

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society).
8^B, Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford Street, London W.1.

VOL. XLV. No. 8.

AUGUST, 1959

Price Sixpence.

Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give;
Who knows the gifts which you shall give,
Daughter of the Newer Eve?

Francis Thompson

The Street Offences Act

By M. Chave Collisson

On Thursday, July 16th, the Street Offences Act received the Royal Assent through the customary Commission.

This Act is on the Statute Book solely by force of the use of the Government Whip. Opposition on both sides of both Houses of Parliament was acute and sustained.

At every stage amendments were suggested; and at every stage, in both Houses, almost entirely refused by the Government; only one of any significance was accepted in the House of Commons; none in the Lords. Distinguished names glitter in the debates; the Attorney General (the Rt. Hon. Sir Reginald Manningham Buller, Bt., Q.C.) was most determined in opposing any amendments to Clause I. Sir Hugh Linstead, who was a member of the Wolfenden Committee, perhaps best expressed the whole attitude both of that Committee and of the Government when on February 18th, at the very first sitting of the Standing Committee F. of the House of Commons, he said "*In fact, one cannot meet the claims of public decency and at the same time do justice to the prostitute as a woman and a citizen. Parliament must face that fact once again as it has had to face it in the past, and must decide which is the more important . . . leaving the woman with the full claims and rights of a citizen, on the one hand, or providing for what is called cleaning the streets. It is not the woman who is to blame. It is the structure of our society and our own basic morality which is basically to blame for the existence of prostitution.*"

Mr. Elwyn Jones, Q.C. (formerly a junior judge at the Nuremberg trials), Mr. Anthony Greenwood, Mrs. Jeger, Miss Joan Vickers, and many others fought for basic amendment. In vain. In the House of Lords, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Lord Pethick Lawrence, Lord Denning (who is a Lord of Appeal), Lord Brabazon of Tara, Lord Silkin, the Marquess of Reading, were among noble Lords urging amendments, as well as Lord Grantchester and Lord Pakenham. In vain. The Rt. Hon. Viscount

Kilmuir, G.C.V.O., Lord Chancellor, repeated Government reasons for refusing amendment, and showed a rigid and stiff-necked determination to get the Bill through as it came from the House of Commons. For, had there been amendments accepted, with the very full schedule in the House of Commons the Bill might have fallen to the ground, when returned there for rediscussion.

Now to the Bill itself. There are five Clauses; taking them in reverse order. Clause 5 is purely formal, Clause 4 raises the maximum penalty for living on the earnings of prostitution (if a man) exercising control over a prostitute (if a woman) to seven years. Clause 3 covers increased penalties for keepers of refreshment houses (as distinguished from public houses) who offend in various ways, including allowing "prostitutes, thieves, and disorderly or drunken persons" to be therein.

Clause 2 has an interesting history. It is the one really substantial amendment accepted under severe pressure, by the Government. The clause provides an elaborate and complicated procedure under which a woman, who believes that she has been wrongly cautioned for "loitering or soliciting" for the purpose of prostitution, may appeal, and have the caution expunged from the police records. The really extraordinary thing is that the Bill contains no clause whatever establishing the necessity for cautioning before a woman is brought to court as a "common prostitute". This is a purely administrative measure, most elaborately expounded by the Home Secretary, Mr. R. A. Butler, as a "redemptive measure" intended to check young prostitutes. A caution, the House was informed, in the course of Standing Committee discussion, must be given with two constables present; then it will be recorded in a register at the police station. And before a woman can be charged as a "common prostitute" it must be shown that she has received these two cautions? Does every police constable carry a card index in his head or must he refer to the register in some other police station before he is sure about the two cautions? And will a young woman

unjustly cautioned, face this extraordinarily complicated procedure? We cannot but regard this clause as closely resembling "eyewash".

Clause I is that clause against which organised societies, headed by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, and including St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, the Church of England (represented by His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury in person in the House of Lords, and by a very able Memorandum from the Church of England Moral Welfare Council), great officers of the law, distinguished peers, leading figures on the Opposition side of the House of Commons, brave single objectors on the Government side, fought unceasingly. Every M.P. received three separate communications; every Peer at least two. Two Deputations were taken to the Home Secretary by the organised reform groups.

