

THE Catholic Citizen

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

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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.

Mary of Nazareth

To criticize Father McNabb's most beautiful meditations on Our Lady is almost profane but not quite. I dare to think that in some pages of this, his latest book,* he speaks of the Blessed Virgin too much as the type of human mothers, too little as their pattern. "Most sons' garments" are woven by their mothers, he says, but does not add that mere women weave no seamless coat. It is a patched-up thing, botched and pieced and ragged, in which at best they clothe their sons and daughters. If it has generally a loveliness, it is sometimes penitential as a hair shirt, sometimes a strait jacket and sometimes—alas!—a poisoned shift. In filial affection there is usually a generous element.

Every mother's daughter should read this little book. In his dedication to Saint Joseph, Father McNabb calls it his "withered dreams." But his dreams are not withered in the sense in which another Catholic poet meant the phrase when he used it on his deathbed of his visions that had not lived. The visions of Father McNabb are alive as primroses, many of them true and keen as the stars. I can review his book only by quoting some passages which are of special consolation when, as Father McNabb says, "such dread is upon men that even those who once were most dedicated to freedom are now looking away from freedom to force", and which it particularly behoves us to meditate who are protected by the Warrior Maid. Most of all we should ponder them in this month of March in which, on the Feast of the Annunciation, we celebrate the twenty-ninth birthday of our Alliance.

"Consider the position of women in Our

Lady's day, so degraded that a male child thought himself immeasurably above the womb that bore him and the breast that suckled him. Hence only those women are mentioned in the Old Testament that have begotten some wondrous son or have to do some wondrous deed. And when the son is begotten or the deed done, they are hurried from our sight and some warrior or king fills their place. Even the New Testament preserves this imprint of severity to the weaker sex. How many women appear on its pages, speak their speedy speech and are withdrawn as speedily from view; Martha; and the woman that gave witness to the 'womb that bore Thee'. Even Saint Mary Magdalen disappears, or rather is veiled from our sight on a sudden. She has stayed before us longer than others because she had to make known the Resurrection; but when her message is ended we see her no more. But Our Lady is brought forward again and again in no very important actions, in circumstances that the world would fail to call great; the Presentation, the Finding in the Temple, Cana; and when the whole group of motley characters that have thronged the fore-Passion narrative have melted away, when the accidentals of Christ's mission have been stripped off the hand of death, and we are alone with Jesus and His Apostles on the great Whitsunday, there is one name placed in that sacred list, and it is the name of the Mother of Jesus."

"The cult of Mary in the first centuries is proved by the sudden emancipation of woman. This was not a Jewish doctrine. It was not from the Israelitic notion of women that their exaltation came; but they rose in dignity because Jesus, the Saviour, honoured Mary, His Mother, and leaving the world had no richer legacy to bequeath than the Womb that bore Him and the breasts that gave Him suck."

* *Mary of Nazareth*, by Vincent McNabb, O.P. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne, 5s.)

"The devotion Christianity felt for the Virgin Mother of its Founder caused all women to become objects of a like respect. Hence man also was ennobled and refined."

"Our Lady's mind was suddenly thronging with memories of all the valiant women."

"The essence of the *Magnificat* is Acknowledgement, Humility."

"The *Magnificat* is murmurous of the Songs of Sion. Fragments of the Canticle of Anne and of the Psalms find their way to the lips that spoke scarce a word to Gabriel but were unlocked to Elizabeth."

"A woman can be a being of terrible strength and power, 'terrible as an army set in battle array'. All the women in the New Testament are strong characters. Even the woman in the crowd who cries out about the womb that bore Christ and the paps that gave Him suck has left the Church a formula of faith in the Divinity of Jesus. Hers is an eternal cry. Saint Mary Magdalen is like her rock-hewn cave at Sainte Baume."

"STABAT MATER. Strength is a great fundamental quality, more necessary than tenderness."

"Indeed the strong can be tender. Weakness is not gentleness. 'As gentle as omnipotence.' The sea is so gentle because so strong."

"Intellectual strength is the acceptance of intellectual principles."

"Fortitude is an ethical ultimate; it is always needed. Tenderness is needed only when there is some misery or weakness to be put right."

"Our Lady is often taken to belong to the mere ornament of the Church. And indeed she is fair as the moon. But she is also as terrible as an army in battle order."

HELEN DOUGLAS IRVINE.

We ask the prayers of our readers for the repose of the soul of our member, the Rev. Joseph Dobbeleers, late parish priest of Mullion in the Plymouth diocese. Father Dobbeleers was a regular subscriber to the CATHOLIC CITIZEN, and one year he kindly offered Mass for the Alliance on May 30th, the anniversary of the burning of St. Joan. R.I.P.

We also ask prayers for the soul of our member, Mrs. Freeman, mother of Miss Bidy Freeman to whom we offer our sincere sympathy. R.I.P.

Women Engineers

A very gracious message of congratulation and encouragement from H.M. the Queen was read at the Luncheon to celebrate the 21st birthday of the Women's Engineering Society, which took place at the Park Lane Hotel on March 4th. A large gathering included many well-known figures, and filled the spacious and beautifully decorated dining-room to capacity. Mr. Ernest Brown, Minister of Labour and National Service was one of the speakers while Miss Caroline Haslett presided. She made a plea that the skill of women engineers should be accepted in the service of the nation, now and not at the last minute. "Take our service, skill and determination to win the war," she said, "and accept them as a great democracy should accept the freewill gift of the people who live in it."

Miss Pauline Gower, head of the women's section of the Air Transport Auxiliary stood up, a bright figure in her Service uniform, brimming over with youth and vitality. She declared that it was never their work she and her colleagues feared, but unfair criticism such as that they—only eleven women—were taking the bread from the children's mouths, by depriving men of work. She then ably refuted these criticisms and described how she and her fellow-workers had, since the beginning of the war, delivered 158 open aeroplanes from factory to aerodrome, often in freezing weather, and had not yet had one mishap. Miss Monica Maurice, an expert in mine lighting, pointed out the coincidence that she and Miss Gower as representing the younger generation of women engineers should work, one far above the earth, one far below. The Dowager, Lady Swaythling was another speaker.

The Alliance was represented at the luncheon by Miss Barry, Mrs. McFadyen and Miss Spender.

Household Electricity. By Caroline Haslett, C.B.E. (English Universities Press. 2s. 6d.)

"Household Electricity" explains simply and clearly how electricity is supplied to your house, and how the house is fitted up to use the supply. It deals fully with costs, the reading of meters, and the various tariff schemes, and it gives an account of the functions, prices and running costs of every sort of electrical appliance. It is well illustrated, both with line diagrams and photographs.

