

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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

Vol. XL. No. 3.

15th MARCH, 1954

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.

Equal Pay

By Marian Reeves

Those of us who have grown old in the fight for equality are counting the number of years that "Equal Pay" has been one of the major issues.

So long has been the fight, and so many times has the subject been discussed, debated and voted on, and so often have Commissions, Royal and otherwise, and Government Committees sat on it that there would seem to be nothing new that could be said about it.

In 1914 (forty years ago, and before any woman had a vote) a Royal Commission of the Civil Service issued a Majority Report which stated: "In so far as the character and conditions of the work performed by women in the Civil Service approximates to identity with the character and conditions of the work performed by men, the pay of women should approximate to the pay of men." So long ago! And two major wars have taken place since this report. Other Commissions have sat, resolutions have been passed by both Houses of Parliament, the subject has twice been before the International Labour Office, always with a recommendation in favour of Equal Pay. The *Peace Treaty of 1919*, set out as of special urgent importance "the principle that men and women should receive equal remuneration for work of equal value," and in 1948 *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* approved by the United Nations Assembly states "Everyone, without any discrimination has the right to equal pay for equal work."

Between these times, and since, the British House of Commons has passed resolutions in favour of the principle, there is no record of a resolution ever having been passed against it, and nothing has been done about it, although some local authorities, notably the L.C.C. are now giving equal pay.

Now, with the imminence of Budget Day, the question that is in all our minds is whether the present Chancellor will do anything to make provision for this.

Those of us who were present at the deputation to Mr. Butler early in February were so impressed by the arguments made by the speakers, that we

were inclined to believe that no Minister could withstand them. We were, however, reminded by him of the heavy burdens that were being carried by the taxpayer in regard to armaments, social services, etc. He was assured that women taxpayers did not want to be relieved of part of their taxes at the expense of women in the Government and teaching profession, but no-one reminded him, as they might well have done, that when the country was held up to ransom by threats of strikes at the most difficult times, almost invariably their demands were met, however heavy the cost might be to the taxpayer and the consumer.

We have heard so much lately of the many millions that have to be provided for in the forthcoming budget, for the various national services and international commitments that it is fantastic to suggest that the comparatively small amount that would be needed to bring in equal pay could possibly cause any measure of inflation. The amount needed is believed to be in the neighbourhood of £30 million, and some of that would be recovered by the Government in income tax.

During the past forty years British governments have received reports from their appointed Commissions and Committees declaring in favour of equal pay, and since 1920 the House of Commons has consistently passed motions in favour of it. The British Government has signed international treaties that embody the principle. The present government, as well as the preceding one has admitted the justice of the claim and declared in favour of it. Must we believe that the British Government cannot afford to be honest? For the present position denotes nothing less than that.

Because we want to see justice done to women in the public services, but even more urgently because we love our country, and desire that its integrity shall be unassailable, nationally and in the eyes of the world, we urge that the Government shall, in this session, and in the forthcoming budget, be true to its declared beliefs and make provision for equal pay between men and women in the public services.

Notes and Comments

Mass will be offered this month for our founder, Gabrielle Jeffery, and for the first editor of *The Catholic Citizen*, Leonora de Alberti, whose anniversaries occur on March 19th and 26th respectively. We feel sure that our members will remember them with affection and gratitude in their prayers.—R.I.P.

Stop-Press. On March 9th the Petition organised by the Equal Pay Campaign Committee was presented to Parliament by Miss Irene Ward, followed by another Petition organised by the Civil Service Equal Pay Co-ordinating Committee which was presented by Mr. Pannell. Many questions on Equal Pay were on the Order Paper for that day. Mr. Houghton introduced his Bill on Equal Pay the same day. Intensive lobbying by the Women's Organisations took place on March 8th and 9th. Trade Union chiefs met the Chancellor of the Exchequer on March 4th and asked him to provide for equal pay in the Government Services in the forthcoming Budget.

On February 18th, members of the Women's Advisory Council of the United Nations Association heard with pleasure from the Hon. Mrs. E. Emmet, an interesting report on the United Nations Assembly at which she was one of the United Kingdom delegates.

We ask the prayers of our members for Miss O'Callaghan, one of the founder members of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society in Liverpool, who died on February 27th. R.I.P.

French East Africa. Monsignor Lefévre, Apostolic Delegate to Dakar, has sent a letter to the Anti-Slavery Society of France condemning the virtual slavery suffered by women in certain parts of Africa.

