

THE 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.

Blue Tapestry*

By P. C. CHALLONER

It is fitting that the daughter of a distinguished naval Historian should have been Director of the first Women's Naval Service and the author of a book that is at once a history, an act of devotion to the Royal Navy and a thing in itself delightful to possess. The name-piece is an inspiration and the cover and illustrations are charming.

The first part of "Blue Tapestry" is a piece of history which no one else could write, for no one else knows the details of those early days when the spirit and traditions of the W.R.N.S. were formed. It was fortunate that it had such people as Dame Katharine Furse and Vera Laughton—later Laughton Mathews—to do the forming, people at once devoted to the Royal Navy and independent enough to avoid mere imitation.

Vera Laughton offered herself as a recruit the very day the "New Shore Service" for women was announced, on November 29th, 1917. Three months later she was reporting "in a bottle-green coat and skirt and a beige felt Breton sailor hat," as Unit Officer at the Crystal Palace (H.M.S. Victory VI), the depot which already had 10,000 new temporary sailors. She records looking out over the vast grounds, and seeing at the far end two tiny squads of women, the first of the many thousands to follow.

By the end of 1919 the experiment was over but the W.R.N.S. Association kept alive friendships and the spirit that had been created, and when, in 1939, the Admiralty decided to re-form the Service they summoned the officer who had done so well twenty years before. At this time she had others than herself to consider, for, as she tells us, in one of the glimpses behind the scenes that are among the many attractive features of the book, she was married and the mother of three children.

From that time until the final moment when she returned to civilian life, she was also "mother" to countless young women of every kind and rank of life who served the Royal Navy up and down

the country, at home and, later, abroad. The description of the various tasks they undertook and the ever widening responsibilities they bore, makes fascinating reading, and no summary could do it justice. It is fascinating too, to read of the gradual change in the attitude towards them. The conservatism of the Navy could not bring itself to the point of accepting them as officially belonging to the Service, they remained and remain civilians, but it was a near thing when the Second Sea Lord, under whom the W.R.N.S. were placed, said in public of the Director W.R.N.S. "Her record will go down in history as that of a great Naval Officer." In 1944 Captain Peveril William-Powlett wrote: "It seems a far cry to the days of that back room in the Admiralty when everyone was saying, 'Wrens can't do this, can't do that; can't go here, can't go there; what! Send them abroad? Never!' And now we have hundreds at our shore base and, what is more, everyone has a good word for them and we couldn't do without them." What it meant to the girls themselves the book must be read to appreciate.

The great days of the Royal Navy—Dunkirk, Dieppe, the Battle of the Atlantic and D-day—found the Wrens ready; these were the testing times and finely did they rise to them. "All categories of Wrens were flat out in the weeks before D-day;" Signals, Torpedoes, Ordnance, Maintenance, Chart Correctors, Fleet Mail, Censorship, as well as Dispatch Riders, Drivers and Cooks and Stewards! One of the many letters the Director received speaks of "those perfectly splendid young Wren officers who had to do with the assembly of the Invasion Fleet in Cowes Roads in May-June, 1944." . . . And continues "We were of more mature age and of variegated experience, including (as we did) a retired Rear Admiral, a retired Naval Captain, a retired Air Chief Marshal and sundry crusted retired soldiers . . . yet such was the efficiency, self-assurance and compelling manner of giving orders of these

* Blue Tapestry (Hollis and Carter 15s.).

girls . . . that we had no thought save to jump to it, whether at 23.00 or at 04.00 hours . . . Though hard as nails they always kept their charm . . ." This part of the book will give readers a light on the story of D-day that later and more official histories will inevitably miss.

Dame Vera was a writer when she joined the Wrens; she has an energy and enthusiasm that left its mark on the Service she did so much to create; and she is a convinced feminist. If she was born in the Navy, she has feminism bred in the bone. From the moment at her first interview, when she told the Board she had been in the Woman's Movement and felt that it "cut no ice," until she returned to civil life, she spread almost unconsciously the faith that is in her. She hurt some officers' wives who complained of Wrens leading their husbands astray when she frankly told them she considered the man in the case, older, married and more experienced, the more blame-worthy. "Everyone who considers men so irresponsible for their own behaviour," she writes, "shares in the public opinion which accepts the lower moral standard for men, which is the root of so much evil."

