

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

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.

Susan Anthony.

By SHEILAH HYNES.

Susan Anthony, the future champion of Woman's Rights, was born at Adams, Massachusetts, in 1820. Her father, Daniel Anthony, was a Quaker mill-owner of exceptional intelligence, who married "out of meeting," Lucy Read, a Baptist, who had been a playmate and schoolfellow of his childhood. Susan was the second child born into their staid and comfortable home.

The Anthony's children were given equal chances for education, irrespective of their sex, as their father, who was considerably in advance of his time, believed that girls as well as boys should be trained to be self-supporting. Susan Anthony was an intelligent and precocious child. She received most of her education at a school which her father directed for his own and a few other children. At fifteen she became a pupil-teacher at this school, and later she was sent to a "Seminary for Females" at Hamilton, near Philadelphia. In 1838, the Anthonys were caught in the wheel of misfortune which was sweeping the whole commercial life of the country at that time. The unsound condition of the banks and the fluctuating currency, due to over production and excessive speculation, had created financial chaos. Daniel Anthony went bankrupt, and there followed a period in which his family underwent a hard struggle to re-establish itself. Susan, thanks to her father's care for her education, was in a position to become a teacher.

For fifteen years Susan Anthony taught in various schools. It was during the early years of this period that she discovered the great injustice practised towards women. Often on taking the place of a male teacher, obliged to give up the work owing to inefficiency, she would receive one-fourth of his salary, in spite of the fact that she made a thorough success of the work. At the age of thirty-two she realised that her interests were no longer confined to the schoolroom. Her one desire was to take an active part in the great reforms of temperance and anti-slavery. She read with interest the report of the Woman's Rights Convention, held at Worcester, Massachusetts, and published by the *New York Tribune* (the only large newspaper in New York, and, with a few exceptions, the only large newspaper in the country, which treated the question of Women's Rights in any but an abusive and contemptuous manner), she sympathised with the demands, but was not fully convinced that they included the vote. However, after a couple of years of public work, she realised that women would be utterly unable to effect any great reforms without the franchise. The sense of the complete helplessness of being unrepresented was overwhelming to her.

The unceasing labour and public life which was to extend over half a century, may be said to have begun in 1852, when Susan Anthony was sent as a delegate to a mass meeting of the "Sons of Temperance."

At this meeting, when she rose to speak to a motion, she was told by the chairman that "the sisters were not invited there to speak, but to listen and learn." As a protest, she and several other women of courage left the hall. The outcome of this treatment, typical of that which Susan Anthony and her fellow-pioneers were constantly faced, was the immediate formation of a Woman's Temperance Society under the leadership of Miss Anthony.

For over fifty years Susan Anthony laboured indomitably for the rights of women. She formed no ties which would interfere with her great cause. She regarded herself merely as an instrument through which women would gain their freedom. Her fine physique, seldom gave way under the immense strain to which she subjected herself; much of her work consisted of lecture tours which combined the nervous strain of public speeches (in the early years often delivered to hostile audiences), with incessant travel for months at a time. In her early life she was persecuted, abused and misrepresented, but by her dignity and entirely unselfish devotion to her cause, she earned universal honour and respect in her old age; even from those who disagreed with her social and political ideals.

This remarkable career has been magnificently recorded by Ida Husted Harper, in the "Life and Works," the first two volumes of which were published during Susan Anthony's life-time, the last appeared in 1907, a year after her death. In the preface to the first volume, Mrs. Harper admits that the publication of a biography during the subjects life-time is unusual, but she explains that in Susan Anthony's case it seemed necessary, because the account of her work was largely to be found in personal remembrance and unpublished records. "The wisdom of this course," Mrs. Harper tells us, "has often been apparent in the preparation of these volumes. In recalling how many times an entirely different interpretation of letters, scenes and actions, would have been made from that which Miss Anthony declared to be the true one, the author must confess that hereafter all biographies will be read by her with a certain amount of scepticism—a doubt whether the historian has drawn correct conclusions from apparent premises, and a disbelief that one individual can state accu-

ately the motives which influenced another."

