White.

Conservative.—Viscountess Davidson, Mrs. E. Hill, Miss P. Hornsby-Smith, Lady Tweedsmuir, Miss I. Ward, Miss Florence Horsbrugh.

Liberal.—Lady Megan Lloyd-George.

Of these, Mrs. Cullen is our co-religionist. The Alliance welcomes the return of Miss Irene Ward who, in the long Parliament, as we remember with gratitude, gave valuable service to the Woman's Movement.

Twenty-two Catholic M.P.s have been elected.

We congratulate the Rt. Hon. Edith Summerskill on her appointment as Minister of National Insurance and Miss Herbison on her appointment as Joint Parliamentary Secretary of State for Scotland.

We regret that Lady Pakenham, a member of St. Joan's Alliance, was unsuccessful in Oxford. She polled 23,902 votes against the Hon. Quintin Hogg's 27,508.

A deputation from the Status of Women Committee, led by the Chairman, Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, D.B.E., was received on February 17th, by the Rt. Hon. M. S. McCorquodale on behalf of the Rt. Hon. W. S. Churchill. The points in the Election Manifesto were amplified by representatives as follows:—Equal Political Rights—the Chairman; Equal Pay for Equal Work—A. M. Pierotti, General Secretary, National Union of Women Teachers; Equal Moral Standard—Miss F. Barry, Hon. Secretary, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance; Civil Rights (Economic Emancipation)—Miss M. Reeves, President, Women's Freedom League; Equality Under National Insurance and Assistance—Miss B. M. Pearson, Hon. Treasurer, Status of Women Committee; Discrimination in Income Tax—Domicile of Married Women—Equal Ministry of Men and Women—Mrs. F. Earengay, J.P., President, National Council of Women.

Representatives were also present from the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, British Commonwealth League, British Federation of University Women, Open Door Council, Suffragette Fellowship and the Women's International League. The deputation was sympathetically received and Mr. McCorquodale promised to report back to Mr. Churchill in the afternoon.

The Labour Party and the Liberal Party refused to receive a deputation.

MAY MOCLAIR—R.I.P.

Miss May Moclair, whose death at Kendal on January 26th we recorded with sorrow last month, was an ardent member of the Alliance for close on thirty years, and served on the Committee for three of these.

During the First World War she was a factory welfare officer, first in her native Ireland, and later at Wolverhampton. She worked temporarily as a probation officer, but found her true vocation when she took up work for the mentally affected, to whose care she devoted herself for twenty-five years as Organising Secretary of the Westmorland and Cumberland Voluntary Mental Health Association. She was also a prominent member of the Catholic Rescue Society and of the Guild of Catholic Professional Social Workers.

She was completely selfless, and overflowing with Christian charity; nothing was too big and nothing too small for the exercise of her talent for giving. Whenever she came to London she never failed to visit the office; she accompanied St. Joan's delegation to the International Eucharistic Congress at Budapest, and to the Congress of the International Alliance of Women at Interlaken, where she was joined by her sister, Miss Kathleen Moclair, and twin nieces, to whom she was deeply devoted.

To these, and to Dr. Delia Moclair, who are all members of the Alliance, we offer our profound sympathy.—R.I.P.

The Annual Meeting will be held at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square, W.1, on Saturday, March 25th, at 2.30 p.m. (the thirty-ninth birthday of the Alliance), Mrs. Shattock, M.A., M.D., D.P.M., presiding. Speakers will be Miss Noreen Carr, Alderman Mrs. Hoare, L.C.C., Miss D. McClellan, Miss Monica Munro, S.R.N., Lady Pakenham, Miss Marygold Sorby. We hope all members will do their best to attend.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

