

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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*Organ of St. Joan's Alliance (formerly The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society).
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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

WOMEN WORKERS IN A CHANGING WORLD

By P. C. Challoner

In June next year the 48th International Labour Conference will meet in Geneva. Item 6 of the Agenda is "Women Workers in a Changing World" and it behoves women to make their voices heard when representatives of Governments, Employers and Workers pass Resolutions concerning their future.

The International Labour Office Report VI (1) contains an appraisal of the present situation and trend, a background section on the employment of women with family responsibilities, a brief chapter on the problems of women workers in the developing countries and an outline of administrative arrangements for handling questions relating to women workers.

The Report reveals that there have been considerable changes in the attitude of the I.L.O. towards women workers, but it must be restated that however advanced the International Labour Office may become, it is the International Labour Conference that makes decisions regarding policy. It is of the utmost importance that the representatives of Governments, Employers and Workers should be approached in good time, at the national level.

A Questionnaire from the I.L.O. has been sent to Governments, and the answers to this, when available, will be an indication of where work needs to be done. Observers from interested NGOs may be admitted to the discussions and it is hoped that memoranda and deputations will prepare the way for fruitful interventions.

In the section of the Report on the present situation and trend the I.L.O. points out that, while many women are entering the more highly skilled fields of employment, even the more traditionally closed trades like the printing trade, the majority are still confined to the lower paid and less skilled jobs—to what is called "women's work". Even those factors which determine the "value" of "equal" work tend to be those which are traditionally male.

Opportunities for women depend very largely on their preparation for work, that is, vocational training, and here the Report stresses the inadequacy of the training for work-life which girls still receive and the need for parents to treat their girls as of equal importance with their boys. Girls too must

realise that training is not wasted by marriage in any case, and that it can be utilised by later re-entry into skilled work.

The most important recent trend is, of course, the much more widespread employment of married women and the problems of their dependent children. "This," says the Report, "must be squarely faced." Special legislation for women workers is against their best interests and the I.L.O. lays down as a principle that while no married women should be forced by economic necessity to undertake paid work outside her home, neither should regulations tie her to it. This principle implies that a woman should be as free as a man to arrange her life—it is the business of husband and wife to decide how! The mothers of the world do not willingly neglect their children and for those who do, there are laws and penalties. The overwhelming majority of mothers (and fathers) are deeply concerned for the well-being of their children.

The emerging pattern is for women to enter paid employment before marriage, and to return to it when their family responsibilities allow. Here again an important principle emerges. The Report recognises that women should be consulted as to what services they need for the welfare of their children.

The Report enumerates the Conventions which apply to women, and admits that they tend to cause discrimination against them in employment. Already the Night Work Convention is being undermined by new schedules involving both men and women; the Underground Work Convention is foreign to the economy of some countries where family work underground is the custom; and the Report itself points out that not all the Conventions are suitable for the developing countries. It is coming to be recognised that Protection in Dangerous Trades is necessary for *all* workers. Men can be injured by weight-lifting, and the end effects of lead poisoning, radiation, etc., are passed on by men certainly no less than by women. Protection for women "during their reproductive period" is not enough and the principle that protection should be based on the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker is gaining ground.

The most firmly entrenched of the Conventions is that which protects maternity. No one would wish to deny women the necessary social services connected with motherhood, but to put any of the responsibility for them on the employers causes discrimination against the employment of married women. Could they not claim benefits, leave of absence, etc., on the same conditions as do men for any disability, i.e. on a doctor's certificate?

Even in the matter of part-time work it is realised that it is not only women with family responsibilities who favour part-time work. There are other categories of women and men who welcome the arrangement.

The Report points out that with shorter hours and longer holidays for all, the need for special regulations for adult women workers is passing away—it even suggests that boys should be prepared for domestic work! This is surely in line with the admirable trend whereby young, and not so young, married couples can enjoy each other's company and share the care of home and children.

St. Joan's International Alliance has worked in friendly fashion with the International Labour Office for many years, while making no secret of its objections both to the Conventions which, in its view, treat women as less than adult, and to the administrative arrangements which have over the years handled the problem of women and young persons together.

REVEREND MOTHER GADSBY

As there was no issue of *The Catholic Citizen* in December, we take this first opportunity of expressing our warmest congratulations to Reverend Mother Gadsby on the occasion of the golden jubilee of her profession as a religious of the Cenacle.

Before she entered the Convent of the Cenacle in Manchester, on April 26th, 1911, Fedora Gadsby was a keen member of the W.S.P.U., the militant Suffrage Society. She took an active part in the great demonstration in Hyde Park in 1908 and was a strenuous worker for the Union at the two General Elections in 1910 when she was in charge of her local Suffragette Committee Rooms. She was proud of wearing a large white badge on which "Votes for Women" was printed in black for all to see. It was she and her sister Beatrice who introduced Florence Barry to the Suffrage Movement.

Mother Gadsby took the greatest interest in the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, and she still reads *The Catholic Citizen* from cover to cover each month.

Reverend Mother Gadsby has held many important posts and has been Provincial for thirty years, a longer period than any in the history of her Institute. *Ad multos annos.*

WOMEN AT THE COUNCIL?

After a general session of the Council a journalist noted his own satisfaction that the patiently watching separated brethren observers had at last been rewarded.