Clause I has five sub-sections. Taking these in reverse order, 1(5) is formal, stating enactments to be repealed, but adding that in effect previous convictions count. 1(4) defines "street" in the broadest possible sense. Opposition centred round 1(1), 1(2), 1(3), and far more bitterly round 1(1) than any other. 1(1) runs: "It shall be an offence for a common prostitute to loiter or solicit in a street or public place for the purpose of prostitution." Now, no one of the critics of the Bill wishes to see our streets crowded with prostitutes misbehaving themselves by noisy congregations, exhibitionism, indecency, annoyance. What, then is wrong with Clause 1(1)? Again and again in both Standing Committee and in the House of Lords Amendments were proposed to delete "common prostitute" and insert "any person". Why? *Because there should be one law and one law only*, for all citizens, whether men or women. *Because* it is contrary to the practice of the courts to introduce matter derogatory to the character of an accused person into a charge before conviction. *Because* since prostitution itself is not a crime, law which makes the prostitute a criminal for a legal action is improper. The old laws required proof of annoyance. This was eliminated because proof of annoyance is hard to get. But there is nothing in the new legislation to allow residents, or owners of premises, to approach the problem as one of nuisance or annoyance, so, the prostitute is to be the criminal who commits no crime but that demanded of her by society itself. To save the bother of annoyed persons, and the time of courts set up to administer apparently not justice, but the rule of man-made law, Clause 1(2) prescribes penalties. First offence maximum £10, second offence maximum £25, third or subsequent offences £25, or three months' imprisonment, or both. The penalty for the third or subsequent offence is harsh, and unjust for a breach of street order. The Government argue that it is a deterrent. We suggest that the whole Act is, rather, an incentive to the collection of

more money; to some form of organisation able to help the individual prostitute with legal advice and money; to the training of page boys, hotel porters, taxi men, as touts for such organised trade; and shall we eventually see as in New York, a squad of vice detectors chosen for their looks and ability to catch out the woman who works underground? Clause 1(3) runs: "A constable may arrest without warrant anyone he finds in a street or public place, and suspects, with reasonable cause, to be committing an offence under this section." But "anyone" does not include a man. What then of the "cautions"? Will the constable ask the woman if she has been twice cautioned?

The great functions of law are to do justice, and to educate society towards just and orderly conduct. Bad law is morally injurious; one-sided bad law doubly so. Law which like this rests on utter failure of justice is a positive immorality calculated to do maximum damage in many directions.

Merseyside Branch

Hon. Secretary: Miss M. C. Brady, 10 Fairfield Street, Liverpool 7

A meeting was held on July 22nd at the Y.W.C.A., 18 Slater Street, Liverpool.

The Chairman, Miss F. A. Keeley, B.A., welcomed the members, two of the White Sisters were present.

Letters from individual members had been sent to M.P.'s protesting against the proposed broadcast of the Bishop of Southwark, on behalf of the "Family Planning Association."

Mrs. Ruddy, B.A., delegate for St. Joan's Alliance to the Liverpool Standing Conference of Women's Organisations gave a report on recent work. The World Refugee Year, Anti-Litter Campaign, Home Safety, and Road Safety were the principal subjects mentioned.

Miss Hughes, Boarding-Out Officer for the Liverpool Catholic Children's Protection Society, gave a most interesting talk on her work. She dealt with every aspect of Child Welfare in the Diocese and of the anxiety that Catholic children should be placed in Catholic homes. The need for good foster-mothers, especially those who could take two or three children to avoid breaking up families. It could be a heartbreaking job, it needed great patience, but was so very much worthwhile.

Miss Hughes illustrated her talk with many amusing stories of the trials and tribulations of foster-parents.

A vote of thanks to the speaker was proposed by Miss Arthur.