From the "Catholic Citizen," March 15th, 1925.
Mr. Whiteley's Bill for Equal Franchise was defeated by request of the Government, but by the small majority of 67. The fact is that no one at this time believes that our absurd franchise law can stand much longer. The Government tabled an amendment suggesting "that the House declines to accord a second reading to a Franchise Bill involving, as it would, a General Election"; whereas Mr. Whiteley's Bill contained a proviso to meet this difficulty. We ask for an Equal Franchise Bill, and Mr. Baldwin promises us a Conference in 1926. The Conference seems to us a mere excuse for postponing an act of justice. We should have thought that the old bogey of women outvoting men would have been killed by the spectacle afforded last year by the Duchess of Atholl and Mrs. Hilton Phillipson voting against Equal Franchise. Whatever reforms are needed in our electoral system, the injustice to women should be first remedied. . . .—Notes and Comments.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen"

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

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ex-officio DAME VERA LAUGHTON MATHEWS, D.B.E., President, St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance.
 MISS N. FAHIE.
 MRS. HALPERN, B.A.
 MRS. ISABEL POWELL HEATH, M.B., Ch.B.
 MRS. JACKSON, B.A.
 MISS J. M. ORGAN, Hon. Treasurer.
 MISS NANCY STEWART PARNELL, B.A.
 MISS CHRISTINE SPENDER, Hon. Editor "Catholic Citizen."

39th ANNUAL REPORT*

for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

The British Nationality Act, 1948, by which independent nationality was restored to British women, came into force on January 1st, and was celebrated by a Victory Dinner at Church House, Westminster, organised by the Women's Freedom League. Miss Marian Reeves presided and the speakers were—The Right Hon. J. Chuter Ede, Secretary of State for the Home Department, Lord Pethick Lawrence, Lord Samuel, Lady Astor, Mrs. Ayrton Gould, M.P., and the Countess de Kerdel. A toast was drunk to the Nationality of Married Women Committee, coupled with the name of its Hon. Secretary for the last five years, Florence Barry, who received a great ovation and in her speech recalled the pioneers of the movement, Miss Chrystal Macmillan and Mrs. Hartree, and the long championship of the cause by friends in both Houses of Parliament.

In Parliament.

The Married Women (Restraint on Anticipation) Bill received the Royal Assent. This Act is retrospective and applies to all married women the Act of 1935, which removed restrictions upon anticipation or alienation of property by women married after the passing of the Act. St. Joan's Alliance initiated the action taken by the Status of Women Committee which resulted in the passing of the Bill.

Other Bills passed during the year were the *Adoption of Children Bill* and the *Nurses Bill*. The *Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act* dealt with certain aspects of the domicile of married women, but left the fundamental law unchanged, and the *Married Women (Maintenance) Act* raised the maximum amount which may be paid to a deserted wife to £5 a week, and to each child 30/-.

The motion sponsored by the Marquess of Reading "that women Peers should no longer be disqualified from sitting in the *House of Lords*," and calling for legislation "as soon as may be practicable," was passed in that House on July 28th.

In the Commons questions were asked on Equal Pay and on the anomalous position of married women under the National Insurance Scheme. On two occasions Sir Basil Neven Spence raised the question of *female circumcision* in the Sudan. The Alliance corresponded with him on this matter. Mr. Sorensen continued to raise the question of affiliation proceedings brought by German women under the National Insurance Scheme.

On February 1st the *Women's Services* became permanent, and an integral part of the Forces of the Crown. Pay was fixed at three-quarters that of men—an improvement on the two-thirds of the war years.

Equal Pay.

Government spokesmen reiterated their adherence to the principle of equal pay, but the Government has consistently refused to put it into effect.

The Alliance continued its work for equal pay at by-elections, public meetings and in the lobby. Throughout the year it co-operated with the Equal Pay Campaign Committee which adopted a Resolution stating that "while recognising the gravity of the country's present economic position" the Equal Pay Campaign Committee "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." In reply to a question on May 26th, Mr. Glenvil Hall stated that the cost of giving equal pay in the public services would be approximately £35 million.

The Equal Pay Campaign Committee accepted a generous offer from Jill Craigie (producer of "Blue Scar") to give her services for the production of an Equal Pay film on the lines of "This Modern Age." Members were asked to contribute towards the cost—£5,000.

