WOMEN'S SERVICE

Catholic Citizen

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

Vol. XIX, No. 4.

15th APRIL, 1933.

Price Twopence.

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

"Once More into the Breach."

By Leonora de Alberti

There has come to us for review a learned book of close on seven hundred pages entitled, "The Framework of a Christian State," by the Rev. E. Cahill, S.J., [Dublin, M. H. Gill and Son, 15s.] As in all books of this nature there are certain parts devoted to woman; she is not swept along in the main tide of argument, she is a being apart, or rather an appanage of man. Such writers on woman whether ecclesiastics or laymen write with ease since they feel that all women have been poured out of one mould, and know precisely what nature has intended for them. If any woman does not come within their preconceived ideas of what a woman should be she is a misfit, she is injurious to society, she is usurping a man's place, she is acting against the Creator's intentions.

Father Cahill knows there have been some changes in woman's position of late years, he has heard of the feminist movement, but is scarcely a supporter. At the same time to do him justice he realises that it is of the highest importance at the present moment that woman's influence be felt in public life and her peculiar talents utilised for safeguarding the interests of women and children, and for the well-balanced conduct of public affairs. But when he comes to the suffrage Father Cahill trips over the family vote, and tells us that according to the Christian ideal the father should vote for the family in accordance with

its numbers. To which we reply that to follow this suggestion would be to keep the wife in tutelage, and therefore it is objectionable to Christian ideals. The modern woman does not take her politics from her husband, father or brother, she has a mind of her own.

Again, we cannot accept Father Cahill's opinions on woman in industry—it should be illegal, he says, to employ men and women together in the same factory; competition between men and women in the same employment should not be permitted; in a Christian State women should be excluded even by law from occupations unbecoming or dangerous to their modesty. But who is to say what is unbecoming and dangerous to modesty? No two countries would answer alike. Some moralists would be shocked to their innermost being were they inadvertently to come upon the banks of the Serpentine on a Summer afternoon, others would not condemn. In some aspects modesty may be a matter of race, climate or custom.

Woman was not created to be kept in retirement, she is the companion of man, and he is her companion; it is proper that they should meet. It is not well for man to be alone; and gazing over the tortured world we may remember the words with a fuller understanding!

On the education of women we also find Father Cahill disappointing, he appears to give

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with one hand, and take back with the other. He tells us that "the Church has always encouraged and patronised the education of women as well as of men, and has advocated even a liberal education for girls" . . . Later we find that boys and girls should not follow the same programmes, except in their very early years; and that amongst other things . . . "it is particularly fitting that women, whose special function is to contribute an element of brightness and beauty to the home, should have some knowledge of the fine arts, such as music and painting." We are back again in the days of Florence Nightingale!

Father Cahill is horrified at the thought of NOTES AND COMMENTS- Cont'd. from p. 31. women attending public university lectures with men, competing with them and taking part in their debates. "It must needs be dangerous or positively harmful to the Christian ideals of womanly decorum." We begin to wonder whether Fr. Cahill in spite of his name is an oriental.—In the section Feminism and the Married Woman Father Cahill finds in the feminist movement tendencies to treat husband and wife as independent units instead of one moral person. He finds the same tendency in the laws of English-speaking countries. examples of feminist demands, he refers to the claim that a wife should have the right to retain her nationality; and that the State in regulating conditions of labour should for the future abstract from or ignore the circumstances of wifehood and motherhood. refers to the "Catholic Citizen" in proof that, even some "British Catholic Women's Associations" support these demands which he considers fundamentally opposed to the Christian ideal of social life.

He must have heard by now that not only a number of British Catholics support the demands for equal nationality rights as between husband and wife, but that Catholics from 23 countries sent up a petition to the League of Nations in favour of the same claim, and that among the signatories were Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Canons and other clergy.

When he comes to feminist associations Father Cahill makes strange errors. We learn that St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance is the British Catholic Women's League, and affiliated to the International Catholic Women's League, while a footnote informs the reader that the "Catholic Citizen" is the organ of the League. A postcard to 55 Berners Street would have saved him from this blunder.