We learn with pleasure that copies of the "Life and Works" have been presented to all the women's University Colleges in England. Towards the close of her life, Susan Anthony in talking with a friend, who had referred to "the grand struggle which had changed the life of women everywhere," remarked: "Oh, yes, it is very different now, and most of the young women who are benefiting by it haven't the least idea how it came about. They do not realise the change, they don't know what it has cost other women to get it for them, but some day they will learn." The young women of to-day and to-morrow must not forget the struggle of the past, and those who are destined to experience the happiness of a university education, will surely not allow a work so worthy of the great woman whose life it records to remain unread on their library shelves.

"The Life and Work of Susan B. Anthony," by Ida Husted Harper. 3 Vols. The Hollenbeck Press. Indianapolis.

A Reply to the "Irish Monthly."

July 6, 1925.

To the Editor, "Catholic Citizen."

Madame,—May I point out that, either by accident or design, an important fact was left out of the leading article in your last issue.

It is surely desirable that your readers should know that the author of the attack on modern women—so ably and temperately answered by Professor Mary Hayden in the *Catholic Citizen*, is a priest of the Society of Jesus? I understand that a reply was sent to the Catholic paper in which the original attack appeared, and that the Rev. Editor (S.J.) refused to publish it.

MARY WALL.

At Homes.

Our third "At Home" was held at 37 Woburn Square, on Sunday, June 21, when we spent a most enjoyable afternoon and were glad to welcome three new members. Our thanks are due to our kind hostess, Miss Gorry, and also to Miss Wall, who helped us so much by her character delineations, and to Miss Bumpstead for her recitation.

Notes and Comments.

The Bill introduced by the Lord Chancellor into the House of Lords to remove the liability of husbands for torts committed by their wives, needs careful watching. It enacts that "the husband of a married woman shall not as such be liable to be sued or be made a party to any action or legal proceedings brought against her in respect of any tort committed by her, whether, before or after the marriage." Feminists stand for equality, and ask for no privileges for women, nor do we desire a man to be responsible for his wife's misdeeds. But, as Mrs. Bompas has pointed out, many wives are in the position of not having a penny of their own, their whole time is taken up in managing their homes and bringing up their children, though entitled to maintenance, they have no legal right to a share of their husband's income. A person may be liable for damages, by an accident, not arising from any misdeed. What does the Lord Chancellor suggest should be done under those circumstances? Every possible obstacle is raised to prevent married women earning a livelihood. Unless a wife has an income of her own her position is scarcely an enviable one. Will the Lord Chancellor's Bill make it worse?

We were glad to read in the *Woman Teacher* the report of the spirited protest made by our member, Miss Fortey, J.P., at a meeting of the Local Education Authority against a motion to adopt the Burnham Award. Miss Fortey, in an eloquent speech, voiced the claim of women for equal pay for equal work, a principle violated by the Award. She calculated that under the proposed scale of pay there would be after forty-four years' service a sum of £2,781 less paid to the woman than to the man. Councillor W. H. Smith associated himself with the protest. Equal pay for equal work is one of the mottoes of St. Joan's S.P.A. and of all feminist societies.

Every now and again a friend of Equal Franchise questions the Prime Minister as to the Conference which is to be set up to enquire into the reform of our absurd Franchise Law, and Mr. Baldwin replies that he

cannot make a statement at present. In fact, our old friend, "Wait and See," has been resuscitated.

When the Summary Jurisdiction Bill was again before the House of Lords in June, Lord Russell reluctantly withdrew his amendment making adultery a cause of separation, as Lord Haldane and others declared that divorce was the proper remedy. The amendment was, of course, intended to assist those persons who do not believe in divorce, and we regret that the amendment was withdrawn. Lord Askwith moved an amendment that the furniture of the home may be transferred by order to the wife; this strengthens the Bill, and was needed. The amendment was carried by one vote. We are glad to see that Lord Morris was among the supporters. The Bill, as amended, passed the Committee stage.

The Guardianship of Infants' Bill also passed its Committee stage in the House of Lords. While the Bill does not give all we desire, it is a step forward.

The International Woman's Suffrage Alliance will hold their next Congress in Paris, May 23—30, 1926. We ask members and readers to bear the date in mind, and reserve that week for a visit to Paris, when they can support the Congress, and have an interesting holiday.