Notes and Comments

Twenty-five years ago the public proclamation of his faith in woman's suffrage by an Archbishop was news. Now when Cardinal Villeneuve, Archbishop of Quebec, pronounces the contrary view, the *Evening Standard* grants him a heading in large heavily leaded type: "Archbishop Attacks Votes for Women." We welcome the speech of the Premier in the Quebec Legislature declaring that the Government would stand by its promise to enfranchise women.

* * * *

Sir John Simon's announcement on 23rd January that the pensionable age would be lowered from 65 to 60 for spinsters and for married women whose husbands were over 65 does not mean that women are to receive a gift. For spinsters the additional contributory payments amount to 3d., and for married women to 2d. a week, the employer's quota being 1d. in either case. The government actuary estimates that in the first full year these additional payments will amount to £8,000,000 and the cost of the additional pensions to £8,500,000. If women are still employed after the age of 60 their contributions will cease, although not those of their employers, and they will not be entitled to National Health or Unemployment Benefit. They will however retain their right to free medical treatment. It is calculated that 160,000 wives and 150,000 spinsters will receive the earlier pensions which means, since contributions for wives are less than for spinsters, that the latter, the more numerous class, pay in part for the former. The proposal that women should be granted pensions at 55 is unjustifiable since girls enter industry at the same age as boys and since women who have passed the childbearing age have a greater expectation of life than men. It is not work after 55 which undermines a woman's health and happiness but work for the wage, too often given to her which is less than a man's, and inadequate to the maintenance of right living conditions.

* * * *

We support the women's M.P.'s who recently pressed the Financial Secretary to the Treasury to ask the Government to make greater use, especially in the new Ministries, of qualified women. The Deputation, who were accompanied by Miss Caroline Haslett, President of the Women's Engineering

Society, and Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Secretary of the Women's Employment Federation, criticized the existing tendency in Government departments and in private firms to appoint women only to subordinate posts, and stated that of the women specialists enrolled on the Central Register only about ten per cent are doing work appropriate to their abilities and of direct public importance.

* * * *

The Statement of Policy presented by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Parliament includes a proposal to replace the Colonial Development Fund, which is limited in amount and scope, by a government grant reaching an annual maximum of £5,000,000, or five times the maximum income of the existing fund, and partly devoted to certain new objects, such as agriculture, education, health and housing. This proposal applies not only to all British Colonies and Protectorates but also to all mandated territories. It is put forward primarily "to protect and advance the interests of the inhabitants" of the territories affected. The aim is collaboration between colonial and home authorities, and the variety of the conditions existing in different colonies is recognised. We hope that due account will be taken of the needs and rights of women in the colonies and mandated territories, especially the educational needs of girls, and that the contemplated reinforcement of the personnel of the development services will not overlook the need for women officials.

* * * *

We sympathize very deeply with some wives of men mobilized in France who have addressed to a General a letter of protest against an order to the wives of officers and soldiers to leave a certain town, which order was issued at the very time at which the military authority was setting up a "maison tolérée" in this town. It is refreshing that the A.T.S. serving with the B.E.F., enacts that members of this service are not forbidden but encouraged to fraternize with the B.E.F., that they may dine in public restaurants with officers or privates of the other services, that they may accept invitations to army canteens and soldiers messes and return the invitations.

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We ask members and friends to pray for Gabrielle Jeffery, our founder, who is lying critically ill in hospital.

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 Social and Political Alliance 29th Annual Report*

The outbreak of war may have seemed to some to make vain the activities of such associations as St. Joan's Alliance which are dedicated to the regulation of normal society; in effect it has increased the need for safeguarding the rights and opportunities of women.

While there was still peace in this country we received in reply to our telegram of homage to the Holy Father on his accession the following message: "Please convey St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance thanks blessing Holy Father." In His allocution to the tenth Congress of the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues, in April, His Holiness said: "the Catholic woman of to-day must be cognizant of her social duties," and, "In all great human works . . . God has made woman the associate and helper of man."

To turn to the principal gains and events affecting women in 1939. In *Belgium* there are two women members in the Chamber and two in the Senate; and for the first time there is a woman parliamentary secretary. In *Bermuda* an amendment to an existing law, designed to give women the parochial franchise, was defeated in April, but the Emergency Powers Act, passed after the outbreak of war, empowers the governor to grant female suffrage. *Brazil* has a woman as first class consul in Rome, and one as second secretary to the legation in Berne. In *Canada* women were elected to the provincial legislature of Alberta. In the *Dutch East Indies* there are two women members of municipal councils. In *Egypt* a woman has been appointed to a post in the Ministry for Social Questions. In *Finland* women play their onerous part in the A.R.P. organisation and the members of the Lotte Svård, the Finnish women's defence organisation, are pledged to protect their religion, home and country; 16 women were elected to the Diet. In *France* the legal profession has been opened to women in the French colonies. In *Germany*, according to a radio announcement, women between the ages of 17 and 25 are liable to conscription for "compulsory national labour service." In *Ireland* there is for the first time a woman Lord Mayor of Dublin. In *Jamaica* a woman candidate has for the first time won a seat as a municipal councillor. In *Japan* women have been admitted to the legal profession and have been appointed to the Council of Immigration to Manchuko, the National Council for Health Control and

* Subject to confirmation at Annual Meeting.

the Cabinet Information Bureau. In *Mexico* women have obtained equal suffrage and eligibility. In *Poland*, before the outbreak of war, two laws forbidding married women to be employed in schools or the civil service were repealed; to the "Diet" one woman was elected, to the Senate three. In *Rumania* a woman has won a seat in the Senate. *Spain* has appointed a woman to be acting minister and chancellor at the Spanish legation in Dublin. For the first time a woman is Vice-Chairman of the Laws Committee of the second Chamber of the Riksdag in *Sweden*. In *Tanganyika* the British Colonial Office created the new post of Woman Supervisor of Female Education. In *Turkey* fourteen women have been elected to the National Assembly. In the *U.S.A.* the supreme court of Massachusetts has declared it illegal to bar married women from work in the public service. The *U.S.A.* has a woman ambassador in Norway, as has the *U.S.S.R.* in Sweden. In the *U.S.S.R.* the Academy of Science has elected its first woman member and a woman has been appointed chief of the International Air Lines. In *Western Australia* women were re-elected to the state legislature. In *Great Britain* a woman, Mrs. Eveline Lowe, is for the first time Chairman of the London County Council. Miss Florence Horsbrugh has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health and her Adoption of Children (Regulation) Bill was passed into law. Two valuable precedents have been created, by the appointment of Miss Dorothy Garrod, to the Disney Chair of Archaeology in Cambridge University and of Miss Margery Perham, to the Governing body of Nuffield College at Oxford, in which men and women will study together. Mrs. Ayrton Gould has been made Chairman of the Labour Party, and Miss Joan Roberts of the Joint Industrial Council of the electricity supply industry in Scotland.