After having affirmed that "slavery, strictly speaking, still exists, more especially in the Mohammedan parts of Africa and in the harems of the pagan chiefs who practise polygamy on a large scale," Mgr. Lefévre insists on the slavery sometimes "more abominable than the above, of the so-called dowry which the parents or the tribal chiefs demand in order to give in marriage the to me to see women arrive at the missions having women or girls who 'belong' to them."

"How many times," he writes, "has it happened fled through the forest for several days, crossing rivers and streams in tiny canoes, women in search of liberty. Then two or three days afterwards the 'owner' arrives, often threatening, sometimes brandishing a knife and demanding his property or his money. . . ."

"In a certain sense," concludes Mgr. Lefévre, "the thirst for riches which has awakened in the

African people as a consequence of the arrival of European traders has given the value of merchandise to women and girls, to a point unknown before, binding them down more than ever to an ancient slavery."

Netherlands. On February 6th was celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Alliance for Votes for Women. A meeting took place in the historically important and newly-restored town hall of the city of Naarden in the presence of the Queen. At the meeting were the Mayor of Naarden, a woman Mayor (holding office in the province of Brabant and the first and only woman Mayor in the Netherlands), women M.P.s, women alderwomen, women members of town councils, a woman State Secretary and many pioneer suffragists among whom was Dr. Cato van de Pijl—a member of St. Joan's Alliance.

The present President of the Alliance of Women for Equal Opportunities and Citizenship (formerly the Alliance for Votes for Women) opened the Meeting, followed by the Mayor, a fervent promoter of women's rights. Then followed Mrs. Wynaenots Francken who gave an historical account of the struggle for the vote and presented a doll in the dress of sixty years ago to the Queen. As Mrs. Francken described, the struggle ended in a victory which brought the women of the Netherlands the right to vote.

After several other speeches there was read a chapter of a book which had a great influence in favour of women's rights some fifty years ago, followed by the recital of poems by the great Dutch woman poet, Roland Holst.

An ex-M.P. then gave an account of the work of the women M.P.s and women members of the Provincial Councils and Town Councils.

On February 9th a dinner was given to commemorate the Centenary of the birth of Dr. Aletta Jacobs, the first Netherlands woman doctor. Speakers at the dinner gave an account of Dr. Jacobs' youth, of her aims to help the suffering, and of her struggle to be admitted to the University, a struggle crowned by a degree conferred on March 8th, 1879, in the presence of very many people in Gronnogen where she had made her studies.

Switzerland. The ballot held on February 20th/21st, in which the women in the Basle Canton were asked whether they wanted political rights or not, resulted in 33,166 women in favour and 12,327 against.

With sorrow we record the death of Lady Pethick Lawrence. A tribute will be published next month.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND
Editorial Office of "The Catholic Citizen"

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

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

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MISS GUESSARD, B.A.	"The Catholic Citizen."

43rd Annual Report*

for the year ended December 31st, 1953

The year was dominated by the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on June 2nd, with its attendant rejoicings and festivities. Three members had the honour of being in Westminster Abbey: Dame Enid Lyons, G.B.E., Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, D.B.E., and Lady Wijeyekoon. Six members who had the privilege of seats allotted to the Alliance watched the procession from the Mall. St. Joan's Alliance sent to Her Majesty the resolution passed at the 42nd Annual General Meeting:—

"On the occasion of the Coronation of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance with humble duty offers respectful homage to Her Majesty and the assurance of the prayers of its members for a long, happy and peaceful reign.

"The Alliance trusts that Her Majesty may see the speedy removal of the remaining legal disabilities under which Her Majesty's women subjects suffer in this country and throughout the Commonwealth."

A gracious reply was received. Many members of the Alliance heard Mass on the eve of the Coronation to pray for the Queen, as she had requested in her Christmas broadcast.

In April the whole Nation mourned the death of Queen Mary whose loss, in the words of the Prime Minister, "leaves a void in our hearts and in the life of the nation, a void which it will be hard indeed to fill." St. Joan's Alliance sent a telegram of condolence to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

With a woman on the throne it seems more incongruous than ever that Peeresses in their own right should be debarred from the House of Lords. The Life Peers Bill introduced by the late Lord Simon on February 3rd, 1953, would have authorised the creation of ten life Peers a year, either men or women. By general agreement the Bill was adjourned but remained on the Order Paper of the House of Lords under the heading: Bills awaiting second reading. A letter of appreciation was sent to Lord Simon.

The Rt. Hon. Florence Horsbrugh, Minister of Education, was belatedly given Cabinet rank. The Hon. Mrs. Evelyn Emmet was again one of the United Kingdom delegates to the General Assembly of the United Nations. For the first time three women Religious—distinguished in the field of education—took an official part in the deliberations of the Catholic Education Council. The Alliance had pressed for this for many years.

