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WOMEN'S SERVICE  
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THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (formerly 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.

## New Year Reflections

By Christine Spender

An article in *The Observer* of last November 30th has given me to think. It is entitled "Kitchen Morality." Its author, Evelyn Ford considers the effect of labour-saving devices in the house and though it rather depends on what one considers a blessing, she concludes that perhaps labour-saving devices are not an unmixed blessing. "Each of the increased number of households which acquires a new washing machine, pressure cooker, improved sewing machine and vacuum cleaner," writes Evelyn Ford, "contracts out of the communalised services and returns to a self-contained domestic economy." She goes on to point out that ten years ago it was no longer considered a disgrace to open a tin or send a shirt to the laundry. The housewife did not feel obliged to do all her own housework, make the family's clothes and do the family wash, and "if the facts were tactfully concealed, many men happily ate food from a tin or were content in a factory-laundried shirt."

But "now we are back at the sink" for with the swing of the pendulum there is a "slightly sinful feeling" in relaxation by the fireside or a visit to theatre or cinema. The washing machine can now aid us to save the laundry bills; bones and vegetables can be easily converted to soup in the pressure cooker, thus eliminating the use of tinned soup. "No reason for buying ready-prepared food when a . . . stew can be served within half an hour." And the expense of children's clothes . . . Why pay fancy prices when a little frock or shirt—not to speak of a dress or slip for oneself—can be run up in no time on the electric sewing machine? Then the vacuum cleaner and the electric polisher—these can save us the hourly half-crown or three shillings for domestic help. And one must not forget that fruit can be conveniently bottled in one's own kitchen with all the modern bottling aids!

The housewife prays for an electric mixer, masher or chopper and when her prayer is

answered "the last shred of excuse for domestic and kitchen help is torn away!" She faces hours of domestic labour chained to her labour-saving devices. There will be ironing, preparation of vegetables and fruit, sieving of soups, half hours at the sink with the latest washing powder, twenty minutes on the floor cutting out from paper patterns.

When all the cooking, preserving and sewing is attended to, there is still the garden. "We are still to be beset by a sense of sin if we sit down with the garden untended."

"To achieve complete housewifely virtue one must forswear all but the bare essential communal services," writes Evelyn Ford; "to reach the highest standard of housewifery, takes all the working day and more." She has a lingering fear that the new morality may well come to be regarded as a womanly quality "precluding the intellectual activity and relaxation which are so necessary to the full development of women as well as men."

In reflecting on this article I remembered what Cecil Wadham Smith had said about Florence Nightingale's sister, Parthenope, when she lectured on Florence Nightingale to the London and National Society for Women's Service.

Parthenope, she told us, was a very clever and accomplished artist who would have gone far if she had known how to concentrate. But in the middle of painting a picture she would see a vase of flowers which she thought wanted rearranging and, casting aside paints and brushes, she would rise up and rearrange the flowers. There was no need to do this—it was merely a very wasteful expenditure of energy. A recent article in the *Daily Graphic* (considering the question of "slipped discs") points out how very exhausting continual housework can be—far more exhausting than most male occupations. No wonder the housewife sometimes finds the office stool a rest cure!



### MARRIED WOMEN'S WORK

"Die Schweizerin" (Lucerne) publishes an article by Madame Freuler-Bühler on "Married Women's Work Outside The Home." She leaves on one side "economic necessity" which should never be allowed to drive a married woman to work against her conscience.

She considers two extreme points of view: that which stresses the rights of the individual to the neglect of family obligations, and that which stresses the rights of the community, which demands the service of each member without regard for the individual personality.

The truth she says lies somewhere between these two points of view. "Married women have a right and duty to develop their personality and should realize God's image in themselves. In case of doubt duty towards the family takes precedence. However, family life will only be enriched and stimulated by the wife and mother having an independent personality, assisting in solving problems outside her four walls, helping her fellow men, serving culture or science. The mental and spiritual bond between her and her husband is strengthened, especially if she shares in his work and there will be no boredom and stagnation such as follow in married life where the wife's development has been arrested."