The several Women's Services of this country, the Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence, the Women's Royal Naval Service, the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, the Auxiliary Territorial Service, the Women's Land Army, are officially incorporated in the nation's defence and fighting strength. Detachments of some of them are already serving abroad. For the first time women doctors in the army receive ranking badges and are promoted like R.A.M.C. officers. They are paid at the same rate as such officers and receive the same allowances, but their rations are fixed at four fifths of those of a man. Women are serving as special constables

and as police auxiliaries. They discharge the same duties as men in the A.R.P. organisations but for two-thirds the pay, and with shorter hours; and they are serving on the Military Training (Hardship) Committees. The London Area of the Civil Air Guard is now under the control of two women Commissioners—Mrs. F. M. Miles and Miss Pauline Gower.

Copenhagen Congress

At the XIIIth Congress of the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship which took place in Copenhagen from July 3rd—24th and gathered together 250 delegates from 21 countries, our representatives were the Misses Barry, Jeffery, Graham and Spender (delegates) and the Misses Bodenham and Shattock and Mrs. Green (alternate delegates).

By request of St. Joan's Alliance Mass was offered at the pro-Cathedral on Sunday, July 9th, for the success of the Congress. On July 13th the Catholic delegates were received by Mgr. Theodor Suhr, O.S.B., Vicar Apostolic of Denmark and the first Danish Bishop of recent times, who addressed a few words to the delegates and gave them his blessing.

The Congress passed resolutions, among others, on suffrage, nationality, the equal moral standard, the legal status of women and equality of working conditions. Two resolutions were proposed on behalf of St. Joan's Alliance by Miss Barry and Miss Spender respectively and carried. The first begged the Assembly of the League of Nations to set up a committee competent to deal with the status of primitive peoples and the second urged all governments to ensure that among indigenous populations for which they were responsible forced marriages should be made illegal. Miss Margaret Shattock took a prominent part in the discussions of the Youth Council and made a brilliant speech at its open meeting. Our representatives attended the opening ceremony at the Town Hall when the Prime Minister and the Lord Mayor welcomed the Congress on behalf of Denmark; the Board reception at Nimb's restaurant; the luncheon given at Illum's department store by its proprietor; the Lord Mayor's reception at the Town Hall and a farewell dinner given by the Danish delegates at Bellevue.

St. Joan's Alliance was one of the leaders in the unsuccessful fight against widening the scope of the constitution of the I.W.S.A. to include the defence of democracy. The British delegation considered that this innovation would lead to a dispersion of energy and to controversy on issues not specifically feminist, and that it was for both men and women to unite on wider questions.

Equal Pay and Opportunities

Thanks to the vigilance of Lord Balfour of Burleigh and the Women's Organisations, the Finance Committee of Kensington Borough Council has withdrawn its recommendation against the employment of married women by the Council.

A deputation organised by the Open Door Council was received on August 1st by the Lord Privy Seal, Sir John Anderson. Introduced by Mrs. Tate, M.P., it expressed the resentment felt by the women's organisations at the differentiation between the rates of allowances and disablement compensation for men and women giving whole-time service in war in the civil defence services. Members were urged to take individual action on this subject.

Equal Moral Standard

St. Joan's Alliance has corresponded with the Secretary of State for War protesting against the pro-

vision of, and instruction in, the use of prophylactic packets for men in the Services, under the pretext of hygiene, and insisting that the distribution of these packets is a direct encouragement to immorality. The Alliance asked the Catholic Men's organisations to take similar action.

In connection with this piece of work His Eminence Cardinal Hinsley wrote to our Hon. Secretary: "You have done a good and courageous action."

Forced Marriages of African Girls

A deputation from St. Joan's Alliance re Forced Marriages of African Girls was received by Lord Dufferin and Ava, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, on January 10th. The deputation arose out of our public meeting on the findings of the White Paper (Comm. 5784/1938) held the previous December, and the resolution passed at this meeting was put before Lord Dufferin. Mrs. Laughton Mathews introduced the speakers, Archdeacon Owen of Kavirondo, Miss P. C. Challoner, M.A., and Miss Eleanor Hawarden. They pressed for further evidence to be taken from Missionaries and various organisations and individuals in all the dependencies, with regard to Forced Marriages, and asked that the Conference of East African Governors should be approached and evidence invited from them—this request to be forwarded to the Governors by the Colonial Office on behalf of our Alliance. It was further suggested that a circular be addressed by the Chief Justice of each Dependency pointing out that Forced Marriages are opposed to natural justice and are therefore illegal. Archdeacon Owen handed in a memorandum containing evidence received by him against the findings of the White Paper, and extracts of letters from Missionaries, containing similar evidence, were handed in by Miss Challoner. Lord Dufferin assured the deputation that the Secretary of State would consider what further action could be taken.

By request of the Colonial Office, 60 copies of our Statement on the Status of the Women of Native Races, presented to the 18th Assembly of the League of Nations, were sent to them for distribution to Governors and other officials in British Africa, together with other matter arising out of our deputation. Correspondence on the subject of Forced Marriages was pursued with the Colonial Office throughout the year.

Nationality of Married Women

The hardship and injustice of obliging British women to adopt the nationality of foreigners they may marry has been thrown into relief since the war forced many of them into the position not only of aliens but also of enemies. Under the present British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act a British-born woman married to an alien whose country is at war with Great Britain has the right to apply to reclaim British nationality. But it was only after pressure had been repeatedly applied by the women's organisations that a clear declaration of this right, in Parliament, made it known.

St. Joan's Alliance was one of twenty-six co-operating Societies which held a Conference on the Nationality of Married Women on June 22nd. Mrs. Hartree presided and the Right. Hon. Lord Alness, P.C., K.C., moved the resolution, seconded by Miss Betty Archdale, Barrister-at-Law, which urged the Government to pass the Bill, introduced in the House of Lords in July 1938 by Lord Alness, providing for the independent nationality of a British woman married to, or about to marry, an alien, and that an alien woman shall not automatically acquire British nationality.

At a Garden Party given on July 26th under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League Lord Alness and Mrs. Donzé spoke on the urgency of changing the Nationality Law in view of the possibility of war and begged all present to do their share in pressing this matter upon Parliament.

