

THE

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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.

Margaret Roper, the daughter of St. Thomas More

BY BEATRICE R. COOLE, B.A.

In Basel Museum there is a sketch for a painting by Holbein which shows St. Thomas More and the various members of his family. In the foreground sits Margaret Roper, More's eldest and favourite daughter. In her hand she is holding a book, Seneca's "Oedipus," which gives an indication of her academic tastes. Margaret had married William Roper, to whom we owe "The Life of Sir Thomas More," a year or two before Holbein painted the picture, but she and her husband, like the other members of More's family, continued to live at home, in her father's spacious house at Chelsea.

St. Thomas More had three daughters, Margaret, Cecilia and Elizabeth, and one son, John, all born between 1505 and 1510. The household of More provided one of the best arguments for the higher education of women, which was becoming popular in England at the time. His "school" was well known among scholars on the continent, and his daughters, the "Moricae," especially were famous as Latin scholars. Erasmus, who was a frequent visitor to More's house, has left us an account of the "school."

Erasmus writes that "he (More) lives in delightful fellowship with his family, his wife, his son, his daughter-in-law, his three daughters and their husbands and eleven grandchildren . . . You might say that he presides over a second Academy, like that of Plato, only that instead of geometry and figures you meet the domestic virtues. I would rather call it a university of Christian religion, for there is none therein who does not study the branches of a liberal education."

The high repute in which Margaret, Elizabeth and Cecilia in particular were held is clear. The tutor to Mary Tudor, Vives, a great advocate of women's education, writes: "I would reckon among this sort (of holy and learned women) the daughters of S(ir) T(homas) M(ore), K(night), M(argaret), E(lizabeth), C(ecilia) and with them their kinswoman M(argaret) G(igg), whom their father, not content only to have them good and very chaste, would also they should be well-learned, supposing that by that means they should be more truly and surely chaste." Erasmus, as a mark of honour, dedicated to them his commentary on Ovid's "De Nuce."

St. Thomas More followed the Italian precedent by placing his children's instruction in the hands of learned scholars who joined his household and shared his family life. He took for granted that his daughters should be educated at home. Margaret's husband, William Roper, had probably been a tutor in More's household, before he became a real member of the family.

The subjects which the girls studied were numerous. Margaret, the most accomplished of them, had some knowledge of Philosophy, Astronomy, Physic, Arithmetic, Logic, Rhetoric, and Music, besides a "perfect mastery" of Greek and Latin. Margaret could write such good Latin that when Cardinal Pole once read a certain letter which she had written he would not believe that it could be any woman's. More, besides writing letters to his family in Latin, often spoke in that language to them at home, except before their step-mother, who was no scholar, and would not understand.

When "Meg," as her father called her, was about twelve, there was a great epidemic of sweating sickness in London. Meg fell ill, and the physicians despaired of her life. While her father was in his private chapel, praying on his knees that God should spare his child, he is said to have thought of a certain remedy that had not been tried. This remedy was administered by the doctors, and "contrary to all their expectations, the child was, as it was thought, by her father's fervent prayers, miraculously recovered," and at length restored to health.

It was the custom of St. Thomas More to wear a hair shirt secretly. On one occasion, he happened to be sitting at supper in a plain shirt, without collar or ruff, and a young kinswoman caught a glimpse of this hair shirt and began to laugh at it. Margaret noticed this, and told her father about it in private afterwards. It was her special trust to wash this shirt, as need arose. Sometimes St. Thomas More used to punish his body with knotted cords, and this also was known only to his daughter Margaret.

When More refused to accept Henry VIII's Act of Supremacy in 1534, he was committed to the Tower of London. Here he spent the last year of his life, awaiting the trial at which he was to receive sentence of death. Margaret came to see him again and again. She begged him to accept the Act, but he always answered that his conscience would not allow him to swear "without the jeopardising of his soul to perpetual damnation." He wrote frequent letters to Margaret and tried to raise her spirits with his old humour. He teased her by calling her Eve, who came to tempt him with the apple.