Public Morality.

Much work was done during the year on the *Draft Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others*. On March 25th the Alliance, together with five other societies, was invited to the Home Office to discuss the Draft convention with Mr. O. C. Allen, the United Kingdom delegate to the Social Commission. The Articles of the Convention were discussed in detail. The "working party" met again at the Home Office in July to discuss the proposals of the United Nations Social Commission. The views of H.M. Government and of the Societies represented were in general agreement.

The Alliance appreciates the opportunity of taking part in these discussions and wishes to record its gratitude for the work of the United Kingdom delegation on this Convention and its wholehearted agreement with the reason for the United Kingdom's negative vote on Article 1, which as it now stands omits the motive of gain, thus changing the whole basis of the Convention.

In July the Alliance wrote to the Ministry of Health expressing satisfaction at the inclusion in the Report of the Royal Commission on Population of some of the recommendations contained in its memorandum to the Commission, but deploring the recommendation that advice on contraception be given as a duty by the National Health Service. In October the Alliance pro-

* Subject to confirmation at the Annual Meeting.

tested to the Home Secretary against the use of slot machines for the sale of contraceptives in the public street. There was a widespread protest and it was satisfactory to record the immediate issue by the Home Office of a model by-law to deal with this evil.

The Alliance was represented at the Congress of the International Bureau for the Suppression of Traffic in Women.

Child Marriage.

The resolution on child marriage passed at the annual meeting was sent to the Colonial Office and drew from the Secretary of State the unsatisfactory reply that while sympathising with the desire to abolish child marriage he had no wish to "impose radical changes on peoples unprepared for them by custom or education."

Letters were sent during the year to the appropriate Government Departments concerning the inclusion of the word "sex," which had been inadvertently omitted from the list of discriminations in the draft European Convention on Human Rights submitted to the Strasburg Assembly; on the recommendations of the I.L.O. regarding vocational guidance; on the Geneva Convention of the International Red Cross concerning protection of civilians in time of war, and on various other matters.

Annual General Meeting.

The 38th Annual Meeting was held at St. Patrick's Club-room, Soho, on March 19th, Mrs. Shattock, M.A., M.D., D.P.M., presiding. Canon Reardon commended the Alliance for its tenacity of purpose which had gained the passing of the Nationality Bill and which would undoubtedly gain Equal Pay. The Annual Report, read by Miss Gabrielle Daye, was adopted, after supporting speeches by the Hon. Mrs. Geoffrey Edwards, Miss Guessard, Mrs. Morgan and Miss Carr. The Financial Report was presented by Miss Organ; Miss Jameson, who was warmly thanked for her generous help in the office, made an appeal for funds, which brought in close on £50.

Dame Vera Laughton Mathews explained the technicalities of the work of St. Joan's International Alliance with the United Nations, the Trusteeship Council and the International Labour Office. Miss Vaile spoke in support.

The Chairman in her address reminded members that it was the anniversary of Gabrielle Jeffery and Leonora de Alberti, who were amongst those who sowed the seed of St. Joan's Alliance. Resolutions on Nationality, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Women in the House of Lords, Equal Pay, Public Morality, Education, Taxation and Status of Women were then put to the vote and carried. These will be found in the April, 1949, issue of the *Catholic Citizen*. Councillor Miss Sylvia Terry spoke to the resolution on Education, and Dame Vera on the unjust solicitation laws.

Three new members of Committee were elected by ballot, the Hon. Mrs. Geoffrey Edwards, Miss Cooper and Miss Fahie. The Committee takes this opportunity of thanking the retiring members, Miss Leslie, Miss Graham, Miss Monica O'Connor, the last two having served on the Committee for very many years.

Dr. Shattock was elected Chairman. Early in the year Mrs. Edwards was obliged to resign owing to pressure of work and Miss Carr was co-opted in her place.

Events of the Year.