She "blessed St. Joan's Alliance" on the day when she cheerfully sustained a bombardment of questions on the economic aspect of the Women's Services, and was praised for the manner in which she had done so. "As I walked away I thought to myself, 'The last time I was in a similar position I was speaking in the Colonial Office against the forced marriage of African women with merely a theoretical knowledge behind me, so to be cross-examined on the W.R.N.S., of which I do know more than anyone, is child's play'."

We are glad to know that Dame Vera felt the support of St. Joan's Alliance in all the trials, dangers and sorrows of the war years, and we take a special pride in "Our Dame Vera," for a great work magnificently done.

Reviews—(continued)

does not hide the fact that the writer misunderstands Christ, who claimed to be God. That claim has to be met when writing of Christ and Nietzsche, or of Christ and anybody else. Write of God and Nietzsche; try eruditely to put them on the same level—and all your erudition is folly. It's simple to a Catholic; why so difficult to others?

Of Nietzsche and the German problem the author writes well.

Rev. G. M. CARTER.

TO LET.—Self-contained Furnished Flat—W.3. Particulars from St. Joan's Alliance.

Reviews

A Passing World by Mrs. Belloc Lowndes (Macmillan 15s.).

This is the fourth volume of reminiscences by Mrs. Belloc Lowndes; she died while it was still in the press. It tells the story of her life in London during the First World War. She knew most people prominent in the political, literary and social world and her memories of them are fascinating in that they often show us an unexpected side of the characters of the great. Among her close friends were the Asquiths, Haldane and Grey and the glimpses we are given of that baffling character, Margot Asquith, are profoundly interesting.

To read this book is like drawing our chairs close to the fire in order to have a long and interesting chat with the author. "Now tell us all the gossip," we say to her, and in most interesting fashion, and without malice of any kind, she proceeds to tell us. Unwittingly she reveals herself as a most lovable character so that, when reluctantly, we put down the book, we wish (how regretfully) that there could be some more reminiscences from the pen of Mrs. Belloc Lowndes.

CHRISTINE SPENDER.

Little Green Truck by Jane Henderson (John Miles, 8s. 6d.).

Father Bon, Missionary priest to an American pioneer village, will take his place among the "good shepherd" priests of fiction. In all these studies he is seen through the eyes of children or of nuns who have kept some of the child-like spirit. Laughter or tears are never far away; it is a touching and delightful book and shows a deep understanding of the child mind and of human nature.

C.S.

Christ and Nietzsche by G. Wilson Knight (Staples Press, 15s.).

A short review may seem unjust after reading this book. I rejoiced in my faith, as a tired man, climbing stairs, holds the handrail (*garde-fou*, the French call it—a good name for faith).

The author purports to "treat economics, psychology, theology, philosophy and history as existing in vassalage to the poetic imagination," which, of course, gives unlimited, if illogical, scope. The vast literary erudition (fine studies of Shelley, Luther, Marlowe, Goethe, etc.); the evident pleasure in bold challenge; the rambling into ethics and theology; the sexual interpretation of things mystical (so overdone these days); the shocking views on the Crucifixion; the aptness at finding literary proof for any assertion—all this

(Continued in previous column)

Notes and Comments

Our loyal greetings go to Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh on the birth of their son.

We have received the following message:

The Australian Section of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, Melbourne, in Committee assembled, sends congratulations to the Mother Organisation on the birth of "Our Prince." We pray that God will bless him and his parents, to give them long, happy and successful lives as our leaders, under Christ the King. We pray, also, that our Patron St. Joan of Arc will ever guide and guard our young Prince!

Miss Flynn adds that when the news of the Prince's birth came through, "Joy-bells rang out at intervals all day. The carillon (made specially for the occasion) was delightful. It was played by Professor Bernard Heinze."

* * *

On November 25th, the following letter was sent to the press by St. Joan's Alliance:

Equal Pay—A Protest

While in no way objecting to the increases in pay being granted to certain categories in the Forces, we protest emphatically against the continued refusal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to grant equal pay to the women in Government service.

Women are to be put off time and again with the plea that equal pay will cause inflation, yet where an incentive is needed for men, also in Government pay, inflation counts not at all.