After his trial he was brought back from Westminster to the Tower. Margaret, "desirous to see her father, whom she thought she would never see in this world after, and also to have his final blessing," waited on Tower wharf, where she knew he would pass by. There, as soon as she saw him, without care for herself, she pressed among the throng and the Guards who were surrounding him with their halberds and bills. She ran up to him, and in the sight of everyone embraced him, hung upon his neck and kissed him. He gave her his blessing and spoke words of comfort. After she had left him, not satisfied with what she had already seen of her father, she turned back, ran up to him, and embraced him again. At last, with a heavy heart, she left him.

More's last letter to his daughter was written with a piece of coal on the day before his execution. He says: "I never liked your manner toward me better than when you kissed me last; for I love when daughterly love and dear charity hath no leisure to worldly courtesy. Farewell, my dear child, and pray for me, as I shall pray for you, that we may merrily meet in heaven."

There is a story that after the execution, Margaret bribed the man whose duty it was to throw the head of her father into the river after it had been exposed on Tower Bridge, to give her the head. "She kept it most reverently while she lived in spite of injunctions from the Council to surrender it." She wished the head to be buried with her, and this is said to have been done when she herself died in 1544, nine years after her father. Tennyson has placed her in his "Dream of Fair Women":

"Morn broadened on the borders of the dark
Ere I saw her who clasped in her last trance
Her murdered father's head."

NOTES AND COMMENTS—Cont. from p. 35

A long overdue reform is the Governments' Midwives Bill which, it is hoped, will become law in the summer. Under this Bill each local supervising authority will be required to secure the whole-time employment of a sufficient number of midwives for attendance, not only as midwives, but also as maternity nurses in the homes of expectant mothers. Every expectant mother, no matter how poor, will be able to obtain the services of a fully qualified midwife since the local authorities will have powers to grant remission or rebates of fees to be charged. Voluntary organisations who are already employing salaried midwives will be allowed to continue their work in co-operation with and under the supervision of local authorities. Maternity nursing by unqualified persons is to be prohibited, and existing midwives will be asked to undergo "refresher" courses of instruction. The Exchequer will make grants towards the cost of the scheme and also towards the cost of compensating midwives who do not secure salaried posts in the new service.

Once more we have the pleasure of congratulating our member, Councillor Miss E. C. Fortey, J.P., this time for her efforts on the Leicester Education Committee, which have resulted in a resolution being passed deleting the Regulation that women teachers should be obliged to resign on marriage.

Notes and Comments

We welcome with joy the recent instruction from the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda urging the formation of new religious institutes for maternity and other health services and suggesting that existing orders of nuns should establish special branches for these medical services.

"Several missionary Ordinaries," states the instruction, "have brought to the attention of the Holy See the necessity of making more appropriate provision for the health of mothers and infants. In some regions of Africa, tribes are decreasing day by day, and they are destined to disappear if provision is not made for a better assistance for mothers and infants. It is well known that in other lands infant mortality is appalling, owing to the want of hygiene. The Governments of these countries are taking an interest in this problem, and non-Catholic sects are giving great attention to it. Some Governments demand that nurses obtain a special diploma before permitting them to engage in this work in hospitals. Various private undertakings have already been started for the care of mothers and infants in missionary lands; these efforts must be regulated and co-ordinated."

In the regulations laid down by the Sacred Congregation it is stated that the Sisters should attend Catholic universities and hospitals to obtain the required certificates as doctors or nurses. In case they should find it impossible to be trained under Catholic auspices they may obtain special permission from the Congregation to take their courses in hospitals under lay management. In carrying out their duties the nuns may employ native nurses who have obtained the required certificates.

In this connection we are reminded by perusal of the Bulletin of the *Students Missionary League* that our member, Dr. Agnes McLaren (R.I.P.), made many efforts to obtain permission for nuns to study medicine, going many times to Rome on this quest. As our readers are aware she ultimately found a young Tyrolean girl, now Dr. Anna Dengel, who was willing to take up the study of medicine from a Missionary motive and who afterwards founded the Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries.

We strongly protest against the Government's refusal to carry out the decision of the House of Commons in favour of Equal Pay in the Civil Service—a decision reached not by a "snap" division, but by the full deliberation of the House after four hours' debate. Such action, besides being unjust, brings Democracy and the Parliamentary System into disrepute.

St. Joan's Alliance has written to the Prime Minister expressing "indignation at the action taken by the Government in its efforts to nullify

the vote taken on April 1st on Miss Wilkinson's motion in favour of Equal Pay for men and women in the Civil Service."