Mass was offered at St. Patrick's, Soho in March for Gabrielle Jeffery and Leonora de Alberti, and on November 6th for deceased members, associates and benefactors of the Alliance. On St. Joan's Day, May 30th, Mass was offered for the intentions of the Alliance through the kindness of the Rev. G. Bliss, S.J., and the traditional wreath, tied with our colours, was placed

on St. Joan's shrine in Westminster Cathedral. Mass was also offered at Westminster Cathedral early in the year for Mrs. V. M. Crawford, at the request of the many Societies with which she was associated.

A very important event was the holding of the International Council Meeting in London, when the British Section had the privilege of entertaining distinguished members of the Alliance from abroad. The visitors and their hostesses met first at a delightful reception given by the International President at her flat in Westminster. A most enjoyable outing was arranged to Hampton Court and the delegates finally met, by the kindness of Reverend Mother, at the Holy Child Convent, Cavendish Square, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Shattock, at a most successful public meeting at which representatives from Australia, Belgium, France, Germany and South Africa made short speeches.

Also at the Convent, Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell spoke on May 2nd on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and on May 30th Mr. A. I. Hanman, K.C., from Australia, gave a racy account of "The New Social Order in Australia." On July 6th Dame Vera gave a party at her flat to meet Madame Boulad, an Egyptian journalist, when the Alliance had the great and unexpected pleasure and privilege of seeing Archbishop Hughes—just arrived from Egypt—alas, only a few days before his death.—R.I.P. On September 17th a party was given by Miss Barry at Hampstead to welcome Mrs. Jean Daly, President of the New South Wales Section of St. Joan's Alliance, who spoke on "Australian Outlook." Mrs. Daly spoke, too, at a luncheon given by the British Commonwealth League. On her return from South Africa, Miss Challoner was entertained by both the British Commonwealth League and the Women's Freedom League, and gave her impressions of the country and of the position of its women. On December 8th, one of the feasts of the Alliance, the Committee gave a theatre party, preceded by a dinner, to Miss Challoner when she was presented with a watch as an appreciation of her ten years' chairmanship and a welcome home from South Africa.

International Alliance of Women.

The Alliance is affiliated to the International Alliance of Women, and eight delegates attended its Congress in Amsterdam. They were—Miss Brandt, Mrs. Daly, Miss Graham, Miss Jameson, Miss Leslie, Mrs. MacFadyen, Miss Spender and Miss Vaile. Miss Barry attended as Chairman of the Equal Moral Standard Committee of the International Alliance of Women. To all these members we offer our thanks.

On May 13th, Mrs. Clement Davies gave a party on behalf of the British Auxiliaries to the I.A.W. to welcome Dr. Hanna Rhyd, President, and the other Board members who were in London. On November 1st the British Auxiliaries entertained Mrs. Bompas, General Secretary of the I.A.W. for nearly twenty-five years, at a farewell party at the Minerva Club, when the feminist organisations paid tribute to her, and Mrs. Corbett Ashby coined the phrase "Hostess of the Woman's Movement" for Miss Reeves.

Co-operation with other Societies.

At the Protest Meeting against the imprisonment and condemnation of His Eminence Cardinal Mindszenty held at the Albert Hall in February, the Alliance was represented by Dame Vera Laughton Mathews.

The Alliance is a constituent Society of the British Commonwealth League, the Equal Pay Campaign Committee, the Joint Parliamentary Committee, the Women's Advisory Council of the United Nations' Association; it sends an observer to the Indian Liaison Committee and is represented on the *ad hoc* Committee convened by the National Council of Women for submitting names for

national and international Commissions. Representatives of the Alliance attended the annual meetings of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene and the Open Door Council, the annual Conference of the British Commonwealth League, and many other interesting events arranged by the B.C.L., including a reception given by the High Commissioner for Ceylon; they met distinguished Indian women by courtesy of the liaison group of British Women's Societies and the Women's Council of Indian and Pakistan affairs; and attended the reception arranged by Nigerians in London for Sir Adeyemo Alakija, K.B.E., during his visit to London. They also attended Conferences on Refugees and on the Colonies convened by the Women's International League.