* * *

An inquiry into the welfare and health of housewives, made recently by members of the staff of New Sussex Hospital, Brighton, disclosed that 88 per cent. of the 61 volunteers showed signs of fatigue.

Dr. Stella Instone, who conducted the investigation, writing in the *Lancet*, states that all the housewives were "healthy," were aged between 26 and 64, and their husbands earned £5 or less a week. In most cases there were young children at home.

More than 77 per cent. of the wives were undernourished. Many of them gave up their rations for the other members of the family.

They had little or no leisure, and all complained of queuing. The report blames "mental pre-occupation" and "inadequate diet" for housewives' fatigue and states: "The effects of fatigue in the housewife exceed those of fatigue in any other worker."—*Daily Telegraph*.

* * *

We offer our deep sympathy to Mrs. d'Rosario on the death of her husband, and to Miss K. Jameson on the death of her sister, and ask our members to pray for them.

We were much interested in an article entitled "Danish Holiday, August, 1948," written by Bertha James, which appears in the October issue of *The Woman Councillor*. It deals especially with Denmark's imaginative approach to the problems of old age.

The Danish Old Age Pensions Act was passed in 1891, and has been amended several times since, most recently in 1947. To-day, the Old Age Pension consists of a basic benefit and various supplements. Single women are entitled to draw their pension from their 60th year, men and married women, on completing their 65th year. The first Old Age Pension Act provided that aged and ailing Pensioners, if they so wished, might be admitted to special Homes, established for the purpose, instead of receiving cash benefit. There are more than 500 of these Homes spread all over the country, in the villages as well as in the towns.

But public opinion is changing, and in 1936, a scheme was inaugurated to encourage Local Authorities by means of Government subsidies to build small self-contained flats, where Old Age Pensioners, can live independently and privately as long as possible. In Copenhagen, 8 centres containing 3,807 flats have been completed, and 5 more centres are, at the present time, under construction. The centres are planned all over the city, so that the Old Age Pensioner can continue to live in the neighbourhood, with which he or she is familiar. A married couple pay about 9/- a week, and a single person about 7/- a week, which amount is deducted from their pensions, and the balance is delivered to them by the Postman. The rent includes rates, central heating and hot water.

Miss James goes on to describe two of these Homes which are marvellously designed for the comfort of the old.

A detailed description of these flats follows from which it appears that they contain all that the heart can desire. To be old in Denmark must indeed be a pleasant experience and one can imagine the younger folk envying the old their luck instead of pitying them as in this country.

* * *

The St. Joan's Fair has been a great success and we thank all those staunch helpers who managed to bring in the money one way or another. Up to date we have cleared £236, and we still hope to come nearer to our target of £500! Goods of various descriptions will be on sale at the Office up till Christmas Eve and this will afford a unique opportunity for members and friends to do their Christmas shopping in peace and comfort. There is also a very good selection of second-hand clothes for those whose wardrobe is depleted or who would care to send a Christmas parcel to the needy in Palestine, Germany, or elsewhere. Donations in cash from those members who are not able to come in person will be very welcome and whether small or large, will help to bring us up to our target.

We were very glad to have the assistance of the St. Joan's grandchildren in taking round the dips and it was pleasant to have three generations doing their bit. The delicious refreshments were especially ably supplied and practically every one enjoyed either lunch or tea.

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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"Catholic Citizen."

Declaration of Human Rights

The Article (14) on Marriage in the final Draft Declaration of Human Rights is as follows:

1. Without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, men and women of full age have the right to marry and to found a family and are entitled to equal rights as to marriage.
2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. Men and women shall enjoy equal rights both during marriage and at its dissolution.
3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

St. Joan's Alliance has some reason to be pleased with the success of its efforts to have the points sent to the Human Rights Commission concerning child marriage and compulsory marriage, covered in the above.

A comparison of the original and the Final Texts will make this clear. The original Text—that of Geneva, December, 1947—ran:

1. The family deriving from marriage is the natural and fundamental unit of society. Men and women shall have the same freedom to contract marriage in accordance with the law.
2. Marriage and the family shall be protected by the State and Society.