We too, not separated but absent, have had our joyous moments. The first, when in historic words an eminent Cardinal suggested to the Fathers in Council that women should be asked to play a more important role—that woman should be admitted as observers.

Two days later a Melkite Archbishop speaking in Council said the text of *De Ecclesia* was so silent on the place of women in the Church as to give the impression that they did not exist. When we read these words, spoken in solemn circumstances, we felt great changes were afoot, that our patience would be rewarded—very soon.

As much takes place both inside and outside the Council Chamber which is not broadcast, no news has reached us of the Council Fathers' reaction to those historic words. The strength and volume of possible opposing influences does not fail to reach us however. It is painfully brought to our notice by such incidents as that recently recorded in our contemporary, *Informations Catholiques Internationales*; under the reproduction of a photograph of a pleasant young woman (a journalist covering news from the Council) we read: "Women journalists not having been admitted to the Council Mass, their male colleagues sent in a petition on their behalf."

Painful reading, but containing perhaps the most hopeful message which has yet reached us. True, no crumbs from the table for her on that occasion—but the laity suddenly brought up to the realisation that the other half of itself was excluded.

From *The Universe* we learn that the lay observers at the Vatican Council have recommended that their number be increased at the third Council session, that women be included among them, and that lay observers be co-opted by commissions dealing with subjects in which they have special competence.

Monsignor Reyez (as reported in *Le Figaro*) intervened in the debate on the Council's invitation to Catholics to join in prayer for Unity. This had been addressed to viri, i.e. to the male sex only. "And what of the women?" asked Mgr. Reyez. The editors, working behind closed doors, had simply forgotten "le deuxième sexe". Is not the old formula "without counting the women and children" out-of-date today?

We register again our gratitude that the proposed changes in the marriage rite will, in future, include both 'groom and bride, in the petition asking God to keep them faithful to each other.

F.M.S.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Argentina. We offer our congratulations to the new President of our affiliated society, the *Centro Feminino de Cultura Civica*, and we look forward to continuing the happy relations we have had with the *Centro*.

Madame de Martinez writes that on her retirement after four years of hard work as President a tea-party was given in her honour. Her amendments to the Constitution were accepted by acclamation and she was congratulated, particularly by the lawyer members of the *Centro*.

At the General Assembly of the Society, Madame de Martinez was elected "International Public Relations Officer" which is a great joy as it will keep her in touch with the Alliance.

Madame de Martinez kindly represented St. Joan's International Alliance at the Seminar on the Status of Women in Family Law held at Bogota, Colombia, in December, and we await her report with interest. It will be remembered that, together with our President, Madame de Martinez represented the Alliance at a similar Seminar held in Bucharest in 1961.

Kenya. On December 11th, 1963, the eve of Kenya's Independence Day, a Mass was celebrated in Westminster Cathedral to ask for the divine blessing on the new State and upon its people.

On Independence Day, Catholics assembled for a thanksgiving service in the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Nairobi. This fine new cathedral was designed by Mrs. E. D. Hughes, a member of the Alliance, and the first Pontifical Mass celebrated within its walls marked the centenary of the coming of the Holy Ghost Fathers to Kenya in June, 1863.

In London, a notable event of Kenya's Independence Day was the reception given by Mr. Patrick Wall, M.P., and his wife, at the Africa Centre, Hinsley House. On this happy occasion, the Alliance was represented by the Chairman and the International Secretary.

South Africa. An African woman has won a seat in South Africa's first Bantustan Legislative Assembly in the Transkei. She is Miss Lilian Twetwa, a forty-nine-year-old teacher, one of the two women amongst the forty-five candidates who stood for election when the Transkei Africans voted in November, 1963. We are delighted to record Miss Twetwa's success, the more so in that it has broken the ancient tradition that women play no direct part in the affairs of the area.

Greece. From "The Abolitionist Review", we learn that while *maisons tolerées* have been closed in Greece since 1955, the control of prostitutes has been maintained. Under the Decree of 1960, prostitutes must undergo a bi-weekly medical

examination, and if they are found to be ill, they are taken by the police to hospitals or places of detention where they remain until the risk of infection has been eliminated. Women who violate these regulations are liable to a prison sentence of up to three months and also to detention for a period of one to five years in a workhouse. Numerous precautions are taken to prevent the reorganisation of brothels; for instance, an "immodest woman" cannot rent a room without the authorisation of the police, rents cannot be fixed at a rate proportionate to the receipts of the tenants, etc. Prostitutes can be repatriated to their place of birth and obliged to "accept" re-education through work. The inscription of these women and their removal from the register rests with the inscribing authority, with the possibility of appeal in case of refusal to cancel the inscription.

Australia: New South Wales. We are delighted to learn that Mrs. B. Kinsella has been elected to a second term of office as president of the New South Wales Section of St. Joan's Alliance. "I am well-known to Miss Barry, Miss Challoner and many other members since 1954," she writes, "I attended the Tenth Status of Women Commission as an observer with Miss Challoner, and there I met and was most hospitably entertained by Mme. Leroy Boy. At the Commonwealth Conference held at Cambridge in 1957, I represented St. Joan's New South Wales Section. I have the happiest memories of the many members I have met, and particularly of those who attended the Quincentenary celebrations of the Alliance at Rouen—this visit was a milestone in my life." Mrs. Kinsella may be sure that the many friends she made in Europe have equally happy memories of her, and the Alliance takes this opportunity of thanking her for all her valuable work.

