

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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Catholic Citizen

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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.

Light or Darkness?

The 18th Session of the International Labour Conference.

BY HELEN A. ARCHDALE

M. KRIER, Workers' Delegate from Luxemburg:

As to unemployment, it is important to emphasise the tendency in various countries to prohibit the work of women. Some theorists urge that the prohibition of women's work would be an effective means of combating unemployment. . . . I want to denounce, here in this International Labour Parliament, the reactionary tendencies which run counter to the most elementary rights, and I consider that the International Labour Office should deal with the prohibition of the rights of women workers, rights which are so gravely menaced at the present time.

The above words, taken from the speech of M. Krier during the discussion on the Director's Report at the 18th Session of the International Labour Conference, were described by one who heard them as a tiny gleam in prevailing darkness. Certainly it is easy to see prevailing darkness in the prevailing attitude adopted by the I.L.C. towards women. This darkness, or is it blindness, causes such Conventions as the Night Work for Women Convention, first passed in 1919 and now, in 1934, passed again with the release from its claws of the managerial category. It causes the unanimous decision to draft a Convention prohibiting, to women, work in underground mines of all kinds. Here, again, it is possible that the higher categories may be excluded, but not if British Labour can help it. British Labour showed more conservatism than any other group in classing all women as one. While these conservatives seem able to divide men

into innumerable categories and grades and to propose and to put into effect regulations suitable to the various occupations and degrees of skill, when they see the word "women" their eyes shut and in their blindness they see only one kind of woman and that one, alas! a very poor thing, a non-adult with a tendency to mental defectiveness.

It is well that one voice, at least, was heard in defence of the rights of the woman worker, that one brain, at least, had understood that women are being unjustly and wrongly treated by the I.L.O.; that one delegate, at least, so well understood that he was able to declare his understanding in a plenary session.

Again, some might see gleams of light in the insistence in the Director's letter to Governments of November 14th, 1933, on conformity to Articles 7 and 389, which latter stipulates that when the Conference has to deal with questions especially concerning women, one at least of the advisers in each delegation shall be a woman. To find the names of some technical advisers on some delegations seemed cheering, until Mrs. Kjelsberg gave the figures: 44 countries represented, 2 women delegates, 9 women technical advisers, 3 women in the workers groups; 148 government delegates, 11 women among them.

Whether one regards these proportions as an improvement or whether one regards them as a deplorable, even disgraceful, violation of international undertakings, all must be convinced of their complete unsatisfactoriness. The same

voices which were loudest in denouncing other alleged violations of Part XIII of the Versailles Treaty, were silent at the glaring violations of the same Part XIII where the treatment of women was in point.

There emerges from the study of speeches made, conventions agreed to and conventions proposed, a painful impression of a mingling of sentimentality, jealousy, fear of competition, prejudice, obstinacy, lack of vision. Sentimentality sees woman only as the mother, the ministering angel, dependent upon the so much stronger male for all sustenance whether of the body or the mind. Jealousy sees woman as sharing, or even monopolising, place, privilege, power, success. Fear sees the woman as rival, competing for the jobs which at present seem to many to be sufficient even for one sex alone. Prejudice clings to the legend: "woman's place is the home." Obstinacy regards a convention once made as unchangeable. Fortunately those who regard it as such are definitely in a minority. Lack of vision has never been more than one woman, or perhaps has never even seen as many as one, but has only heard of woman, perpetually delicate on account of potential or actual motherhood, perpetually uneducated and incapable of receiving or of benefiting by education, a strange, unreal being.

If all these types could open their eyes and their understandings; could see woman as very much the same human being as man, with his faults, his vices, his virtues, his capacities, his courage; they would cease from the hopeless task of regulating her working conditions on the false and rotten base of sex, and the time and energy now so wasted could be turned instead to her real protection as a worker, according to the nature of her work.

We know, and it is a mighty weapon in the more conservative Trade Union circles, that the woman manual worker, where she is organised into Unions, does appear to demand and to demand with no uncertain voice, that form of protection which treats her as inferior and not as an adult worker. But we also know that the higher grade worker, professional, business, commercial, managerial, supervisory, has protested against the prohibition of work during the night. We have seen this protest having its effect when an evident majority showed signs of an intention to exclude the same category from the proposed prohibition of work in mines.

Are we entitled to be uplifted at finding such tiny gleams or should we be depressed by the more prevalent gloom?

NOTES AND COMMENTS—Continued.