Mrs. Crawford represented us on the deputation to the Minister of Health, organised by the N.U.S.E.C., to discuss the Widows' Pensions Scheme; and at the Conference on the same subject, Miss Wall being also a representative of St. Joan's S.P.A. on this occasion.

Miss Whateley represented us at the meeting in International Week on Child Welfare, and signed the Children's Charter on our behalf. The meetings in International Week were organised by the National Council of Women.

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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The Slavery Commission of the League of Nations.

Ever since it was first suggested that a Commission should be set up under the League of Nations to enquire into the whole question of slavery, the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations—to which St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance is affiliated—has been endeavouring to secure the appointment of a woman member to the Commission. So far these efforts have been unsuccessful, and the Commission, appointed in March 1924, is composed entirely of men. The excuse given for the omission of women is that only experts have been appointed, and there are no women with expert knowledge of this question. We do not wish to underestimate the value of first-hand information on a subject so thorny as native customs not easily eradicated, or with which it is difficult to interfere. None the less, we do feel that the question of slavery is one on which women are entitled to express their opinion, and that they are less likely to take an official and timid view in advocating reforms, especially as regards domestic slavery.

The following statement of the work of the Slavery Commission, issued by the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, shows the wide scope of the Commission's work, and proves, we think, that the omission of women from the Commission appointed to deal with these matters is an injustice which should be promptly remedied. A determined effort is being

made to get the question raised at the Sixth Assembly of the League.

SLAVERY COMMISSION.

(Issued by the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations.)

In the first instance the Secretary General of the League issued a questionnaire to the various Governments in whose dominions slavery, in one form or another, was reported to exist. They were asked to state:

1. What measures had been taken to suppress slavery?
2. What had been the economic and social results of these measures?
3. Whether further measures were in contemplation?

The Commission set up to examine these reports were puzzled from the outset as to the scope of their enquiry, and came to the conclusion that the Council of the League had been purposely vague, leaving it to the Members of the Commission as experts to formulate their own programme. The Commission, therefore, suggested to the Council that their enquiry should cover the following ground:

1. The enslaving of persons.
 - (a) Slave raiding and the slave trade.
 - (b) Slave dealing (including transferring of slaves by exchange, sale, gift, or inheritance).

(c) Slavery or serfdom, domestic or pre-dial, that is to say, attached to the soil.

2. Practices restrictive of personal freedom, or tending to acquire control of the person in conditions analogous to slavery, as, for example:
 - (a) Acquisition of girls by purchase disguised as payment of dowry, it being understood that this does not refer to normal marriage customs.
 - (b) Adoption of children, of either sex, with a view to their virtual enslavement and of the ultimate disposal of their persons.
 - (c) All forms of pledging or reducing to servitude of persons for debt or other reasons.
3. Measures to check above practices.
4. System of compulsory labour, public or private, paid or unpaid.
5. Measures taken or contemplated to facilitate the transition from servile or compulsory labour to free wage labour or independent production.

The Commission seemed very nervous of presenting the appearance of encroaching on the internal affairs of the various States. They were also very cautious as regards domestic slavery. This was defined by the Belgian Government as follows: Domestic Slavery is a condition consecrated by native custom in which either by the will of another person, or by birth, or sometimes of his own free will, a person is placed, in relation to another in a position analogous to that of the goods and chattels of the latter. Distinct from slavery it only affects the natives.

Finally, the Commission recommend that Slavery must be regarded from a comprehensive standpoint, and that the Commission should endeavour to indicate some practical measures calculated to ensure the gradual suppression of Slavery and analogous forms of servitude, and to facilitate the development of the social and economic conditions which should succeed it.

LEONORA DE ALBERTI,

Hon. Sec., Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations.

State Regulation of Vice in Practice.

Mme. Gemahling in *La Française*, M. Gemahling in *La Jeune République*, draw attention to the scandalous incidents connected with the gymnastic fête held recently at Strasburg, when several thousands of youths, the majority aged from 16 to 18, but amongst them even some boys of 15 and 13, lined up for three nights in succession outside the *maisons tolérées* waiting their turn. Decent men, fathers of families, professors, doctors and journalists, who attempted to persuade the young men to withdraw, say that the hideous spectacle will haunt them to their dying day. And yet scenes like this seem to pass unnoticed by our preachers and moralists, who wax eloquent in their denunciation of a short skirt or a low neck, which, sanctioned by fashion, may become a mere matter of custom.