We hear that Miss Hegarty of the N.S.W. Section hopes to be able to attend the Council Meeting in September; we shall look forward to meeting her in Antwerp—and, we hope, also Mrs. Kinsella.

Western Australia. Miss Hester Hoad writes to say that she has been elected chairman of the Western Australia Section of the Alliance, and refers in the warmest terms to the pleasure it gave her to meet so many members of St. Joan's when she was in London last year—she recalls the happy evening when she was the guest of honour at a party given by the editor of *The Catholic Citizen* at 22 Aubrey Walk. Miss Hoad succeeds Mrs. Edith Westhoven who is coming to Europe this year, and hopes to attend the Council Meeting at Antwerp. Mrs. Westhoven is one of Australia's leading educationalists, and the Brisbane Conference of the Alliance held last year received her paper on education with acclaim.

REVIEWS

University and Anglican Sermons of Ronald A. Knox. (Burns Oates, 42s.)

"I believe a good sermon to be the whitest of white blackbirds"—thus Kate O'Brien in "Presentation Parlour". The good sermon is indeed a *rara avis*, and what a joy it is, therefore, to turn to the man who never composed a bad one—Mgr. R. A. Knox.

"University and Anglican Sermons", brought into being largely through the success of "Pastoral Sermons" and "Occasional Sermons" published in 1960, complete the collection of Mgr. Knox's conferences and discourses. Parts 1 and 2 of this third and final volume devoted to the two sets of spiritual talks that he gave at Oxford: "In Soft Garments" and "The Hidden Stream" which were published in 1942 and 1952 respectively and are now out of print. Part 3 comprises twenty-eight sermons that came to the notice of Father Caraman, S.J., after 1960, and Part 4 is given over to sermons preached by Mgr. Knox prior to his reception into the Church.

The University Conferences form two distinct groups. Those reprinted from "In Soft Garments" cover the period 1926-1938 when Mgr. Knox was Chaplain to the male Catholic undergraduates at Oxford, while those from "The Hidden Stream" were delivered by invitation after he had relinquished the Chaplaincy. Mgr. Knox's avowed aim in these sermons was to "deal unprofessionally with some of the hesitations that naturally occur to us when we compare our intellectual commitments with the current thought of the day," and not to embark on a course of apologetics. Both sets of Conferences cover the same ground, the fundamentals of the Catholic faith, yet in manner they are profoundly different. The earlier group has the more immediacy, and one is not surprised to learn that Mgr. Knox said of the later: "For the most part they were more laboriously written." Father Caraman's extremely interesting preface provides us with the probable explanation for the loss of a certain spontaneity which entailed this extra effort: Mgr. Knox, he tells us, was recurrently depressed over the "averageness" of his flock (it is permissible to hazard here that it might well have been leavened if women students had not been barred from the Chaplaincy), and that he was disheartened by the "great wedge of what you may call *beta query gamma* Catholics who go down from the University each year and remain *beta query gamma* Catholics after doing so." He was deeply anxious that "his men" should not behave foolishly and so expose the Church to criticism; he was deeply disappointed that, despite his constant exhortations, so few of the Catholic undergraduates attended Mass one weekday of the eight-week term. But, even though in his opinion, these young men were mediocre, it is certain that they were strengthened and quickened by his deceptively

simple, straightforward sermons, never too long, so beautifully and so wittily expressed, so closely reasoned as to leave no loophole for doubt, so "felt". It is impossible, one feels sure, that these Conferences should not have left a lasting imprint.

The Additional Sermons were preached to mixed congregations and have been arranged in chronological order by Father Caraman. One of these in particular, that on the disabilities suffered by Catholics in non-Catholic countries, would repay meditation; Mgr. Knox preached it in 1925, and while, thanks to the great work of Pope John XXIII, the prejudice against Catholics is far less stubborn today, there are still small burdens to be borne. Our consolation, Mgr. Knox said, lies in the words "Follow Me" uttered by Our Lord, with the accent placed fairly and squarely thus: "Follow *Me*". Amongst the most beautiful sermons in this section are those devoted to Our Lady; here Mgr. Knox approaches the heights reached by St. Bernard. As one reads "The Flower of Our Race", "Our Lady of Ransom", "The Second Eve", we realise the distance travelled by Mgr. Knox since the days of his Anglican Sermons, the days when he was convinced that "the confidence of membership, living and actual, of the Church of Ages" was not for him.

A five-hundred page collection of sermons might well be classed as a "tome" and left to gather dust on an obscure shelf. Not so this collection. Like its predecessors, it is a spiritual treasury brimming with the riches of a rare intellect minted in the fire of faith. Mgr. Knox was a writer of many parts, but one can safely say that it is in this trilogy that his genius shines out most brightly, a genius that temporal changes will not dim.

P. D. Cummins

Christian Life Day by Day. By Cardinal Suenens. (Burns Oates, 8s. 6d.)