POUND DAY

On Saturday, September 19th, a *POUND DAY* for the expenses of *The Catholic Citizen* will be held at 64 North End Road, Golders Green, by kind permission of Miss Spender from 3.30 to 6 p.m. There will be tea and opportunity for members and friends to meet each other. Every guest is asked to bring a gift of one pound of any kind of groceries, sweets, cakes, wool, soap, anything and everything and £1 notes will also be acceptable.

Notes and Comments

Members will be grieved to learn that Dame Vera Loughton Mathews is seriously ill. We know she is assured of the prayers of every member, and of our loving sympathy.

* * *

The following resolution was passed by the executive committee and sent to the Rt. Hon. R. A. Butler, C.H., M.P., Secretary of State for the Home Department:

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance deplores the passage into law of the Street Offences Bill and the fact that it was forced through Parliament, despite amendments expressing strong opposition from all sides in both Houses of Parliament.

In particular, the Alliance protests against Clause 1(1), which, by retaining the term "common prostitute", discriminates against one class of citizen and violates the principle that the law should apply equally to all citizens, both men and women; and Clause 1(3), which places excessive power in the hands of the police.

* * *

A Commonwealth Education Conference took place at Oxford from July 15th to 29th. The President was Lord Halifax, Chancellor of the University of Oxford. The Conference arose out of the Montreal Conference of Commonwealth Ministers held in October 1958. The supply and training of teachers were singled out by the Commonwealth Ministers as being of special importance and it was also agreed that there was a need for expansion of technical education. The objects of the Conference may therefore be stated as follows: (a) to work out arrangements for the scheme of Commonwealth scholarships and fellowships. (b) to review existing arrangements for co-operation between the countries of the Commonwealth in education generally, and to recommend in what way these could be improved and expanded, particularly in regard to the supply and training of teachers. Over one hundred delegates from the Commonwealth and Colonies assembled for the Conference. Among the hundred delegates were four women, members of the United Kingdom Delegation. They were Miss E. Ackroyd, Under Secretary, Board of Trade, Dr. K. Anderson, Headmistress of the North London Collegiate School for Girls, Miss F. Gwilliam, O.B.E., Woman Educational Adviser, Colonial Office, Miss N. Parkinson, C.B.E., Controller, Home Division, British Council.

Not one woman delegate had been sent from the Commonwealth and Colonial countries.

* * *

Congratulations to Mrs. Mary Tenison-Woods on being awarded the C.B.E. "for services with the United Nations". Also to Miss Lilian Mitchell, President-elect of the New South Wales Section of the Alliance, who has been awarded the M.B.E.

The British Commonwealth League held its Annual Conference at Victoria League House on June 25th and 26th. Miss P. C. Challoner represented St. Joan's Alliance.

On Tuesday, June 23rd, the Council Meeting was held at the House of Commons by the kindness of Miss Joan Vickers, M.P., and Mrs. Eirene White, M.P., who afterwards entertained members to tea in the delightful room overlooking the terrace.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of Honour of the British Commonwealth League, thanked the hostesses, not only for their entertainment but for the good work they had done for women at home and overseas.

The Conference had as its subject "Human Rights throughout the Commonwealth." Lord Pethick Lawrence, in his opening speech, urged women to accept the challenge to solve the questions which have for long harassed the world, and he stressed particularly the tragic problem of prostitution.

Two days of discussion followed to which St. Joan's representative contributed a talk on "The Age of Marriage", a very important aspect of Human Rights, and one which it is to be hoped that members of the British Commonwealth League will draw attention in their own countries.

* * *

We congratulate Dame Mary Smieton—and the Government—on her appointment as Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Education, at a salary of £7,000 a year. She is the second woman to hold such a post—the first being Dame Evelyn Sharp at the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1955. Dame Mary Smieton brings to her new post a wide experience of life and administration, if not specifically of education. She has worked chiefly with the Ministry of Labour but was Director of Personnel with the United Nations for a time after the war.

We also congratulate Lady (Charity) Taylor, Governor of Holloway Prison, who will become Assistant Commissioner and Inspector of Prisons (Women), when Miss Mollie Mellanby, who has done such fine work as Director of Borstal (Women) and of Women's Establishments on the Commission, retires in November.