We may be told that there is some connection between the alleged wholesale immodesty of fashions, and the scenes at Strasburg. We say that that is sheer nonsense, State Regulation of Vice is of long date, and found more people to uphold it as a sane system in the days when women swept the streets with unhygienic trains, and wore chokers, than is the case to-day. In fact, the silence which protected these dens of vice was broken by women, and where the loathsome system has been abolished it has been mainly due to the work of women.

L. de A.

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship is giving a Reception and Garden Party at Aubrey House, 11a Aubrey Walk, Campden Hill, Kensington, on Thursday, July 23, at 3-30 p.m., to commemorate the Honour recently conferred on Dame Millicent Fawcett. St. Joan's S.P.A. and other Societies are associating themselves with the N.U.S.E.C. to do honour to the great Leader to whom women owe a deep debt of gratitude. Tickets, price 2s. 6d., can be had from the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

The Seventh International Labour Conference.

(Communicated by the League of Nations' Union.)

The Seventh Session of the Annual Conference of the International Labour Organisation at Geneva lasted for three weeks and came to an end on June 20. Forty-six nations were represented, as against thirty at the last Conference, and there was an increased number of complete delegations (2 Government, 1 employer and 1 worker representative) present. In fact, only a few States of small industrial importance failed to fulfil their Treaty obligations in this respect.

As President, the Conference elected unanimously, Dr. Benes, Foreign Minister of Czecho-Slovakia, and her representative for some years on the Council and the Assembly of the League. His opening speech reminded the Conference of his work in this capacity, and described the extent to which the League and the I.L.O. were co-operating in every sphere of international life—the one working on the problem of material disarmament, while the other, by removing the friction caused by unfair commercial competition, prepared the way for moral disarmament.

Since 1921 no new Conventions had been adopted by the Conference, but this year five important measures were on the Agenda. Three of these had been referred to the 1925 Conference from the previous year for a final vote, and naturally their fate was one of the most interesting decisions taken during the session. The reason for the year's delay in taking the final vote was in order to allow Governments to suggest such minor amendments as would enable them to ratify the Conventions more readily. As a matter of fact, the system did not work out as it had been hoped.

It is true that the first of these three Conventions, provisionally adopted by the 1924 Conference—Equality of Treatment of Aliens as regards Workmen's Compensation—was adopted by 125 votes to none, but the other two measures did not fare so happily. The Convention for the weekly rest to workers in certain glass-making processes met with strong opposition. During the year which had elapsed since the previous discussion, opinion both for and against the measure

seemed to have hardened. Supporters and opponents alike were not prepared to compromise, and when the final vote was taken, 68 votes were cast in favour and 37 against. The two-thirds majority stipulated in the Peace Treaty not having been obtained, the proposal was dropped.

The third Convention was the prohibition of night work in bakeries. Here again opinion had hardened, though not to the same extent as in the previous case. Amendments had been proposed by various Governments, and, in particular, by the British Government, which seemed to re-open the controversy of last year. Most of these were, however, defeated in Committee. On the final vote, however, employer representatives voted solidly against the Convention, which only passed by 81 to 26.

The somewhat unfortunate effect of the year's delay on two out of three Conventions so impressed the Conference that the two new Conventions on the Agenda were adopted by a final vote. These new Conventions were the Draft Convention on Compensation for Industrial Accidents and for Occupational Diseases. These measures formed the preliminary attack on the whole problem of social insurance which is to be undertaken by the Organisation during the coming years. Such problems are probably the most important social questions facing any Industrial State at the present time, and the large expenditure which they must involve make it imperative that they should be universally applied. Preliminary discussions also took place on the general problems arising out of workers' insurance, and it was decided to prepare detailed information on every aspect of Social Insurance for an early session of the I.L.O., Sickness Insurance being recommended for the 1927 Session.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the debate was the discussion on the Director's Annual Report—a survey of International labour conditions during the past year. Here, worker and employer delegates from every State have the right to question their own and other Governments on the steps which they have taken and which they propose to take to carry out the terms of

ratified Conventions. The fate of the Washington Hours of Work Convention was again prominent in the discussion and, indeed, out of the 46 speeches made nearly every one bore upon this subject. The workers' group called upon the Governments to ratify this Convention which they considered to be "the foundation stone of all labour legislation." The smaller States declared that they were waiting for the example of the greater, while the great powers gave administrative difficulties as their reason for not ratifying. However, just as a similar debate last year led to a meeting of the Ministers of Labour of Belgium, France, Great Britain and Germany, to discuss the possibility of common ratification, so there were indications in this year's debate that the same Governments were willing to re-open such negotiations.