It does not matter how many hours the woman herself devotes to housework so long as the direction of the household is in her hands; so long as she centres her life and interests in the family; and is there for the children as long as they need her. If she knows this is so she can comfort herself with the words of St. Augustine—"Ama, et fac quod vis."

### PART-TIME WORK

With reference to our leading article—

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance considers that part-time work has its advantages both to the community and to the individuals concerned. Though women, and especially married women, form the majority of part-time workers, opportunities for such work should not be confined to them. There are certain categories of men, as of women, to whom part-time work would be of benefit.

The Alliance believes that it is dangerous to consider the question of part-time work as applying to women only. It might tend to lower the status of women workers as a whole and make them more liable to dismissal in times of unemployment. The rights of full-time workers should be protected, and the Trade Unions recognise this by providing that part-time work be conducted in accordance with recognised Trade Union conditions.

### CICELY HAMILTON

With the death of Cicely Hamilton on December 6th the woman's movement has lost an early campaigner for woman suffrage who continued in active support of feminism, until the end of her life. She died at the age of eighty.

Cicely Hamilton began her career as an actress, continued as a playwright and ended up as an author and journalist. During the height of the suffrage movement she wrote her witty and incisive book "Marriage as a Trade" which gained widespread recognition. In collaboration with Lilian Bayliss she wrote the story of the English stage. Her book—"William an Englishman" gained the Femina Vie Heureuse prize in 1919. She was one of the earliest members of the Women's Freedom League and her pen was always ready to fight for justice for women.

St. Joan's Alliance was represented at the funeral service at Chelsea Old Church by the Hon. Secretary. May she rest in peace.

### ANNUAL MEETING

The 42nd Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 21st. Nominations for Committee and resolutions for the agenda must reach the Secretary not later than February 9th.

Nominations must be duly proposed and seconded and the consent of the candidate obtained.

Subscriptions to the Alliance and Catholic Citizen (minimum 10s.) are now due.

### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Leonora de Alberti in "The Catholic Citizen," 15th January, 1928.

The first number of *The Catholic Citizen* of 1928, is definitely a propaganda number. *The Catholic Citizen* needs new subscribers, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance new members. Our paper has a special message of its own, and we know that its message has carried to many a lonely fighter in different parts of the world. We know, none better, that there are Catholics, worthy and pious Catholics, who are apt to confront their own prejudice with Catholic doctrine, and woe betide the Catholic pioneer who crosses their path. It has been the aim of *The Catholic Citizen* to help these lonely fighters in far lands. St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, too, holds a unique position among Catholics, being a definitely political body of Catholic women (men are admitted as associates), banded together to secure political social and economic equality between men and women and to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens. The Alliance makes a special study of social problems, and fearlessly exposes evils, which it has been the custom to ignore. The chief aim of the Alliance from its earliest days has been equal franchise.—*The Work of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.*

We ask members to pray for the soul of Mrs. Hedstrom Quirk (U.S.A.) who died on December 14th. A tribute will appear in our next issue.

## Notes and Comments

A meeting on Cornelia Connelly, A Pioneer in Catholic Girls' Education will be held on Monday, January 26th at 7.30 at The Holy Child Convent, 11, Cavendish Square, W.1. Mother Mary Paul, Provincial of the Congregation of the Holy Child Jesus will be the speaker with Miss Phyllis Challoner, M.A., in the Chair.

Readers of "Quartet in Heaven" by Sheila Kaye-Smith, which contains a study of Cornelia Connelly, will realise the importance and interest of the subject of this talk. It is a great privilege to have the Mother Provincial of the Order which Cornelia Connelly founded as our speaker.

We urge members to attend themselves and to bring their friends.

\* \* \*

While we do not pretend that the relief given to Catholic Schools by the Government's Education Bill (referred to in The Month in Parliament) satisfies the just claims of the Catholic body in this country, we are glad that it is a woman Minister, Miss Florence Horsbrugh, who has so skilfully carried out the intricate negotiations. It needed much courage and drive to achieve so much. The Catholic body was not among those who "agreed" to the 1944 Act and Catholics will not cease to press for their full rights. Clause 4 in the present Bill must be amended to ensure to parents their rights—no doubt with safeguards against parents' neglect.