Feminists feel the warmest gratitude to Miss Ellen Wilkinson (Jarrow, Lab.), who on April 1st moved a resolution in the House of Commons on the Civil Service Estimates, to the effect that women in the "common classes of the Civil Service" should receive Equal Pay for Equal Work. On this resolution the Government was defeated by 156 votes to 148. Under the technicalities of Parliamentary procedure, and after the Government Whips had got to work another vote was taken, and this time the Government obtained 149 votes to 134. The Prime Minister attempted to treat the first vote which was the real test as unimportant, but was eventually compelled to adjourn the House. Afterwards he proposed to make the question a matter of confidence in the Government. That the Government was obliged to send out a "3 line Whip" to its followers to support the vote of confidence on April 6th, shows very clearly the wind is veering towards Equal Pay for Equal Work between men and women in the Civil Service.

As we go to press we learn that the Government obtained their vote in the House of Commons by an enormous majority (361 to 141), but as the *Times* says in a leader on the subject:

"they obtained it for reasons more comprehensive than the merits of the question upon which they asked for it, and there was an under-current of resentment among some of their supporters that they should have been asked to give a vote which might conceivably be taken to imply a refusal of equal pay for equal work in the Civil Service irrespective of the sex of the worker."

A meeting organised by the Joint Committee on Women in the Civil Service, to demand "Equal Pay" for women in the Civil Service, took place on March 17th at Caxton Hall. The meeting was presided over by Professor Winifred Cullis, and admirable speeches were made by Col. Clifton Brown, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, Major Hills and Viscountess Astor, all members of Parliament.

The meeting was supported by 25 organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance, and a resolution was carried unanimously: calling upon the Government to establish one salary scale in each grade of the Civil Service which shall apply equally to all in it without regard to their sex; and further urging that the Chancellor of the Exchequer be asked to receive a deputation to bring the Resolution before him.

(Continued on previous page)

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

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25th Annual General Meeting

The 25th Annual General Meeting of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance was held on Saturday, March 21st, at St. Patrick's Club Rooms, Soho. Mrs. Laughton Mathews, M.B.E., was in the chair. After the Annual Report had been read by Miss Brandt, Miss Eleanor FitzGerald moved its adoption. For feminists, she said, at the present day, complacency might be regarded as an eighth deadly sin, but the report that had just been heard gave grounds for real satisfaction. Among the most important achievements of the year she counted the Married Women's Torts and Tortseasors Act, which removed an abuse that had struck at the very roots of a woman's human dignity; till its passing, a married woman was not allowed to own even her own faults!

Much work remained to be done. There was the huge question of the status of African women, there was also the Mui Tsai question, an evil for which the Alliance had for years sought redress. Now at last it seemed as if something were about to be done, and she hoped that within the next twelve months all the little slaves involved would be freed.

Miss FitzGerald went on to allude to the importance of the social side of the work of the Alliance (as exemplified in particular by the dinner to the Prime Minister of Australia and Mrs. Lyons), and to the inestimable value of the *Catholic Citizen*, proved by the number of its subscribers, Catholic and non-Catholic, who turned to it as a source of reference in the knowledge that every statement would be correct. Its traditions had been well carried on by the valiant young editor, Miss Christine Spender. No-one could fail to be impressed by the immense volume of work carried on by the Alliance without a single paid helper; it would be invidious to mention names, but an

exception must be made for Mrs. Hand, who had brought so great financial assistance by her genius for selling the paper and for converting old clothes into ready cash. Finally, Miss FitzGerald wished to pay tribute to the Chairman, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, in whom the Alliance had a great ambassador, and to Miss Barry, its mainspring.

The adoption of the Report was seconded by Miss Duffy, whom the Chairman introduced as the first Vice-President of the Federation of Notre Dame de Namur. Miss Duffy said that the point in the year's progress that had caused her greatest pleasure was the lifting of the ban on married women teachers by the L.C.C. She hoped that other ban, of unequal salary, would soon be lifted likewise. In Denmark, which she had recently visited, equal pay had been achieved, with no dire results.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Miss Brandt, and its adoption moved and seconded by Miss Terry and Miss Warnecke, who are regular helpers at the office. Miss Warnecke appealed for further help in increasing the circulation of the *Catholic Citizen*, and Miss Terry asked for money-making suggestions from members. A telegram of congratulation on the twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Alliance was read, from Miss Jeffery the Founder. Mrs. McCann, the new Chairman of the Liverpool Branch read the Liverpool Branch Report, and Mrs. Murray, also from Liverpool, said a few words explaining how, though now she had to leave most of the work to younger members, she was always glad to be able to come to meet old friends in London.