Members were present at the annual meeting of the Suffragette Fellowship; the memorial for Mrs. Drummond, and a party given by Miss Reeves, Chairman of the Women's Freedom League, in honour of Lord and Lady Pethick Lawrence.

The Alliance was invited by the Minister of Information to an exhibition "On our Way," which was to be opened by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In accepting, the Alliance hoped women were on their way to Equal Pay. The Ministry of Fuel and Power also invited the co-operation of the Alliance in its campaign for economy. Finally, the Alliance was invited to Conferences of the Conservative and Liberal Women's Committees concerning their party programmes.

Much of the work of the Alliance is necessarily devoted to the scrutiny and study of innumerable documents which arrive almost daily from the United Nations; questionnaires from other organisations; Hansard; Reports of Committees, etc., not to speak of the newspapers and magazines of every kind that arrive at the office. Everything is looked into and intensive work is often called for so that representations to the appropriate bodies may be made in good time.

Many enquiries for information were received during the year and a good deal of time was spent in supplying this. Several students making a study of some aspects of the woman's movement consulted our library; also a research worker, one of a team investigating "the effect of modern contacts on African family life, with special reference to marriage law and custom."

Congratulations.

Congratulations were sent to His Eminence Cardinal Griffin on the occasion of the silver jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood, and to His Lordship the Bishop of Pella on the silver jubilee of his episcopate. The Alliance also congratulated Dame Enid Lyons, Australian President of the Alliance, on her election to Parliament and appointment as Vice-President of the Executive Council; Dr. Marga Klompé, member of the Dutch Section of St. Joan's Alliance, on her appointment as delegate to the European Assembly at Strasburg, and as alternate delegate to the Assembly of the United Nations at Lake Success; the President of the German Section, Frau Brauksiepe, on her election to the Bundestag; Dr. Eileen Hickey on her election to the Parliament of Northern Ireland, and Miss Skinnider on her appointment as Teachers' representative on the Roe Commission on Salaries and Pensions. The Alliance congratulated Dame Vera Laughton Mathews on her appointment to the South-East Gas Board, and Dr. Shattock on the award of the Gold Medal of London University for her thesis embodying research in Psychiatry. Congratulations were also sent to Bedford College on the occasion of its centenary. Members will recall that Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, first Chairman of the Alliance, was for many years on the staff of the College. When training for teachers became compulsory, many nuns who had rarely left their Convents, came to the Training Department at Bedford College, where

Miss FitzGerald became in a way their guardian, helping many of the rather bewildered Sisters in their noval difficulties.

Visitors.

During the year the Alliance was happy to welcome many distinguished members and visitors from overseas. In addition to the delegates to the International Council meeting visitors included Mrs. Burston (Australia) Miss Agius and Mrs. Denaro (Malta); Miss Keiser (Switzerland); Madame Boulad (Egypt); Miss Spaine (Sierra Leone); Miss Noreen McGrath (South Africa), and Sister Mary of the Divine Heart, a Dominican nun (Rhodesia).

The Alliance received many wonderful parcels throughout the year from Melbourne and Sydney, and highly appreciates the kindly thought and generosity of its members in Australia.

In February, the Chairman, Miss P. C. Challoner, left with her sister for a visit to South Africa. The Alliance greatly missed her advice and expert help at the office, and was only able to carry on owing to the devoted work of Miss K. G. Jameson.

Obituary.

The Alliance joined with a keen sense of personal loss in the universal mourning for Archbishop Hughes, Apostolic Internuncio to Egypt. It was a great grief to lose such a valuable friend and ardent supporter. The Chairman, Dr. Shattock, attended the Solemn Requiem at Stoneleigh and Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, the International President, and Miss Welch attended the Requiem at the Brompton Oratory.