During the year four women were elected to Parliament, two Conservative and two Labour, bringing the number of women M.P.s to twenty-one.

In the Diplomatic Service the Government has been reluctant to appoint women to any of the higher posts. During the year the U.S.A. has appointed two women

*Subject to Confirmation at Annual Meeting

as ambassadors: Mrs. Clare Booth Luce to Italy, and Miss Frances Willis to Switzerland, and Mexico has appointed Senora Amalia de Castello Lidon as ambassador to Sweden.

One gain during the year has been the welcome announcement by the Home Secretary on December 16th that the Government would amend the statutory rules governing the constitution of juvenile courts, to provide for mixed courts in every case, except in emergency when a court may be composed of two men or two women. This does away with the ridiculous and humiliating position which has occurred when juvenile courts have had to be adjourned because no man magistrate was present although women were available. The new rule will come into effect at the beginning of 1955 to allow time to add women justices to the few panels which have not an adequate number. It is due to the persistent pressure of women's organisations over a number of years that this necessary reform has been won.

On October 25th new and improved Maternity Benefits came into force under the National Insurance Bill, 1953.

The 42nd Annual Meeting was held at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square, on March 21st, Miss P. C. Challoner presiding. A tribute was paid to the late Canon Reardon, our good and staunch member whose presence was greatly missed. The Annual Report was agreed and its adoption supported by Miss Aline Fenwick and Mrs. Morgan. Miss Spender appealed for more financial support for *The Catholic Citizen*, and the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Noreen Carr, was successful in raising £37 12s. 0d. Dame Vera Laughton Mathews gave a bird's eye view of the work of St. Joan's International and the Chairman, Miss Challoner, spoke of the great volume of office work required to keep the Alliance functioning and well informed.

The Executive Committee was re-elected with the addition of Miss Guessard in place of Miss Mann who was obliged to resign owing to illness in her family. The Executive Committee re-elected the chairman, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Editor of *The Catholic Citizen*, and Hon. Secretary. After the resolution of homage was sent to Her Majesty the Queen, resolutions were passed concerning Equal Political Rights; Equal Pay; the Solicitation Laws; Forced Marriages; Human Rights and Birth Control. These resolutions were sent to the appropriate authorities and their text will be found in *The Catholic Citizen* of April, 1953. Mass was offered at St. Patrick's, Soho, in March for Gabrielle Jeffery, founder of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society and for Leonora de Alberti, first editor of *The Catholic Citizen*, whose anniversaries occur that month; and on November 1st for deceased members, associates and benefactors of the Alliance. On St. Joan's Day, May 30th, Father Bernard Basset, S.J., kindly offered Mass for the

Alliance and a wreath, tied with our colours, was laid on St. Joan's Shrine in Westminster Cathedral.

Equal Pay

The campaign for equal pay has been vigorously maintained. Energies were concentrated in the early part of the year on obtaining signatures to the Petition launched by the Equal Pay Campaign Committee asking for equal pay in the Government services—the Petition to be presented to Parliament in 1954. A special feature of the work of the Alliance was the circularising of Convents in England, Scotland and Wales. Over 1,600 signatures of nuns were received, including some enclosed Orders, and active and missionary Sisters from as far apart as Aberdeen to Plymouth and Yarmouth to Llanelly. This is a most satisfying piece of work; many of the signed Petition sheets were accompanied by messages of appreciation and a promise of prayers for the success of "this measure of justice." Individual members of the Alliance have been active in collecting signatures from friends and sympathisers—the highest number being collected by Miss Cave and Dr. Isabel Powell Heath. The Alliance was represented at a meeting convened by the National Union of Women Teachers to protest against the new recommendations of the Burnham Committee on Teachers' salaries.

On February 11th, Lord Pethick Lawrence put forward a motion: "To call attention to the question of equal pay for equal work and to ask Her Majesty's Government to state their policy and their intentions regarding the matter; and to move for Papers." Thanks to the kindness of Lord Pakenham several members of the Alliance were enabled to be present during the debate in the House of Lords. The Government gave the usual reply that the country could not bear the cost in the present economic situation. Miss Irene Ward continued her crusade in Parliament and never lost an opportunity at question time of badgering the Government on the subject. Other M.P.s also asked questions but the Government reply was always the same. The Labour Party, at their Conference at Margate in October declared that "the next Labour Government will immediately implement the policy of equal pay for equal work."

The Alliance is a constituent member of the Equal Pay Campaign Committee and took part in the successful mass meeting organised by that body at the Central Hall, Westminster, on December 9th. Mrs. Cazalet Keir, Chairman of the Equal Pay Campaign Committee presided, the speakers being Anthony Greenwood (Lab.); Joseph Grimond (Lib.); Gilbert Longden (C.) and Mr. Gilbert Harding.