* * *

As we go to press, we learn with sorrow of the death in Rome of our good friend and associate member Don Luigi Sturzo. We hope to publish a tribute to him in the next issue of the paper. R.I.P.

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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St. Joan's International Council Meeting, Geneva, 1959

The Sixteenth Council Meeting of St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance was held in Geneva on June 27th and 28th, in delightful surroundings at the Convent of the Cenacle. The delegates are grateful for much care and kindness from the Community. It was a smaller meeting than usual as it was barely nine months since the last Council met in Brussels, but the time and place were dictated by the consideration that members would have an opportunity to attend some meetings of the International Labour Conference and also meetings at the Palais des Nations.

In the event, the International President was able to deal with the blind spot towards sex-discrimination shown by the Catholic International Press Union, in an intervention at the Non-governmental Organisations Conference on Eradication of Prejudice and Discrimination, while Mademoiselle Archinard intervened on education and Miss Barry on sex-discrimination in the I.L.O. Miss Challoner and Mademoiselle Archinard were present at ECOSOC when the Report of the Status of Women Commission was considered, and Miss Barry had valuable interviews with members of the Secretariat.

On the morning of Saturday, June 27th, Holy Mass was offered for the Alliance at the Convent, and at 10.15, the President, Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, opened the Council Meeting and welcomed those present: Vice-Presidents, Dr. Maria Schlüter-Hermkes (Germany), Madame Leroy-Boy (Belgium) and Miss P. C. Challoner (United Kingdom); Madame Gouffé, Hon. Treasurer and President of the French Section, and Miss Barry, Hon. Secretary. Miss Brandt led the United Kingdom delegation, which included Dame Leslie Whateley, D.B.E., and Miss Christine Spender; Australia was represented by Dr. Nell McMahon (New South Wales) and Miss G. D. Parker (South Australia); Mademoiselle Archinard and Dr. Rockstuhl, members from Switzerland.

Apologies and messages were received from the following: Vice-Presidents, Madame Pesson-Depret and Mademoiselle Lenoël (France), Professor McEntee and Mrs. Grabinska (U.S.A.), the Hon. Mabel Strickland (Malta), Miss Margaret Flynn (Victoria), also from Dr. Shattock, Chairman of the United Kingdom Section, Dr. Bardenhewer, President of the German Section, Mrs. Dwyer, President South Australian Section, Dr. de Waal, President of the Dutch Section, and from Mademoiselle Baetens (Belgium) and Mrs. E. D. Hughes (Kenya).

The Hon. Secretary then presented her report.

She reported the telegram of homage which was sent to His Holiness Pope John XXIII on his election in November, and reminded the Council of his words of encouragement when, in 1935, as Apostolic Delegate in Istanbul, Archbishop Roncalli had welcomed the Catholic delegates to the Congress of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, which included seven members of St. Joan's Alliance.

Progress of the Alliance in various countries was reported, and a detailed account given of work with the United Nations—Status of Women Commission and Social Commission; the International Labour Organisation; the World Health Organisation; the Non-governmental Organisations Conference on the Eradication of Prejudice and Discrimination. The work of the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations was also reported.

After reaffirmation of resolutions passed at former Conferences, new resolutions were discussed. (See page 52)

The Council expressed gratitude and appreciation to the representatives of the Alliance, who gave such splendid service at the United Nations; to Soeur Marie-André and Miss Frances McGillicuddy who with Dr. de Spur, attended the Status of Women Commission in New York and made such valuable interventions, and to Mrs. Grabinska who attended the Social Commission. Mademoiselle Archinard was also thanked for her untiring work at Geneva.

The question of reactionary views expressed by certain Catholic organisations, national and international, was discussed, and members were urged to be on the alert and to take action locally when any such statements appeared.

Reports from National Sections followed, from which we hope to publish some interesting items in future issues of *The Catholic Citizen*. They brought to light many activities of which the Council was unaware, thus lending point to the plea of the editor for "more first-hand news for *The Catholic Citizen*."