Another interesting incident was the joint appeal made by the Indian employer and worker representatives to the Government of Japan to ratify the Hours Convention. India, they said, had ratified this measure and loyally observed its terms, whereas Japan, her rival in the cotton trade with China, had so far not done so. "On the decision of Japan," said Sir Thomas Smith, the employer delegate, "rests the fate of countless labouring thousands in the Far East." The Japanese delegate promised that his Government would do everything possible to meet the demands of India. Thus, this debate proved once again a powerful instrument for focussing public opinion on labour conditions, East and West, and the demands of the workers' group should form a salutary influence on Governments hesitating to put their names to these International labour agreements.

Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations.

WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

At the last Ordinary Meeting of the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations this session, held on June 25, much time was devoted to a prolonged discussion on the new proposals to give pensions for widows and orphans. General gratification was expressed that the claims of civilian widows with dependent children had at last been recognised, but many Societies felt that

a number of Clauses in the Bill ought to be amended.

Very careful consideration has been given by the women's organisations to this complicated question, and the main criticisms of the Bill made during the debate were directed against the following points: the inadequate allowances for children; the fact that a large proportion of women contributors will never reap the benefit of their contributions, since they are unable to remain in employment until the age of 65, or because they marry an uninsured man; the proposed cancellation of a widow's pension for reasons which would not deprive other pensioners of their allowances; and the proposal to pay an allowance to young widows with no dependent children.

With regard to the last provision, many divergent views were expressed. On the one side were members of the Committee who felt that it was unfair to the ordinary woman wage-earner to subsidise the young widow who would still be competing in the labour market; and on the other side were members who considered that since it was a contributory scheme, every widow ought to be entitled to a benefit. Evidence was given showing that marriage, even for a short time, was a handicap to a woman who wished to obtain employment after her husband's death, and further, that Service widows with a pension did not, in fact, undercut other women-workers.

It was finally agreed that a certain saving would be effected and could be used to increase children's allowances if a duration of marriage qualification of not less than 5 years or not more than 15, were made a condition of receiving the pension. It was believed that this would mean the minimum of hardship and would ensure that those who most required assistance, would have it.

Two suggestions were made in order to remedy the injustice to the permanent spinsters; first, that they should be allowed to continue as voluntary contributors for the purposes of Old Age Pension only, and alternatively, that those women who ceased to be insured before the age of 65 should be allowed a reduced rate of benefit.

We are glad to note that the Government has now agreed that where children are still attending school, allowances shall be continued until the age of sixteen.—EDITOR.

International Notes.

The *Mouvement Féministe* (Geneva), as well as *La Française*, is at pains to disprove the "legend" that is growing up that it was the women's vote in Germany, given from sentimental reasons, that resulted in the election of Hindenburg as President. No general statistics are available to prove or disprove this assertion, as the local authorities had been recommended not to discriminate in any way between male and female voters. None the less, a few towns did so, and so we learn officially that at Spandau 32% of the men and 36% of the women voted for Hindenburg, but that on the other hand, 11% of the men voted Communist as against only 6% of the women. At Cologne it appears that 48% of the men voted for Hindenburg and only 43% of the women. These figures are far from supporting an accusation of nationalist militarism against the German female electorate which is being meanly used in France to prejudice the cause of Woman Suffrage.

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It is gratifying to learn from the *Féminisme Chrétien de Belgique* that the *maisons de tolérance* under police control at Antwerp, after much controversy, have been definitely closed. Unfortunately, in Brussels the position is far less satisfactory, as the doctors are insisting on replacing the police permits by medical permits, which would come practically to the same thing. Melle Van den Plas continues her moral endeavour to make the authorities understand that in order to be effective treatment for venereal disease should be free and private, and entirely disconnected from all forms of *police des mœurs*.

