THE

# Catholic Citizen

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

Vol. XVIII, No. 2.

#### 15th FEBRUARY, 1932.

Price Twopence.

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

## Some Little Known Beginnings.

#### BY MRS. BELLOC LOWNDES.

Curiously little has been written, even of late years, concerning the small, but oh how important, beginnings of what used to be called, in an old-fashioned phrase, "The Woman's Movement." I think my own dear mother's (then Bessie Rayner Parkes) book entitled "Essays of Woman's Work," pubin 1865, was the first serious effort made in volume form to deal with what was then considered by the vast majority of Englishmen an unimportant question.

Yet in those days the interests of the average Englishwoman of all classes were neither protected by the law, nor was she given a fair chance of earning a decent livelihood.

The writer of that modest book and her small group of fellow-workers, all refined, thoughtful, and young in years, came early to the conclusion that while there were bad men and bad women, foolish men and foolish women, ignorant men and ignorant women, the average of the two halves of humanity was at any given time much the same. In so thinking they were all going right against the wide stream of public opinion, as well as against the absolute convictions of practically every human being belonging to their circle of friends and acquaintances.

I think it is always deeply interesting to consider what led to the beginning of any great social movement, and above all, to any great change in public opinion. Often, as in everything that has to do with our mysterious life, it appears to be—however much we Catholics may believe our lives to be governed by God —an apparently unimportant, sometimes even an accidental, occurrence. In the case of my mother, as I gradually became aware during the many years that she and I were in the closest communion, the first cause of her passionate concern with the disabilities attendant on those of her own sex who were not blessed with the security bestowed by wealth, was her deep affection for a girl some years older than herself.

The two had been at the same school-the husband of the headmistress being a greatgreat-grandson of Oliver Cromwell. Mv mother's friend, in whom also was a strain of Cromwell blood, was clever, accomplished, headstrong, and high-spirited, but-penniless. When faced with the problem of earning her own living, this young woman, so remarkable in many ways, and who in our day might have entered half a dozen professions, and made a brilliant career, found herself condemned to a life totally unsuited to her special gifts and to her strong character. She had to be, that is, a governess, the only opening life then offered to the educated girl. More fortunate than many of her contemporaries, she obtained the charge of the only child of a couple wellknown in the political and social life of their day. They certainly intended to be both kind and humane in their treatment of this exceptional being. But she was naturally doomed to the kind of life all governesses then led. That life, both in London and in the country, was one of almost complete segregation with her pupil, and of scarcely ever meeting, cer-

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tainly never on either intellectual or social very soon were actually distributing temporary terms, interesting or remarkable people. The assistance to the amount of a thousand a year silently borne suffering brought about by these circumstances, first made my mother feel that a state of things that could condemn such a young woman as her friend for the best years of her life, to such an atrophied existence, must have about it something radically ina group of eager, and I may add happy, normal, and in some cases, socially powerful, "young ladies," began a work which was to transform the lives of literally millions of their fellow countrywomen, then living and unborn.

For some time there was no central meeting place, nor any one work, which drew together the group who had become passionately anxious to benefit their own sex. But they were fortunate in having a friend older than themselves in the then famous writer on Art, Anna Jameson, whose whole heart was soon given to the Woman's Movement, and whose position made her help and counsel of the utmost value to these young women who were all about half her age.

Miss Jameson was probably the first woman who ever lectured on the subject-her lectures, I need hardly say, being delivered in the drawing-rooms of personal friends of hers, for the idea of hiring a hall for such a purpose, would, in the fifties of the last century, have been unthinkable. She also wrote an admirable open "Letter to Lord John Russell," in which she touched in a noble, dignified, way, on the terrible disabilities with which every Englishwoman was then faced.

But it was owing to the twin efforts of my mother, and of her closest friend, Barbara Leigh Smith (afterwards Madame Bodichon), that the first Bill was introduced into Parliament for securing the earnings of married women to their own discretionary use. It was sponsored by Lord Brougham, and the remarkable list of signatures, urging the importance of the measure, included that of Elizabeth Barrett Browning. But, needless to add, that Bill was not carried.

What was then known by the pitiful name of "Educated Destitution" was the first question which was considered by this energetic group of young fellow-workers. And their first practical action—surely a touching and noble action on their part, for they were naturally all looking forward, and could not have felt very received valuable help from all sorts of men much interest in which lay behind them-was and women who evidently considered, with to found annuities for aged governesses. They truth, that "Sympathy without relief, is like raised the money privately, and, in addition,

Their next work was that of founding a temporary home for governesses out of work.