We draw the attention of our readers to the announcement, on another page, of the Congress of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship to be held in Constantinople early next year. The Alliance has also issued an appeal to the women of the world calling upon them to hold firmly to the principle of equality between the sexes so that women may take their full share in the political, economic and social life of their country.

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The National Council of Women have organised a petition, supported by 22 National Organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance, asking for an increase in the number of women police and that it should be made compulsory for "preventive, detective and protective duties in connection with women and children" to be carried out by police-women. The Petition also asks that a woman Inspector of Constabulary be appointed at the Home Office.

The Petition, which has been largely signed by clergy of various denominations, members of Parliament, magistrates and members of public bodies and voluntary organisations, will be presented to the Prime Minister before the House rises at the end of July. Among the signatories is the Archbishop of Liverpool.

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Thanks to the efforts of the New Zealand women's organisations, the age of marriage in New Zealand has been raised from 14 for boys and 12 for girls to 16 for both sexes.

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Mrs. Violet Rose Markham (Mrs. Carruthers), C.H., J.P., has been appointed to serve on the new Unemployment Assistance Board.

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During their stay in Geneva, Miss Butler-Bowdon and Mademoiselle Lenoël were able to interview Miss Dannewig, the only woman member of the Mandates Commission, who has so persistently and courageously drawn attention to the position of African women. She hopes to continue her efforts on their behalf.

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We congratulate our very good friend and member, the Very Rev. Dom Gilbert Higgins, on attaining his 85th birthday. We send him our prayers and warmest greetings.

Notes and Comments

We thank M. Krier, of Luxemburg, Workers' Delegate to the International Labour Conference, for the words quoted at the beginning of our front-page article. During the discussion on the Director's Report, when speaking of unemployment, M. Krier raised the question of women's work. He instanced "as a first attack on the right to earn which is the same for men and women" a regulation embodied in a Grand Ducal Decree in Luxemburg, which subjects the employment of women, married or unmarried to a preliminary authorisation by the Government.

We are also grateful to Mrs. Kjelsberg (Government delegate, Norway) who in the same discussion appealed for the appointment of women on the Governing Body. So far, no woman has yet been on this Body, not even as a substitute member. Since it deals with questions to be presented to the Conference, when they are in their first stage, it is an important Body on which women should be given the opportunity to serve.

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The Lord Chancellor has set up a Standing Committee on Legal Maxims and Doctrines to consider, among other things, how far, in modern conditions, the legal doctrine of the liability of a husband for his wife's torts, requires revision. A Memorandum on this subject, signed by several organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance, has been sent to the Lord Chancellor on behalf of the Equal Rights Committee. The Memorandum submits that a married woman should be put in exactly the same position as a man or a single woman with respect to any wrong she may do, and that her husband should cease to be liable for her torts.

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The following resolution has been sent to the Ministry of Health regarding circular 1408:

"St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance wishes to place on record its opposition to the further widening of conditions under which information on artificial Birth Control may be given at centres maintained out of public funds."

We congratulate Mrs. Dooley, J.P., a member of our Alliance, who as one of a minority of six, amid much opposition "definitely and emphatically" opposed the resolution on "Birth Control" at the Labour Women's Conference held recently at Cheltenham.

A deputation organised by the Open Door Council and representing twenty-eight women's organisations was received by the General Purposes Committee of the newly-elected London County Council on July 2nd. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, on behalf of the deputation asked the Council to reverse its custom of dismissing women on marriage and thus set a lead to the whole country for the establishment of equality and freedom.

St. Joan's Alliance was represented by Miss I. M. Dickinson.

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Among the new Civil Service regulations published recently in the "London Gazette" is one which permits a woman with special qualifications to be admitted or retained in the service after marriage, at the discretion of the head of her department. During the last two years this procedure has already been followed in some cases, so evidently the practice of dismissing trained and qualified women on marriage has not proved an unmixed blessing.

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In connection with the world-wide attack on women's right to earn which so often takes the form of insisting that women must go back to the home in order that men with dependants may have their jobs, "The Woman Teacher" publishes a striking extract from "The Swiss Teacher's Journal" as to the dependants of women teachers. In 1927 the Union of German Catholic Women Teachers issued 13,800 questionnaires to their members in schools in Prussia, Wurtemberg, Baden, Hessen and Oldenburg, and 9,392 replies were received. From these replies it was ascertained that 6,684 women regularly supported 11,728 persons, and the relationship of the people supported was as follows: 1,261 fathers, 2,317 mothers, 4,187 sisters, 1,705 brothers, 2,258 other relations or friends.