Madame Gouffé presented the Financial Report with her usual eloquence. This year, she was able to report the generous help given by an American friend of the Alliance who, in praising the work of the Society, said "it makes every penny go super-humanly far." Madame Gouffé underlined the value of the new leaflet in attracting potential members to the Alliance.

Miss Spender, presenting *The Catholic Citizen* Report, spoke with appreciation of the wide circulation of the paper in Australia.

Finally, there was an informal discussion on changes in the Liturgy.

Dame Vera Laughton Mathews was re-elected President with acclamation. Madame Gouffé and Miss Barry were also re-elected Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary.

Miss Challoner, on behalf of the United Kingdom Section, invited the Council to meet in London in 1961, when the United Kingdom Section would be celebrating its Golden Jubilee. Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes suggested an interim meeting in 1960 and invited the Council to meet in Germany, possibly at Trier. This was agreed.

On Saturday evening, Mademoiselle Archinard gave the members a delightful evening on the Lake of Geneva. A motorboat, with Dame Vera at the wheel for a good part of the way, took us up the Lake, which was looking its loveliest.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE 16th COUNCIL MEETING OF ST. JOANS INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE, GENEVA, 1959

Political Rights

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance calls upon those Governments which have not yet granted equal franchise and eligibility to women with men to do so without delay.

Marriage

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance believes that the Sacrament of Marriage entails an indissoluble monogamous union entered into with the full consent of both parties; with a full sense of responsibility and without the intention to restrict procreation by artificial means.

(a) It demands that those laws which still impose a measure of civil incapacity upon the wife and married mother shall be rescinded.

(i) A married woman should have the same rights as other citizens—

(a) regarding nationality and domicile

(b) to contract, earn and to exercise rights over her own earnings and property.

(ii) A married woman should exercise equal rights with her husband over the children born of their marriage.

(iii) There should be no legal bar to a married woman undertaking work outside the home.

(iv) The economic status of the housewife should be raised. It should be legally recognised that husband and wife are partners, and each of them is entitled to share in the family income.

(b) St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance welcomes the resolution passed by the Status of Women Commission at its 13th Session re-iterating its request that the Secretary-General shall prepare for the Fourteenth Session of the Commission a draft Convention, dealing with a minimum age of marriage; requirement of free consent of both parties to a marriage; and compulsory registration of marriages. The Alliance regrets that the words "preferably of not less than sixteen years" (minimum age of marriage) have been omitted from the Resolution; and trusts that these words will be re-inserted when the Draft Convention is under consideration.

Maintenance

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance urges Governments to alter their legal systems where necessary in order to make it possible for them to sign the United Nations Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance, adopted in June, 1956.

Ritual Mutilations

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance regrets the decision of the World Health Assembly not to accede to the request of the Economic and Social Council to undertake "a study of the persistence of customs which subject girls to ritual operations and of the measures adopted or planned for putting a stop to such practices."

The Alliance believes that the possession of documented factual information on the consequences of female circumcision on physical and mental health, is a necessary preliminary to any measures designed to deal with these practices.

Equal Moral Standard

(a) In reaffirming its belief in the same high moral standard for both sexes, St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance deplores the fact that the pernicious system of State regulation of prostitution persists in many countries. It calls upon its National Sections to urge their Governments to ratify the Convention on the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

(b) St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance reaffirms its belief that laws to safeguard public order should apply equally to men and women and that all measures taken to prevent the spread of venereal disease should be free, voluntary and confidential.

(c) The Alliance welcomes the Report prepared by the Secretariat of the United Nations on the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (E/CN5/338) and also the Resolution of the Social Commission on this subject. It notes with satisfaction the inclusion of a Section in the Report dealing with measures aimed at the reduction of the demand.

Equal Pay and Opportunities

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance calls upon National Sections to urge their Governments and all appropriate bodies to ensure as rapidly as possible the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work without discrimination based on sex.