The meeting called upon the Government "to carry out the wishes expressed by successive Parliaments since 1920 to establish equal pay for equal work, the rate for the job, in the public services."

Letters were sent to *The Universe* by the Chairman, protesting against statements on Equal Pay, made by Fr. Paul Crane, S.J. in his series "Let's Get It Straight." As a result new members joined the Alliance.

Status of Women Committee

The Alliance is a constituent member of the Status of Women Committee of which Dame Vera Laughton Mathews is the Chairman. Six members of the Committee representing their separate organisations on the Women's Advisory Council of the United Nations Association were charged to bring specific points arising from the Agenda of the Commission before Mrs. Warde, United Kingdom delegate to the Status of Women Commission. The points taken by Miss Barry were the position of women in Trust Territories, marriage customs, and the need to obtain information from States regarding measures taken for the abolition of female circumcision.

Letters were sent to the Foreign Office protesting against the denial of political rights to women in Eritrea, and concerning the draft Covenants on Human Rights.

Miss Barry was among those who met the two women advisers to the Conference on the Nigerian Constitution. Both were fully alive to the importance of the position of women in the new Constitution.

Mrs. Corbet and Miss Irene Ward questioned the Attorney-General on the possibilities of the Committee's Bill on the Domicile of Married Women being considered. There seems little chance of legislation pending the issue of the Report on the Royal Commission on Marriage and Divorce.

Standing Conference on the Economic and Social Work of the United Nations

This Conference consists of organisations directly affiliated to International Non-Governmental Organisations having Consultative Status with ECOSOC, with the idea of sharing information, promoting co-ordination between member organisations, and making representations to Her Majesty's Government on specific points on the Agenda of ECOSOC. Various working groups have been set up. Miss Barry serves on the Human Rights group, but the Alliance is not represented on the Status of Women group, believing this to be redundant as there is already a co-ordinating Committee, the Status of Women Committee, in this country, dealing with the subject.

The Women's Advisory Council of the United Nations Association to which the Alliance is affiliated has been reorganised. On February 26th the Hon. Mrs. E. Emmet reported to the Council on her work as United Kingdom delegate to the General Assembly. On February 18th Mrs. John Warde met the Council to hear the views of women's organisations on points on the Agenda of the Status of Women Commission, and on July 17th she reported back to the Women's Advisory Council. At a later meeting the Council passed a resolution stressing the importance of U.K. delegates to this Commission having as wide a knowledge as possible of the Woman's Movement in the United Kingdom.

On May 20th Dame Florence Hancock, Workers' delegate to the International Labour Organisation Conference, spoke on the Convention on Equal Pay for Men and Women Workers.

Human Rights

Arising out of the resolution passed at the last Annual Meeting letters were sent to the Minister of State regarding the Right of Petition, and the Articles on Marriage and Medical or Scientific Experimentation in the Draft Covenants on Human Rights. Mr. Selwyn Lloyd sent courteous and detailed, though not entirely satisfactory replies.

Conferences and Meetings

The Chairman and Hon. Secretary represented the Alliance at the Catholic Rally at the Albert Hall to protest against the persecution of Catholics in Poland.

Representatives attended the Annual General Meeting of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene; took part in its deputation to the Home Office, organised to press for reform of the Solicitation Laws; and attended an informal working party convened by that Association to consider, at the request of the Home Office, what replies should be sent to the United Nations Questionnaire regarding the prevention of prostitution in this country. Representatives attended the Annual General Meeting of the Open Door Council and the Suffragette Fellowship's celebrations on Mrs. Pankhurst's birthday.

The Alliance took part in the following Conferences on women in Local Government convened by the British Commonwealth League; to consider proposals for Amending the National Insurance Act convened by the National Council of Women; on Voluntary Work by and among Women in Colonial Territories called by the Colonial Office; on Revision of the United Nations Charter called by the Parliamentary Group for World Government; and on The Challenge of Africa convened by the Council for Education in World Citizenship, at which the Chairman of St. Joan's Alliance was one of the group leaders.

The Alliance is represented on the Catholic Committee for Overseas Students; the British Commonwealth League; the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child; the British Vigilance Association and National Committee for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons; and the Women's Council co-operating with the Women of India, Pakistan and Ceylon.

Many receptions have been attended by our representatives to meet distinguished visitors from abroad, including Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru from India and Begum Liaquat Ali Khan from Pakistan, and various parties, arranged by the British Commonwealth League, the International Alliance of Women, the Sword of the Spirit, and the Women's Council were attended.