\* \* \*

The Alliance sent warm congratulations to His Grace Archbishop Myers on the celebration of his golden jubilee. The Holy Father has created Archbishop Myers as Assistant at the Pontifical Throne, to mark the occasion. This honour places him immediately below the rank of Cardinal.

On December 8th, Archbishop Myers sang Pontifical High Mass in Westminster Cathedral in the presence of Cardinal Griffin. At the luncheon which followed the Cardinal made a presentation to him on behalf of the clergy and laity.

We remember with gratitude Archbishop Myers' happy and appreciative speech on the occasion of the presentation of the Cross *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* to our Hon Secretary.

\* \* \*

On December 22nd our very good friend, Monsignor Filmer, celebrated the golden jubilee of his priesthood. Monsignor Filmer has been a staunch member of the Alliance since the early days of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, as was Father Philip Fletcher, his predecessor as Master of the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom. Both were active supporters of the Women Suffrage Campaign and the Alliance has been indebted to them for many kindnesses. We congratulate Monsignor Filmer.

The Equal Pay Campaign Committee is organising a Petition to Parliament asking for "legislation to establish equal pay for equal work as between men and women in the public services, and thus implement the principle which has been accepted by (the House of Commons) in 1920, 1936, 1944 and 1952." It is hoped to collect at least one million signatures.

St. Joan's Alliance is taking its full part in this campaign. With this issue we enclose a Petition form and beg each member to endeavour to fill it and return it to the office, 55, Berners Street, W.1, not later than March 1st. Applications for further forms will be welcomed.

This is an opportunity for our country members to render good service to the Alliance.

Quite apart from the intrinsic worth of the signatures, this will provide a great opportunity for propaganda.

The following instructions should be followed: (1) Anyone living in Great Britain or Northern Ireland may sign the petition, BUT may not sign more than one copy. (2) Every person signing must write his (or her) address after his (or her) signature. (3) Signatures must be in ink, but may be on either side of the sheet. (4) All signatures must be written on the forms and not pasted or otherwise transferred to them. (5) As far as possible, both sides of each sheet should be filled with signatures. If members require literature on the subject this can be supplied on application to the office.

\* \* \*

The Royal Commission on Marriage and Divorce has now finished collecting evidence from bodies and individuals and is faced with the task of forming conclusions upon a vast number of suggestions. Over two thousand letters have been received from private individuals and more than two hundred and fifty memoranda have been submitted. St. Joan's Alliance is assured by the Commission that the contents of its memorandum have been given full consideration by every member of the Commission and have formed part of the material which will assist the Commission in reaching its conclusions. A list of all memoranda received by the Commission will be included in the report.

\* \* \*

During the war the Banks relaxed their rules against employing married women, because of staff shortage; Barclay's Bank, alone of the Big Five, has decided to put the pre-war rules into operation, despite the representations made by the National Union of Bank Employees.

We regret this retrograde step and trust that Barclay's Bank will reconsider its policy and allow women employees to decide for themselves whether or no they can combine marriage and work.



## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "The Catholic Citizen"

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

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

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"The Catholic Citizen."

## Part-Time Work\*

### 1. EXTENT AND DISTRIBUTION

The development of part-time work in Great Britain is of comparatively recent date, and has been due to the shortage of labour, especially in certain trades. First introduced with marked success during the war, it has been retained in industry largely as a means of helping in the solution of the post-war economic difficulties of the country through the export market. The expedient is not, however, confined to industry. Use is made of it also in professional and commercial spheres.

There is in general no opposition to part-time work on the part of the Trade Unions provided trade union terms and conditions are observed.