* * * *

La Française, on behalf of French mothers, makes an eloquent and much-needed protest against shocking scenes that appear to have taken place every evening round the *maisons de tolérance* at Strasburg during a recent three days' gymnastic display in that town, when most of the competitors were mere schoolboys and came from all parts of France.

* * * *

The French Woman Suffrage Union has just held a very encouraging annual meeting at Grenoble, under the presidency of Mme. Brunschvieg. Some 80 delegates attended

from all parts of France, and the meeting lasted two days. The Report showed there had been much provincial activity and a widespread growth of interest in the movement.

* * * *

Under the title, "Much Ado About Nothing," Mrs. Chapman Catt describes with complete good-temper in *The Woman Citizen* the various manoeuvres that almost threatened to spoil the success of the International Council of Women Conference in Washington. Certain military elements in the States seem to have regarded that meeting as a "pacifist" one, and by insinuating that Bolshevik emissaries would be found among the foreign delegates and that Bolshevik gold had provided the means of travel, did succeed in causing some of the original plans to be modified. Evidently the same ignorant and panic influences are at work in all countries and are used to hinder woman's progress.

* * * *

We learn from the I.W.S.A. News Service that in Australia a Labour candidate, Miss Holman, has been elected unopposed to the seat in the Legislative Assembly recently held by her deceased father; that in Cuba a Bill has been presented in the Senate to give a woman married to a foreigner the right to choose her nationality; that M. Painlevé has appointed a woman, Melle Salmon, as "chef adjoint" in the *Présidence du Conseil*, and that the first woman barrister to distinguish herself in a Spanish Court of Justice by the brilliance of her oratory, is a lady of English extraction, Señorita Victoria Kent.

* * * *

L'Égyptienne continues to maintain a high standard of literary excellence. An admirable article (June) from the pen of the editress, Melle Nabaraoui, explains clearly and moderately the policy that Egyptian women are pursuing, demanding first and foremost good educational facilities and the protection of infant life in order later to claim the vote on the same terms as it is employed by men.

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We are glad to see that Dr. J. A. Ryan, so well known for his social teaching, is taking an active part in Peace propaganda in the U.S., urging on his fellow-Catholics to act openly and enthusiastically in the spirit of recent Papal pronouncements. (*N.C.W.C. Bulletin.*)

V. M. C.

Reviews.

LETTERS OF LADY CONSTANCE LYTTON. Selected and arranged by Betty Balfour. Heinemann, Ltd., 7s. 6d.

We are grateful to Lady Betty Balfour for publishing these letters of her sister, Lady Constance Lytton, whose selfless devotion to the cause of woman suffrage, and for all that those words imply, endeared her name to many thousands of women. The story of her disguise as Jane Wharton, which deceived the prison authorities, who consequently treated her as they were prepared to treat any working woman, made a profound impression, and will be told to her glory, and their discredit, whenever the history of the emancipation of English women is re-told.

One has the feeling on reading this book of being admitted to the intimacy of a gracious and saintly personality.

VESPERS OF OUR BLESSED LADY (together with translation and Notes). Catholic Truth Society, 2d. By C. C. Martindale, S.J.

This useful booklet was prepared, we are told, "at the request of a priest who has Vespers sung in his church, and thinks that both Catholics and non-Catholic visitors would be helped by a short explanation of this Service." It is scarcely rash to say that the Service of Vespers does not hold the place in the favour of clergy and laity that it used to hold. The Evening Service is now: Devotions, Sermon and Benediction; whereas formerly it was: Vespers, Sermon and Benediction. In the movement for the revival of liturgical services this booklet, and the one on Compline like it, should be most useful.

WOMAN IN WORLD HISTORY: HER PLACE IN THE GREAT RELIGIONS. By E. M. White. Messrs. Herbert Jenkins, Ltd., 8s. 6d. net.