This book consists of a series of talks given by Cardinal Suenens over the Belgian radio and television network to ordinary Christian men and women. Here are simple, direct words that spring from a luminous mind—words that go straight to the heart and teach us, not only that God loves us, but show us how we can learn to love in all situations. Cardinal Suenens makes us realise how small the scope of our love really is, and tells us how to widen it, as widen it we must if we wish to be true Catholics. If we follow what he has to say, we shall not find it difficult, we shall learn, step by step, to radiate this love which is joy. "Heaven is a place where there are no indifferent faces," said St. Teresa—let us do our utmost to eliminate indifferent faces from this world, for above all else, men are wounded to death by indifference. Buy this book—short though it is, completely unpretentious, it is infinitely more valuable than erudite books on theology which do not advance the soul one pace towards the kingdom of heaven.

P.D.C.

Notes and Comments

"We are at the beginning of an era when the inroads of poverty, hunger and disease will be lessened and when men and women everywhere will have it within their power to develop their potential capacity to the maximum." These words were spoken by President Kennedy at the beginning of his term of office—a term that was to be brought to such an untimely and cruel conclusion.

On October 11th, 1963, the President's Commission on the Status of Women presented its first report to the White House; barely six weeks later, John F. Kennedy was assassinated in the streets of Dallas, Texas. The man who had shown the world how much he had to give is dead, but we can truly say, even as we grieve for this inestimable loss, that his soul goes marching on, that it will inspire all those of good will to work tirelessly for the causes to which John Kennedy dedicated himself: peace, equality of civil rights, freedom from hunger, want, intolerance.

It has often been said that politics and Christian beliefs are incompatible; President Kennedy demonstrated to the full that this was not the case. His political actions, the position he maintained, stemmed from Christianity in the fullest sense of the word, and while he himself was a Catholic, he was utterly opposed to any form, any suggestion of religious or racial discrimination. He stood for all that is noblest in man, and what is noblest in man derives directly from God.

To Mrs. Kennedy who wore the mantle of sorrow with such beauty and dignity, St. Joan's Alliance sends its heartfelt sympathy and assures her of its prayers.

* * *

More than forty years has elapsed since, in 1922, relying on the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, Margaret Haig, Viscountess Rhondda, a peeress in her own right, petitioned the King, praying that His Majesty might be pleased to order a writ of summons to Parliament to be issued to her. This petition was referred to the Committee of Privileges which, as will be remembered, at first reported favourably on her claim, but afterwards, when the matter was referred back to them, reversed the decision. Thereafter, between the wars, the introduction of a Parliament (Qualification of Peeresses) Bill either in the House of Lords or the House of Commons was almost an annual, though invariably an unsuccessful event.

After the war, the climate of opinion changed. In 1949, on a motion submitted by Lord Reading, the Lords paved the way by voting 45 to 27 in favour of the admission of women to their House. Hopes were high, but were dashed when the Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee (who had already created several peers) stated that, while the Government were in favour of giving to women an equal right to sit and vote in the House of Lords, they could not agree to the extension of the hereditary prin-

ciple in that House that this measure would entail.

The passage of the Life Peerage Bill in 1958 secured the admission of life peeresses, but did nothing to further the claims of the hereditary peeresses, the reason given being that the question of their inclusion must form part of a general reform of the Upper House. The Peerage Act of 1963 has at last given them their rights, and three hereditary peeresses—Baroness Strange of Knokin (the Dowager Viscountess St. David's), Baroness Audley, and Baroness Beaumont, the wife of Lord Howard of Glossop—have already taken their seats. More are likely to follow.

It is of interest that Lady Audley and Lady Beaumont are both Catholics. We offer all three peeresses our warm congratulations.

* * *

Since the above was written, two new life peeresses have been appointed—Lady Davidson, former M.P. and daughter of that doughty champion of Votes for Women—Sir Willoughby Dickinson, and Mrs. Gaitskill, widow of the former leader of the Labour Party. To these also we offer our congratulations.

* * *

On November 20th, 1963, Baroness Summerskill introduced into the House of Lords a Bill to amend the law relating to rights of property as between husband and wife. It is entitled the Married Women's Property Act, 1963, and reads:

"If any question arises as to the right of a husband or wife to money derived from any allowance made by the husband for the expenses of the matrimonial home or for similar purposes or to any property acquired out of such money, the money or property shall, in the absence of any agreement between them to the contrary, be treated as belonging to the husband and wife in equal shares."

* * *

No doubt readers will have been wondering why there was no December number of *The Catholic Citizen*. The answer is that owing to the heavy increase in the cost of printing and postage and the extreme pressure of work at the office, the Committee decided to drop the December issue and to enlarge this, the January issue.

FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

The Fifty-third Annual Meeting of St. Joan's Alliance will be held on Saturday, March 21st, at 2.30 p.m. Nominations for committee and resolutions for the agenda must reach the secretary not later than February 10th. Nominations must be duly proposed and seconded and the consent of the candidate obtained.

Members' subscriptions are now due. It will be remembered that at last year's Annual Meeting it was decided to leave the minimum annual subscription at £1 (which includes *The Catholic Citizen*) but to ask members "with the means to do so, voluntarily to augment their subscriptions". It would be of real service to the Alliance if these were sent in promptly. Apart from the time and expense involved in sending repeated individual reminders, the money is required to meet the day-to-day expenses of the office. Please address letters to St. Joan's Alliance, 36a Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford Street, London W.1.