The latest available figures, taken from 1951 Census returns, show that 45,300 males and 753,700 females (65,800 single, 607,000 married and 80,900 widowed or divorced) were engaged in such work. Part-time male workers form 3 per cent. of the total occupied, and part-time females 11 per cent. Only in sport and entertainment do part-time male workers amount to 9 per cent. of the whole, and in the majority of occupations they form less than 1 per cent. In regard to age, 23,200 of the male part-time workers (or more than half the total) are aged 65 or over. Among women, 165,600 fall into the age group 25-34; 243,600 into the age group 35-44, and 193,600 into the age group 45-54. Of these, 154,800, 217,600 and 154,500 respectively, are married women. Only 22,200 part-time women, or less than one in 34, are over 65 years of age. In the case of men, it would seem that age is the main determining factor in seeking part-time work; in the case of women, domestic responsibility.

Men are employed part-time, to an appreciable degree, only in occupations connected with textiles; food, drink and tobacco; paper and printing; entertainment and sport, and personal service. The largest occupation providing part-time work for women is personal service, employing over 300,000, or about 20 per cent. of the total. Agriculture follows with 11 per cent.; metal manufacture and engineering, food, drink and tobacco, commerce and sales (excluding clerks), entertainment and sport, and storekeeping and packers all have over 10 per cent., and textiles, the clothing trades, and paper and printing 9 per cent. or over. 80,000 women clerks and 75,000 shop assistants work part-time. In December, 1951, the records of the Ministry of Labour showed that 330,000 women were doing a working week of under 30 hours in the manufacturing industries alone.

**CIVIL SERVICE.** On October 1st, 1949, the Civil Service was employing 31,115 part-time women workers

\*Memorandum sent from St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (U.K.) to the Status of Women Commission and to the I.L.O.

in unestablished non-industrial grades. Of these, only six were in the administrative group, and 67 in the executive group. 6,577 worked in clerical and typing grades, while the Post Office was employing another 9,400. The men employed part-time numbered 12,608, of whom 22 were in administrative and 264 in executive grades. 10,305 were Post Office workers.

**TEACHING.** The shortage of teachers, and especially of women teachers, was considered in the Ministry of Education Circular 174 (June 16th, 1948). In suggesting various methods of increasing the supply of women teachers, the Circular pointed out that some married women were not able to return to full-time teaching, but would be prepared to take part-time posts. Some Local Education Authorities were employing married women teachers part-time, but this source of additional supply had not yet been adequately tapped. The Ministry of Education Annual Report gives statistics only of full-time teachers, and it is therefore not possible to estimate the present extent of the employment of part-timers in State schools. According to the One Per Cent. Sample Tables of the 1951 Census, however, the total number of women teachers working part-time in all types of schools was 14,200, of whom 8,900 were married women. Many students, men and women, do part-time work in their spare time. University extension lectures and other courses for adult students give an opportunity of part-time employment to men and women of high educational qualifications, as does also university coaching and the correction of examination papers.

**MEDICINE.** Women doctors who wish to continue the practice of medicine but are unable to work long hours frequently find opportunities of continuing to do valuable work.

**NURSING.** The very serious shortage of nurses resulting in the closing of hospital wards led in 1946 to the preparation of schemes for utilising the services of hospital-trained women who were unable to undertake full-time duty. The following description of the schemes is from the Report of the Ministry of Health for 1946/47:—

"Perhaps the most important measure for dealing with the immediate shortage (of nurses and midwives) was the launching, towards the end of the year, of a drive to extend the employment of part-time nursing staff in hospitals and other health services. Part-time volunteers were extensively employed during the war, but the chief inspiration came from the successful experiment of the Gloucestershire County Council, who by means of a carefully thought out scheme, contrived to build up a part-time nursing staff sufficient to keep open all the chronic sick wards in their public assistance institutions.