In this very ambitious book the author has done her best to be fair according to her understanding. She tells us in the introduction that her "aim has been fairness to all and unprejudiced interpretation for all. To enter into the spirit of each religion and to

record what is found, impartially with regard to all, but sympathetically with regard to each, is the only method yielding approximate truth." She does not realise the difficulty of entering into the spirit of a religion, imperfectly understood. She is imbued, for instance, with the belief that the celibacy of the Catholic clergy is an insult to womanhood. Why, in that case, the celibacy of nuns should not be equally insulting to men, does not transpire. She confuses the Immaculate Conception with the Virgin Birth. Her strictures on the mistaken enthusiasm of the martyrs is alone sufficient to show how impossible she has found the task of entering "into the spirit" of Christianity. We leave the exponents of other creeds to fight their own battles. The writer of the book has evidently no need of a creed other than the vague humanitarianism from which this age is suffering.

LA SPORTIVE. By Docteur Marthe Bertheaume. Editions de la Vraie, France, 92 Rue Bonaparte, Paris. Frs. 7.50.

This interesting novel by one of the authors of "Docteur Odile," reviewed some months ago in these columns, raises a variety of questions. It is indeed a novel with a purpose, or more than one, but the author does not obtrude these purposes unduly, to the prejudice of the story. There is the whole question of the effect on women of athletic sports, whether or no they are beneficial—whether a pagan worship of physical culture, and the discipline thereby entailed, can replace spiritual training and religious faith. It is unnecessary to say on what side the author is found, but the problems are woven with skill into the web of the story.

ROME AND ITS ENVIRONS.

We have received from Messrs. Ward, Lock & Co., an admirable guide book to Rome ("Rome and its Environs," 5s. net.). It contains nine maps and seventy views of Rome, and is a mine of information for a stranger in the Eternal City. Where to go, where to reside, motor bus and tram services, a short history and description of all places of interest. We can heartily recommend this book to any of our readers going to Rome.

The International Council of Women.

We have received the President's Memorandum, issued by the I.C.W., giving a résumé of the recent Congress at Washington. The work of the I.C.W. covers a very wide field, and a large number of resolutions were passed at the Congress. The resolutions dealing with the League of Nations are of particular interest, and a special standing Committee of representatives of International Societies is being established, whose object shall be "to work unitedly for the appointment of suitable women on Commissions on other bodies in the League of Nations, where women's opinions should be represented."

Other resolutions in this section deal with disarmament, European Reconstruction, the Court of International Justice, and kindred questions relating to the establishment of peace and friendship between nations. We are glad to note that the I.C.W. stands firm in support of Equal Professional Rights for Women; Equal Pay for Equal Work; the right of married women to employment, and other measures of equality in which our members and readers take special interest.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

JUNE 1st to 30th.

	£	s.	d.
Anderson, Mrs. and Miss ...	2	0	0
Bain, Miss ...	5	0	0
Bivort, Madame de ...	1	6	0
Cassidy, Dr. Norah ...	5	0	0
Cole, Miss A. M. F. ...	2	6	0
Collier, Dr. D. J. ...	2	6	0
Crawford, Mrs. V. M. ...	2	2	0
Donovan, Misses B. & K. ...	5	0	0
Duff, Miss Frazer ...	10	0	0
Grieverson, Miss ...	2	0	0
Gorry, Miss ...	2	6	0
Harker, Miss ...	1	0	0
Havers, Miss ...	3	0	0
Hill, Miss Cecilia ...	7	6	0
Morice, Dr. Margaret ...	2	0	0
O'Farrell, Miss ...	1	0	0
Parker, Mrs. ...	1	0	0
Poundall, Mrs. ...	1	0	0
Shorto, Mrs. ...	1	6	0
Wall, Miss (per) ...	15	0	0

£12 6 0

TREASURER'S NOTE.

Thanks to the generosity of a few members, we have now rather more than half the quarter's rent in hand, but the balance (£6) is still urgently needed. I would also ask all those who will be going away for their holiday during the next two months to undertake to make at least one gift for our Xmas Sale, or at any rate to bring one back with them.

GABRIELLE JEFFERY.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

Hon. Secretary—Miss Jervis, 99 Edge Lane Drive, Liverpool.

On Saturday, June 20th, the members of the branch went for a picnic to Chester and a boat trip on the Dee. The members thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We hope to start our meetings again in September or October.

British Commonwealth League.

This League, formed to secure equality of Liberties, Status, and Opportunities, between men and women in the British Commonwealth of Nations, replaces two older bodies: the British Dominions Women Citizens' Union and the former British Overseas Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. The League held a very successful two days' Conference on July 9 and 10.