It further urges National Sections to press for equal opportunities for education; for vocational and technical training for employment and promotion; also to ensure that any Government requests for assistance from the United Nations and the specialised agencies shall be for women equally with men.

It further urges that in all labour legislation equal protection shall be given to men and women against exploitation, industrial accident or disease.

While welcoming the I.L.O. Convention by which State Members undertake to "declare and pursue a national policy with a view to eliminating any discrimination in respect of employment and occupation", St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance regrets that in Article 5, "sex" is retained as one of the categories for which special measures of protection "shall not be deemed to be discrimination."

Age of Retirement and Right to Pension

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance welcomes the Resolution of the Status of Women Commission passed at its 13th Session reiterating its recommendation that all States Members of the United Nations and Members of the specialised agencies should facilitate the equal treatment of men and women workers with respect to pension plans and the retirement age. The Alliance trusts that the Economic and Social Council will endorse this recommendation.

The Alliance urges its National Sections to continue their efforts to ensure that the age of retirement and right to pension shall be the same for men and women workers.

Education

(1) St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance reaffirms its belief that education should be based on religious and spiritual values.

(2) The Alliance urges all Governments and also Administering Authorities in Non-Self-Governing or Trust Territories, to ensure that in all schemes of education, equal opportunities shall be available for boys and girls, men and women, irrespective of religion or race.

Switzerland, or rather Geneva, has taken another step toward equal citizenship. A modification of Article 41 of the Geneva Constitution, adopted early in July by a large majority of the Grand Council, gives citizens, without distinction of sex and of the full age of twenty years, the power to exercise their political rights.

TWO MONTHS IN PARLIAMENT

In addition to the urgent questions of Foreign Affairs and Central Africa, Parliament has, during the last two months discussed a number of affairs of domestic importance, including the Pensions increase, the plight of the aged, National Assistance, National Insurance and of course, the new Education Bill.

This last is of great interest and importance to all Catholics and provides a very welcome relief, though not, of course, complete satisfaction. As Mr. Lloyd said when he introduced the Bill, it was to be an all-party measure and it was to raise the maximum rate of grant on the categories of voluntary school building work eligible hitherto at 50 to 75 per cent and to offer a maximum of 75 per cent grant for new aided secondary schools needed wholly or mainly for the continued education of children from aided primary schools of the same denomination.

During the second and third readings a number of interesting points were made. Mr. Patrick Wall pointed out, for instance, that Church of England parents, up to the present, paid about £1 million a year for their schools and Roman Catholic parents about £2 million. These sums would be reduced by the Bill but there will still continue to be a considerable burden on the communities. Mr. Lever (Manchester, Ardwick) supported the Bill as a Jew, and as ex-Lord Mayor of Manchester he spoke warmly in praise of inter-denominational co-operation. "Every credit," he said, "is due to those denominations such as the Roman Catholic community, who are very keen on their own faith and having their own schools. They are very fine citizens. They have done their duty in peace and war and at all times." In fact very few protests were raised on any side. As Sir E. Boyle said when winding up the debate on the Third Reading: "I believe that co-operation has become much more marked in recent years and the more it can continue the better."

On July 6th Mr. N. Nicolson asked the Foreign Secretary, "if, as a result of their examination of the Territorial Application Clause, Her Majesty's Government will now adhere to the United Nations Convention on the political rights of women in respect of the majority of territories under British rule or protection, and in respect of the remainder of the United Kingdom's overseas territories as and when social conditions permit." Mr. Allen replied: "During the negotiation of this Convention, Her Majesty's Government sought the inclusion of a Territorial Application Clause. This was not successful. For this reason, we can adhere to it only when it can be applied in all territories for whose international relations we are responsible."