The Alliance was grieved to lose devoted members of many years' standing—Mrs. Aylward and Mrs. Whittles. Other members who died during the year were Miss M. K. Donnelly, Miss M. Hanlon and Miss M. C. Keenan. With sorrow we record the death of Miss Madeline Barry, a staunch Liverpool member of many years standing, and sister and godmother to our Hon. Secretary.—R.I.P.

Hon. Treasurer's Report.

It is satisfactory that we were able to start the New Year with a balance in hand.

The subscription list shows a small decrease in subscriptions since 1948.

The Sales in September and November were very successful and we thank all those who helped in any way. This year instead of having to draw on the Gabrielle Jeffery Memorial Fund we have been enabled to deposit £100 into this fund. This is in great part owing to the exceedingly generous voluntary work given by members at the office.

We are greatly indebted to Miss Carr, Miss Cave and Miss I. R. V. Welch, who have given regular weekly help in the office throughout the year—also to Miss Bodenham, Miss Graham and Miss Hayes for help on special occasions. Our thanks are due also to Miss Gadsby for so kindly auditing the accounts, and to Miss Sheila Hynes for her care of the Press book.

"Catholic Citizen."

Once again we owe gratitude to our generous contributors—to Miss Margaret Monro for her article "Providence and Purgatory"; to M. Lawrence for "The Midwife To-day"; to Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell for her masterly exposition of "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights"; to Mrs. Jackson for her review of Miss Caroline Haslett's "Problems have No Sex"; to Mrs. Halpern for her review of "The Report of the Royal Commission on Population"; to Mrs. Jean Daly for her contribution "An Australian Outlook"; to Mrs. Shattock for her article "The Sacrament of Marriage,"

reviewing Dr. Messenger's three volumes entitled "The Mystery of Sex and Marriage"; to Mrs. Anne Lee for her challenging: "The Need for Catholic Nursery Schools"; Miss P. C. Challoner dealt with the difficult I.L.O. report on "Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value" and sent us notes from South Africa; Miss P. M. Brandt kindly undertook to contribute Parliamentary Notes for the last six months of the year. Several willing writers have helped in reviewing books, to all of whom we offer grateful thanks.

We were able to publish the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights"; we reported the Victory Dinner celebrating the Act by which independent Nationality was restored to British women, and presented a Report of the Amsterdam Congress. We were privileged to publish a tribute to the late Monsignor Arthur Hughes—R.I.P. From Egypt, Madame Marie-Catherine Boudard sent us a contribution, "Woman's Place in Modern Egyptian Life."

Mrs. Garrard has continued the immense task of addressing wrappers for us regularly, with some assistance from Mrs. Morison, and the duty of sending out papers has fallen to various members. To all of these we offer our most grateful thanks.

We continue to send our paper all over the world and to exchange it with other papers, and we gather that it is much appreciated. Advertisements have shown a distinct increase and there was a steady increase in subscriptions, but the paper still does not quite pay its way.

The *Catholic Citizen* was represented at various Press conferences at the United Nations' Information Centre and at the Conference at Archbishop's House on Catholic Schools.

Press.

Yet again we wish to thank the *Catholic Herald* for reporting our activities so regularly and so fully. Reports have also appeared in the *Universe*, the *Catholic Times*, the *Woman Teacher*, the *International Women's News*, and the *W.F.L. Bulletin*.

A protest was sent to the *Nursing Times* pointing out the danger of amendments, sponsored by certain Nurses' Organisations, which would seriously undermine Article 6 of the Draft Convention on Human Rights, which is designed to protect persons from "mutilation or medical or scientific experimentation" contrary to their will.

The South African papers—the *Southern Cross*, the *Natal Daily Times* and the *Natal Sunday Post* recorded some of the work done on behalf of the Alliance by Miss Challoner on her recent visit to that country. These included a spirited reply in the correspondence columns of the *Natal Sunday Post* to a review in that paper of Dr. David Mace's book, "Marriage Crisis," regarding the double moral standard between men and women.