We are also told that the International watch the struggle with the deepest interest,

of the Liberal feminist movement, and that the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, and the Open Door Council are affiliated to it. This is incorrect.

If feminism is important enough to have a section to itself, Father Cahill would have done better to verify his facts.

All this, however, is only a very small part of Fr. Cahill's book which is intended primarily for students of Social Science who accept the Church's teaching, but this very aim makes it more to be regretted that the author takes so narrow a view of women's work and rights.

We are glad to note that the Postmaster General in accordance with the recommendations of the Bridgeman Committee of Inquiry has decided to employ women telephone operators from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., as an essential step towards improvement in the efficiency of the night service. Women employees already in the service will not be compelled to accept night work, but they have been invited to do so. In future women will be admitted to the telephone service on the understanding that they may be called upon to work at night. Some months ago the Post Office Department stated that "unnecessary artificial protection for women must no longer be considered since the Royal Commission recommended a fair field and no favour." We trust this principle added to equal pay will spread.

"The Catholic Citizen" has no party politics whether in this country or another; it is a feminist paper standing for equality of rights between men and women. The reports from Germany bring anxiety to responsible people for the violence recorded, they bring to us anxiety also for the position of our German colleagues, who have progressed so well till now. We deplore the dismissal of Dr. Gertrude Bäumer, who held a high educational post in the Ministry of the Interior. We cannot say whether this was a party post or not, but we do know that the Nazi Government is professedly anti-feminist and boasts of being the only party to have kept women out of politics.

The "Korrespondenz Frauenpesse" (Berlin) aims at keeping women in touch, and strengthening women's position. We shall Council of Women is the central organisation and send our good wishes to our colleagues.

Notes and Comments.

For the purpose of establishing Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament by the laity on the lines of the famous Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Montmartre, there will be a daily exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Horseferry Road, Westminster, in reparation for the anti-God campaigns and to implore God's mercy on England. Our Alliance has been invited to take part in this adoration and we have agreed to do so on the first Thursday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Will those who are willing to watch for half an hour or one hour, kindly send in their names to Miss Barry at the office. Members who can go regularly once a week or once a month are asked to register in the name of St. Joan's S.P.A.

We offer our congratulations to our member, Mrs. C. J. Mathew, J.P., on being elected Deputy-Chairman of the London County Council.

St. Joan's Alliance was represented at two luncheons given by the British Commonwealth League. The first was given on March 8th in honour of Miss Winifred James, who was prepared to go to prison rather than register as an alien, thus helping on the campaign for equal nationality rights between men and

In proposing a vote of thanks, Miss Butler-Bowdon said that the best way of showing our gratitude to Miss James was by pressing for the passage of the Nationality of Married Women's Bill.

At the second lunch given on March 21st, Mrs. L. Forster, who has actively helped in the fight for the closing of brothels in Hong Kong, gave an account of "The Brothel Slaves of Hong Kong."

A meeting will be held at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square, on Monday, May 1st, at 6 p.m., when Mrs. Laughton Mathews, M.B.E., recently returned from the Marseilles Conference of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, will speak on "The Suffrage Movement in France." Mrs. V. M. Crawford in the chair. Entrance free. Tea may be had at 5-30 before the meeting.

In connection with the Conference two big public meetings were held in Marseilles, one demanding Votes for Frenchwomen, and the other against the Traffic in Women. At the meeting for Woman Suffrage Mrs. Laughton Mathews represented Great Britain, and was one of the chief speakers. She begged French women not to look on the vote as of secondary importance. It was the essential weapon without which no political reform desired by women could be achieved. It will be remembered that French women have not yet been granted the vote, and that in France there still exists the inquitous system of "maison tolerées."

Mrs. Laughton Mathews spoke at the Suffrage Meeting held in Nice, and in Paris she also had the pleasure of meeting our colleagues of L'Alliance Ste. Jeanne d'Arc, and of speaking for them. Her speeches met with great success, and as one who had been a militant suffragist, her work for the vote was of special interest to our French colleagues.