After the outbreak of war, the Alliance wrote to the Home Secretary begging the Government to introduce Lord Alness's British Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill as an Emergency measure; and also to the Prime Minister asking that the Bill be mentioned in the King's speech.

St. Joan's Alliance was responsible for a resolution asking for the immediate passage of the Nationality of Married Women Bill passed at a Conference organised by the Women's Freedom League, on Women's Work in War Time. The Conference took place at the Minerva Club on October 27th, Lady Pares presiding. Mrs. Donzé spoke on the Nationality resolution and the Alliance was represented by the Misses Barry and C. M. Gordon.

The Alliance was represented by Miss Barry at a meeting called in the House of Commons by Lady Astor on November 18th to protest against the failure of the Home Office to give effect to Clause 10 (6) of the Nationality and Status of Aliens Act 1938, which permits a British-born woman to apply to resume her British Nationality.

The recent Alien's Act in South Africa has ruled that a British woman who is a citizen of the South African Union or of one of the Old South African republics, and who is married to an alien, is not liable to deportation with her husband unless the competent minister considers that she as well as he is an undesirable alien.

The 28th Annual Meeting was held at St. Patrick's Club Rooms, Soho Square, on March 25th. After the Chairman's address the adoption of the Annual Report was moved by Miss Annie Christitch seconded by Miss Agatha Green and supported by Miss Annie Mannion (Oldham), Miss S. Terry and Miss K. Davis and carried. The Liverpool Branch Report was presented by Miss Barry in the unavoidable absence of representatives from Liverpool. The Oldham Branch Report was presented by Miss Stella Mannion (founder) and spoken to by Miss Agnes Walsh the new Hon. Secretary. The financial statement was read by the hon. treasurer, Mrs. Garrard, and its adoption moved by Miss Dorothea Borton, seconded by Miss Foley and carried. As a result of the appeal £34 15s. od. was added to the funds. A resolution to raise the Annual Subscription was proposed by the Hon. Auditor, Mrs. Benjamin and seconded by Miss I. R. V. Welch, but on being put to the vote was lost by a large majority.

Resolutions on the various points on our programme were put to the Meeting and carried: (see *Catholic Citizen*, April 1939).

No nominations for Committee having been received the Committee was automatically re-elected. The officers were re-elected by the Committee and later in the year Miss P. C. Challoner was elected vice-chairman.

After the outbreak of war, the Committee very regretfully accepted the resignation of our chairman, Mrs. Laughton Mathews owing to her full time work as Director of the W.R.N.S. We take this opportunity of thanking her for her valued and devoted work during the last seven years.

We welcome and congratulate our new chairman,

Miss P. C. Challoner, M.A., who has served on our Committee for the last five years.

In thanksgiving for twenty-one years of Woman Suffrage fifty members of St. Joan's Alliance made a pilgrimage on Sunday, May 14th, to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham to thank Our Lady and to beg Her blessing on the Woman's Movement. Father Butler offered Pilgrim's Mass for us at St. Mary's, Moorfields, and afterwards accompanied us to Walsingham, and Father Herbert, O.S.F.C., led us in prayers and hymns from Walsingham village to the Shrine. Father Bruno Scott James addressed us at the Slipper Chapel and gave Benediction. We journeyed by train to King's Lynn, where we visited the Red Mount Chapel and the Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation, and thence by coach to Walsingham. The return was made via Hunstanton where Benediction was attended at the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour and St. Edmund, King and Martyr.

One of the chief events of the year was the Dinner to Mrs. Laughton Mathews at Pinoli's Restaurant on June 6th to honour her seven years service as Chairman and to congratulate her on her appointment as Director of the W.R.N.S. To mark the occasion a gold St. Joan's badge was presented to Mrs. Laughton Mathews on behalf of the Alliance by our co-founder Miss Jeffery. Miss P. C. Challoner presided and the speakers were: His Lordship the Bishop of Pella, Viscountess Astor, M.P., Dame Katharine Furse, Mrs. Mark Kerr, Miss Alison Neilans, Dr. Letitia Fairfield and, of course, Mrs. Laughton Mathews. Representatives of fourteen other societies, both Catholic and feminist were present.

On May 30th, the Anniversary of the burning of St. Joan, our member the Rev. J. H. Filmer, kindly offered Mass for the Alliance, and a laurel wreath tied in our colours was placed by the Hon. Editor on the Shrine of St. Joan in Westminster Cathedral.

During the year by request of our members, monthly meetings were resumed to explain points on our programme. These were held at the Interval Club and the subjects dealt with were the Equal Moral Standard, the speakers being Mrs. Shattock, and the Misses M. O'Connor and Spender; Equal Pay for Equal Work, speakers Miss E. FitzGerald and Miss Swire of the National Association of Women Civil Servants; Equal Educational Facilities, speakers Miss Billing and Miss P. C. Challoner, M.A.

The Alliance has continued to take part in Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Horseferry Road, on every first Thursday of the month.

On the outbreak of war it was arranged that, as in the last war, Mass should be offered regularly on our behalf for peace and for all killed in the war. Mass was offered for this intention at St. Patrick's, Soho Square, on the Sunday following the declaration of war, and this is continued at 9-30 on the second Sunday of the month.

Knowing that each member of St. Joan's Alliance is serving her country in whatever way she deems best, we decided that the Alliance must carry on its work, it being more necessary than ever to guard against any encroachment on women's hardwon liberties.

Personal

We offer our congratulations to the following members of the Alliance: Mrs. Coleman (née Eleanor O'Connor) on the birth of a son, Michael; Miss Helen

Douglas Irvine on having her book: "Fray Mario" chosen as *Evening Standard* book of the month; the Right Rev. Mgr. Charles L. H. Duchemin on his appointment as Protonotary Apostolic by the Holy Father; the Rt. Rev. Mgr. John Filmer on having been named Domestic Prelate to the Holy Father; Miss Gertrude Gaffney of Ireland on her election as vice-chairman of the Dublin and Irish Association District Committee of the Press Fund for 1939-1940; Mr. and Mrs. Kettle of Uganda on the birth of a daughter, Margaret Marise; Mother Marie Margaret (Margaret Organ) on taking her final vows as a Canoness of St. Augustine at the Convent of Our Lady, St. Leonards-on-Sea; Mrs. Laughton Mathews, M.B.E., on her appointment as Director of the Women's Royal Naval Service; Miss Margaret Shattock on her election to the John Gamble Scholarship at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford; Sister Mary Stephanie (Mary Mason) who received the Benedictine habit at Talacre Abbey; Miss Mary Webber on having been awarded the Rosa Morison post graduate scholarship in English at the London University.