"In collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and National Service, encouragement and help were given to local and hospital authorities throughout the country in the organisation of part-time recruitment drives. A campaign was started in the Greater London area in February, and other campaigns opened elsewhere in February and March. By the end of March, a considerable number of authorities had schemes in preparation, and the movement has been further extended and had achieved widespread success since that date. This has happened both where the recruitment campaign has been planned on a large scale, as in the North West, and where it has been based on a comparatively small area, as in the case of the particularly successful effort in Great Yarmouth. A reserve of professional skill which would otherwise have been wasted has been tapped. Patients have received extra care and the pressure on full-time staff has been relieved. Experience has moreover shown that part-time help can be used in wards other than those for the chronic sick—in Bradford, for example, a new maternity ward was opened, while in the Liverpool area the staff of a sanatorium was brought up to full strength. Further experience will no doubt show the extent of the permanent contribution which part-time work can make to the staffing of the health services."

Numbers have increased steadily from year to year. In December, 1951, the total number of part-time nurses and midwives employed in hospitals was 26,088, compared with 139,760 full-time nurses and midwives. If the domiciliary public health services and nurseries are added to the hospitals, the totals are 34,000 part-time and 185,000 full-time workers. The scheme has been particularly successful in the nursing of the chronic sick. In the case of patients who are seriously ill, the constant change of nursing personnel which is involved can be a drawback.

**OFFICE WORK.** Though full-time workers are preferred, competent shorthand-typists experience no difficulty in obtaining part-time work in offices.

**RESTAURANTS.** Industrial canteens and restaurants providing lunches only, or lunches and teas, give employment to large numbers of part-time workers.

**DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES.** Shops occasionally employ workers for certain days of the week only, when custom is particularly brisk. This is the case, for example, in a chain store which is at its busiest on Fridays and Saturdays, and so employs extra staff on these days.

**LAUNDRIES.** The shortage of labour has led some laundries to introduce short shifts for part-time women workers.

**DOMESTIC WORK.** A veritable army of women is responsible for the cleaning of offices, both Government and private, throughout the country, the work taking place either in the early morning or in the evening. Housewives now rely more and more on the "daily" coming in to help for a few hours a day or week. Much hospital domestic work is organised on the same basis.

**INDUSTRY.** Considerable adjustments have to be made in the organisation of factory work to admit of the employment of part-time workers. For this reason, even during the war, employers were often reluctant to introduce the system. The success attending the experiment, and the shortage of female labour, has led to the retention of the scheme in a number of industries, notably in textiles and in the engineering and metal industries. Rubber and haberdashery firms have also introduced evening "housewives' shifts." Sometimes it has been possible to meet orders for exports only as a result of such shifts. In November, 1947, 45,500 women were employed part-time in textiles. At that date, in spinning mills in Lancashire, 68 firms were operating

evening shifts of four hours five evenings a week, giving employment to some 3,000 women. Recession in this industry has led to lack of employment, and the closing of evening shifts, but with an improvement in trade, several cotton mills at Bolton and Stockport have recently resumed them.

There are three main types of shift for part-time workers, the morning shift, the evening, or "housewives" shift, from 5.30-9.30 or 6-10, and the short day shift from about 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with an hour's break for lunch. From the employers' point of view, the morning and afternoon shifts are the most economical, enabling the machines to be used for the maximum number of hours. To the women, the short day shift has advantages, as it occurs while her children are at school and her husband at work. Evening shifts are also sometimes popular with the workers.

Part-time workers are paid at much the same time and piece rates as full-time workers. Their output is said to be in general as high as, and indeed often higher, than that of full-time workers. Part-time workers, of course, suffer the disadvantage of being the first to be discharged when trade is bad. Employers have to pay full insurance rates for part-time workers, which means an increase in expense in employing them.

### 2. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS

It has been argued that to encourage married women to work even half-time leads to the neglect of their homes and children, or alternatively to an overtaking of their strength. In his investigations, Dr. Zweig, author of "Women's Life and Labour," found that married women did not accept work unless they were satisfied that proper arrangements could be made for the care of their children. They invariably said that the children came first. Few women now work while their babies are under two, and many prefer to wait at least till the school age is reached. In the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for 1949, it was stated that part-time evening employment was becoming increasingly common, and that the shifts were at a time which did not unduly disturb household arrangements. Many of the women employed were middle-aged or elderly, and had no children to look after. The Report added: "There is no doubt that many women find positive enjoyment in these short terms of work. To some housewives sitting down at a light job for four hours seems more like a rest than work, and they enjoy the companionship and change from the lonely monotony of household duties." This aspect was also stressed by Dr. Zweig.