Miss Barry, Miss E. FitzGerald and Dr. Shattock represented the Alliance on the Deputation to the Home Office regarding the Nationality of Married Women. The deputation, led by Miss Chrystal Macmillan, was arranged by the Nationality of Married Women Pass the Bill Committee and represented 33 societies. The deputation reminded the Home Secretary of the declaration made by the British delegate in 1931 to the Assembly of the League of Nations that: the British Government considers that it is right that all disabilities of married women in matters of nationality should be removed, and that, in so far as nationality is concerned, a married woman should be in the same position as a man-married or unmarried-or any single woman. They asked for legislation to that effect; and that the Government should do all in its power to make this policy effective within the Empire, and support internationally only such proposals as recognize the married woman's right to her independent nationality. The deputation further asked the Government not to ratify the Hague Convention, which did not treat women justly in this respect.

The Home Secretary replied that he could not make any statement that day as to the Government's intentions, but that he would give a full report to his colleagues of the views expressed.

(Continued on previous page)

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

55 BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.I. Tel. Museum 4181 Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

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MRS. SHATTOCK, M.B., B.S. MISS CHRISTINE SPENDER.

22nd Annual Meeting.

Patrick's Club Room, Soho, on March 11th, after the reading of the Annual Report its adoption was moved by Miss Christopher St. John, who was, as she recalled, one of the earliest members of the Alliance, with vivid memories of her delight in hearing of its foundation as the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society in the days when it was necessary to prove that the fight for the improvement of women's position was not incompatible with the Faith. The root of the whole trouble has always been, she said, the teaching that women were essentially inferior to men. She was filled with admiration for the Report, for the wonderful energy of the older members who had recognised that the vote was not the end of the struggle, and for their ceaseless vigilance. The "Catholic Citizen" she held to be an admirable paper, especially in regard to its foreign information which kept British readers in touch with the fight of women abroad.

Miss Eleanor O'Connor, who should have seconded the Report, being unfortunately in hospital for an operation, her place was taken by Miss Organ, who drew attention to the "valiant temerity" that has always distinguished St. Joan's Alliance.

Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, though no longer secretary of the Liverpool Branch since her appointment at Manchester, read the Liver- deficit of £30, pointed out that it was natural pool report as in other years.

She spoke of objections made to the continuance of feminist activities by those who did not realise how long the road still was before the attainment of equality, and she quoted the case of a girl-student in Manchester who had come

At the Annual Meeting of St. Joan's at St. to that realisation only when, at her father's wish, she had sought to train at the College of Technology, in order to succeed him in the management of his cotton-mill, and had found -like the 23 other women students among the 1,000 men at that College—that every obstacle was put in her path.

> The vote, said Miss Parnell, was only the entry to the Promised Land, but that entry made, there were still the fields to till, the temples to build. And she ended with a variant on the inscription of the statue of her great kinsman in Dublin, "No man can set a barrier to the march of a sex, no man can say to a sex 'thus far and no further.'

The Financial Statement was next moved by Miss Walmesley, the President of the N.U.W.T., who had come from Birmingham for the meeting. She recalled the old days of the C.W.S.S., and declared that women, as organic units of the race, must become whole social units in it, and she quoted Plato's saying, that "one person in prison means two prisoners, for the custodian is also a prisoner." The adoption was seconded by Mrs. Garrard, who called Adam Smith to witness that the expenditure of St. Joan's fulfilled every criteria of sound finance. She was supported by Miss Christine Spender, who while deploring the for expenditure to grow with the society; she suggested that time and postage would be saved if members sent in their subscriptions without waiting for reminders, and urged a greater effort to increase the circulation of the 'Catholic Citizen.''

The chairman, in conclusion, welcomed those members who had come from a distance, (from Bradford, Liverpool, Manchester, Deal), and Mrs. Lucas, whose mother, Alice Meynell, had been one of the earliest members of the C.W.S.S., supporting us with her honoured name in those troubled times; and who launched the "Catholic Suffragist," with an introductory article. The chairman went on to praise the voluntary staff; she recalled the success of the St. Joan's Coming of Age Dinner, and the appreciation of the international work of the Alliance from Dame Rachel Crowdy and Dame Edith Lyttelton. The chief work during the year had been that on behalf of Married Woman's Nationality.