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

founded 1911

BRITISH SECTION OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE
AND
Editorial Office of "The Catholic Citizen"

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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U.N. General Assembly—Eighteenth Session

"To that world assembly of sovereign States, the United Nations, our last hope in an age where the instruments of war have far outspaced the instruments of peace, we renew our pledge of support—to prevent it from becoming merely a forum for invective—to strengthen its shield of the new and the weak—and to enlarge the area in which its writ may run."

John F. Kennedy
Inaugural Address, June 20th, 1961

The "Amiable Eighteenth", as the ambassador of one African country qualified it, opened on September 17th and closed December 17th, "on time", a feat not to be disparaged, given the heavy agenda and the continuing membership "explosion"—the admission of Zanzibar and Kenya brought the total to 113. The adoption of a number of effective measures speeded action; an additional technique to be used experimentally next year is an electronic voting device. The Third Committee did its bit by postponing to the nineteenth session consideration of six of its twelve items, including the **Marriage Recommendation** to which it had accorded lowest priority.

Dr. Carlos Sosa-Rodriguez of Venezuela was unanimously elected president and he proved a wise, impartial and tactful mentor and guide. Two of the seven Main Committees elected women rapporteurs: Mrs. Refslund Thomsen (Denmark) served as rapporteur of the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) and Madame Huguette Achare (Dahomey) was rapporteur of the Special Political Committee.

The "détente" which characterized the Eighteenth Session was attributed to the signing of the test-ban treaty. Mr. Rossides (Cyprus) one of the Assembly's vice-presidents noted that there had been agreement and even joint resolutions by the United States and the Soviet Union, but he admitted that there was very little substance in the body of the resolutions, so that it might have appeared that the "relaxation in tension has brought also a relaxation in effort." Commenting on the death of President Kennedy, who had addressed the Assembly on September 20th, Mr. Rossides observed, "It was something which shook this Assembly and the whole world to the very core. It brought about a unity in sorrow, which meant a unity in purpose, to promote and further enhance the influence of the late President Kennedy in the progress towards the objective which he had set in his life: that of international co-operation and peace with justice in our world."

Outer Space

Two constructive resolutions on Outer Space were

adopted during this session: one a **Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space**; the other an agreement on **International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**. One of the Principles provides that:

"States shall regard astronauts as envoys of mankind in outer space, and shall render to them all possible assistance in the event of accident, distress, or emergency landing on the territory of a foreign state or on the high seas. Astronauts who make such a landing shall be safely and promptly returned to the State of registry of their space vehicle."

Colonialism

Considerable time and attention were devoted to the problem of African territories which have not yet achieved independence. Early in the session indeed there appeared a possibility that the African States, fresh from their Addis Ababa meeting, might demand the expulsion of South Africa because of its policy of Apartheid. Some measure of understanding between the African group and Portugal may have been achieved during several private meetings. Portugal moreover invited the Secretary-General to visit the Portuguese territories in Africa.

Enlargement of Membership of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council

The Eighteenth Session saw the first vote in favour of an amendment to the Charter since that document was signed in San Francisco in 1945. This event was occasioned by the desire to enlarge the membership of the two Councils to assure a more "adequate and balanced" representation of U.N. members, especially African and Asian States. In accordance with the resolution adopted the Security Council's membership will rise from 11 to 15 while the Economic and Social Council will have 27 in place of 18 members. The resolution specifies exactly how the seats of non-permanent Members States will be allotted; in the past these seats have been distributed, more or less, in accordance with a "gentlemen's agreement". Although the resolution was adopted by an overwhelming majority of votes it will not be put into effect unless, like all amendments to the Charter, it is ratified by two-thirds of the Members of the United Nations including all five Permanent Members of the Security Council. The African-Asian group was angered by the Soviet Union's announcement that it would not ratify the amendment unless Communist China was first admitted to U.N. membership. Peking meanwhile accused Moscow of using the Chinese admission as a subterfuge. Since the close of the Assembly the Soviet Union has

stated that its position was based on a misunderstanding and that it is now ready to reconsider its decision.

Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination

The item to which the Third Committee gave number one priority was that of the **Racial Discrimination Declaration**. About three times the anticipated number of meetings were required to complete work on the draft prepared by the Commission on Human Rights. The complete draft was unanimously adopted. Non-governmental organizations are invited to publicize the eleven-article text and to inform the Secretary-General of action taken by them in compliance with the resolution. The Economic and Social Council will be asked to invite the Commission on Human Rights to give "absolute priority" to the preparation of a draft international convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, to be submitted to the Assembly next year.

Draft Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage, and Registration of Marriages

As indicated in our opening paragraph, consideration of the Draft Marriage Recommendation was deferred to next year's session. As of June 1st, 1963, the Marriage Convention had been signed by 13 States.

Commission on the Status of Women

The Economic and Social Council had decided that most of its functional commissions, including the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women, would not meet in 1964. The Assembly adopted, during the Eighteenth Session, a resolution providing that the Human Rights Commission would in fact meet in 1964 and every year thereafter. There was no parallel resolution adopted with respect to the Commission on the Status of Women.

Just as observers morosely resigned themselves to the likelihood that the "Amiable Eighteenth" was to proceed like the draft *SCHEMA DE ECCLESIA*, "as though women did not exist"—to borrow a phrase from the Melchite Archbishop Hakim of Acre—the Third Committee turned to the item: **Report of the Economic and Social Council**. Delegate after delegate, men as well as women, included in his intervention comments on the status of women. The Committee seemed transformed magically into a 111-member, mixed, Status of Women Commission.