We offer grateful thanks to those who have given devoted help in the office during the past year, especially to the Misses Bodenham, Cullen, Lowe, Mrs. Maxfield, Miss Organ, and to Miss K. Davis for her unstinted help in Office work, and for undertaking the arduous task of verbatim reporting at many of our gatherings, a valuable contribution indeed. We thank Miss Hynes once more for her careful upkeep of the Press Book.

Visitors from abroad. During the year we were glad to welcome from *Australia* Miss Sara Byrne, Miss Grano, and Miss Suchting; from *Ireland*, Miss Gertrude Gaffney; from *New Zealand*, Miss Browne.

The Alliance was much honoured when Mgr. Kiwanuka, Titular Bishop of Thibica and Vicar Apostolic of Masaka (Uganda), visited the office during his stay in this country following his consecration with twelve other missionary bishops. He is the first bishop of African race to be consecrated.

Co-operation With Other Societies

The Alliance is affiliated to the International Abolitionist Federation, the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, and is represented on the Committee of the following societies: The Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union by Miss Harley Bacon; The National Council for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child by Mrs. Hand; The British Commonwealth League by Miss Spender; The Nationality of Married Women Committee by Miss Barry; The Australian Sub-Committee of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society by Miss Spender. We are also affiliated to the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

The Alliance took part in a reception given by Women's Organisations to Mrs. Lowe, first Chairman of the London County Council, at the Chiltern Court Restaurant, Baker Street, on the 17th April.

Many members were present at the luncheon to meet Miss Kenyon (U.S.A.) and Professor Gutteridge (Chairman of the League of Nations Status of Women Committee) organised by the Liaison Committee on January 14th at St. Ermin's Hotel.

St. Joan's Alliance was one of the societies, supporting, and many members attended, the Dinner given by the Suffragette Fellowship to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the granting of the franchise to women. This was held on February 14th

at St. Ermin's Hotel, Westminster, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence presiding.

On June 2nd the Alliance entertained to lunch several delegates from the Conference of the United Countrywomen of the world.

Miss Barry represented us at a tea-party given by Mrs. Corbett Ashby at the University Women's Club to meet Mme. Orbay, wife of General Orbay, Head of the Turkish Military Mission to this country.

At the Annual Conference of the British Commonwealth League which took place in London in the middle of May, Miss Christine Spender seconded a resolution proposed by Miss Una Marson of Jamaica, pressing the League of Nations to set up a Committee competent to deal with the status of the women of primitive peoples. The Conference considered "The Changing Status of Women under Democracy" and Mrs. Corbett Ashby presided.

As one of the British delegates to the Copenhagen Congress, Miss Barry spoke at a Garden Party given under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League by Miss Marjorie Barnes, when under the Chairmanship of Lady Pares many British delegates gave an account of the Congress.

A petition organised by Madame Chaudun Comte, to be signed by English men and women was open for the signature of members, at our office. It urged the French Parliament to grant the vote to French women.

The Alliance also took part in the following Conferences and Meetings, etc.

Subject.	Organiser.	Representatives
Women's Civil Defence Services	O.D.C.	Misses Barry and Spender, Mrs. Talbot, Dr. Helen O'Brien, Miss Barry
Nutrition	B.M.A.	
Nationality of Married Women	N.M.W. Committee	
Mrs. Pankhurst Memorial Dinner	Suffragette Fellowship	Misses Billing and Davis

Among **Letters and Resolutions** were those sent to:

Mgr. Godfrey expressing our pleasure on his appointment as Apostolic Delegate to Great Britain.

Daily Telegraph protesting against a weekly advertisement of books advocating birth control.

Education Committee of the L.C.C. protesting against making it a question of party to vote against the extension to women of posts of school attendance officers.

Foreign Office asking that the signature demanded for a child's passport should be that of "parent or legal guardian" in lieu of "father or other legal guardian." We had already protested in the case of a mother who had been refused a passport for her child without the father's signature.

Minister of Food asking for reconsideration of a proposal to allow extra rationing to adolescent boys and not to girls.

Home Secretary asking for information re women enemy aliens interned in Holloway Gaol.

The Catholic Citizen maintained its circulation and has received words of appreciation from many countries, including a cablegram from an African sympathiser of the Gold Coast. It continues to be exchanged with innumerable Catholic and feminist papers to our mutual advantage. At the outbreak of war it was decided to publish the paper in spite of difficulties and one of the first war-time articles was that on "British-Born Women 'Enemy Aliens'" by Mrs. Donzé, a fighting exposition of the injustice done to British women married to aliens. Since war-time conditions have been in operation the

need of our paper to bear witness to women's rights, and fight for a fair deal has been more and more in evidence. We take this opportunity to thank our many contributors for their splendid articles. The paper continues to be sold at public meetings and church doors and this is due to our magnificent paper-sellers, Mrs. Aylward, Miss Barry, and Mrs. Hand, who undaunted by any circumstances make their regular sales and give an example to us all. Our thanks are more especially due to Mrs. Hand who has undertaken with great success the arduous task of Advertisement Manager.

We are most grateful to Miss Eva Barry for undertaking the addressing of numerous wrappers and to the Misses Bain, Sara Byrne, K. FitzGerald, M. Parnell and Hope Robson for their help in sending out the paper.

International

Throughout the year, Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Miss Barry have represented the Alliance on the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations.

Miss Gertrude Gaffney of Ireland represented St. Joan's Alliance at the Coronation of His Holiness Pope Pius XII on March 12th.

U.S.A. Conference. Dr. Georgiana McEntee, Ph.D., one of our International Vice-Presidents represented the Alliance at the Conference of the Williamstown Institute of Human Relations held at William's College, August 26th—September 2nd. She spoke on "What Women's Organisations Can Do in Inter-cultural Relations."

Copenhagen Congress. Miss Gertrude Gaffney (Ireland) and Madame Uzelac (Jugo Slavia) attended as fraternal delegates from St. Joan's International.

Status of Women. During the second Session of the Committee for the Study of the Legal Status of Women, which opened on January 4th, the Misses Barry and Spender were present at Geneva. Among other material, memoranda from the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations, including a scheme of work for an enquiry into the legal status of African women, were examined. The Committee invited representatives of the Women's International Organisations to meet it in open session when Miss Barry and Mrs. Corbett Ashby pleaded that at least laws and ordinances affecting women of primitive communities might be incorporated in the general survey. This was considered undesirable and Professor Gutteridge stated that the Committee, after long and careful consideration, had agreed that it was not competent for such an investigation and that any such enquiry should be an independent one. The meeting then discussed the kind of information which the women's international organisations could most usefully supply to the Committee for other surveys.