The Chairman's address followed. Mrs. Laughton Mathews said that the Alliance could congratulate itself on the number of young members; there was no need to fear cold feet, but courage was a spiritual quality of soul not

confined to youth, and many of the older members had gained much from the education of the suffrage movement. This was jubilee time for the Alliance, a time of rejoicing. In the twenty-five years of its life there had been an extraordinary change in the position of women, and many hardly realised the inequalities that still exist. In the first years, they had concentrated on winning the vote. For years after they had sought to use the vote against the injustices that subsisted. Now they found much to do in international fields. Madame Pesson-Depret, an active worker in the Abolitionist Movement in France, who was shortly coming to speak in England, was also Chairman of the French branch of the Alliance, L'Alliance Sainte Jeanne d'Arc. Lately, links with several more countries had been established.

The work of the immediate future was summed up in the following Resolutions, which were passed to be forwarded to the appropriate quarters:

1.—SILVER JUBILEE

On the occasion of its Silver Jubilee, March 25th, 1936, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance records its deep gratitude to Gabrielle Jeffery, founder of the Alliance, to Leonora de Alberti (R.I.P.), Editor for nineteen years of the *Catholic Citizen*, to Florence Barry, Hon. Secretary for twenty-two years, and to all workers known and unknown in the past and present ranks of the Alliance.

2.—EQUAL STATUS OF WOMEN

St. Joan's S.P.A. expresses its satisfaction that the League of Nations has asked Governments to collect and forward to the Secretary General, information in regard to the Status of Women in their respective countries. It begs the Government in preparing its memorandum to work in co-operation with women's organisations in this country and also to give due consideration to the position of women in the Crown Colonies and territories under British Mandate.

3.—EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. urges that in all territories under British administration women be granted equal political rights with men.

(b) *Women in the House of Lords.* St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that peeresses in their own right should have a seat and vote in the House of Lords and further, that in any measure designed to reform the Second Chamber men and women should have the same right to sit and be elected.

4.—EQUAL MORAL STANDARD

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. re-affirms its demand for the repeal of all the existing legislation specially directed against "common prostitutes."

(i) In this connection the Alliance urges upon the Government the necessity for amending Section 2 S/s.(1) and 3 S/s.(2) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885 which, by excluding "common prostitutes" and "women of known immoral character" from the operation of the law against procurers is in effect, encouraging a traffic in such women.

(ii) *Solicitation Laws.* St. Joan's S.P.A. regrets that the Government has taken no action to remedy the present unjust solicitation laws, calls for their repeal, and the substitution of a measure on the lines of the Public Places (Order) Bill, which deals with street solicitation by general legislation against annoyance or molestation, and under which the evidence of the person annoyed or molested would be necessary in order to obtain conviction.

(b) *Child Assault.* St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass into law a Bill providing more effective safeguards for the protection of young children from sexual assault.

(c) *Illegitimate Children.* St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass without delay a bill providing for the enforcement of Affiliation Orders Overseas on similar lines to the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Act 1920.

(d) This year being the 50th Anniversary of the Repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act, St. Joan's S.P.A. offers its congratulations to the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene which, under the leadership of Josephine Butler, was responsible for the abolition of the abominable system of State Regulation of Prostitution in this country.

5.—EQUAL PAY AND OPPORTUNITIES

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government and Local Authorities to establish among their employees a system of equal pay and opportunities for men and women, and freedom for married women to decide for themselves whether or not they shall engage in paid work, thus setting an example to other employers.

(b) In particular it calls upon the Government to open the *Diplomatic, Consular* and kindred services to women on the same terms and conditions as they are open to men; it further demands the immediate publication of the Report of the recent Departmental Committee on this subject.