The writer of the article in "The Swiss German Teacher's Journal" comments:—

"The progressive exclusion of woman from the Labour market will have far-reaching results, which will influence and become a factor in public welfare. The whole of the heavy burden will fall on the wage-earning male of the family, a consequence which will bring great difficulties in its train, and which will cause a man to consider and weigh more and more the possibilities of establishing a family."

(Continued on page 62).

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. Paula and St. Birgitta*

Though separated in time the two saints, Paula, and Birgitta of Sweden, have much in common. Both were ladies of great wealth and standing, originally mistresses of large households; both lived in troublous and changing times; both gave an example to the luxurious back-sliders of their day. Moreover they shared that love of learning, especially with regard to the Holy Scriptures, which has always been a tradition of the Church and which She has ever used as a powerful weapon against Her foes.

Saint Paula lived in the fourth century and came of a Roman patrician family. Married young she had five children all brought up in the Christian faith. When she was only thirty-one her husband (a pagan) died and from that time onwards she dedicated herself to God. Imperial Rome was dissolving, all around was a dying civilisation and the majority, turning aside from problems, led a life of luxury without thought of the morrow. The contagion had spread even into the Christian Church itself. Then it was that the counteraction of Christian ascetism appeared. Paula was one of several women eminent in holiness, around each of whom formed groups of virgins and widows who led lives of prayer, penance and charity for the greater glory of God. Paula remained in Rome seven years leading this monastic life. During this time she met Jerome—the desert saint, who used the learning of the pagans for the defence of Christianity. He assisted Paula and her followers in their biblical studies and a great friendship grew up between

* *St. Paula.* By the Benedictines of Talacre. (Washbourne & Bogan. 12s. 6d.)
Saint Birgitta of Sweden. By Edith Peacey. (Washbourne & Bogan. 12s. 6d.)

the two saints. Paula had always longed to pilgrimage to the Holy Land and when Jerome, sick of the controversies into which he was continually drawn at Rome, decided to go there, she accompanied him with her devoted daughter Eustochium. She "fell in love" with Bethlehem and decided that there she would stay and build a monastery. She succeeded in establishing two flourishing Communities, one of men and one of women, and Jerome remained as head of the Community of monks. Thus she inaugurated a movement which was to have a far-reaching influence throughout the Church. The two monasteries had much intercourse and the women, in their eagerness for knowledge, almost forced St. Jerome to undertake his greatest works such as the Vulgate version of the Bible and his Commentaries on the Sacred Scriptures. On his side St. Jerome had the greatest admiration for Paula and her holy followers and found his unflinching support in their sympathy and encouragement.

Ten centuries later at the beginning of the fourteenth century, another saint, Saint Birgitta, was born in Sweden. As a child she was marked out from her fellows by the gift of ecstasy and vision and later she developed miraculous powers of healing and foreknowledge. It is impossible, in a short space, to give even an outline of all Birgitta was destined to do. She lived at a time when the Middle Ages were being merged into the Renaissance, when learning was abused and when luxury and loose-living were creeping into high places not only among lay-people but also among the clergy. Her duty was to instruct, warn and reform. In ecstasy she received directly Divine messages which had to be delivered to all sorts

ISTANBUL CONGRESS

The International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship invites to its Twelfth Congress, which will take place in Istanbul, from April 18th to 25th, 1935, its affiliated societies in 40 countries and those applying for affiliation. All women's organisations, national or international, which are in sympathy with its object, and all men and women who support its programme, are also cordially invited to attend.

Our last Congress in Berlin in 1929 was a magnificent celebration of the foundation of the Alliance. The world economic crisis caused the cancellation of the triennial Congress in 1932, but, in spite of the continuance of those difficulties, we cannot further delay to call our members together to discuss some aspects of the crisis which closely and intimately affect our cause. Moreover, the Board's three-year mandate has been much exceeded.

By the generous invitation of the women of Turkey, we shall meet in Istanbul—a name to rouse in each of us childhood memories of Eastern legend and romance—an ideal meeting place for East and West in spirit and in fact. For there, in a period of re-birth, the guiding hand has recognised the paramount importance of a free womanhood trained in citizenship and given the opportunity to make its contribution to the nation's life. Our work will be carried on in an atmosphere of sympathy and fresh hopefulness which should be an inspiration to us all.