The pathetic revelations which followed and accompanied these two initial efforts, made those enthusiastic workers more eager than ever to discover new openings for their own contemhuman, as well as wrong in itself. Thus it was poraries; and it is now curious to reflect that largely owing to a schoolgirl friendship, that among the very first that were suggested were those of lecturing and reading. Any woman could then enchant the world as an actress or as a singer; but though famous men authors of the day were all giving readings from their works, the thought that an authoress should do such a thing seemed deeply shocking and unfeminine. Yet, as my mother wrote in one of her essays, "If Mrs. Beecher Stowe, when in England, could have given readings from 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' the Crystal Palace would not have contained her audience, and (note the pathetic addition) if it might have been regarded as unseemly for her to read passages from 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' could she not have told the British people something concerning the abolition of slavery?" To that question we should now all answer: "Yes, indeed she might, and what a pity it is she didn't!"

> To the present writer it is agreeable to reflect that the pioneers of whom I am attempting to give a very slight sketch, were enthusiastic admirers of the French way in which daughters were, and are, treated in France. Even in those benighted days, every French father, whatever his circumstances, not only saved enough out of even a tiny salary to provide his daughter with a marriage dowry-but often he started her in some form of business, making her life not only useful to others, but selfsupporting. This meant that every Frenchwoman in the Victorian age entered life as a grown-up girl on equal terms with either her husband or her brother.

One of the things that has most struck me, while lately reading an immense mass of private letters connected with my then young mother's life and work, is that there does not seem to have been in those days the sort of bitter, ignoble, opposition that developed later when the question of women's rights and wrongs became a vital question to hundreds of thousands of living human beings. The pioneers Continued on p. 11.

Notes and Comments.

ANNUAL MEETING.

We remind our members that the Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, March 12th, at 3 p.m., at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square. We urge all who can possibly do so to attend the meeting. The Executive Committee greatly value suggestions, or criticism, which members may put forward at this annual gathering upon the programme of work for the forthcoming year.

The speakers will be:

Miss K. FitzGerald (our first chairman), Miss Brandt.

Miss Bumpsteed,

Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell.

Chair: Mrs. Laughton Mathews.

After the business meeting a public meeting will be held at 5 p.m. Speaker: Miss Geraldine Lennox (who suffered imprisonment for Votes for Women). Subject: The Suffragette Spirit.

Tea may be had between the meetings, price 9d.

We are glad to read in the "Woman's Leader" that permission has been granted to commemorate Dame Millicent Fawcett by having suitable additions made to her husband's memorial in Westminster Abbey. The N.U.S.E.C. and the London and National Society for Women's Service are appealing for a large number of small contributions from Dame Millicent's admirers to meet the cost, which will not exceed £300. The inscription on the plaque will be: "A brave, constant, and courageous Englishwoman, she won citizenship for women." St. Joan's S.P.A. has sent a contribution in gratitude for Dame Millicent's life long work for women.

\*

The text of the Government's Children Bill has now been published. Amongst other reforms it raises to 18 the age under which sentence of death cannot be passed (at present it is 16), and raises by a year the age at which a child may be prosecuted, that is from seven to eight. Birching is to be abolished. Up to the age of 17 (at present it is 16) offenders will appear in special courts removed as far as

possible from the atmosphere of police courts. Outside London a panel of Justices will be appointed to deal with juvenile offenders. Children under the age of ten are not to be sent to industrial schools, but will be committed to the care of the local education authority, who will be responsible for boarding them out. The Bill will give juvenile offenders a new start, that their lives may not be handicapped at the outset. Clause 55 provides that no boy under 16 and girl under 18 shall take part in any public performance of a dangerous nature. We can see no reason why the age for boys and girls should not be the same.

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We were interested to read in the "Tablet" of the welcome given to Lady Currie in Rome by the training school for nurses attached to the Hospital of the Little Company of Mary. Lady Currie is the foundress of the School, which has proved so great a success that four former pupils are in charge of nurses' training schools in Milan, Venice, the Red Cross school at Bologna, and the Red Cross training school for nurses in Rome. Lady Currie, who is a member of St. Joan's S.P.A., related how she had first conceived the idea of a nursing school for secular nurses carried on under the direction of religious, and how warmly the late Mother Mary Potter, Foundress of the Little Company of Mary, had taken up the idea, when she broached it to her. She was sure, said Lady Currie, the success of the work was due to prayer, and pointed out there was no work so noble as that of succouring the sick and suffering.