The Conference was opened by Lord Cecil, who gave a lucid and interesting address on the importance to every citizen of the foreign policy of the Empire. While realising the need of full consultation with the Dominions on matters of foreign policy, Lord Cecil dealt with some of the difficulties which were apt to arise, especially when decisions had to be adopted without delay. The business of this first session was the question of political equality, and distinguished speakers from many parts of the Empire dealt with the position in their respective countries. Mrs. Corbett Ashby presided, and explained that the new League now being founded would co-operate with the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and promote within the British Empire the objects of the Alliance. The following resolutions were passed unanimously, and also a resolution dealing with the position in South Africa, and another congratulating the women of Newfoundland on their recent victory:

Political Equality.

This Conference notes the pledge of the Government to deal with Equal Franchise and

calls upon the Government to introduce and pass through all its stages a Bill establishing equal voting rights at the same age and on the same qualification for men and women in the next session of Parliament. This Conference would strongly deprecate attempts to link up the question of Equal Franchise with any controversial change in the existing system which would inevitably prejudice its chances of success.

This Conference calls upon the British Government to amend the Government of India Act (1919) in such a way that women may be made eligible for election or nomination as members of the Indian Legislature or Provincial Councils by the passing of a Resolution to that effect in the Chambers and Councils.

This Conference calls upon the British Government when granting or amending a Constitution in any British Possession to include equal voting rights for men and women: and further, it calls upon the Legislatures of all such Colonies as have a measure of self-government to take immediate steps to grant such equal rights where they do not already exist.

This Conference expresses its sympathy with the women of Bermuda on the failure of the equal suffrage bill in the Legislature, and calls upon that Legislature to re-introduce and pass into law a similar bill without delay.

The subject of the afternoon session was the Equal Moral Standard, when Lord Astor presided, and Miss Alison Neilans was the chief speaker. Lord Astor paid a well-merited tribute to the work of Miss Neilans. Other speakers were Mrs. Basu (India), Miss England (New Zealand), and Mrs. Laws (Kenya).

The following resolution was carried unanimously:

Equal Moral Standard.

This Conference, while recognising the advance which has been made in many parts of the British Commonwealth towards an equal moral standard in law and its administration, calls upon the British Governments, at home and in the Overseas Dominions, to extend this principle of moral equality throughout all their legislation, and particularly in regard to the laws governing marriage and divorce, illegitimacy, prostitution, street order and venereal disease.

This Conference urges upon all women the importance of examining the administration of law and guarding against "measures of exception" being applied to women under pretext of morals.

This Conference calls upon the British Home Government to take all the necessary steps to ensure the speedy permanent abolition of all measures of regulation and of all recognised brothels in the British Crown Colonies.

On the second day, July 10, the subject was: "Some Legislative Inequalities." Miss Macmillan dealt with the Nationality of Married Women, and excellent speeches on the Marriage Laws in various parts of the Empire were given by representatives from the Dominions; the chair being taken by Mrs. Britomarte James (Victoria).

In the afternoon the important subject of Economic Equality was discussed, with Lady Rhondda presiding, and later Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

Mrs. Oliver Strachey reviewed the position, and dealt with some of the reasons of existing inequalities. Miss Chave Collisson (Sydney) gave an admirably compressed account of conditions in Australia, and the Hon. N. M. Joshi, of the Indian Legislative Assembly, read an interesting paper on conditions in India.

The following resolution was carried:

Economic Equality.

This Conference holds that the economic position of women within the British Empire is far from satisfactory, and believing in the principle of equality, declares:

1. Equal pay for equal work must be established.
2. The existing division and subdivision of labour into "men's" and "women's" work must be replaced by a free field.
3. No obstacle must be placed in the way of the employment of the married woman.
4. Protective legislation in industry other than that dealing with maternity must be based upon the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker.
5. The economic value of the work of women in the home must be recognised.

And calls upon the Societies represented to take action along these lines.

At the close of the Conference an emergency resolution was passed unanimously calling for the appointment of at least one woman to the Slavery Committee of the League of Nations.

We congratulate the organiser, Miss Chave Collisson, on the success of the Conference. The address of the British Commonwealth League is 17 Buckingham Street, W.C. 2.

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