The main incentive is however financial. Her earnings not only assist materially with family expenses but give the housewife an independent income, perhaps small, but her own, which she feels free to dispose of in any manner she thinks fit.

There is perhaps some danger that part-time employment for married women might lead to the idea that only such employment should be available for them, to the detriment of married women wishing to undertake full-time work. Employers feared, on the contrary, that the establishment of part-time shifts might lead full-time workers to ask to be transferred to them. This fear proved groundless, and the great majority of women applying for part-time work were those who would have been unable for domestic reasons to have undertaken a full working day.

With the ageing of the population as a result of a longer expectation of life, the working population has thrown upon it an increasing burden in the support, not only of children, but also of the aged, by payments towards the provision of old age pensions and national assistance of various kinds. Many men of 65 and women of 60 (the pensionable ages) are not only able and anxious to continue working but also have a valuable contribution to make to the economic life of the country.

Continued on page 6.



### THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

Little evidence of the Christmas spirit was unfortunately discernible in the conduct of business in the House of Commons during the month of December. Angered by the imposition of a guillotine at the Committee Stage of the Transport Bill, Opposition Members even resorted on occasion to booing, and hard names and hard words echoed through the Chamber from all sides of the House. The crisis culminated on December 8th in a motion of "no confidence" in the impartiality of the Chairman of Ways and Means, moved with some reluctance by Mr. Ede. The Opposition having had an opportunity of airing their alleged grievances, the motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

In the calmer atmosphere of the House of Lords, the Life Peers Bill had its First Reading on December 10th. The Queen's message, read the previous day, signifying her assent to the Address from the House asking that the royal prerogative should not be allowed to stand in the way of the consideration by Parliament of any measure providing for the creation of life peers, enabled Lord Simon to introduce his Bill. This authorises the creation of not more than ten life peers in any one year from 1953 onwards. "Persons" in this section means either men or women," reads Clause 3 of the short Bill, which will be read a second time in February. A Bill of this nature could nowadays scarcely provide otherwise. It may well be, therefore, that the first peeress to sit in the House of Lords will be there by right of her personal attainments, and not by right of heredity.

The Government's Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill had its Second Reading in the House of Commons on December 8th. This Bill brings a measure of relief to voluntary schools. The first Clause, by extending the definition of "displaced pupils," will enable the Minister to make a grant of up to 50 per cent. towards the building of newly established aided or special agreement schools which provide places for a substantial number of children, rehoused, with their parents, under town planning schemes, who would have attended similar schools in the localities from which the family have moved. Unfortunately, the provision is not retrospective, but may be applied in the case of schools still in process of being built. The Bill also enables the Minister to make grants or loans towards the cost of adaptation of existing buildings converted into voluntary schools.

Incidentally, according to statistics supplied by Miss Horsbrugh in a Written Answer on December 1st, children on the registers of Catholic maintained or traditionally assisted

schools—other than grammar, nursery or special schools—numbered 398,014 in January, 1952.

Miss Herbison's Foundry Workers (Health and Safety Bill), to make provision for the better protection of the health and safety of persons engaged in the iron foundry industry, received its Second Reading on December 12th. The Bill has the support of both Labour and Conservative Members. Dr. Summerskill's Women's Disabilities Bill is due for Second Reading on February 13th.

The deplorable situation in Kenya naturally occupied the attention of the House on more than one occasion. On December 16th, a debate took place on the motion of Mr. James Griffiths. In this, Mr. Frank Bowles made the interesting suggestion that economic troubles arising from tribal marriage customs might well be among the causes of unrest. Formerly, a young man had to obtain the sanction of his family to his marriage. After deciding that the prospective bride would be likely to prove a good and faithful wife, they paid the purchase price in so many cattle, goats and sheep, thus ensuring the stability of the marriage. Now, when an African married, he did not consult his family to the same extent but the bride's father insisted upon the payment of £100 as the bride price. He understood that the average wage of an African working on a farm was £1 a month. It would therefore take many long years of work to produce the required sum. He felt it was a great mistake to assume that all crimes taking place in Kenya were really due to Mau Mau, some might well be ordinary robbery with violence by Africans in search of money with which to meet the bride price. He felt an attempt should be made to ease the economic pressure by getting rid of this practice. This might be done by encouraging the leaders of opinion in the Kikuyu tribe to say "this is an old fashioned custom and we are not going to insist on it any more for your sons and for your daughters."