The discussions were sympathetic and helpful, and it was felt that new ground had been broken.

Miss Barry was one of the four representatives of the Liaison Committee to be received by M. Avenol, Secretary General of the League, to beg for assurance that the amalgamation of the Opium, Social Questions and Health Sections should not be detrimental to the work of these sections, and Miss Barry urged the importance of the new chief being a complete abolitionist. Miss Barry and Miss Spender attended receptions given by Dr. René Girod and Monsieur and Madame Soubbotitch; and also the informal lunch given by the Liaison Committee to the Committee of Experts.

During its third session in September the Committee of Experts expressed satisfaction at the help it was receiving from the women's international organisations and stated that though it did "not feel able to take responsibility for directing the compilation for primitive races of a survey such as is contemplated by the Assembly's resolution this of course did not prejudice the question whether such a study should be made by the League." Studies of a number of important and typical forms of Oriental law were to be included in the Survey which it is hoped will be published by the 1941 Assembly.

African Women. The position of women in French East and West Africa has been improved in that certain recommendations of Soeur Marie Andrée du Sacré Coeur, a White Sister and Missionary of Our Lady of Africa, have been embodied by the Minister for the Colonies of France in a decree which regulates the marriage of girls in these territories by articles prohibiting marriage without consent and under the age of puberty and providing for the freedom of widows. It will be remembered that these points were embodied in a resolution sent to the Mandates Commission as far back as 1934, by the Liaison Committee of Women's Organisations, at the instigation of St. Joan's Alliance.

A letter was sent by the Alliance to Lord Hailey of the Permanent Mandates Commission asking him to bring forward the matter of promulgating a new Decree on the lines of the French one, throughout the Mandated Territories. The matter was fully discussed on the Mandates Commission between Miss Dannevig and the Representative for the British Cameroons.

South Africa. Our member, Miss Fedden, now lecturing and writing in South Africa, has done much valuable propaganda for the Alliance, as a result of which a group of eleven members have joined up at headquarters.

International Labour Conference

Regulation of Contracts of Employment of Indigenous Workers. Thanks to the work of the women's international organisations in 1938, special provisions relating to women form no part of the final text of this Convention but measures for the welfare of the family are included. The reply of the British Government to the Questionnaire re draft Convention was particularly favourable to the feminist point of view.

Technical and Vocational Education and Apprenticeship. A letter was sent by St. Joan's Alliance to the Chairman of the International Labour Conference suggesting two amendments to the Draft Recommendation. This had the support of other women's international organisations and certain modifications were made in the final form of the Draft, enabling women and girls to engage in work for the purposes of training, in processes which come under a legal prohibition on health grounds. The clauses concerning domestic training were considerably modified, in one case to include boys and girls.

Two draft resolutions on women's work were submitted at the Conference in June by the Workers' Delegates, M. Jouhaux (France) and M. Kupers (Holland). They were later amalgamated and adopted unanimously at the Conference. One of these "recognises the importance of the principle of equality of pay, and asks that the I.L.O. should complete its enquiry into present practice as quickly as possible" . . . the other "emphasises that it is urgently necessary for the health of all workers to be protected by legislation" . . .

Hon. Treasurer's Report

This year's accounts show an increased turnover of £47 7s. 2d. A heartening feature is the rise in the subscriptions and donations list of £26 8s. od. but the balance at the year's end was £28 os. od. less than that at its beginning.

Subscriptions to the CATHOLIC CITIZEN show a slight increase but the sales and advertisements are both down—this is due in part to war conditions, for advertising is suffering in nearly all papers, and our sales are affected by the lack of meetings owing to black-out, etc., since meetings usually provide opportunities for street sales. The cost of producing the CATHOLIC CITIZEN has exceeded the receipts by £22 10s. od. Fortunately this was made up by donations to the paper, but it is not a healthy sign. We depend upon our members to increase our subscriptions and so to cover costs in 1940, the Silver Jubilee year of the paper.

Our Christmas Sale this year was a new venture, it being held in our own offices for one week instead of our having a stall with other societies in a hall. The experiment was most successful—it brought in cash just on £40, an increase on last year's sale as we had not the expense of the hire of the stall. But almost more important was the opportunity afforded to our members for visiting us in the Office. We thank all those who bought or sent gifts, all those who helped to sell, and Miss Mary Wall for her Character Delineations.

Our Barrow Sales helped considerably towards the Office rent—we count on a continual supply of goods from our members for this venture.

To our regret our Hon. Treasurer was obliged to leave London with her school children and was unable to give us her usual generous work. We are greatly indebted to Mrs. Talbot who spent a great deal of time in appealing for subscriptions and donations and in collecting gifts for our Christmas Sale. We are also most grateful to Mrs. Benjamin who has acted as our Hon. Accountant again this year.

Press Report

Our thanks are again due to the *Catholic Herald*, *Catholic Times* and *Universe* for giving us the usual good reports of our activities. Our campaign against the forced marriage of African girls drew the attention of the *Universe*, *Catholic Herald*, *Le Mouvement Féministe* (Switzerland), and also the *Irish Independent*, where in connection with the consecration at Kilkenny of our friend, Mgr. Rogan, O.B.E., as Bishop of Buea, British Cameroons, our Alliance was honourably mentioned as "fighting for the welfare of its sisters of native Africa." Our work at the Copenhagen Congress of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, gained publicity for us in the same group of papers, and a spirited account of this Congress appeared in the *Irish Independent*, from the pen of Miss Gertrude Gaffney.

The Walsingham Pilgrimage of the Alliance got very good press notices in the Catholic papers and in *The Norfolk Chronicle*, *Eastern Daily Press*, *Lynn Advertiser*, *Birmingham Post*, *East Anglian Daily Times*, *Norwich Mercury*.

The appointment of our Chairman, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, to the Directorship of the W.R.N.S. has been a matter of much public interest, as also was the dinner the Alliance gave to celebrate the occasion, at which an imposing list of distinguished speakers and guests appeared. These events were recorded

in the *Universe*, *Catholic Herald*, *Tablet*, *Manchester Guardian*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Star*, *Times*, *Liverpool Post*.

The Catholic papers have drawn attention to our Annual Mass for our deceased associates and benefactors and to our monthly Mass for Peace and for the Fallen in the War.

The campaign undertaken by the Alliance to secure nationality rights for married women was given prominence in the *Middlesex County Times* and *West Middlesex Gazette*, as well as in the *Universe*, where the interest of Brigid de Vine was much appreciated; and in the *Oldham Chronicle* with a welcome article, much interested in St. Joan's Alliance.