Mrs. Hand made a most successful appeal for funds which brought in over £28.

The new committee is given above. Mrs. Laughton Mathews was re-elected Chairman.

B. B. C.

Resolutions carried at the 22nd Annual Meeting.

I-EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS.

(a) Franchise.

(i) India. St. Joan's S.P.A. assures the women of India of their wholehearted support for their demand for equal political rights, and calls upon the Government to embody the principle of equality between men and women in the new constitution of India.

(ii) St. Joan's S.P.A. regrets that in the British Commonwealth the women of Malta, Quebec and Bermuda are still unenfranchised and hopes that

justice will be granted at an early date. (iii) Palestine. St. Joan's S.P.A. protests against the new draft Local Government Ordinance in Palestine now under consideration, which gives to the High Commissioner power to extend to women or withhold from them the municipal franchise and the right to be councillors. It urges the Government to embody in any new Ordinance the principle of equal rights and opportunities for men and

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

2—EQUAL MORAL STANDARD.

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

(b) Illegitimate Children. St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass without delay a Bill providing for the enforcement of Affiliation Orders overseas on similar lines to the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement)

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

3-EQUAL PAY AND OPPORTUNITIES.

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

(b) "Protective Legislation." St. Joan's S.P.A.

while believing that protection should be afforded to industrial workers, declares that to impose restrictions on women only, is to treat them permanently as minors, and to lower their status as

It believes that the only policy which safeguards their individual liberty and responsibility is that of basing all labour regulations and restrictions upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker, and calls upon the Government to apply this principle to all legislation, and to instruct its Delegates to support it at all Conferences of the International Labour Office.

4-NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government: (i) to introduce and pass into law this session, the Nationality of Married Women Bill.

(ii) not to ratify the Hague Nationality Convention and to support internationally only such proposals as recognise the married woman's right to her own independent nationality on equal terms

5—SLAVERY.

St. Joan's S.P.A. urges the Government to celebrate the Centenary of the abolition of slavery this year by taking all possible steps to secure the real abolition of all forms of slavery throughout the British Empire. It demands that the Government should discountenance among indigenous peoples any practices whatsover involving the bartering of women and children into domestic and other forms of slavery, including the form of child slavery in Hong Kong known as the Mui Tsai system.

In regard to Mui Tsai:

(i) St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that the pledge given by the British Government for the inspection of Mui Tsai in Hong Kong should be implemented by the immediate appointment of the necessary additional number of inspectors, including women inspectors, to carry out this inspection fully and systematically.

(ii) That so-called "adopted daughters" should be registered forthwith, such registration to be followed by inspection, observing that "Deeds of Presentation" and "Adoption Deeds" show that such "adopted daughters" are purchased, and the subterfuge of adoption is used as a means of obtaining Mui Tsai, as shown by the evidence in the Courts.

6-MATERNAL MORTALITY.

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

7-INCOME TAX.

St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that the income of married persons should be separately assessed and separately taxed.

8-WOMEN POLICE.

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to increase the number of policewomen in the Metropolitan area, and to further legislation making it compulsory for Watch Committees and standing Joint Committees to appoint a sufficient number of women police.

9-HEALTH INSURANCE.

St. Joan's S.P.A. protests against the National Health and Contributory Pensions Act, 1932, which reduced the health benefits payable to women, and calls upon the Government to introduce an amending Bill laying down equal sickness and disablement benefits for men and women.

10-UNEMPLOYMENT.

(i) St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that in any schemes for dealing with unemployment the Government should make no distinction between men and women in regard to benefit, contribution or training. It further urges that the Minister's power to make regulations discriminating against married women should be removed.

(ii) It calls upon the Government to allocate for the training and relief of unemployed women an equal sum of money in proportion to their numbers as is expended upon men.

11-LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

St. Joan's S.P.A. expresses its satisfaction at the declaration of the Assembly of the League of Nations that "equal status between men and women is a pre-requisite of equal collaboration of women in the work of the League." It calls upon the Government to give practical effect to this resolution.

12—INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE.