Our points covering child marriage and compulsory marriage were sent to the Human Rights Commission* and were put forward during a Deputation from Women's Organisations to the Foreign Office. This Deputation proposed amendments to the Draft Declaration of Human Rights and it fell to Miss Barry to deal specifically with the Article on Marriage. We are grateful to the United Kingdom Delegate at Lake Success for his support, on the Human Rights Commission, of some of our points.

These were adopted by the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations of which St. Joan's is a constituent society. The Committee sent the following amended text to the Human Rights Commission at its meeting at Lake Success:

* Document E/CN. 4/AC. 1/6. June 1947.

1. The family deriving from marriage is the natural and fundamental unit of society which is best protected by a system of monogamy. Men and women shall have equality before the law in all matrimonial questions. No marriage shall be contracted before the age of puberty and without the free consent of both intending spouses.

2. Marriage and the family shall be protected by the State and Society.

The Lake Success Text—the final draft of the Human Rights Commission, June, 1948—which was discussed in Paris on November 6th and 8th in the Social Committee of the General Assembly did not mention monogamy (though monogamy was recommended by the Status of Women Commission), but it laid down that:

1. Men and women of full age have the right to marry and to found a family and are entitled to equal rights as to marriage.
2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the full consent of both intending spouses.

The Saudi Arabian suggestion to substitute "legal matrimonial age" for "full age" was, we are glad to record, rejected. We should prefer a definite age limit of 14, as in the decree for the French Cameroons drawn up by Soeur Marie Andrée.

The Lake Success Text had carefully avoided the mention of divorce but in Paris the U.S.S.R. delegation put forward an amendment proposing the addition of the sentence:

Men and women shall enjoy equal rights both during marriage and at its dissolution.

M. Cassin the delegate from France explained in the discussion that the Human Rights Commission had not specifically mentioned divorce, contenting itself with a broad general formula "equal rights as to marriage," because divorce did not exist in some countries and because the Commission had wished to respect the varying legislation on marriage in all countries. Later

Australian Walkabout

On December 7th, Vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception which means much to St. Joan's Alliance, members and friends had the pleasure of meeting Miss Tangney, the representative of Western Australia in the Australian Senate. In spite of a stormy night there was a goodly gathering at the Convent of the Holy Child, Cavendish Square. Representatives of the important Women's Organisations came to do honour to Senator Tangney.

Dame Vera Laughton Mathews in the Chair said how much we had been looking forward to the privilege of hearing Miss Tangney speak. She told how Miss Tangney had crossed from Ireland in a storm especially to be at the meeting. We rejoiced that one of the two Australian women Senators was a Catholic and one who acted with courage and resource in public life. The Holy Father had asked women to take their place in public life and Senator Tangney was an example of a woman who had responded. We especially welcomed her because of our close links with Australia since there were now two flourishing Societies there working under the banner of St. Joan.

Miss Tangney called her stimulating and vivid talk "Australian Walkabout"—and the subject matter ranged from the Meetings of the U.N. in Paris to the way she managed to settle a strike in Collie where the miners were holding up the whole life of the town and surrounding district. Miss Tangney revealed the valuable work she had done on the Government Committee of Social Service, which had done so much to improve the Health Service of Western Australia. Commenting on her impressions of the Meetings of the U.N. Miss Tangney said that what had struck her was the youth and vigour of the Soviet bloc as compared to the other delegations. What a pity we could not attract the younger people who would be inspired with a rival enthusiasm for the things of the spirit and the peace and order of the world. As things were these young fanatics managed with comparative ease to hold up the whole proceedings of the U.N., simply by delaying tactics. We must try to attract the younger women into our organisations and inspire them to be good citizens. Commenting on her position as one of the two women Senators and a Catholic, she said she had never found that being a woman or a Catholic was a disadvantage. If you lived your religion people respected your beliefs—in fact they much preferred you to have a religious belief. As far as being a woman was concerned the first thing to remember

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M. Cassin said that the term "equal rights as to marriage" was the widest that could be used. Countries which had divorce laws could not impose the use of the word "divorce" in the Declaration of Human Rights when certain constitutions did not admit it. Father Beaufort of the Netherlands delegation pointed out that divorce was a disrupting factor in society and to include it in the Declaration "would imply that the United Nations approved it on the same footing as marriage." This was also stressed by M. Azkoul of the Lebanon who added that "marriage was an institution whereas divorce was merely an exceptional and regrettable aspect of that institution."