The Government's announcement of increases in the pensions for widows and children of officers and other ranks in the Services was received with gratification in both Houses on December 16th.

Vera Douie

### Part-Time Work—continued from page 5.

Employers are now being encouraged to make use of this reserve of labour. As has been seen, the majority of male part-time workers are elderly. The development of part-time schemes would often make possible the retention of older men after the normal retirement age, and would also help the many disabled persons who for physical reasons cannot contribute a full day's work.

From the economic point of view, it has to be remembered that, in times of full employment, the main reserve of labour lies in the married women. Much of their labour can only be available on the part-time basis.

### REVIEWS

**Mau Mau and the Kikuyu** By L. S. B. Leakey. (Methuen, 7s. 6d.)

Dr. Leakey writes of the Kikuyu as an anthropological expert, and more. He is an initiated first grade elder of the tribe and it would be impertinent to question his knowledge of the customs of the tribe or his assessment of the causes of the present unrest.

Dr. Leakey being "born and bred among the Kikuyu people" it is perhaps natural that he should view some of their customs with more sympathy than those who see them from the outside.

He denies that bride price is anything but a "marriage insurance," but acknowledges that since money payments have taken the place of goats and sheep, the payment becomes more and more a "purchase of a wife."

He himself urges the abandonment of this custom and believes that by persuasion and the example of leading Kikuyus it will die a natural death.

Of female circumcision, "the outward and visible sign" of adult status, "comparable" to the circumcision operation on the males, he says it (the operation) "had become more and more severe until the mutilation and resultant growth of scar tissue was frequently causing grave trouble during childbirth." It is obvious that the operation on the boys is by no means "comparable" in its severity or in its results. But Dr. Leakey does not minimise the importance of attacks on this custom in the development of the Mau Mau movement. When the missionaries attempted to stop the inhuman practice of female circumcision the violence of the enmity they aroused led to the setting up of many separatist African churches and of the independent schools which have been the recruiting ground for hundreds of Mau Mau adherents.

Dr. Leakey has written this book "hoping and praying that it may help to bring understanding of the problems of the tribe and, in due course, peace to all the people of Kenya." In his suggestions for the future, which include the "benefit" of birth control clinics, he does not specifically mention the raising of the status of the Kikuyu women which we consider is essential for the stable development of the country.

P. C. Challoner

**Far Have I Travelled.** By Dorothy Wellesley. (James Barrie, 16s.)

This book is not a biography but a book of memories, interspersed with poems, which are on the whole very much better than the rest of the text. There are however interesting portraits of the author's family and her friends, some of whom are well-known. Interesting yet curiously

incomplete. Travels in far-flung countries are described—in fact, it would seem that Dorothy Wellesley would have preferred to be an explorer rather than a poet—and homes made at Sandbeck, Lumley Castle, Sherfield and Penns in the Rocks.

It is a curious book—one feels as though one were looking into water reflecting wavering scenery. So often the reader would like more precise information and less generalised statements and yet now and then description rises to literary heights and nothing could be more precisely chiselled than the fascinating poems. From them I conclude that in her own way Dorothy Wellesley is a really great poet. Personally, when reading this book I felt as though a bunch of Persephone's flowers had been flung in my lap. Some of the flowers were sadly faded and ugly, some startlingly beautiful.