St. Joan's S.P.A. deplores the Advisory Opinion of the Court of International Justice that the Washington Convention 1919 prohibiting night work for women, refers not only to industrial workers but also to women in posts of supervision and management. It urges the Government to carry into effect its own declaration that it was desirable to remove the prohibition from this category of women by denouncing the Convention and adopting legislation in regard to night work based on the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker.

13-CATHOLIC EDUCATION.

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls for fair and adequate financial treatment of Catholic elementary and secondary schools.

14-BIRTH CONTROL.

St. Joan's S.P.A. deplores the policy of the Ministry of Health in allowing in certain cases information on artificial birth control to be given at centres maintained out of public funds. It urges its members to watch the matter in their local Councils.

15-DIVORCE.

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

Review

THE WOMEN MARTYRS OF ENGLAND. A Paper by the Rev. F. Thompson, read to the Ushaw Divine's English Martyrs' Society and published in "The Ushaw Magazine," December, 1932.

Martyrs make cowards of us all, yet in reading of these women martyrs one is strangely reminded of those who suffered during the struggle for woman suffrage. And so we know that women are still made of the stuff of heroes. But one is tempted to wonder whether we who are not called upon to suffer "in extremis" for our Faith value it as these persecuted women and all those they stand for so evidently did. And, again to continue the parallel between them and our more modern "martyrs" do we who take enfranchisement for granted value it sufficiently and realise the cost at which it was gained?

For the four women already beatified, Bl. Margaret Pole, Bl. Margaret Clitherow, Bl. Margaret Ward and Bl. Anne Line "martyrdom was the crowning of a long series of sacrifices made to save the Faith and the Mass." Mrs. Eleanor Hunt and Mrs. Swithin Wells were both reprieved at the last moment, but they suffered slow martyrdom in prison where they eventually died. During the reign of Elizabeth many another woman died in prison for the "crime" of housing priests.

The Faith and the Mass have been preserved for us at a terrible cost and it is now our turn to keep faithful, not through persecution but through indifferentism, so that in God's good time we may obtain from Him the grace of our country's conversion.

C. S.

TREASURER'S NOTE

The annual general meeting held in March prompted many members to pay their subscription and to make a donation, and our subscription list for this month is larger than usual. But there are still many members who have not yet paid. We wish to thank all those who helped us so generously at the annual meeting and we beg those members who were not present on that occasion to send their subscriptions without delay.

P. M. BRANDT.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS. February 1st to March 13th.

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Minimum Annual Subscriptions		 I	16	0
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Total £34 7 2

OBITUARY

We ask the prayers of our readers for our members, Miss Rita Guy, and Miss G. Hall who died recently. R.I.P.

We offer our deep sympathy to Mlle. Gourd, Hon. Secretary of the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, on the death of her mother, who died suddenly last month. Me. Gourd was herself a keen feminist.

Feminism has lost a staunch friend by the death of Mrs. Belmont, President of the National Woman's Party, (U.S.A.) who died recently. A keen feminist she was able to help the cause of women's freedom by her great wealth and her work.

We have also to announce with deep regret the death in Paris on March 2nd of the eminent Italian barrister, Francesco Ferrari. He was a member of the National Council of the Popular Party; and, like all members of that party, a staunch feminist. He signed the Petition for Equal Nationality Rights for men and women, presented to the League of Nations last September on behalf of 8,000 Catholics. He was an exemplary Catholic. R.I.P.

We offer our deep sympathy to Mr. George Lansbury on the death of his wife. R.I.P. Staunch supporters of the woman's movement they have won our respect and gratitude. What suffragist but remembers how Mr. Lansbury gave up his seat to fight a suffrage bye-election: Miss Butler-Bowdon represented the Alliance at the funeral, which was a ceremony of triumph.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

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Office-55, Berners St., Oxford St., London, W.I.
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Organ-"The Catholic Citizen," 2d. monthly.

OBJECT.

To band together Catholics of both sexes, in order to secure the political, social and economic equality between men and women, and to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens.

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All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of 1s. Men are invited to join as Associates, on the same conditions, with the exception that they may not elect or be elected to the Executive.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

The Monthly Organ of

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