(c) "Protective" Legislation

St. Joan's S.P.A., while believing that protection should be afforded to industrial workers, declares that to impose restrictions on women only is to treat them permanently as minors, and to lower their status as workers. It believes that the only policy which safeguards their individual liberty and responsibility is that of basing all labour regulations and restrictions upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker, and calls upon the Government to apply this principle to all legislation, and to instruct its delegates to support it at all Conferences of the International Labour Office.

6.—INSURANCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT

(a) (i) St. Joan's S.P.A. reiterates its demand that benefits and contributions under all national insurance schemes shall be the same for men and women.

(ii) It calls upon the Government to amend the Agricultural Unemployment Insurance Bill in accordance with the above principle.

(b) St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to amend those sections of the Anomalies Act which subject married women to unequal regulations and unjustly deprive them of unemployment benefits for which they have paid.

(c) St. Joan's S.P.A. re-affirms its demand that the Public Assistance Rates when amended should be made equal for men and women, and boys and

girls, and that either husband or wife should have the right to apply for family relief.

(d) St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to allocate for the training and relief of unemployed women an equal sum of money in proportion to their numbers as is expended upon men.

7.—NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass into law a bill giving married women the right to an independent nationality on the same terms as other adults, and further that the Government should propose similar legislation to Dominion Governments. It further calls on the States Members of the League of Nations to adopt an international convention recognising a married woman's right to her own independent nationality on equal terms with men.

8.—SLAVERY

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that in all territories under British jurisdiction it shall definitely be laid down that no woman, whatever her race, shall be sold by her father or alleged proprietor; that no marriage contract shall be made for any girl under 14 years or for a girl over 14 years without her consent, and that there shall be no inheritance of a widow by her husband's heirs.

(b) St. Joan's S.P.A. begs the League of Nations Advisory Committee of Experts on Slavery and the Mandates Commission to include in their investigations the important question of the position of women and girls.

(c) St. Joan's S.P.A. views with grave concern the report of the Governor's Committee on the Mui Tsai System in Hong Kong, which clearly establishes that the Mui Tsai System and the buying and selling of girls in the British Colony continues. It welcomes the appointment of the Government Commission to investigate the subject. It notes with satisfaction the recent replies in the House of Commons on the subject by the Colonial Secretary, but mindful of similar pledges in the past, it urges strong and decisive action by the Government to implement such pledges without delay.

9.—MATERNAL MORTALITY

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Ministry of Health to provide adequate maternity services throughout the country, and further urges upon its members the duty of pressing their local authorities to carry out to the full their powers in this respect.

10.—LEGAL POSITION OF MARRIED WOMEN

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. expresses its satisfaction at the passing of the Law Reform (Married Women and Tortfeasors) Act which amends the law relating to the capacity, property and liabilities of married women in contract and tort and abolishes the liabilities of husbands for their wives' torts.

(b) *Income Tax.* St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that the income of married persons should be separately assessed and separately taxed.

11.—WOMEN POLICE

St. Joan's S.P.A. welcomes the increase in the number of Women Police in the Metropolitan Area, and calls upon the Government to further legislation making it compulsory for Watch Committees and Standing Joint Committees to appoint a sufficient number of Women Police.

12.—BIRTH CONTROL

St. Joan's S.P.A. deplores the policy of the Ministry of Health in allowing in certain cases in-

formation on artificial birth control to be given at centres maintained out of public funds. It urges its members to watch the matter in their Local Councils.

13.—DIVORCE

St. Joan's S.P.A. regrets the action of certain societies in pressing for further facilities for divorce and trusts that all Christian bodies will unite in opposing this demand.

14.—STERILISATION

St. Joan's S.P.A. records its opposition to the introduction of any legislation designed to promote the voluntary or compulsory sterilisation of mental defectives.

15.—EDUCATION

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. while welcoming the Education Bill which offers assistance to some Catholic Schools in carrying out the work necessary for their re-organisation on Hadow lines, accepts the proposed change in the method of appointing teachers, only on the understanding that the Bill is a first step towards a satisfactory national settlement which will give voluntary schools a permanent place in the national system of education. It calls for the amendment of clause 11 so as to ensure that it shall not be lawful to force non-Catholic teachers into Catholic Schools.

It further calls upon the Government to ensure that there shall be no special exemptions applicable only to girls.