The U.S.S.R. amendment, however, won the day by only 17 votes to 16, with 9 abstentions. The Chilean delegate said that he had voted for it "without upholding divorce!"

The Mexican proposal which now begins Article 14—i.e. the words, "Without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion"—opened up a wide discussion. In the end it was adopted by a vote by roll-call (on the request of Poland) but only by a small majority (22 to 15 with 6 abstentions). Delegates maintained that the principle of non-discrimination was already established in Article 2. Mrs. Corbet (U.K. delegate) and others pointed out that to insert these words in Article 14 might weaken the effect of Article 2 in qualifying all the other articles in the Declaration.

Finally, all Texts agreed that: "Marriage and the family shall be protected," but the Lake Success Text specified no particular responsibility for that protection. The Geneva Text of December, 1947 (with which the Liaison Committee Text agreed) had specified protection "by the State and Society," and the U.S.S.R. proposed the addition of these words in the Final Draft. Father Beaufort said that this might give the various Governments a pretext to interfere with the natural rights of the family which were, in his opinion, "beyond the reach of State laws," but the amendment was carried.

Mrs. Begtrup of Denmark recognised that the text of the Article (14) on Marriage in its final Draft form contained "a regrettable repetition," but it was Mr. Chang (China) who stated that his delegation had abstained from taking part in the final vote because the gaps in the Article were too serious to be overlooked. "Such a document must be the outcome of long reflection and thorough study," he maintained. His delegation thought that the General Assembly's attention should be drawn to the matter.

The Draft Declaration now goes before the Plenary Session of the Assembly.

The Month in Parliament

The King's Speech, this time, ranged over nearly as many subjects as did the debate that followed, a singularly lively debate, incidentally including Ivor Thomas' denunciation of the Labour Party—provoking boos and cries of "dirty dog"—and statements of what might be called "modified rapture" from Strachey and Cripps.

The tribunal dealing with the Board of Trade Bribery Case was announced on October 27th, and a Royal Commission to enquire into the Death Penalty was set up on November 18th.

The House turned its attention to more cheerful matters on November 15th, when they presented a loyal address on the birth of Princess Elizabeth's son.

Equal Pay was raised twice. On November 4th Mr. Palmer asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer "if, in view of the success of his anti-inflationary financial policy, he has any new statement to make on the implementation of the principle of equal pay for men and women doing the same work in the Government Service." Mr. Glenvil Hall merely replied "No." It was also discussed on November 17th, in connection with increased pay and allowances for the WAAFS, and Air Commodore Harvey, Mr. Cobb and Mrs. Manning all pressed Mr. Henderson on the subject—without appreciable results. Brigadier Head, too, on November 10th, put in his word for it in connection with the adoption of the disciplinary regulations involved in the permanent absorption of women into the armed forces.

Pensions were discussed. On November 9th, Lt.-Commander Clark Hutchison pleaded for "the payment of retirement pensions at the rate of 16s. per week to married women who have reached the age of 65 in cases where their husbands have also reached this age, but are continuing in employment." Mr. Steele replied "No, Sir. The provision of such a pension to married women not themselves insured would be contrary to the principle of the National Insurance Act that a married couple should be treated as a team. Any pension payable to a wife in right of her husband's insurance must depend directly on her husband's pension position."

The same day Mr. Hale asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer "why an old age pension is excluded from consideration in computing a wife's special earned income relief." Sir Stafford Cripps replied that the Finance Act of 1946 provides that "the wife's earned income relief shall be allowed only where the payments are by way of unemployment benefit, sickness benefit or maternity benefit." A factual but not a very satisfying answer. As he went on to say himself, "A wife's old age pension is, therefore, debarred

from that relief which is given as an inducement to married women to enter, or remain in, industry."

Mr. Cooper Key, on November 11th, raised the question of **Maintenance Orders** and said that since the maximum payable to a wife—£2—had been fixed as far back as 1895, "will not the Hon. Gentleman reconsider the figures to bring them more into line with the present purchasing power of the pound and the average increase in wages?" Mr. Younger replied that they were, of course, "aware that certain anxieties have been expressed about the level of these figures, but any change would require new legislation, and I am afraid I cannot offer any help on that."