#### Continued from p. 10.

mustard without beef." What would even now be regarded as large sums of money were contributed to the Cause, sometimes anonymously, by people quite unconnected with the active side of the Movement. True, there were brutal, and, what seems to me worse, spiteful and lying, attacks against even the efforts made by the then adored Florence Nightingale to turn so feminine an avocation as nursing into a decent profession. But on the whole courtesy, as well as kindness, was generally shown to the pioneers by men who did not believe that anything could really alter the status of women for the good reason that they did honestly consider woman essentially inferior to man.

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### ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

55 BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.I. Tel. Museum 4181 Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. MISS DOUGLAS IRVINE, M.A., Chairman. MISS LEONORA DE ALBERTI, Editor, Catholic Citizen. MISS BARRY, Hon. Secretary. MISS PAULINE M. BRANDT, Hon. Treasurer. MISS E. BUTLER-BOWDON. MISS BARCLAY-CARTR, Lic. - ès. L., Hon. Press Sec. MISS FEDDEN, Hon. Treasurer, Catholic Citizen.

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## Women's Part in the League of Nations.

On January 26th, the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, to which St. Joan's S.P.A. is affiliated, called a Conference of its affiliated societies, and of other societies, to consider a Memorandum to be presented to the British Government, dealing with what is known as the "Spanish Resolution," submitted to the Assembly of the League.

The Spanish Delegation were anxious that the League should benefit by the co-operation of women chiefly in the organisation of peace. Their resolution was referred to the Third Committee for full discussion. This Committee drew up the following Resolution, which was submitted to the Assembly, and adopted:

"The Assembly-convinced of the great value of the contribution of women to the work and Dominions Office equally with men. of peace and good understanding between nations, which is the principal aim of the League of Nations-requests the Council to examine the possibility of women's co-operating more fully in the work of the League."

The Memorandum drawn up by the C.R.W.L.N. is a very able document, and was accepted by the Conference, with certain minor alterations. It points out that whatever form the co-operation between women and the work of the League takes, it must have the concurrence of the respective governments. Therefore, while copies will be forwarded to the Secretariat, the Memorandum is addressed to the British Government.

The Council stands for equality, and Section 3, of the Memorandum, entitled, "Equality the Basis of Full Co-operation with Men in the League's Work," is of particular interest. The question of equality is bound up with the status of women in the respective countries in- ference, which we hope many bear good fruit. cluded within the League.

The Memorandum urges the Government to give its cordial support to the principle of the full co-operation of women in the League's work, and to review certain conditions in our own country, which tend to prevent the full development of women's capacities and resources. It asks for an assurance that those women who are now being admitted to administrative work in the Civil Service under the various Ministries will have the door to promotion as widely open to them as to men; and will be given equal opportunities for acquiring real administrative experience. The Council asks more particularly for the admission of women to all positions under the Foreign Office and in the Diplomatic and Consular Services, and to all positions in the Colonial

The Memorandum further points out that the resolution passed by the Assembly is a tacit admission that hitherto a subsidiary part only has been given to women in the conduct and affairs of the League.

And this, we may say, in spite of Article 7 of the Covenant which gives women equality with men and opens to them all positions under the League.

Various speakers made it clear that women's societies would not be satisfied with the setting up of special Committees of women, in fact that they are entirely opposed to any such thing, and consider such committees would constitute a real danger, by raising an obstacle to women taking an equal and dignified part in the League.

Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, Chairman of the C.R.W.L.N., presided, and we congratulate her and the Council on a most successful Con-L. DE ALBERTI.

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#### INDIAN WOMEN'S FRANCHISE EQUAL RIGHTS COMMITTEE.

The following Memorandum has been addressed by the Equal Rights Committee (to which St. Joan's S.P.A. is affiliated) to the Chairman and members of the Franchise Committee of the Indian Round-Table Conference. Memorandum on the Terms of the Franchise as they Affect Women, Drawn up by the

Undersigned Women's Organisations in Great Britain for Submission to the Franchise Committee of the Indian Round-Table Conference.