The health and vitality of the Alliance in Australia was made very noticeable by the number of interesting Press cuttings which are sent to us and which occupy a large section of our Press book.

St. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL

The 1949 Council Meeting of St. Joan's International Alliance took place in October at the President's flat in Westminster. Members of other International organisations and the British St. Joan's Committee were invited to an opening reception to meet the delegates. On October 8th, Mass was offered by Father Worlock for the successful deliberations of the Conference.

Those present at the Council Meeting were: The President, Dame Vera Laughton Mathews; the Hon. Treasurer, Madame Marthe Gouffé; the Hon. Secretary, Miss F. Barry; and the following Vice-Presidents: Madame Pesson-Depret (France), Dr. Maria Schlüter-Hermkes (Germany), Madame Leroy-Boy (Belgium). Other delegates were: Great Britain, Mrs.

Shattock, M.D., D.P.M., and Miss Pauline Brandt; France, Madame Marie-José Russo, President; 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.

A report of the international work since the meeting in Paris last year and reports of National Sections were presented, showing steady progress. Resolutions were passed on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Traffic in Persons, and the Status of Women, and resolutions on our programme concerning political rights, economic rights, education, marriage, and equal moral standard were reaffirmed. (See *Catholic Citizen*, November, 1949).

New Sections. Two new Sections, Transvaal and West Australia, have been welcomed during the year, both founded on St. Joan's Day, May 30th. St. Joan's International Alliance benefited greatly by the work of Miss P. C. Challoner, of the British Section, while in South Africa. She visited most of the members of St. Joan's there and made many new contacts. Before she left she had the happiness of taking part in the foundation of the Transvaal Section of the Alliance.

The inauguration of a Section in West Australia was largely due to the initiative of Mrs. Coombs of the New South Wales Section, whom we had the pleasure of welcoming as a delegate at the International Council Meeting in Paris in 1948.

Trusteeship Council. During the year compulsory marriage and child marriage again received the attention of the Trusteeship Council. On March 25th, in response to a Petition from the Alliance (T/Pet/General 20), a Resolution was adopted by the Council informing the Alliance "that questions relating to compulsory marriage and child marriage have been included in the Provisional Questionnaire of the Council and that replies given to these questions in the Annual Reports presented by the Administering Authorities receive the regular attention of the Council."

At the fourth Session of the Trusteeship Council it was recommended that "uncivilised practices, such as child marriage, should be expressly forbidden by law." Finally, on November 15th, the General Assembly of the United Nations approved a resolution calling for the "absolute prohibition of such uncivilised practices as child marriage in the Trust Territories where such practices exist."

In November *A Visiting Mission* set out to the Cameroons and Togoland under both British and French Administration, and its terms of reference included the investigation of conditions referred to in the Petition received from St. Joan's International Alliance (T/Pet/4/2).

Equal Moral Standard. *The Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others* was adopted on December 2nd by the Assembly of the United Nations.

Much work was done during the year on the Draft, particularly on Article 6, by National Sections, notably in Australia, France, Great Britain and the Transvaal. Article 6 requires the abolition of any form of registration of prostitutes or suspected prostitutes. Governments were approached either by deputations or in writing, urging their delegates to vote against an amendment proposed by France, to permit the medical registration of prostitutes.

On this point Dame Rachel Crowdy, who went to Lake Success on behalf of the International Bureau for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women, drew up a masterly memorandum based on her long experience with the League of Nations. Article 6 was finally incorporated in the Convention without amendment.

Article 2, whereby the signatories agree to "punish any person keeping or financing a brothel, or letting or renting any place for the purpose of prostitution," is also satisfactory.

In spite of misgivings concerning certain Articles which emphasises prostitution rather than its exploitation, the Convention, particularly Articles 2 and 6, marks a very big step forward in social legislation.

Here should be recorded the preliminary stages of Abolition of State Regulation in Italy. On December 7th the Senate passed Article 1 of Signora Merlin's Bill. This prohibits "houses of prostitution within the boundaries of the State and in all territories subject to Italian authority." In Egypt the maisons tolérées have been abolished throughout Egyptian territory.