Mrs. Ngapeth (Cameroon) commended the Status of Women Commission which had done outstanding work to improve the lot of women. She hoped the United Nations would further encourage national and international women's organizations, and would sponsor more international conferences like that held at Addis Ababa in 1960. She was pleased by the accession of additional States to the Supplementary Convention on Slavery, and she deplored the "practices akin to slavery" that still existed in certain countries.

Mrs. Abène (Gabon) reported that in the villages women instructors were operating numerous welfare centres where women were taught homecrafts and child care, and women generally were taking an active part in the life of the country including Parliament, the army, the police, and government administrative departments.

Mrs. Gbédev (Togo) conceded that woman's place was primarily in the home, but she regretted that some men used that as a pretext for trying to keep women in a position of inferiority.

Mrs. Ramaholimihaso (Madagascar) reported that her country had ratified the Supplementary Convention on Slavery.

Mrs. Kisosonkole (Uganda) said that a national committee on the status of women had recently been established.

Mrs. Aribot (Guinea) explained that formerly women had been subjected to a moral code "devised by men for the latter's sole benefit. They had not been allowed to appear in public even in the company of their husbands,

and in their homes they had had to be docile, silent and resigned." Now they had gradually broken down customary barriers and achieved equality with men and were building their nation hand in hand with men.

Miss Wachuko (Nigeria) stated that polygamy was now dying out, but it had served "a useful purpose". Many delegates attested to the good work of non-governmental organizations.

Mrs. Thomsen (Denmark) cited action recently taken by Danish women's organizations. When asked to participate in a fund-raising campaign to assist developing countries they stipulated that a portion of the money raised be used to finance a project for the special benefit of women in one developing country.

Participation of Women in National Social and Economic Development

From these interventions and abundant inter-delegation on-the-floor consultations emerged two draft resolutions. The first stressed the desirability of having qualified women appointed to bodies responsible for development plans during the preparation stage as well as during the execution of national development plans. This draft occasioned no discord: it was strengthened and unanimously adopted.

Draft Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

Debate on this draft was less harmonious, unanimity was achieved only after considerable disagreement and rejection of a Netherlands amendment which would have, in effect if not in intent, postponed a decision until 1965. The amendment would have left it to the Status of Women Commission to decide whether it wished to draft a declaration on the elimination of discrimination against women. Twenty-two States sponsored the draft resolution; most of these States were African, Asian, and Latin American; most were not members of the Status of Women Commission. Opponents of the resolution felt that too many declarations and conventions were being drafted.

Mrs. Thomsen (Denmark) questioned the advisability of calling for a draft declaration lest the Commission have insufficient time to discuss and devise practical measures to improve the status of women. Mr. Eluchans (Chile), on the other hand, maintained that the intention was to produce a legal document, "not theoretical in nature" which would "set out" practical measures to enhance the status of women in public and private law, throughout the world. He declared that the equality of men and women "must be established by law, in order that they may work together to their common advantage." The Netherlands amendment was rejected when put to the vote: 23 in favour, 52 against, and 19 abstentions. The original resolution was then adopted unanimously by a roll-call vote. Consequently, the Status of Women Commission will draft a declaration on the elimination of discrimination against women and the draft will be considered by the General Assembly if possible at its twentieth session. Non-governmental organizations are invited to send to the Secretary-General their comments and proposals relating to the principles that might be incorporated in the draft declaration.

A number of other resolutions were passed during this session; we cite, for example the **World Campaign for Universal Literacy; the World Campaign against Hunger, Disease, and Ignorance; Measures designed to promote among youth the ideals of peace.**

Before closing the Eighteenth Session Assembly President Sosa-Rodriguez offered the following prayer:

"May Divine Providence shed His grace on this August Assembly so that the United Nations, truly united, may ensure the existence of a world at peace, freed from misery, ignorance and hunger—a world in which men, without distinction as to race, colour or creed, may freely shape their destiny in their search for true happiness."

F. McGillicuddy

PARLIAMENT

President Kennedy

On November 25th when Parliament adjourned for the day out of respect for the memory of President Kennedy, many members voiced the grief and shock of the nation at the news of the assassination. Among the tributes paid to the President's memory one of the most moving came from Mr. Macmillan. "He was one of the best informed statesmen whom it has ever been my lot to meet, but he was altogether without pedantry or any trace of intellectual arrogance. Unlike some men with whom discussion is almost always a formality, he was always ready to listen and to be convinced by argument. In this way he brought to the baffling problems of today a remarkable freshness of mind and flexibility of approach. These were based upon his fundamental moral and mental integrity." He spoke of the tragedy as "a personal bereavement and, to the whole of humanity, struggling in this world of darkness, the sudden and cruel extinction of a shining light."

On December 19th the Prime Minister announced that he had invited Lord Franks to be the chairman of a small all-party committee to consider suggestions and to recommend what form a memorial might take.