When our work began all countries were tending towards free democracies, the franchise was being extended, and in many countries manhood suffrage was already in operation. "Equality" could therefore naturally be expressed by the extension of the same suffrage rights to women citizens as to men. In this period women went from victory to victory. We witnessed an enormous change in the position of women, their magnificent evolution in education and professions, and their enfranchisement as citizens. Within the last 20 years women from all parts of the world have taken their place in local and state parliaments, as civil servants in ministries and even as members of cabinets, as delegates to the League of Nations, the Economic Conference and the Disarmament Conference. Certainly complete equality has as yet not been attained, even in the most advanced countries. But our work has benefited by the growing influence of

and conditions of men, very often to the reigning Pope himself. Her life-work was to urge the return of the Papacy from Avignon to Rome. For fifteen years she lived in Rome until "Pope and Emperor met" as had been foretold to her—that is to say until the Emperor Charles IV and Pope Urban V were in Rome together and she had in person delivered the messages destined for each. Her efforts seemed to end in failure when at the close of her life Urban's successor, Gregory XI, was crowned Pope in Avignon instead of at Rome. But St. Catherine of Siena was to complete her work, and it was given to St. Birgitta to see in vision that all would yet be well.

One of the greatest achievements of St. Birgitta's life was the foundation of her double monastery on the shores of Lake Vetter in Sweden. An Abbess ruled over this Community and though monks and nuns lived in separate buildings, they had a common church in which they joined together for Holy Office answering each other from two choirs, one built on top of the other.

Like St. Paula, St. Birgitta was devoted to learning. She and her husband studied together during his life-time and during her sojourn in Rome she and her daughter Katerina made study of the Holy Scriptures a vital part of their lives. Katerina was the counterpart of Eustochium in St. Paula's life—she was the selfless companion of all Saint Birgitta's labours. Saint Birgitta had the power of gathering round herself many friends and helpers wherever she went, and her influence extended far.

These two books make us realise that the characteristics of nobleness and greatness vary very little in different ages and are given to men and women alike. Little it recked St. Paula and St. Birgitta *what* they did so long as they did the will of God, and to the end of time there will be great-hearted men and women ready to surmount all obstacles and win a victory for the Lord. CHRISTINE SPENDER.

DINNER TO DR. SCHLÜTER-HERMKES AND MISS DOUGLAS IRVINE

On Sunday, July 22nd, at 8 p.m., we shall have the honour of entertaining to dinner at the Wilton Hotel, Victoria, two of our members from abroad—Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes of Berlin and Miss Helen Douglas Irvine, recently returned from Chile. Mrs. Laughton Mathews will preside. Tickets 3s. may be obtained at the office. Please apply at once.

women, covering as it has not only the question of suffrage, but also the equal moral standard, equal conditions of work, the civil status of women, including the nationality of married women and the position of the unmarried mother and her child, and the great cause of Peace and the League of Nations.

Our battle seemed almost won, at least we saw a steady progress towards a final victory. Now, alas, the situation has changed. Women have to face the challenge to their fundamental rights which has clearly emerged from the unrest of the after war world and a new campaign is before us. Different new experiments in forms of government concern our Alliance in so far as they affect the relative position of men and women. Some have maintained or instituted equal rights; others have destroyed the progress of years as regards the position of women and the enlightened social work inaugurated and carried on by them. It seems vital to claim that whatever new experiments may be made in any country they shall include and not destroy the ideals in which we so devoutly believe. Those ideals, far from being based on a division of interests, with each sex holding sway in different departments of life, demand a community of interests with every sphere enriched by the special contributions which each may bring.

The problem with which we are faced is that women no more than men have a common viewpoint on political or social questions; how then are we to preserve, or might we not almost say to re-establish that solidarity which alone brought victory to our movement, and without which our gains may be swept away? We must now fight for fundamentals. The outward forms of emancipation have no lasting value, no permanence if they are not founded on the true emancipation of the individual.

We shall meet in Istanbul in order to discuss our problems, to record success or failure, and above all to strengthen our Will to Victory. We must find the path into a world organised for peace and prosperity on the firm basis of justice and equal responsibility for every citizen—that is the mission of our Alliance.

The future shall still be ours, if fully awake to the dignity, freedom and responsibility of the womanhood of the world, we share our vision and pledge ourselves to make it a reality.

Margery I. Corbett Ashby, Adèle Schreiber, Rosa Manus, Germaine Malaterre Sellier,

(Continued end of next column).