(b) St. Joan's S.P.A. urges upon the Government the necessity of providing adequate and equal facilities for the education of native girls and boys under British Rule.

Miss Walmsley of Birmingham, in speaking to the resolution on Equal Pay, asked us not to be sentimental about equal pay, but to go on steadily working for its achievement. Miss Graham, speaking to the resolution on Women Police, reported a slow but steady increase of police-women, especially in the Metropolitan area where numbers had been raised from 50 to over 100. Mrs. Garrard made an eloquent appeal for funds. "My chief object at the moment," she said, "is to collect £90 for rent." Her appeal realised over £27.

Two new members of the Committee were announced: Mrs. Garrard and Miss J. Organ.

By ballot of the Committee, Mrs. Laughton Mathews was re-elected chairman for the coming year, and Mrs. Garrard was elected hon. treasurer. The Meeting passed a hearty vote of thanks to Miss P. M. Brandt for her services in this capacity during the last four years.

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Mui Tsai

We welcome the appointment of a Government Commission to investigate the question of Mui Tsai in Hong Kong and Malaya, the terms of reference being:

To investigate the whole question of Mui Tsai in Hong Kong and Malaya, and of any surviving practices in those territories of transferring women and children for valuable consideration, whether on marriage or adoption, or in any other circumstances, and to report to the Secretary of State on any legislative or other action which they may consider practicable and desirable in relation to these matters.

The Commission will consist of: Sir Wilfred Woods, late Financial Secretary in the Government of Ceylon, who will act as Chairman; Miss Picton-Turbervill, formerly a member of the House; and Mr. C. A. Willis, late of the Sudan Civil Service.

On April 3rd, the Commissioners received at the Colonial Office a Deputation from 14 Women's Societies, organised by the British Commonwealth League. Mrs. Innes (B.C.L.) introduced the Deputation.

Mrs. Laughton Mathews pointed out that while the women's societies had for many years urged action upon the Colonial Office, action so far had been ineffective. St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance viewed with alarm any attitude which implied that the Mui Tsai system could not, like other undesirable systems, be firmly abolished by a great government. Two years ago they had been told in the British House of Commons, by representatives of the Colonial Office, that the present system of registration was enough. The British Commonwealth League and its affiliated societies urged (1) Immediate full registration, (2) absolute prohibition of further purchase or sale of girls for any purpose whatever, (3) Increase in the number of inspectors. It was ridiculous to think that children of six and seven would report themselves to the Secretary of Chinese Affairs; they could not even complain. The Commission had the prayers and best wishes of all organised women's societies.

Other speakers were Dame Maria Ogilvie Gordon, Miss Agatha Harrison, Mrs. Spiller and Miss Chave Collisson.

she was a pioneer in this direction—witness the circumstances of the Visitation.

How Mother Mary would have rejoiced at the latest turn of events, she who possessed to such a remarkable degree "that spirit of broad-minded charity . . . described by St. James in his epistle as 'the perfect law of liberty'"; she who "gathered close to her own aching heart all those in trouble or anguish." C.S.

Review

The Life of Mother Mary Potter. By Eve Healy. (Sheed & Ward, 7s. 6d.)

We should all be grateful to Mrs. Healy for this excellent life of the Foundress of the Congregation of the Little Company of Mary.

Mother Mary only attained to her vocation after every kind of difficulty had beset her way; her family opposed her, bad health dogged her footsteps, her Bishop disapproved. She seemed unfitted even to be a religious, much less to found a Congregation, for the Sisters of Mercy rejected her after she had been received as a novice. But God makes use of the weak things of this earth and the idea which always pursued Mother Mary was destined to fruition. Her object was ultimately to found an Order which should work and pray for the sick and especially for the dying, in the spirit of the Maternal Heart of Mary "that had suffered so grievously on Calvary." At first she was not even allowed to use the word congregation, but she persevered in her efforts and at her death in Rome, in 1913, hospitals founded and run by the Little Company of Mary existed all over the world, and the hospital in Rome incorporated a training school known as St. Gregory's School for Nurses—a school which trains both lay nurses and religious.