Christine Spender

**Into The Dangerous World.** By Woodrow Wyatt. (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 15s.)

**Through Rose-Coloured Spectacles.** By Edith Read Mumford M.A. (Edgar Backus, 10s. 6d.)

The first of these books, by the young man who, after adventures in journalism and travels through the dangerous world of modern politics, became the youngest Minister in the last Labour Government, is interesting in itself and as throwing light on the political scene of the past quarter century. It is refreshing to read, and encouraging. As he himself says of the dangerous world he is traversing, "its dangers are the less the more courage we have in facing them." Each generation has to find solutions to the problems of life. It is a comfort that this writer does not indulge in too much introspection and that he has retained a belief in Christianity.

The second book covers a much longer period, though scarcely as wide a field, as the one reviewed above. The girl who became "Grannie" was fortunate in her education—under Miss Buss (and Mrs. Bryant) and at Girton in the days when girls could choose their tutors! She was fortunate in her parents, and in her husband, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. That there were difficulties is obvious, but never could a woman have had more affection.

Her parents were wise in their choice of education for their clever daughter, and she was wise in her dealings with her children. She realised the importance of mothers keeping up their intellectual interests lest their children find them wanting in their critical years.

It is a book bristling with energy and full of the joy of living, but I think I prefer my spectacles untinted!

P. C. Challoner

WANTED—Whole or part-time Assistant Secretary for feminist organisation.—Box 7, St. Joan's Alliance.



WOM  
27  
WES

**QUIZ ON THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT**

I. What happened—(1) At Seneca Falls, N.Y., on July 19th, 1848. (2) In the British House of Commons on June 7th, 1866. (3) At the Manchester Free Trade Hall on October 13th, 1905. (4) Outside Holloway Prison on December 8th, 1911. (5) In the House of Lords on February 6th, 1918.

II. Who was the first woman—(1) Elected to the House of Commons. (2) Doctor of Modern Times. (3) Mayor. (4) Stipendiary Magistrate. (5) K.C. (a) In Scotland; (b) In England. (6) Prison Governor. (7) Vice-Chancellor of a University. (8) Chancellor of a University. (9) President of a Royal College of Medicine. (10) Headmistress of (a) North London Collegiate School; (b) Cheltenham Ladies' College; (c) Roedean. (11) Mistress of Girton. (12) To earn her living by her pen.

III. Who was the Author of—(1) A Vindication of the Rights of Woman. (2) The Subjection of Women. (3) Woman and Labour. (4) The Unexpurgated Case Against Woman Suffrage. (5) Personal Reminiscences of a Great Crusade. (6) Woman Today. (7) A Serious Proposal to the Ladies. (8) Strictures on the Modern System of Female Education. (9) Letters on the Improvement of the Mind. (10) Womankind.

IV. Who wrote—(1) He for God only, She for God in him. (2) Frailty, thy name is woman. (3) O woman! In our hours of ease, Uncertain, coy, and hard to please, When pain and anguish wring the brow, A ministering angel thou! (4) Every woman is at heart a rake. (5) Nor hell a fury like a woman scorned. (6) Daughter of the ancient Eve, We know what gifts ye gave and give; Who knows the gifts which you shall give, Daughter of the Newer Eve? (7) Lay thy sweet hands in mine and trust to me. (8) The Souls of women are so small, That some believe they've none at all. (9) Man has his will—and woman has her way. (10) Can man be free if woman be a slave?

V. What do these initials stand for—(1) A.F.L. (2) A.M.S.H. (3) C.W.S.S. (4) E.P.C.C. (5) I.W.S.A. (6) L.N.S.W.S. (7) M.A.B.Y.S. (8) N.A.W.C.S. (9) N.U.S.E.C. (10) N.U.W.S.S. (11) N.U.W.T. (12) S.J.C.W.W.O. (13) W.F.L. (14) W.I.L. (15) W.L.F.

Answers will be given in the next issue of *The Catholic Citizen*.

**HON. TREASURER'S NOTE**

Thank you for the very fine effort made at the Christmas Sale in spite of bad weather and illness. The final result is £100 3s. 5d. That however was in 1952. Now it is 1953, so will you please send your subscriptions to the Alliance as soon as possible to help us start the New Year well.

**N. K. Carr**

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