WHERE MEN DO THE HOUSEKEEPING

From a recent number of the *Frauenpost* (Berlin) we learn that there is a village in the Upper Rhône, a distressed area, where men do all the housekeeping and mind the babies. The village is called Dalherda and is known as a wood-carving centre. There, various kinds of household utensils are made, spoons, clothes pegs, etc., and even quite presentable wooden dolls. The commerce in these articles is carried on exclusively by women, who travel all over Germany with well-filled pedlar's packs on their backs. Early each Monday morning the women depart from the station and all the week through scarce one is to be seen in the village. They only come back on Saturday, bringing with them the clinking pay for the goods made by the men. All the week the men are alone in their cottages, carrying on their carving, and at the same time doing the house work. On Saturday they scrub and clean, for they make it a point of honour to have everything in first-class order when the mistress returns. The Dalherda stirring spoons are well known for their good quality, they are cut out of the hard beechwood that grows in the woods of the Rhône. Before the war these wood carvers used to travel about in their own carts, with wife and child selling their wares; but they used to penetrate far and often remained months on the road. The industry has suffered severely during late years and necessity forced them back to the pedlar's pack.

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The same paper states that at Zlin in Czechoslovakia boys in the two lower classes in the Council Experimental Schools are given two hours' instruction weekly in cooking and sewing. The object is to see how boys will react to this new teaching and also to give them knowledge that will be useful to them in numberless vocational occupations.

E. F. G.

ISTANBUL CONGRESS—Continued.

Frantiska Plaminkova, Emilie Gourd, Milena Atanatskovitch, Dorothee von Velsen, Hoda Charaoui, Marie Ginsberg, Suzanne Grinberg, Ingeborg Hansen, Paulina Luisi, Alison Neilans, Dhanvanthi Rama Rau, Bessie Rischbieth, Josephine Schain, Marquesa del Ter, Avra Theodoropoulos, Ingeborg Walin, Carrie Chapman Catt, Frances M. Sterling.

International Labour Conference

The partial revision of the Washington Convention on the Employment of Women at Night was one of the chief items on the agenda of the 18th Session of the International Labour Conference held at Geneva in June. Readers will remember that in 1932 the Hague Court of International Justice gave its opinion that even women non-manual workers engaged in industrial undertakings—such as managers and supervisors—came under the scope of the Convention prohibiting women from working at night. This matter was put forward by Miss Martindale, British Government delegate, and the following article was adopted by the Conference:—

"This Convention does not apply to women holding responsible positions of management who are not ordinarily engaged in manual work."

It will be noted that women in supervisory posts are still prohibited from night work under the terms of the Convention.

The second point, put forward by the Workers' delegate from Belgium, was the substitution in certain cases of the period 11 p.m. to 6 a.m., for the period 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. included by the Convention under the definition of "night." In some cases this would avoid difficulties of transport. The following motion was accepted:—

"Provided that, where there are exceptional circumstances affecting the workers in a particular industry or area, the competent authority may, after consultation with the employers and workers organisation concerned, decide that in the case of women employed in that industry or area, the interval between 11 o'clock in the evening and 6 o'clock in the morning shall be substituted for the interval between 10 o'clock in the evening and 5 o'clock in the morning."

This concession seems to be so hedged with conditions as to be almost negligible.

Once more we reiterate our conviction that the only satisfactory method of dealing with this question is to adopt a Convention prohibiting all unnecessary night-work equally for both men and women.

The other item especially affecting women on the agenda of the Conference was whether the question of the Prohibition of the Employment of Women Underground in Mines should be placed on the agenda of the 1935 Session with a view to the adoption of a Convention which will completely prohibit such work. It was decided that this should be done.

Prior to the Conference the following Memorandum on Employment of Women on Underground Work in Mines of all kinds, was sent by St. Joan's Alliance to the Director of the International Labour Office:—

While appreciating the good intentions of the I.L.O. in seeking to prohibit the work of women in mines we submit that it would be unjust, and would involve hardship particularly at this time of economic crisis, arbitrarily to close any single avenue of honest employment to women. Although we hold no brief either for or against the work of women in mines, we think that the choice of this employment should be left to the women themselves.

The avowed intention of the promoters of special legislation for women is to safeguard their morals and health but legislation directed to these ends does not always achieve the desired results. As regards the possible effect on morals we should like to draw attention to the report (1933) submitted by the International Union of Catholic Women's Associations to the Traffic in Women and Children Committee of the League of Nations. It notes that the increase in prostitution in some industrial areas is due to unemployment—"former factory hands, both married and unmarried, only became prostitutes on their dismissal through lack of work."