Letters have been sent to the Press and to the appropriate authorities on various aspects of our work. Letters were also sent to the late Lord Simon in appreciation of his life Peers Bill in the House of Lords, and to Lord Pethick Lawrence for his motion on Equal Pay. Other letters included one to the Ministry of Health expressing opposition to the Abortion Bill; to the Lord Chancellor, the Home Secretary and the Magistrates Association regarding Juvenile Courts.

By request of the President of the Catholic Women's League, statements on Equal Pay and Education were supplied.

Letters received included a very heartening message from His Eminence Cardinal Griffin, once again assuring us of his appreciation of the work done by St. Joan's Alliance, and wishing us all success; a letter from the Colonial Secretary expressed full sympathy with the views of the Alliance regarding female circumcision, but stated that this was not an issue which could usefully be dealt with by the Royal Commission for East Africa.

Events of the Year

On St. Joan's Day, May 30th, the Alliance had the happiness of welcoming Dame Enid Lyons, G.B.E., who had been invited to attend the Coronation ceremony, at a party at the Guide Club, and in August, members had the honour of entertaining another distinguished guest, Mrs. Tenison-Woods, Chief of Section of the Status of Women Commission, at a party given for the Alliance by Miss D. J. Collier, F.R.C.S.

Representatives of the Alliance were happy to meet His Grace, Archbishop Mathew, lately Apostolic Delegate in Africa, and Reverend Mother Kevin, Mother General of the Franciscan Missionaries in Africa, and discussed with them the higher education of girls in mission lands.

The Alliance held three meetings at the Holy Child Convent, Cavendish Square, by kind permission of the Reverend Mother. In January, Mother Mary Paul, Provincial of the Society of the Holy Child, gave the story of Cornelia Connelly; in March Mrs. Corbett Ashby spoke on the "Battle for the Vote," and in April Mrs. Halpern gave an account of the "Battle for Education." In June a joint meeting with the Women's Freedom League and the Suffragette Fellowship was held at the Alliance Hall, when Dr. Janet Aitken spoke on the opening of the Medical Profession to Women. In September a meeting was held at the Holy Child Convent when the President of St. Joan's International and delegates from Australia and Great Britain reported on the Paris Conference. At this meeting Miss Guessard described a visit paid to the artist's studio to view the window which is being made for the Memorial Chapel in the Cathedral at Rouen, as an *amende honorable* to St. Joan from Great Britain.

Visitors from Abroad

Besides those already mentioned we have had the pleasure of welcoming during the year, members from Australia: Mrs. Dwyer, President of the South Australian Section of the Alliance; Mrs. Coombs, Miss Lightfoot, Miss Merrick and Marta Larri from New South Wales; Miss Hart from Queensland; Miss Lachal and Miss Nell Taylor from Victoria; Miss Lane from Tasmania; and Miss Gibson of the N.C.W. from South Australia.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming Miss Guzman and Dr. Gertrude Haas from Austria; Dr. Aileen Noonan from Canada; Madame Pesson-Depret from France; Dr. Delia Moclair, Miss Moclair and Miss Horne from Ireland; Miss Buhagiar, President of the Women of Malta Association; Dr. Janet Robb, of the International Federation of University Women and Miss McGillicuddy from U.S.A., and Miss Monica Munro from the West Indies.

With regret we said goodbye to Miss Fenwick who served on the Committee for a time, and undertook much work for us while she was here, and to Miss Kitson, both of whom returned to Australia.

Congratulations were sent to: Monsignor Godfrey on his appointment to the Archbishopric of Liverpool; Archbishop Myers, on the celebration of his Golden Jubilee; the women members of Parliament elected at by-elections during the year; Miss Horsburgh on her promotion to Cabinet rank; our member, Dr. Eileen Hickey, re-elected to the North of Ireland Parliament; Christopher Laughton Mathews, on the conferring of the sub-diaconate; Sister Mary of the Ascension who took her vows as a Carmelite.

Felicitations were sent to: Mrs. Bentley, Mrs. Mathers, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Pritchard and Mrs. Shuldham, on the birth of their children.

Obituary

We grieve to record the deaths of the following members during the year: Mrs. Benjamin, who had been an active member since the very early days of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society; Mrs. Ellingworth; Miss Sylvia Grieson; Mother Hastings of the Society of the Sacred Heart; Miss Betty Lowe and Miss Anne Somers. R.I.P.

The Catholic Citizen

Subscriptions and sales have maintained their previous level, but these fall short of the costs of production by about £100 and for this gap there is unfortunately no reserve fund. However, *The Catholic Citizen* is obviously indispensable to St. Joan's Alliance since it forms a vital link between members and broadcasts our view and news far and wide. Therefore we feel sure that members and readers will make a special effort to enlarge our circulation, to support our advertisers and to advertise their own wants.