Illegitimate Children

On November 11th, 1962, the House of Commons gave a second reading to the Succession (Scotland) Bill. This Bill re-enacts the provisions of Section Nine of the Legitimacy Act, 1926, on the right of illegitimate children to succeed their mother if she leaves no lawful issue, and the right of the mother of an illegitimate child to succeed that child if he leaves no issue. Miss Judith Hart, Labour M.P. for Lanark, suggested that the new Bill should extend these provisions by giving illegitimate children equal rights with legitimate children in the estate of their mother. After the second reading, the Scottish Grand Committee was informed that a committee is to be set up jointly by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Dilhorne, and the Scottish Secretary, Mr. Noble, to consider the desirability or otherwise of changes in the succession rights of illegitimate children in Britain. Lady Tweedsmuir, Joint Under-Secretary for Scotland, said that the inquiry would also be concerned with the moral and social implications of any extension of the rights of illegitimate children, and that if changes were recommended, a Bill might be introduced. No date for the inquiry has yet been fixed.

Immigrant Categories

An interesting and unexplained feature of the information given about Irish immigrants to this country is that in the official analysis of the National Insurance records persons arriving from the Irish Republic are classified "by sex and, for women, marital status." The results of this analysis,

which show that there were fourteen times more men than "other women", and six times more "other women" than married women, were given by Mr. Wood in written answer. November 18th).

Crime

Sir Thomas Moore asked for information about the number of offences against the person for the year 1962. Mr. Brooke gave these figures:

indictable offences of violence known to the police	17,948
indictable sexual offences (including rape)	20,010
percentage of crimes of violence committed by persons under 17	15	[i.e. 2,692]	
percentage of sexual offences committed by persons under 17	19	[i.e. 3,801]	

(November 21st).

Obscene Publications

Mrs. Patricia McLaughlin drew attention to the fact that current legislation has not, so far, given the public sufficient protection against the dissemination of obscene publications, particularly those of no literary merit whatsoever. There are between 150 and 200 of these published abroad, "which," said Mrs. McLaughlin, "slip through every net laid to catch them." She said that the weakness of the latest relevant Act is the difficulty of defining the word "obscene"; and added, "We are concerned about juvenile crime but we do not stop the sale of works glorifying crime and perversion—the whole range of everything that is dirty and horrible."

Mr. Woodhouse, Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, explained that the enforcement of the law relating to obscenity is in the hands of the Customs authorities in relation to imported material, and of the police in relation to both imported and native material. He pointed out that the Home Secretary has no ministerial responsibility for police action in instituting proceedings, nor powers to give the police instructions as to the way they enforce the law, but that, if the law is not working properly, and amending legislation is required, he would be responsible for sponsoring it.

Mr. Woodhouse went on to show that this traffic, mainly from the United States, is profitable in spite of the fact that very large quantities never get through to the point of sale. He told the House that since 1961 over a million copies of repulsive novels and magazines, appearing under a thousand different titles, have been seized and condemned at the ports, and that also, under the Obscene Publications Act, 360,000 imported novels and magazines were destroyed in 1961 and 1962. There are also a number of cases *sub judice* now involving over a quarter of a million books. Mr. Crossman asked if there had been any collaboration with the American authorities. Mr. Woodhouse answered "Yes, this is a matter on which we are in touch with

In Ireland

the Americans.' Mrs. McLaughlin had brought to the House a set of 55 horror cards, glorifying violence and brutality, which are sold in packets of bubble gum. The Under-Secretary said that the police have been in touch with the original issuers of these cards who had agreed to withdraw them. He assured Mrs. McLaughlin that the Home Secretary deeply shares her concern and is by no means inactive. He added his hope that the current activities of the enforcement authorities during the next few months would be completely successful. (December 3rd).

A Magnificent Breakthrough

In these words Dame Irene Ward expressed her appreciation of the pension increases announced by the Prime Minister. The widowed mother's personal allowance, child's allowance and family allowance will continue until the last child's nineteenth birthday instead of the eighteenth as at present. The children's allowances are similarly to be extended in the case of other National Insurance beneficiaries. A single allowance of 37s. 6d. a week for each child of a widow will replace the present aggregate of 30s. for first and second children and 32s. for subsequent children. The limit imposed by the earnings rule is to be raised to £7 for widowed mothers and to £5 for other widows and retirement pensioners. Service Widows' Pensions will be related to their husbands' retired pay or pensions instead of to the date of decease. (December 10th).

National Health Service

Mr. Maurice Edelman, during the debate on the National Health Service made several practical suggestions for improving the maternity services. One of these was that the £6 maternity grant, which is allowed for home confinements, be also granted, at least in part, to mothers who agree to go into hospital under short term emergency measures; that the status of midwives be raised and the facilities available to them improved. He also suggested that the government should find the money for the necessary improvements by cutting the inordinate profits made on the sale of drugs and medical appliances by 30 per cent. Miss Vickers thought that the suggestion about the £6 should be conveyed to the Minister of Pensions and that members should press local authorities to provide cars for midwives. Miss Jennie Lee said that by now we should not only have reached the stage where we had a medical service that was excellent, and where the sick were freed from financial worries, but where greater emphasis was placed on preventive care. She charged the Government with failure in these matters and added that no Conservative government could adequately deal with the indefensible profits made by the pharmaceutical industry.