On June 16th Mr. J. Johnson asked the Colonial Secretary whether "he has yet appointed

the Committee to consider the question of the extension of the franchise to women in Zanzibar Protectorate; and what is the composition of the Committee?" Mr. Lennox-Boyd replied: "The Zanzibar Government set up a Committee in April to consider this question. The Committee's Report has now been submitted to the British Resident. . . ." The Committee was to consider "whether women should be granted the right to vote in the election of unofficial members of the Legislative Council, and if the answer is in the affirmative to advise whether they should be granted this right in respect of the 1960 or later elections, the qualifications which should be required for female voters having regard to the effect and scope of the literacy, income or property qualifications contained in the present law and whether any special arrangements should be made for female voters at any stage in the election procedure." There is as yet no indication of the nature of the report submitted.

On June 23rd Mr. Johnson also asked the Colonial Secretary: "How many African women from Kenya are doing courses of higher education in the United Kingdom; and what proposals he has for increasing these numbers?" Mr. Lennox-Boyd replied: "Two, taking courses leading to Diplomas in Sociology and Domestic Science respectively. The recent rapid expansion of girls' education, particularly at secondary level, should lead to a rise in the numbers of suitable candidates for courses of higher education overseas."

On July 13th Mr. Brockway asked the Minister of Labour "on what grounds Her Majesty's Government has refused to ratify the International Labour Office Convention against racial discrimination in employment?" Mr. Macleod referred Mr. Brockway to White Paper Cmnd 783, published on June 26th, and went on to say: "It is purely a practical reason . . . Her Majesty's Government . . . are fully sympathetic to the principle of the Convention. However to take a simple point, if we accepted the Convention it would be necessary to legislate that equal pay and equal conditions for women in employment should apply throughout an industry, and it has always been the principle of all Governments that they should not interfere in matters which are subject to ordinary industrial negotiations." Mr. Lee pursued: "I realise the principle which the right hon. Gentleman is arguing. Would he not also agree that this is a vital principle for the nation to accept? . . . Would not the right hon. Gentleman also agree that there are many aspects of legislation dealing with conditions of employment which contravene generally understood barriers? . . ." Mr. J. Griffiths supported Mr. Lee and Mr. Macleod finally replied: "I pointed out the difficulty that arises, for example, on the question of sex discrimination, this is not limited

to racial discrimination alone—and I should be glad to take an opportunity to discuss that with the two sides of industry." It would be interesting if generous action undertaken against racial discrimination were to carry side advantages in the field of sex discrimination.

On June 2nd, during the Pensions (increase) Bill debate, Mrs. Eirene White spoke up for the retired woman. She said: "In this connection I think especially of women's salaries and how low they used to be in some of these occupations. We realise that there are some elderly women who have, somehow or other, to eke out a very small income and who feel that they have not had a fair deal in comparison with their younger colleagues who are retiring now and are benefiting by increases of salary and also by the approach to equal pay. We ought to face the problem of trying to equate the pensions we pay to those who retired in the past to the pensions to be given to persons retiring at present."

B. M. Halpern

REVIEWS

Man and Wife. The Physical and Spiritual Foundations of Marriage. By Marc Oraison. (Longman's, 12s. 6d.).

This book on marriage by a French priest and doctor is novel in several ways: first, in the author's direct approach to the difficulties which the spouses must face, however great their goodwill and spiritual their outlook: then, by the help given to those who are not experts in scriptural interpretation, in the author's exposition of the story of Creation. The creation of man in God's image, rather than the differentiation of the sexes is the Creator's crowning achievement; the author comments "the distinction between sexes with the creative result of their coming together offers a real though imperfect analogy to divine life itself, an analogy further to be clarified by the later revelation of the mystery of the Trinity."

"The second story proceeds inversely. It is man, the male, who first appears in the world; he is alone and in a way undifferentiated. The whole universe has been created for him, yet it immediately appears that there must be a splitting of man into two parts and that the human being must be of two distinct persons pledged to seek union with each other."

One ventures to say that this remarkable word-picture is more illuminating than the popular attribution of higher rank to the male for his earlier creation, yet primary to the human race as the Creator's *terminal* Act.

The translation is good and the book is pleasantly produced. Only its relatively high price may detract from its usefulness.

F.M.S.