Special articles and reviews have included those from Miss Eleanor FitzGerald on St. Francis Xavier; Miss Renée Haynes on The Women's Disabilities Bill; Dr. Janet K. Aitken on Women and Medicine; and the Rev. C. Spender, who wrote an article in honour of the Marian Year. Dr. Janet Robb sent her impressions of the Seventh Session of the General Assembly; Miss Aline Fenwick reported the 42nd Annual General Meeting; and Madame Leroy-Boy reported the Human Rights Commission. A valued contributor, Miss Christopher St. John, wrote a tribute to Dame Laurentia McLachlan, late Lady Abbess of Stanbrook.

It was a great pleasure to publish the Memorandum on Part-Time Work, drawn up by Miss Vera Douie, and sent by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (U.K.) to the Status of Women Commission and to the International Labour Organisation. From our French contributors we received a report of the Paris Conference by Madame Marthe Gouffé; and a note on protests with regard to the Maisons Tolérées by Madame Pesson-Depret. From Mademoiselle F. Baetens (Belgium) we received an article on the Reform of the Civil Code in Belgium. These three items were published in the French language.

Renewed thanks for the regular feature "The Month in Parliament," are offered to Mrs. Halpern and Miss Douie and we thank Miss Leslie for translations from the German.

Miss Phyllis Challoner has contributed numerous articles and reviews and much spade-work to the paper, and for this we are profoundly grateful. We are grateful

too, to the unnamed reviewers and contributors who have helped in the production of the paper this year. Once more we are indebted to Mrs. Garrard and Mrs. Morison for their addressing of *The Catholic Citizen* wrappers, and to Miss Graham and Miss Hope Robson who have sent out the paper month by month. We thank Miss Monica O'Connor for indexing the present volume.

Hon. Treasurer's Report

This year no large donations have been received but subscriptions have remained at the same level. To pay for extra help in the office £75 was drawn from the Gabrielle Jeffery Memorial Fund. The Christmas Sale, including donations in cash, brought in £101. To *The Catholic Citizen* £45 was allocated from the general fund, £11 of which was for binding.

The Alliance is grateful to all the voluntary workers who do so much to help us. We wish to thank Miss Jameson for her regular and expert clerical assistance on which the efficiency of the work so largely depends; also to thank Miss Cave and Miss Devey for occasional help in the office. We are grateful to Miss Gadsby for her generosity in auditing the accounts and to Miss Sheila Hynes for her care of the Press book. We are also indebted to the band of helpers at the Christmas Sale, especially to Miss Carr who organised the refreshment department so successfully and to Mrs. Saint George who came especially from Folkestone to help.

St. Joan's International Alliance

Council Meeting

The twelfth Council Meeting of St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance, was held in Paris at the Cenacle Convent in August, 1953, Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, D.B.E., presiding.

The resolutions passed and sent to the appropriate authorities included those on the Draft International Covenants on Human Rights, the Status of Women in Trust Territories, Slavery and Customs analogous to Slavery and Education (*v. The Catholic Citizen, October, 1953*).

The Alliance was delighted to have as a visitor Soeur Marie André, of the White Sisters, whose wonderful research work on behalf of African women is so well known. Her speech, when she urged the Alliance not to slacken its efforts, will not be forgotten.

At the end of the Conference, delegates made a pilgrimage to Rouen and assembled at the shrine of St. Joan in the market place where they placed flowers, and prayers were said for the Alliance.

United Nations

St. Joan's International Alliance is one of the Non-Governmental Organisations having Consultative Status (on the Register) with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Human Rights

In compliance with a resolution of ECOSOC, the Alliance sent its Observations to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the *Draft International Covenants on Human Rights*; these Observations dealt with amendments to the Articles on Marriage, on Medical or Scientific Experimentation, and on the Right of Petition (*v. The Catholic Citizen, October, 1953*).

Pursuant to a further ECOSOC resolution, the Alliance gave its opinion regarding the advisability of convening a Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations interested in the *Prevention of Discrimination*, and sent therewith a brief summary of the activities of the Alliance relating to the eradication of prejudice and discrimination.

In response to a request for further information on *Slavery*, the Alliance referred to the very detailed Memorandum already sent to the *ad hoc* Committee on Slavery in 1950. Proposals for attacking customs

analogous to slavery, which customs constitute a form of servitude of women, were attached (*v. The Catholic Citizen, October, 1951*).