The feminist press has given us good support. The *International Women's News* and the *Bulletin of the International Council of Women* have very appreciatively noticed the work of St. Joan's Alliance on behalf of African women. These two papers and *The Woman Teacher*, *The Horizon* (Melbourne), and *Opportunity* have all acknowledged use of material from the CATHOLIC CITIZEN.

Our part in criticising the Government's lead in establishing unequal rates of pay for men and women in war services drew the interest of the *News Chronicle*, *Scotsman*, *Woman Teacher*, *Rochdale Observer*, *Sunday Mercury*, and *Reynolds News*.

The French and English sections of the Alliance were mentioned in connection with French women's work in time of war, in the *Scotsman*, and the *News Chronicle*—the French section having supplied information on this subject.

Our presence at the Suffragettes' "Coming-of-Age" Dinner was noted in various newspaper reports.

The work of the Australian Branch of St. Joan's Alliance on behalf of the Aborigines was commented upon with approbation in *The Horizon* (Melbourne), and we were interested to see reported the doings of individual members both in Australian and in South African journals. At home, the work of several members including that of Mrs. Copland-Griffiths, Lady Superintendent in Chief of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade Overseas, and Miss Helen Douglas Irvine, author of "Fray Mario," has received notice in the press, and also we regret to say, the deaths of two eminent members, Lady Currie and Miss Helen Colt. R.I.P.

Our member Miss Fedden, who is in South Africa did good propaganda for the Alliance in an article on "Woman's Enfranchisement" in the *Catholic Trefoil* and in a speech addressed to the Catholic Women's League rally at Krugersdorp reported in the *Southern Cross*.

Mgr. Jackson's remarks upon women doctors raised something of a storm, and Miss Jeffery's letter in the *Catholic Herald* routed women's traducers with Thomist theology.

The *Universe*, *Catholic Herald*, and *The Catholic Times* published our annual letter "Look to your Votes" reminding readers of the importance of inspecting the list of electors.

Our Press Book shows spates of interest in the following varied subjects: The Use of Cosmetics, Birth Control, Modesty in Dress, the thorny problem of Careers for Married Women, the increasing part played by laywomen in the Catholic Mission Field; and Chaplains for Oxford and Cambridge Women Undergraduates.

St. Joan's Alliance has had a good year's publicity in religious and secular papers and asks its members to keep the Alliance well to the fore in the coming year.

Obituary

The Annual Mass for the repose of the souls of members, associates and benefactors of St. Joan's Alliance was offered at St. Patrick's, Soho, on November 5th.

The death of His Holiness Pope Pius XI came as a great grief to this country. His Holiness was notable for His unceasing work for peace, as exemplified in His motto, "the Peace of Christ in the Reign of Christ." St. Joan's Alliance will remember with gratitude that during His reign the instruction from the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda was issued urging that nuns should be trained as doctors and maternity nurses in mission countries and elsewhere. Pope Pius XI was rightly known as the Pope of the Missions and He gave immense impetus to the principle of a native priesthood and sisterhood for every mission country. The mobilisation of Catholic lay men and women of all countries in Catholic Action was an outstanding feature of His pontificate.

St. Joan's Alliance suffered a great loss in the death of the Rev. Joseph Keating, S.J., late editor of *The Month*, who was one of our most valued supporters since our early days and a consistent upholder of woman suffrage and women's claims to equality of status. Miss Constance Connolly represented the Alliance at the funeral service at St. Leonards-on-Sea.

The Alliance suffered the loss of another priest friend in the Rev. T. Dawson, O.M.I., who subscribed regularly to the CATHOLIC CITIZEN from its first appearance.

An honoured member of St. Joan's Alliance, the Rt. Hon. J. A. Lyons, husband of Dame Enid Lyons, who is President of the Australian Section, died early in the year. We remember him especially for his assurance, in a speech at one of our dinners, that the Australian Government wished to improve the position of the aborigines. He and Dame Enid were, he said, ready to do all they could to "push St. Joan's Alliance in Australia," and he expressed his wish to see equal nationality rights granted to all British women. The Alliance was represented at the Requiem at Westminster Cathedral on April 17th by Miss Barry, Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Miss Mary Parnell.

Mrs. Despard, the veteran pioneer of "Votes for Women" and a great champion of freedom, died early in the year. She founded the Women's Freedom League and was a member of St. Joan's Alliance. By request of the Alliance, Mass was offered for the repose of Mrs. Despard's soul at the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Joseph, Battersea, in the parish in which she worked at Nine Elms for many years. The Alliance was represented at the Requiem at St. Joseph's, Dublin, and afterwards at the funeral, by Mrs. Tom Kettle.

The International Woman's Movement suffered the loss of Lady Aberdeen, for many years President of the International Council of Women, of Madame Avril de Sainte Croix, friend and disciple of Josephine Butler, and of Dame Maria Ogilvie Gordon, distinguished palaeontologist and geologist, and first vice-president of the International Council of Women. At her Memorial Service at St. John's Wood Presbyterian Church on June 29th the Alliance was represented by the Misses Barry and Spender.

We regret to record the deaths during the year of the following members: Miss Helen Colt; Hilda, Lady Currie; Mrs. Manning Hart; Mrs. Morcos.

Miss Billing and Miss K. Davis represented the

Alliance on July 14th at the celebrations in honour of Mrs. Pankhurst's birthday when they laid flowers at the foot of her statue in Westminster.

Liverpool and District Branch

Chairman: Mrs. McCann, 25 Croxteth Road, Liverpool 8.

On February 20th the Annual Meeting of the Branch was held by kind permission of Mrs. McCann at her house in Croxteth Road. A Committee of nine was elected: Mrs. McCann, Chairman; Miss Crawford, Vice-Chairman; Miss Bowden, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer; Mrs. Hart, Miss Hickey, Miss Johnson, Miss McNeish, Mrs. Meehan, Miss O'Callaghan.

The year continued with a most enjoyable "Beetle" and Whist Drive which was held at Miss Bowden's home on March 6th.

Though we much regretted being unable to send a representative to headquarters Annual Meeting in March, we sent a greetings telegram of best wishes for a successful meeting.

On April 24th, Miss Kenyon, J.P., from Oldham, gave an inspiring address on "Equal Pay for Equal Work," followed by a fruitful discussion. A resolution from the Meeting was sent to the appropriate authorities.

On the occasion of the dinner to Mrs. Laughton Mathews on June 6th, in London, a beautiful ship made of flowers, in our colours, was sent from the Liverpool Branch and decorated the table. We regretted very much not to be represented at this event.