Again it should be noted that in some countries, as in India, husband and wife are employed together in mining occupations, the arbitrary exclusion of women from occupations in the same locality as their husbands may give rise to serious moral problems.

As regards the health of the women workers in mines it is worth noting that in England in 1842 when special legislation for women in mines was first considered Commissioner Symons in his report on the Yorkshire Coalfields stated:—"I do not deny that there are numbers who work in collieries without visible injury to their health. On the contrary I have been frequently astonished at the healthy appearance of girls thus employed and who have come to be examined in the evening, well dressed and comely and respectable in appearance."

By the exclusion of women from some forms of employment, serious financial hardship may be inflicted and in some districts a large number of women will be deprived of their habitual means of subsistence.

Again the adoption of protective conventions sometimes involves categories of workers to whom they were never originally meant to apply. The I.L.O. has now under consideration the partial revision of the Night Work Convention so as to allow the exclusion of women in responsible positions of management. As regards the possibility of prohibiting the employment of women in underground work in mines of all kinds, the I.L.O. itself deprecates "a vague and general regulation prohibiting any work done by women in work places situated below ground, even if it is com-

(Continued on page 68).

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference of the British Commonwealth League was held at the Y.W.C.A. Central Club, London, on June 13th, 14th and 15th, Mrs. Corbett Ashby presiding. This year the Conference discussed: "Woman, Work and Pay within the British Commonwealth."

The first resolutions dealt with woman suffrage in Malta, Bermuda and Quebec—that urging woman franchise in Quebec being seconded by St. Joan's Alliance.

An emergency resolution on Indian Franchise, supporting the demands placed before the Joint Parliamentary Committee by the representatives of the three leading Indian women's organisations, was proposed by Mrs. Premchand on behalf of the National Council of Women of India.

Resolutions dealing with the status of women were passed urging the separate assessment of the income tax of wife and husband; that a spouse should have legal claims on a certain proportion of a deceased spouse's property; that a woman should make the same payments and receive the same benefits as a man in Unemployment Insurance schemes; that throughout the British Commonwealth a woman whether married or unmarried should have the same right as a man to retain or change her nationality; the right of the married woman to earn; and "equal pay for equal work."

Colour was considered under the heading of Bars to Careers and Miss Marsden of Jamaica, speaking on this subject, said that it was almost impossible for a coloured nurse to get any training in London Hospitals.

Resolutions were passed concerning education in India, Kenya, South Africa and the education of Australian Aborigines. The resolution dealing with Kenya asked that an adequate number of schools should be provided for African girls in Kenya, there being thirty Government Schools for African boys and not a single one for girls and this state of affairs encouraging a one-sided cultural development in the Colony.

A resolution calling for more stringent legislation for the abolition of Mui Tsai in Hong Kong was proposed by Lt. Commander Haslewood and seconded by Miss Eleanor Fitzgerald on behalf of St. Joan's Alliance. St. Joan's Alliance also seconded a resolution proposed by Mrs. Abbot of the Opon Door Council demanding that the same minimum rate be fixed for both sexes by Trade Boards,

Miss C. M. Gordon being our speaker on this occasion.

Miss Alison Neilans of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene proposed a resolution on Traffic in Women and Children, noting with satisfaction the recommendations made in April 1934 by the League of Nations Advisory Committee on Traffic in Women and Children, and thanking the League for making available the evidence concerning the effect of closing licensed or officially tolerated brothels in the British Crown Colonies and 15 European towns. The Conference noted that "neither public health nor public order had suffered as result of such closure" but regretted that in many countries which have abolished this system, special medical and police control of prostitutes is still in operation and therefore called upon women throughout the world "to work against this system, and to demand that the principle of equal treatment and equal moral responsibility between the sexes be fully recognised in the law."

Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who had just returned from Geneva, spoke on the problem of Disarmament. As spokesman of the British Government she had been commissioned to state, at the last session of the General Commission of the Disarmament Conference, that the United Kingdom was unable to take part in any regional Security Pacts outside Locarno. Miss Winifred Kydd, Canadian delegate to the Conference, also spoke on Disarmament.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE—Continued.

paratively light, such as installing electrical apparatus." The I.L.O. further says that the advisability will have to be considered of "excluding by way of exceptions certain groups of women, such as women engineers in a managerial position (to enable ventilation and electrifying experts to be engaged by mining undertakings) or women technicians who, like doctors and nurses, may sometimes be required to go down the pit in connection with their duties."