The Alliance asked for a supplementary Convention to the International Convention on Slavery of 1926, which would take into consideration the points recommended by the *ad hoc* Committee of Experts on Slavery, particularly those customs which exploit children and deny to women the right to dispose of themselves.

Status of Women Commission

Two documents prepared by the Alliance were circulated to the Commission at its Eighth Session, one concerning ways in which equal political rights for women may be achieved and made effective, and expressing opposition to the segregation of women in political as in other matters; the second on older women workers, in which the Alliance stated its belief that pensions and retirement benefits should apply to men and women at the same age and on the same terms.

The Alliance has been particularly concerned with two questions in the revised Questionnaire of the Trusteeship Council, namely Question 91, dealing with physical integrity (female circumcision) and Question 96 dealing with marriage. From the Paris Conference of the Alliance, a resolution was sent to the Economic and Social Council, noting with satisfaction that ECOSOC had acceded to the request of the Status of Women Commission and had drawn the attention of the Trusteeship Council to the resolution of this Commission. This resolution expressed the hope that the Administering Authorities responsible for the Trust Territories would, in their Annual Reports to the Assembly, reply in detail to the Questions concerning the Status of Women.

Trusteeship Council

The Alliance learnt with satisfaction that, in response to its Petition (T/PET.Gen/22) "regarding the violation of the physical integrity of women," a resolution was passed by the Trusteeship Council on July 20th, 1953, which decided to draw the attention of Administering Authorities to the Petition and to take up this question during the annual examination of conditions in those Trust Territories where the custom complained of might exist (*v. The Catholic Citizen, October, 1953*).

The Dominican representative, Miss Minerva Bernardino, whose work on this subject on the Trusteeship Council had been of great value was, while on her way through London, personally thanked by the Hon. Secretary of the Alliance.

UNESCO

The Alliance is included in the Register of organisations with which the Director-General maintains "informal relations."

Exception was taken by the Alliance to those parts of Recommendation 34 of the XVth Joint International Conference on Public Education of Unesco and the International Bureau of Education, which suggest that women have different scholastic aptitudes from men. The Alliance expressed its belief that the aim of education is to develop the whole personality and that each child has the right to develop his or her particular talents.

Conferences and Meetings

Mrs. Grabinska and Dr. de Spur represented the Alliance at the Conference of Consultative Non-Governmental Organisations held in New York in December. Dr. de Spur also represented the Alliance at the Status of Women Commission.

The Alliance has been fortunate in having Madame Leroy-Boy in Geneva, where she represented the Alliance at the meetings of the Human Rights Commission, at the meetings of ECOSOC; at the Conference of the I.L.O., and at the Conference of Consultative N.G.O.s held in June.

Representatives of the Alliance had the advantage of attending informal meetings (at the London office of the United Nations), addressed by Mr. Charles Hogan,

Director, N.G.O. Department, ECOSOC Secretariat, and Mr. Egon Schwelb of the Division of Human Rights.

The Alliance continues to be represented on the Liaison Committee of Women's Organisations. The Alliance's representatives are: in London, Miss Challoner and Miss Barry; in Paris, Madame Pesson-Depret and Madame Russo; in Geneva, Madame Leroy-Boy; in New York, Mrs. Grabinska and Dr. de Spur.

The Alliance was represented at the International Abolitionist Conference in Paris, by Madame Pesson-Depret; at the International Federation of University Women in London, by Miss P. C. Challoner, and at the Conference of the Associated Countrywomen of the World in Toronto, by Mrs. de Kresz.

Miss Aline Fenwick and Miss Kitson, when visiting Stockholm, met through the kindness of our member, Mrs. Anna Lenah Elgström, a representative group of Swedish Catholics and spoke to them of the work of St. Joan's Alliance.

Congratulations

The Alliance sent congratulations to Srimati Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, first woman President of the General Assembly of the United Nations; to Frau Aenne Brauksiepe, President of St. Joan's in Germany, on her re-election to the German Federal Parliament, and to Frau Elizabeth Pitz, a member of the Alliance, newly elected to the Bundestag; also to our member, Dr. Aileen Noonan, on her re-election to the Town Council of Mount Forest, Ontario.

Obituary

We grieve to record the deaths of Marie Murtagh (née Carroll), the Treasurer of St. Joan's Alliance in Australia when it was founded in Melbourne in 1936; and of Madame Marta Vranesic of Zagreb who joined the Alliance in 1935 in Istanbul. R.I.P.

THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

During February the House has been dealing with very varied business; prominent among the questions covered were the Supply estimates and the Foreign Ministers' Conference in Berlin.

From our point of view the most noticeable point was a renewal of Miss Irene Ward's sniping campaign at Question Time on the subject of Equal Pay.