In addition to the amount, members have been concerned with the enforcement of these orders, but when Mrs. Middleton asked the Home Secretary what steps he intends to take in this matter she was merely referred to a previous reply.

On November 4th Mr. Lipson asked the Home Secretary "if he will extend to the wives of members of the Control Commission in Germany the **right to vote** by proxy at elections in this country at present granted only to their husbands." Mr. Ede replied that the Representation of the People Act 1948 provides for this, with effect from the coming into force of the 1949 autumn register. Until then they remain disenfranchised.

The same day Lady Davidson asked Mr. Ede how many local authorities "have followed the recommendation of the **Curtis Committee** and appointed women (as Children's Officers). Mr. Ede replied that the Curtis Committee had not made any definite recommendation, though they thought that the majority of suitable persons would be women. He went on to say that he thought "the best person amongst the applicants for the job should be appointed, irrespective of sex, but I am gratified to find that so large a proportion of the people actually appointed are, in fact, women." The figure is 64 out of 85.

Mr. J. Lewis protested, on the same day against a ban imposed by the matron of a Tooting hospital on coloured guests attending the nurses' dance and was assured by Mr. Bevan that "I will not permit any form of colour discrimination in the National Health Service."

A charming picture was conjured up by Col. Dower who on November 3rd asked the P.M.G. if he would "consider the desirability of changing the present emergency telephone number 999 to one more easy to dial in the dark." Mr. Paling defended the present system whereupon Col. Dower retorted "Will the Right Hon. Gentleman when he goes to bed tonight turn out the light and, in a somewhat disturbed state of mind, try to dial 999?"

B. M. HALPERN.

International Notes

Egypt. *World-over Press* reports the fine work done by the Mabarah, an organisation of Egyptian women, founded in 1910. These women have worked devotedly both for their own people and for the Arab refugees. They have, among other measures of relief, set up a vocational institution for the young people in the great camp at Kantara, near Port Said, so that the boys and girls may be prepared for a future life of independence.

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Nigeria. It is gratifying to know that the tax on wives has been abolished in its last stronghold "somewhere in Nigeria." This tax was proof, if proof were needed, that wives were regarded as property (at any rate in this district), for the tax was paid to the Chief on the number of wives a man possessed.

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United Nations.—The **Draft Declaration of Human Rights** was adopted on December the 10th by the General Assembly of U.N. by 48 votes to nil—8 abstentions—the Soviet bloc, Saudi Arabia and South Africa.

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On December 9th, the draft convention "on the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide" was unanimously adopted by 55 delegates at the plenary session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The convention describes genocide as "intent to destroy in whole or part a national, ethnic, racial, religious or political group as such" by the following deliberate acts:

- Killing members of the group;
- Causing serious bodily or mental harm to them;
- Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or part;
- Imposing measures intended to prevent births in the group;
- Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

States adhering to the convention undertake to enact the necessary legislation and to provide effective penalties.

* * * *

Trusteeship. Mr. Lannung of the Danish Delegation at Paris, speaking on the Report of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly on October 19th, pointed out the importance of initial firmness on matters of principle.

The Danish Delegation was fully aware of the dangers of showing too much tolerance towards

Australian Walkabout—(Continued from p 85.)

was that a candidate for the Senate was chosen and stood as a citizen and was recognised for the ideals he or she stood for. It was true, however, that, once in the Senate, women from all over Australia wrote to the women Senators on what they believed to be primarily women's questions. But in truth there was no such thing as purely women's questions for ultimately every question considered in the Senate affected women and children.

Miss Tangney gave us impressions of an immense, young and vigorous country. Distances alone in Australia were of such magnitude that the Australian outlook was bound to differ from that of the European who lived in a far more limited space and whose life ran on a correspondingly faster tempo. To war-tired Britons it was tempting to hear of the Australian offers to immigrants—but quite naturally the Australians want the strong, vigorous and able—those willing to carve out a new career in totally differing circumstances. Moreover the Japanese menace is never far from the Australian, owing to his enormous and comparatively unprotected coast-line.