The House re-assembled after the Christmas recess, on January 14th, 1964. **C. M. Cheke**

On November 27th, 1963, the Guardianship of Infants Bill was introduced by the Government of Ireland. It gives statutory effect to the principles that the welfare of the infant shall be the first and paramount consideration, that both parents shall have equal rights to guardianship and custody, and provides for the guardianship and custody of illegitimate infants. Clause Six of Part Two is particularly important. It reads:

- (1) The father and mother of an infant shall be guardians of the infant jointly;
- (2) On the death of the father of an infant, the mother, if surviving, shall be the guardian of the infant, either alone or jointly with any guardian appointed by the father or by the court;
- (3) On the death of the mother of an infant, the father, if surviving, shall be the guardian of the infant, either alone or jointly with any guardian appointed by the mother or by the court;
- (4) The mother of an illegitimate infant shall be guardian of the infant.

The Irish member who sent us a copy of the Bill writes: "It (the Bill) seems to me fairly straightforward and should be a very great help to many deserted wives here who, amongst other difficulties, have found it extremely hard to get passports for their adolescent children who may want to visit continental countries. The provision of Part Two, II (3) whereby a mother could seek custody of her children without having first, as at present, to leave home, seems to me very good."

The publication of this Bill demonstrates that this country is lagging behind Ireland, but it will certainly encourage Miss Joan Vickers to introduce another Guardianship of Infants Bill (her former Bill, it will be remembered, was thrown out) at the earliest possible opportunity.

OBITUARY

The Fawcett Society has lost an old and valued friend in Miss Ethel Watts who died in November, 1962. Ethel Watts was the first woman to qualify as a chartered accountant; she became a member of the Fawcett Society in 1926, and was chairman of its executive at the time of her death. She was particularly anxious that the Fawcett Library of which she was a trustee, should be established on a permanent basis. Ethel Watts used her professional ability to the full to promote the cause of equal citizenship, often acted as adviser behind the scenes in cases concerning the status of employed women, and in recent years devoted herself particularly to the problem of the taxation position of married women.

The House of Bishops, sitting separately at the resumed Convocation of Canterbury in London, approved by a large majority a resolution for the revision of a draft Canon to provide that women might be admitted to the office of Reader. After the resolution had been formally moved, the following comments were made: "A Reader is a representative layman, and I do not see why a woman could not be a representative layman any more than a man." (The Bishop of Chichester). "Women heads of colleges take services and I would rather have some of them take them for me than some lay readers." (The Bishop of Hereford). "I think it would be a real setback to what we are seeking to achieve with women taking their proper sphere in life if we reject this resolution." (The Bishop of Derby). The Bishop of Lincoln affirmed that there was no evidence when a deaconess took a service that it was regarded as a dangerous innovation. On the contrary, there was evidence of the great value of her work. The resolution which was debated in full was sent to the Upper House without a vote being taken.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

*Christine Spender in "The Catholic Citizen",
15th January, 1939.*

Then there is the new conception of celibacy. Following Our Lord's pronouncement on marriage and divorce which the disciples found difficult to accept (as many do today) they shrug their shoulders: "In this case, 'it is not expedient to marry.'" Our Lord takes them at their word. He does not argue or explain but gives them yet another new idea to digest—the ideal of voluntary celibacy and continency "for the Kingdom of Heaven." This state of life was to be for women equally with men.

"This was to proclaim, contrary to everything which people had thought up till then, that woman is not primarily the possession of man and the servant of the race, but that she has a value in herself which is absolute and comes before her sexual value; because she is a person and a conscience before being a function."

Among many beautiful chapters the one on "Martha and Mary" is outstanding, telling anew of that "unique friendship between the Son of God and the dear hostesses of Bethany." Fr. de Gonzague points out that the greatest miracle accomplished by Jesus—the raising of Lazarus—was done to console two women, as well as to proclaim His Messianic Mission. "Jesus witnessing before that great crowd to His friendship with two sisters . . . moved by women's grief as formerly by the grief of the widow of Naim."

Afterwards when it was the women who stood at the Cross on that terrible day of the Crucifixion and who went to the tomb very early on that first Easter morning "when it was yet dark" it would seem that: "Christ having raised woman from her humiliation and ennobled her, this was how she showed her gratitude." But Our Blessed Lord, not to be outdone in love, first showed forth His resurrection to women.—*The Good News.*

CHRISTMAS SALE

The Christmas Sale, held on November 23rd in St. Patrick's Schools was a most gratifying success, thanks to those who helped and those who came to buy. We all missed Miss Carr who has always coped so marvellously with the refreshments; she was unable to come because of illness, but Miss E. D. Price and Miss Carr's usual team of able assistants rose most nobly to the occasion, and we are most grateful to them. We would particularly like to thank Miss Catherine Dickson who acted as hon. sale secretary; the personal letters she wrote contributed largely to the splendid sum raised which amounted to £150.

We thank members and friends most warmly for their Christmas cards and Christmas letters, and wish them all a joyful and peaceful New Year.

Fifteen years ago, on December 10th, the General Assembly of the United Nations, meeting in Paris, adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. How many people, I wonder, realise that we owe what may justly be called the first Charter of Human Rights to a woman? In 1500, Queen Isabella of Spain, deeply conscious of the tremendous import of Columbus's discoveries in the New World and the responsibilities they entailed, solemnly proclaimed that all her subjects, Indian as well as Spanish, should enjoy equal rights. Isabella referred exclusively to her male subjects, but even so in an age when none doubted the superiority of the white races, her proclamation was the first recognition of human dignity, of the rights to which all men are entitled irrespective of their colour.

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