August found many members and friends of the Branch welcome guests at Birkenhead where the Misses Barry gave the annual garden party in heavenly weather. The Austrian costumes of refugee guests of our hostesses lent a quaint charm to a memorable scene as they superintended the various amusements, etc. After tea, Miss Florence Barry gave a vivid and graphic account of her visit to Copenhagen where she had represented St. Joan's Alliance to the 13th Congress of The International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship.

On the outbreak of war evacuation duties robbed us of the valuable services of our hon. secretary, Miss Bowden, and our ranks were otherwise depleted of many active members. It is indeed mainly due to the untiring energy of our Chairman that the Branch carried on. Not only has Mrs. McCann conducted all correspondence with and delivery of the CATHOLIC CITIZEN, she has kept in close touch with the members, and with kindred organisations, attending conferences, carefully watching events and taking active part in the formulation of new policies adopted by the Women's Societies of the city.

Relations with other Women's Organisations. Early in the spring collateral effort among women's organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance, was rewarded by the launching of a new body called "The Women's Local Government Association" having for its two-fold object, the pressing forward of Women's Representation on Local Councils and the provision of suitable civic instruction. The venture was an unqualified success. Meetings and classes were held which were well supported and a very ambitious programme was arranged for the Autumn. War intervened so the Association decided to suspend its proper functions for the War duration, and concentrate, in co-operation with other women's bodies, on problems relating to the war.

In October a large meeting of representatives of women's organisations was held to plan the formation of a co-ordinating council for the purpose of watching public affairs during the war. Later on in the year "The Women's Organisations Committee" was formed by the Liverpool Council of Social Service. This largely comprehends the personnel of the leading Women's Organisations and the problems of evacuation; allowances for wives and families of men serving in the forces, women house property managers, etc., are to the fore in its programme. Catholic women are playing a prominent part in its counsels and St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance is represented on it by our Chairman, Mrs. McCann.

We regret to record the deaths of Mrs. Green who regularly attended our functions, and Mrs. McNeish, mother of our Committee member, Miss McNeish. R.I.P.

Oldham Branch

Hon. Secretary: Miss A. Walsh, 33 Hillside Avenue, Clarksfield, Oldham.

The first event of the year was a meeting held at the home of our Chairman, Mrs. Kilcoyne, when Miss Brierley, B.A., gave a very interesting lecture on "Biology, Its Place in Modern Education."

Four representatives attended the Headquarters Annual General Meeting, held in London in March, these being the Misses A. and S. Mannion, E. Taylor and A. Walshe. They thoroughly enjoyed this contact with other members of the Alliance and, on their return, at a social evening, held again at Mrs. Kilcoyne's, they gave their reports on the business discussed. That evening it was decided that Oldham representatives in Parliament be asked to give their support to Lord Alness's "Nationality of Married Women Bill."

On May 8th Mr. T. Ford, of the Catholic Social Guild, Manchester, gave an enlightening talk on "The Social Teaching of Pope Pius XI." A meeting was called on July 8th at which the "Nationality of Married Women" Bill, and the unequal remuneration in the Civil Defence Services was discussed. As a result of this discussion the M.P.s were again approached by the members, and, in view of the grave international situation urged to do their utmost for Lord Alness's Bill. Their attention was also drawn to the inequitable rates of allowances in the Civil Defence Services. The local press gave a good account of the meeting, gaining much publicity for Lord Alness's Bill. The activities of the Branch also resulted in a proposal to urge support of the Bill in Loughborough Town Council meeting.

The year ended by a jolly party, again held at the Chairman's house.

We deeply regretted that a representative could not attend the Dinner in honour of Mrs. Laughton Mathews in June, so sent our congratulations by telegram.

We are glad to state that the circulation of the CATHOLIC CITIZEN among members of the Branch has increased during 1939.

Our thanks are due to Mrs. Kilcoyne, whose home is always available for the meetings and social gatherings of the Alliance and to Mrs. Cheetham and Mrs. Curley for providing the prizes. We offer our congratulations to Mrs. Kilcoyne on her appointment as President of the National Union of Women Teachers (Oldham Branch); to Miss Schofield on her marriage to Mr. Cooney, and to Mrs. Cox on the birth of a son.

French Section

Hon. Secretary: Mlle. Lenoël, 72 Avenue de la Bourdonnais, Paris 7.

War time conditions have rendered it extremely difficult to continue feminist work and propaganda in France. There are as yet no women's organisations which are officially part of the fighting services, but an engineering school for women, officially patronised by the Air Minister, and organised by Mademoiselle Paris, member of the *Alliance Sainte Jeanne d'Arc*, was opened on 21st October, and is competent to grant diplomas which will qualify its students to apply to the State for employment as ground engineers at military aerodromes. Moreover there is a transport corps of woman motor drivers, and many women are among the trained A.R.P. workers. The nurses of France include nurse aviators and nurse parachutists. Mlle. Lenoël was present at the opening ceremony of Mlle. Paris' Engineering School when, in the name of the Minister, a speech very favourable to the employment of women in war-time occupations was made.

Our president Madame Pesson Depret has been working at the "Société Secours aux Blessés Militaires" where she did much for the welfare of evacuated children. Our Hon. Treasurer, Mlle. Delaval, is in the French Red Cross and working in a mobile unit with the French Army.

L'Alliance was represented at two meetings of the "Union Temporaire" against the State Regulation of Vice, and co-operates with the Abolitionist Federation of which our President, Madame Pesson Depret, is Hon. Secretary. The Abolitionist Federation is having an uphill fight in its struggle against this evil, which is aggravated on account of the war.

On May 30th representatives of *L'Alliance Ste. Jeanne d'Arc* laid a wreath at the foot of the statue of St. Joan of Arc in Paris.

The summer saw the publication of our *Bulletin* in which many interesting articles appeared, notably one on Father Doncoeur's "La Sainteté de la Femme."

Brazilian and Australian Reports unavoidably held over till next month.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Leonora de Alberti in the *Catholic Suffragist*,
March 15th, 1915.

"Our Lady lived a hidden life, true, but she faced the rabble on Calvary; she shunned publicity, may be, but she was foremost among that gallant band, that splendid multitude of women, who followed to Calvary ministering unto Him. They were there to minister and to weep; she was there for more. Mother of the Divine Criminal she claimed her share of the shame, though she had claimed no share in the hosannahs. She stood by the Cross amid the ribald soldiery, a target may be for their vile jest.

And so when pestered with idle talk, with such patience as we can command, we fling back at our critics those sublime words:

Stabat Mater Dolorosa,
Juxta crucem lacrymosa
Dum pendebat filius."

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