It is interesting to note that Bishop Bagshawe of Nottingham, who first intervened and made it possible for Mother Mary to start her Congregation, wished the Little Company of Mary to undertake "monthly nursing" and while in Hyson Green, in accordance with the Bishop's desires, maternity nursing was undertaken by the Institute, thus anticipating the recent instruction of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda by over fifty years. After some controversy with Cardinal Manning, however, Bishop Bagshawe ordered the discontinuance of this work. But owing to the fact that Mother Mary's foresight provided, in her scheme for the establishment of training schools, for lay as well as religious probationers, with the co-operation of lay nurses the Little Company of Mary has been able to undertake maternity nursing in many places, including America and Australia.

Chapter XII shows well the forces at work which led inevitably to the recent instruction on maternity work, though it was not yet promulgated at the time the book was written. Mother Mary herself, endeavouring to ascertain how Our Lady would have acted in the crisis of child birth came to the conclusion that

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International Notes

The Governing Body of the International Labour Office discussed the resolution adopted by the last Assembly of the League of Nations on the status of women with regard to equal rights to work. It instructed the I.L.O. to prepare as soon as possible a study on the regulations concerning women's work, taking into account the question of restrictions on the employment of women in times of depression. It also asked the I.L.O. to go into the question of the economic situation of women as it appeared in the light of actual facts.—*Monthly Summary of I.L.O. (February)*.

* * * *

We note with interest from a recent issue of *Cahiers*, organ of the International Catholic Women's League, that a director of Catholic Action in Brussels has accomplished a remarkable work of Catholic and Social organisation among the women of the Congo, where she has recently made a visit as Social Assistant.

She organised a club for native women and this club is the centre of all kinds of social activities which have as their aim the education, formation and assistance of families. There is an advisory service which helps the people when they have to approach the authorities in any difficulty. Lectures are given to groups of women in personal and family hygiene, house-craft, gardening, etc., and opportunity is given for discussion among themselves. Native women help the Social Assistant in the formation of these groups. There are also family groups which have regular monthly reunions, and three young women's groups, which have as their aim education for marriage, and wholesome recreation.

* * * *

Members will be delighted to know that news has been received from Mrs. Lyons of Australia who, in the course of her letter, writes:

"Please convey to all your members my warmest greetings and assure them that nothing during my stay in England gave me more pleasure than my association with St. Joan's Alliance.

S. A. B.

* * * *

A recent issue of *Soziale Hilfe* (Austria) contains a study of Dr. Hildegard Burjan, one of the first woman M.P.s in Austria. Born a Jew, Frau Burjan was converted to the Catholic Faith after a severe illness. Thenceforward she consecrated her life to the help of others, for Christ's sake. During the war she founded the society of *Soziale Hilfe* to provide

food and work for those in need. She devoted herself to rescue work among girls and to the support of a home for Catholic women workers. She founded the sisterhood of *Caritas Socialis* to give loving care and religious consolation to the suffering. One of her last foundations was the *Elisabeth Tisch* to provide at least one free meal a day for the impoverished persons of the middle class, and from the time of these foundations until her death, she devoted her entire life to the help of others for the Glory of God.

Some of us had the privilege of meeting Dr. Burjan at the Geneva Congress of the I.W.S.A. in 1920.

ANTONIA JABLONER

REPEAL OF C.D. ACTS

Readers will remember that on April 23rd, the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene is to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts. On this date, the Rev. Father Vincent McNabb, O.P., will offer Holy Mass in thanksgiving at St. Dominic's Priory, Haverstock Hill, at 7 a.m. Our Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Garrard, who lives near by, will kindly provide breakfast for any members able to attend, at a small charge for the funds of the Alliance.

Members are urged to attend the Public Meeting to be held under the joint auspices of the A.M.S.H. and St. Joan's Alliance at the Livingstone Hall on April 24th, at 5-30 p.m. (entrance free). The subject will be "The Fight Against Regulation in France." Mrs. Corbett Ashby will preside, and Mme. Pesson-Depret, General Secretary of the French Section of the International Abolitionist Federation and President of the French section of St. Joan's Alliance, will be the speaker.

For particulars of Luncheon to be given by the A.M.S.H., April 23rd, see page 41.

OBITUARY

We ask the prayers of our readers for the repose of the souls of the following members who have died recently—Mr. George Bate, Mrs. Liddell and Mrs. Roper, and also for the repose of the soul of Sir Marcus Fernando of Ceylon, father of our members, Mrs. L. de Fonseca and Mrs. de Silva. R.I.P.