While not opposing labour legislation designed for the benefit of both sexes, we deprecate any which deprives women only of liberty in their choice of employment. We believe that women have the same inherent right as men to be guided by their own necessity and conscience in the choice of paid employment and although there may be only a comparatively small number of women working in mines affected by such legislation, we feel it vital to uphold this fundamental principle.

We trust therefore that the I.L. Conference will see the justice of our arguments and that any proposals for a Draft Convention prohibiting the work of women in mines will be rejected.

International Notes

We are happy to record that the Committee instructed by the League of Nations to study the plebiscite of the Saar territory appointed Miss Sarah Wanbaugh, an American, as one of the three experts to prepare the draft regulations on methods of voting. Miss Wanbaugh has already acted as expert adviser to the Peruvian Government for the Tacna-Arica plebiscite.

The Joint Standing Committee of Women's International Organisations on which St. Joan's Alliance is represented, included Miss Wanbaugh's name in the list of women suitable for nomination to the League of Nations Committee, put forward to the League.

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We learn from the "International Women's News," that thanks to the vigorous campaign conducted for 15 years by the women's associations of Brazil united in the Brazilian Federation for the Advancement of Women, all their demands and amendments have been accepted and incorporated in the text of the new Constitution. Women have achieved "participation in Government, and in the Technical Commissions: the right to act as regular functionaries in all departments of Public Service (without distinction of sex or marriage); three months' leave with full rights for women officials at childbirth; equal right of Nationality for men and women; equal citizenship; equal individual rights; and equal remuneration for equal work." We congratulate the women of Brazil on their magnificent fight.

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From the same paper we note that according to the text of the future corporative Constitution of Austria, all citizens are equal before the law; women have the same rights and obligations as men "except when the law decrees otherwise." It is regrettable that this exception negatives the first statement for no woman will be able to defend herself against an adverse law on the grounds of it being contrary to the Constitution.

We are pleased to see that among the members of the New City Council of Vienna the Mayor has appointed four women.

* * * *

From "The Dawn" (Perth, Australia), we learn that the Women's Service Guilds of Western Australia celebrated the Silver Jubilee of their foundation on April 27th. Proceedings were inaugurated by a Service of Dedication during which God's blessing was invoked on the women of the past, the present and the future. We congratulate the Guilds and send them our best wishes.

LOOK TO YOUR VOTES

We would like to remind our readers of the importance of inspecting the list of electors which were published on July 15th.

The annual register of electors will be published on October 15th next and will remain in force for a year. The preliminary lists may now be seen at the various post offices and other public buildings and at the office of the registration officer in each district. It is important that these lists should be inspected to ensure that names are not omitted.

Should the name of any person entitled to a vote be omitted from the list, a claim should be sent in at once to the registration officer at the local town hall. The last day for sending in claims is August 7th in England and Wales, and August 22nd in Scotland.

It is not perhaps generally known that persons other than naval and military voters who are registered, or claiming to be registered, may claim to be placed on the Absent Voters List for the purpose of voting by post at Parliamentary elections if their occupation, service or employment may debar them from voting at the poll. Such claims must be lodged not later than the 18th of August in England and Wales, and September 1st in Scotland.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES—Continued.

"La Revue de L'Alliance Ste. Jeanne d'Arc," quotes several reflections of Mgr. Merio from "L'Illustration" on the position of women in countries where polygamy is practised. Mgr. Merio, Apostolic Protonary, former Missionary and director of the Society of the Holy Childhood, does not seem to have much faith in the happiness of women slaves, and if that happiness does exist finds it unworthy of a human being. "It is perhaps the biggest result of our work," he says, "that it obliges the native woman to establish a parallel between her detestable lot and that of the women confided to our care, whom she sees considered and free."

* * * *

Mademoiselle Lenoël, founder and Hon. Secretary of l'Alliance Ste. Jeanne d'Arc has formed a study circle in Paris to enquire into the most favourable methods of encouraging an early and well directed development of African Society especially with regard to woman and the family. We congratulate Mlle. Lenoël on her courageous enterprise which has all the sympathy of the Alliance.

Reviews

Female Pipings in Eden. By Dame Ethel Smyth. (Peter Davies, 8s. 6d.)