On February 2nd she asked the Minister of Housing "If he will give an assurance that the implementation of the recent agreement with the National Association of Local Government Officers making pay increases equal between the sexes will be allowed to be reckoned for Government grant purposes in all cases." Mr. Marples replied: "In so far as salaries are admissible for grant in services for which my right Hon. Friend is responsible, he will be prepared to admit expenditure incurred as a result of this agreement." (Some slight evidence of successful erosion here.)

On February 4th Miss Ward asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer "On what grounds he denies equal pay in the higher grades of the Civil Service while agreeing to it in the higher grades of the Joint Pricing Committee, and whether he will undertake an immediate examination into the expenditure of public money without regard to a common principle." Mr. Boyd-Carpenter replied: "I understand that men and women in the higher grades of the staff of what is now the Joint Pricing Committee already received equal pay before their work was transferred to the National Health Service. This practice was continued on transfer. Equal pay has not been extended to grades not previously entitled to it." When Miss Ward pursued the unfairness of this move Mr. Boyd-Carpenter retorted: "Our general policy on this matter has been set out on a number of occasions. I hope my Hon. Friend is not suggesting

that we ought to alter the conditions of these people for the worse." Miss Ward also asked him "Whether in view of the recent agreement with the National Association of Local Government officers making pay increases equal for women and men, he will now apply this principle to the Civil Service." His reply was: "No, Sir. I see no advantage in varying the details of the existing Civil Service practice for fixing women's scales of pay until it is possible to make a change of principle." One had imagined that the principle had been accepted and was merely awaiting application. This reply would therefore imply a step backwards, if indeed it meant anything at all. Dr. King pursued, the same day, "Can the Minister tell us the slightest thing that the Government have done, since they took office, towards furthering the principle to which the Government have given their support?" Mr. Boyd-Carpenter replied: "I do not think we need fear comparison with our predecessors in this respect."

On February 11th, Miss Ward asked the Chancellor "if he will list the classes of women whose employment attracts Treasury funds who now receive equal pay." Mr. Boyd-Carpenter circulated a written reply. Other than industrial employees the classes of women were: (1) Ministers of the Crown, (2) Members of the House of Commons, (3) In the Civil Service: Deputy Secretaries, Doctors, Dentists, Medical Auxiliaries, certain Nursing and other Hospital grades; Factory Inspectors, Grade II, (4) In the Armed Forces: Doctors, Dentists, There are also a number of bodies which receive larger or smaller grants-in-aid from Treasury funds. The Chancellor detailed some of these and finished: "I have no complete information as to the practice of all these authorities."

On 11th February, Miss Ward was at the Chancellor of the Exchequer again, asking him: "How many women deputy secretaries are drawing equal pay." Mr. Boyd-Carpenter replied: "Two, Sir." Miss Ward congratulated him on a 100 per cent. increase but again complained of unfairness and anomalies. She will, no doubt, continue her guerilla tactics.

On February 5th, Mr. D. Jones asked the Colonial Secretary: "Whether he is now in a position to give any information about the result of consideration of the proposal for the enfranchisement of women in the Bahamas." Mr. Hopkinson replied: "The Select Committee of the House of Assembly on the enfranchisement of women did not report at the opening of the present session in November. There have been no further developments."

On February 12th, Lady Davidson's Bill concerning the use of anaesthetics in animal operations had its second reading. It was well received and committed to a standing committee.

On February 1st, the question of the serious shortage of science teachers in schools was raised on the Adjournment by Mr. Follick. He reported that the shortage of women teachers was even more acute than that of men, and went on: "Therefore I ask the Parliamentary Secretary, under these conditions of such a shortage of women teachers, if it was wise of the Burnham Committee to make a sex differential in their salary increases? I appeal to the Hon. Gentleman to ask the Minister that there shall be no sex differential in the case of special responsibility allowances. It is hard enough to get the teachers now, but if we make the sex differential continuous, it will be impossible in the future."

There was a rather odd exchange in the written questions on February 11th. Mr. Grey asked the Home Secretary: "Whether he is aware that the probation officer's report regarding John James Cowan, a former Durham miner, stated that he came from a district of Durham where it was a common thing for men to beat their wives and that it was generally expected and understood; and whether he will instruct probation officers not to make such general charges in future."

The Home Secretary explained that the report was "the result of an unfortunate misunderstanding in the conversation between the probation officer and his clerk." Mr. Grey, on the same point also asked: "How many persons in the county of Durham appeared before magistrates during 1953 on a charge of inflicting grievous bodily harm on their wives in consequence of beating them." The answer was: "Eight."

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