With deep regret we record the death of Fröken Ingeborg Walin of Sweden, President of the Swedish Auxiliary of the I.W.S.A. and member of the Board of the I.W.S.A. and that of the O.D.I. Fröken Walin took a prominent part at the Istanbul Congress. May she rest in peace.

HON. TREASURER'S NOTE

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance has lived twenty-five years. Surely something of which to be proud! In order to emulate the spirit of its Patron and "go forward" we need funds. It is suggested that you might like your donation to express itself in some multiple of twenty-five. For those who can afford no more than twenty-five farthings please send them, and those who can make it twenty-five pounds, the workers will find in them the incentive to expand beyond the present possibilities.

Thank you donors of twenty-five!

C. J. GARRARD.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

March 10th to April 1st

Anon	5	0
Bain, Miss	5	0
Bodenham, Miss	2	0
Brady, Miss N.	1	0
Butler-Bowdon, Miss	7	6
Carter, Miss Barclay	2	6
Challoner, Miss	2	6
Clarkson, Miss	5	0
Conway, Miss M.	7	6
Danesch, Miss	5	0
Ellingsworth, Mrs.	1	6
Fortey, Councillor Miss E. C.	2	6
Garrard, Mrs.	10	0
Gilsenan, Mrs. and Miss	4	6
Grant, The Hon. Mrs.	2	6
Gray, Miss	2	6
Hall, Miss L.	2	0
Hand, Mrs.	1	2
Hanlon, Misses M. and F.	5	0
Havers, Miss	2	6
Hickey, Dr. Eileen	2	6
Hughes, Mrs. A. J.	5	0
Hughes, Miss A.	2	6
Jeffery, Miss	2	0
Keiser, Miss	2	6
Kilgallon, Miss	2	0
Laughton, Lady	5	0
Lowe, Miss	2	0
Lowndes, Mrs. Belloc	2	6
Mathews, Mrs. Laughton	12	6
McCann, Mrs.	10	0
McCormick, Miss	2	0
Mills, Mrs. E. C.	2	6
Murray, Mrs.	3	0
O'Connor, Miss M.	5	0
Parker, Mrs.	2	6
Parnell, Miss M.	2	6
Parnell, Miss N. S.	1	5
Raynes, Miss	2	1
Retchford, Miss	5	0
Richards, Miss E. M.	2	6
Robson, Mrs. Hope	10	0
Robson, Miss Hope	2	6
Ruhman, Rev. W.	5	0
St. John, Miss Christopher	2	6
Schuster, Mrs.	3	0
Spender, Miss	7	0
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Turner, Miss C. S.	2	0
Veale, Miss	2	6
Walmesley, Miss H.	10	0
Whitehead, Miss L.	2	0
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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

A deputation of representatives of women's organisations, on the subject of Unemployment Insurance, was received at the Ministry of Labour on March 23rd. The deputation urged that men's contributions should be reduced to the level of women's, and women's benefits should be increased to the level of men's, as had been proposed by Mrs. Stocks in the Statutory Committee on Unemployment Insurance.

At the Annual Meeting of the Open Door Council held recently at Bristol, Mrs. Hey Groves represented St. Joan's Alliance.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Hon. Sec.: Miss Bowden, 22 Fern Grove, Liverpool. Last month the Committee undertook to visit, or write to members who have not been seen for some time. The results have been encouraging, and we hope to hold a meeting in April.

The Liverpool Branch, and Liverpool Catholics have lost a good friend in Mrs. Shaw, who died during the month. R.I.P. Meetings have frequently been held at her house, 146 Parliament Street, Liverpool. Miss Wylie, niece of Mrs. Shaw, has kindly given permission to continue meeting there for the present.

The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene

Livingstone House, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.1

50th Anniversary of the Repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act, 1886

Thursday, April 23rd, 1 p.m.

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Speakers:

The VISCOUNTESS ASTOR, M.P.

R. A. BUTLER, Esq., M.P. (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for India). A. S. G. BUTLER, Esq. Professor GILBERT MURRAY. Mme. PESSON-DEPRET (Secrétaire Générale Branche française de la Fédération Abolitioniste Internationale)



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