Miss Tangney gave us an interesting side-line on her title. She told us that where Aboriginal labour was employed, every now and then the Aboriginal would down tools and go back to his primitive life in the Bush or on the veldt. Nothing could stop him and when he felt like it he would come back and resume work again. This was called "Aboriginal Walkabout." But apart from this, being a Senator meant flying or travelling vast distances all over Australia. It was indeed a "walkabout."

Senator Tangney ended by saying that she felt the only way the problems of the world could be solved was through a spirit of tolerance based on Christian justice and charity and on this basis women could unite to tackle modern problems.

The Chairman then expressed our gratitude for Senator Tangney's vivid, human and humorous talk. We had learned a great deal—not only about Australia but about our visitor herself. Members of the audience then put a few questions to the speaker, after which Miss Challoner proposed the vote of thanks which was seconded by Miss Margaret Vaile of Sydney. Most of the audience seemed eager to jump to its feet in order to support the vote of thanks and the Chairman was obliged to limit the speeches to Miss Retchford and Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell.

CHRISTINE SPENDER

International Notes—(continued)

native institutions, and, while acknowledging that the views of those familiar with native custom should not be ignored, believed that respect for fundamental human rights must, at that juncture, take precedence over respect for native custom.

St. Joan's in Australia

Victoria Section mourns the death of Father Lockington, S.J. He was always a staunch friend to the Alliance in Australia, and his help and encouragement from the beginning were invaluable and will be greatly missed. Mass was offered on behalf of the Alliance for him on October 21st, at St. Francis' Church, Melbourne.

Sydney Section held its second Annual Meeting on October 19th, when an inspiring year's work was reported. The President, Mrs. Jean Daly, in her address, gave a clear and valuable exposition of the meaning of non-party. The second birthday of the Section was celebrated on November 4th. Many guests from other Women's Organisations were welcomed and were entertained with a show of documentary films. Later in the month a party was held in Mrs. Daly's lovely garden when £46 was added to the funds as the result of a Bring-and-Buy Sale.

The Officers of the Section are attending the meetings of the United Nations Pacific Commission.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Leonora de Alberti in the "Catholic Citizen," December 15th, 1923.

It is an undoubted fact that while many women will do their own housework cheerfully enough, they object to being hired to do the same work in another person's home. Girls will take up almost any other kind of work, however hard, in preference to entering domestic service.

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Ancient Christian Writers. St. Augustine, The Lord's Sermon on the Mount. Translated by John J. Jepson, S.S. (The Mercier Press 15s.).

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Office—55, Berners Street, Oxford Street, London, W.1.
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Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 4d. monthly.

OBJECT

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

MEMBERSHIP

All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of 10s. Men are invited to join as Associates, on the same conditions, with the exception that they may not elect or be elected to the Executive.



THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN & ST. ELIZABETH

The Hospital was founded in 1856 by four Sisters of Mercy on their return with Florence Nightingale from the Crimean War. The Hospital contains 154 beds, including 34 beds for paying patients. Private rooms are available from 8 guineas per week. One ward is used exclusively for Nuns, and Private Rooms are set aside for Priests from the Diocese of Westminster.

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First Steps in the Religious Life by Bernard J. Kelly, C.S.Sp. (The Mercier Press 8s. 6d.).

The Message of Fatima by L. F. Harvey, Ter: O.S.M. (The Mercier Press 9d.).

St. Joan's in Australia

Victoria Section mourns the death of Father Lockington, S.J. He was always a staunch friend to the Alliance in Australia, and his help and encouragement from the beginning were invaluable and will be greatly missed. Mass was offered on behalf of the Alliance for him on October 21st, at St. Francis' Church, Melbourne.

Sydney Section held its second Annual Meeting on October 19th, when an inspiring year's work was reported. The President, Mrs. Jean Daly, in her address, gave a clear and valuable exposition of the meaning of non-party. The second birthday of the Section was celebrated on November 4th. Many guests from other Women's Organisations were welcomed and were entertained with a show of documentary films. Later in the month a party was held in Mrs. Daly's lovely garden when £46 was added to the funds as the result of a Bring-and-Buy Sale.

The Officers of the Section are attending the meetings of the United Nations Pacific Commission.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

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