International Labour Office. The Report on Equal Remuneration for work of Equal Value was published late in the year. It contained a summary of the practice in various countries, together with a questionnaire to Governments, employers and workers on the definition and means of application of the principle of Equal Pay.

Non-Governmental Organisations. At the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations at Lake Success in April, Madame Grabinska sponsored a Resolution on "special techniques to present the principles of the United Nations to backward peoples," and, in the name of the Alliance, supported a Resolution on educational reconstruction to "eliminate ideological intolerance."

Madame Darbre represented the Alliance at the Regional Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations at Geneva in June. At the United Nations European Social Welfare Seminar held in Paris in December, the International Alliance was represented by Madame Archambault, and l'Alliance Jeanne d'Arc by its President, Madame Russo. Madame Archambault supported Madame Leroy (International Council of Women) when she pointed out the dangers inherent in certain proposals for allowances for mothers in the home.

The Alliance continues to work as a constituent Society of the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations, which has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and is grateful for the splendid work of Dr. Janet Robb as consultant.

Personalia. Dame Enid Lyons, Vice-President of the International Alliance and Australian President has made national Alliance and Australian President has made history by being the first woman Cabinet Minister in the Federal Parliament.

Dr. Marga Klompé, M.P., again represented the Netherlands at the United Nations' General Assembly at Lake Success, and was one of the delegates at the Strasbourg Conference.

Frau Brauksiepe, President of the German Section, was elected to the Bundestag of Western Germany.

Mrs. McGrath, President of the Transvaal Section, was elected Mayor of Roodepoort, Transvaal. Mrs. Jean Daly, President, New South Wales Section, whom it has been a great pleasure to welcome at Headquarters, did valuable work for the Alliance at Lake Success and attended meetings of the Liaison Committee in New York and in London.

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INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Trusteeship Council.

The Report to the Trusteeship Council by the Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in West Africa has just been issued.

The Mission to the Cameroons under British Administration visited the Fon of Bikon, "whose name," to quote the Report, "had been singled out for discussion in the Trusteeship Council as a result of a Petition from the St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance."

The account of the visit is a very interesting one and the facts brought to light will be fully considered in a later issue.

It is noteworthy that the first recommendation of the Mission is that women and girls should have the right to refuse to take part in any forced union and that this right should be proclaimed and effectively protected.

Somaliland.

It is satisfactory to note that Article 3 of the Draft Trusteeship Agreement for the Territory of Somaliland under Italian Administration, as adopted by the Trusteeship Council on 27th January, contains a prohibition of "all forms of slavery, slave trade and child marriage"; and an engagement to "apply existing international Conventions concerning prostitution."

Transvaal.

The Transvaal Section of St. Joan's has been busy with meetings and propaganda. The Chairman, Mrs. McGrath, in spite of exacting duties as Mayor of Roodepoort, addressed a meeting of the Joint Catholic Women's League of the Pretoria parishes, on the work of St. Joan's Alliance, and has presided at two further meetings of members. At one, several members were given an assignment, each on a particular question within the orbit of St. Joan's work, and at the other Miss Eleanor Hawarden spoke on "Some Aspects of Bantu Family Life."

Our member, Mrs. Pratt Nickels, gave a paper on the Mixed Marriage Bill to the newly-formed Catholic Graduates' Association, and Mrs. McGrath has been asked to address it on the Alliance. Mrs. Dennehy, Mrs. McGrath's elder daughter, is her official Mayoress. Her younger daughter, Noreen, who was such a welcome visitor over here in the summer, is Hon. Secretary to the Transvaal Section. Mrs. McGrath will be attending the Biennial Conference of the National Council of Women at Maritzburg in April, and hopes to get in touch with St. Joan's members there.

It was a great occasion when Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, was installed as Chancellor of the new University College of the **West Indies**, at Kingston, Jamaica.

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