Continued overleaf

PRISON THE GATEWAY TO FREEDOM

St. Joan's was proud when the Christabel Pankhurst Memorial organizers invited Dame Vera to inaugurate the ceremony of the unveiling of the memorial. Despite fatigue after much travelling abroad and presiding at the XVIth Council Meeting of St. Joan's International, Dame Vera, as usual, spoke striking words that hit the headlines in the national press. It must have made many people rub their eyes and revise their thinking when a great and well-known woman of Dame Vera's calibre should think it fit to say that this unveiling ceremony made her feel inclined to apologise for not having gone to prison in the cause of Votes for Women. It was a gracious *amende honorable* to the forty W.S.P.U. ex-prisoners present, proudly wearing the famous portcullis badge of honour.

Further, Dame Vera singled out one aspect of the Votes for Women movement which most people either do not realize or wilfully ignore. She claimed that the enfranchisement of women conferred citizenship indeed—a proud honour—but that furthermore the vote was symbolic of the new freedom of spirit gained by women. This unequivocal statement of a great truth needs to be blazoned in gold across the pages of history. For those in the movement it was, and remains, a simple and glowing fact. But in the passing years will it get buried under the rotting leaves of inaccurate history, or blown away by light laughter?

The Pankhurst Memorial in the Victoria Embankment Gardens is now embellished by the added architectural and sculptured memorial of "Christabel", linking afresh her name and fame with her mother's. The Lord Chancellor's unveiling of the memorial on Westminster's historic soil in the sunlit shadows of the Houses of Parliament is a Government's tardy apology for the misdoings of its predecessors. And Manchester, too, is thinking again. For a plaque to Christabel Pankhurst is to be placed in the Free Trade Hall where she and the mill-girl Annie Kenney initiated militancy by asking a Votes for Women question in a General Election meeting.

It was a gracious tribute that Lord Kilmuir paid to his own mother and the Suffrage Movement. Visitors to the gardens will surely continue to hear ghostly echoes of good-humoured laughter (in which Christabel herself would have joined with keen appreciation) that the unveiling ceremony should witness a Law officer implying that the Law itself is sometimes a Hass!

Tributes were paid by Lord Pethick-Lawrence, who also wore his prison badge, and by Lady Astor.

After the ceremony the band of the W.R.A.F. played Dame Ethel Smyth's March of the Women, which was composed by her for the suffragettes.

Evelyn Billing

REVIEWS (Continued)

What is Life? By René Biot. Translated by Eric Earnshaw Smith. Faith and Fact Book. (Burns Oates, 7s. 6d.).

This Faith and Fact Book, the thirty-second of the series is, in the reviewer's opinion, not of the same standard as its predecessors.

In the first part, a medley of scientific snippets, mentioned sometimes by name only, can give little information to the non-specialist and will irritate the specialist. The references show a mildly chauvinistic bias which makes this volume less suitable for translation than its predecessors. The author is happier on the non-materialistic aspects of life, but here too there is much expression of personal, rather than general, opinion and the section on the future of medicine seems out of place in this context. Obviously, too much has been attempted in ninety-two small pages and the series would profit by a revision of this section. The printing, general presentation and translation are as good as those of the preceding volumes, but some of the scientific terms could be altered to their more usual equivalents in this country.

F.M.S.

The Children's Companion. Edited by C. H. Sheill. (Macmillan & Burns Oates, 6s.).

A revision of an old favourite with Catholic teachers, more in keeping with present needs. The format has been enlarged, good illustrations introduced and where necessary, the text has been amended and re-arranged to fulfil modern requirements. "There have been some additions and some deletions but the temptation to make more drastic alterations has been resisted."

To judge by the avidity with which this particular model was snatched up by a Catholic teacher of today, this book will still prove a winner in its modern dress.

G.S.**BOOKS RECEIVED**

Biblical Criticism. By Jean Steinmann.

What is a Priest? By Joseph Lecuyer.

Heresies and Heretics. By Leon Cristiani.

Faith and Fact Books (Burns Oates, 7s. 6d. each).

This Day. By George Scott-Moncrieff (Hollis & Carter, 9s. 6d.).

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