This thrilling book covers many fields and Dame Ethel writes vividly in each. Whether she is giving us an appreciation of Brahms, or demonstrating the desperate fight women musicians and composers have to wage in order to get a hearing or even to be allowed to get experience, the reader follows with breathless interest. She tells of her friendships with various distinguished people, and to us her friendship with the great militant leader, Emmeline Pankhurst is naturally of peculiar interest. Her description of Mrs. Pankhurst is not the less interesting because where she loves and admires, she can still criticise. After the war the friends drifted apart, the great link of the Suffrage Fight was gone, and Dame Ethel did not see eye to eye with her former leader. To read of the parting of great friends is always a little depressing, but the epilogue in which Dame Ethel tries to give those who never saw her some idea of Mrs. Pankhurst is refreshing. It begins: "Canst thou draw out Leviathan with a hook or his tongue with a cord?" And after other apt quotations, she says finally: "He maketh a path to shine after Him; one would think the deep to be hoary."

She ends "God, what a glorious image. And how good to know that those who wish to follow in her path, where she led will not lose their way."

L. DE A.

Sir Thomas More. By Joseph Clayton. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne Ltd., 3s. 6d.)

Perhaps one of the most loveable characters in history is Sir Thomas More, the upright chancellor. If his works are not popularly read, everyone is interested in his friendships, his ideal home life at Chelsea, his devotion to his daughter, Margaret Roper, his merry wit and delicate humour. Every schoolboy Macaulay's or otherwise and every schoolgirl learns of his jest as he pushed aside his beard at the scaffold saying it had not offended. It is fitting therefore that his life should be written by one who is loveable and also possesses a playful wit and a sense of humour such as Mr. Joseph Clayton. He has produced a monograph of the hero-martyr which is eminently readable.

All the different aspects of the man are brought to our notice—the man of letters, the just judge, the upholder of the Faith, and the martyr. A useful genealogical table and a short bibliography are included, while the frontispiece is from the famous engraving by Holbein. M. F.

St. Bernadette of Lourdes. By a Religious of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady of Lourdes. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne, 3s. 6d.)

The story of the Saint is reverently told in pages "written to show forth the motherly tenderness of the vision and the childlike simplicity of Bernadette." C. S.

BOOKS RECEIVED

The following books have been received from Messrs. Washbourne & Bogan Ltd.:

Assumptionist Spirituality. By Father Andrew Beck, A.A. (1s.)

Guttergrin the Gargoyle. By Cecilia Oldmeadow. (5s.)

New Psychology and Old Religion. By Father E. F. Murphy, S.S.J., Ph.D. (6s.)

Science and Theology. By Father W. Gordon. (1s. 6d.)

The Way of the King. By Father Martin Dempsey, B.A. (3s. 6d.)

This Royal Way. By Father Oswald Bennett, C.P. (3s. 6d.)

OBITUARY

In the death of Madame Curie not only has science lost a valued pioneer but the feminist movement has lost a true friend. Madame Curie had great sympathy with those who are working for the emancipation of women and a year ago, when she was quoted in the French Senate as opposing woman suffrage, though she had a horror of publicity, she felt compelled to write to the "Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes" contradicting the statement. By following out her vocation and developing her talents to the full, Mme. Curie proved to the whole world that there are no limits to that which woman can attain.—R.I.P.

* * * * *
We ask the prayers of our readers for the repose of the soul of our member, Mrs. Yorke Smith, who died recently.—R.I.P.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Several members of the Alliance were present at the Women's Freedom League party held at the Caxton Hall to do honour to Mrs. Despard on the occasion of her 90th birthday. Miss Spender, in the name of the Alliance, presented flowers to Mrs. Despard with our best wishes and as a token of gratitude for her pioneer work in woman suffrage.

We were glad to welcome Miss O'Sullivan, one of our original members, among us once more after many years' absence from London. Several of her old friends of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society have had the pleasure of meeting Miss O'Sullivan again, and Miss Bain kindly gave a tea-party at her flat, in her honour.

On July 1st, by kind invitation of Miss Jeffery and Miss Barry, members of the Alliance were entertained to tea at Hampstead, in order to hear Miss Butler-Bowdon's account of her experiences at Geneva, where she and Mademoiselle Lenoël had been during the Conference of the I.L.O. and the Meetings of the Mandates Commission.

HON. TREASURER'S NOTE

In memory of Miss de Alberti and to help the finances of the Alliance, one of our members has made a number of very pretty bags which can be kept at home and in which unwanted articles can be placed at any moment. We hope that these will greatly facilitate the collection of jumbles, and we are most grateful to our member for her kind thought. The bags are obtainable at the office and we hope that many of our members will apply for them.

Will all those who have not yet sent in their annual subscriptions kindly do so as soon as possible. And will members on holiday please remember to bring back some small gift for our Christmas Sale. P. M. BRANDT.

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