Believing in the principles of equality with all its advantages and disadvantages, we wholeheartedly support the demand of the Indian women's organisations that the franchise should be based on equality between men and women. Any apparent privileges or special rights, no matter how seemingly beneficial they may appear on the surface, lead to the ultimate disadvantage of the "privileged" classes and are beneath human dignity.

The new franchise should be based on two principles which are essential to the best interests of women and of India. These are:

(I) That the terms of the franchise shall be the same for women as for men, without special exceptions.

(2) That the terms shall be such as to enfranchise as nearly as possible the same number of women as of men voters.

We are confident that, if practical equality is secured for women in the matter of franchise, they will be able to find their way into the legislative and administrative institutions of the country through the open door of ordinary election. No special expedients for securing the presence of women on these bodies, such as reservation, nomination, or co-option, are really to the advantage of women. Such differential treatment would react adversely on the whole status of women and on the responsibility of the individual women concerned.

We urge that there be added to the Central Franchise Committee women representing Indian women's organisations which are asking for political equality between men and women,

and we further urge that all the Provincial Committees to be set up to co-operate with the Central Franchise Committee should also include Indian women holding such views.

The creation of a new Constitution at a stage when world-wide opinion is recognising the right of women to political equality with men provides an opportunity for establishing this principle from the outset. We trust that, in determining the basis of the franchise, the Committee will therefore give effect to the full and equal citizenship of Indian women both in theory and in practice.

Signed on behalf of Equal Rights Committee: Chairman (Vice), Ethel E. Froud; Secretary, Betty Archdale; Actresses' Franchise League, Winifred Mayo; National Union of Women Teachers, Florence E. Key; Open Door Council, Elizabeth Abbott; St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, Florence A. Barry; Six Point Group, Flora Drummond; Women's Freedom League, E. Knight.

#### MARRIED WOMEN'S NATIONALITY.

The Home Secretary received, on the 29th ult., a deputation of women's organisations on the subject of the nationality of married women

The deputation was introduced by Miss Thelma Cazalet, M.P., and led by Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon.

The deputation urged that the Government should give practical effect to the policy that all disabilities of married women in matters of nationality should be removed, and that, in so far as nationality was concerned, a married woman should be in the same position as a man, married or unmarried, or any single woman; and further, urged that the Government should do all in their power to secure the passage into law of the Nationality of Married Women Bill in the coming session of Parliament.

The Home Secretary, in reply, pointed out that the practical difficulty of giving effect to the demands of the women's organizations arose from the importance of maintaining the principle of uniformity in the law relating to nationality throughout the British Commonwealth of Nations. Some of the Dominions were not prepared to propose legislation which went beyond the proposals contained in the Hague Convention.

St. Joan's S.P.A. was represented by Miss Barry and Mrs. Laughton Mathews.

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## International Notes.

We offer our sincere congratulations to Senator Frau Rudel-Zenek, who, as reported in the "International Women's News," has received the Honorary Gold Medal of the Austrian Republic in consideration of her services in the sphere of social welfare. She was also recently appointed Austrian representative on the Board of the International Migration Service, and has been, for many years, on the Board for International Child Welfare. Frau Rudel-Zenek joined St. Joan's S.P.A. at the I.W.S.A. Paris Congress.

Our member Mrs. de Fonseka writes that the victory of a woman in a recent bye-election was a great event in Ceylon. Women's votes gave Mrs. Molamure a great pull over her men opponents. Mrs. de Fonseka says that there are two Women's Political Leagues in Ceylon, pressing for legislation to help women workers. The Women's Institute movement has just been launched, and Mrs. de Fonseka has been elected Hon. Gen. Secretary of the Central Board in Colombo.

"The World's Children," (December), published a very interesting article on the 'Child in Sierra Leone'' by Nurse Olutunse Tuboku-Metzger, C.M.B., who is at present in this country training in maternity and child welfare. She was a delegate to the International Conference on African children held in Geneva last summer, and served on the committee of twelve set up to discuss the opinions put forward in the Conference and to make recommendations. She urges all who take an interest in the welfare of the children of her race to induce the Colonial Office, not only to restore to Sierra Leone a woman medical officer (Dr. Margaret McDowall having been transferred to another colony on account of the financial condition of Sierra Leone), but to appoint additional women doctors for the purpose of extending school clinics and infant welfare work; and in accordance with the recommendations of the Conference, to appoint more women supervisors and inspectors of schools.

Women have taken an eager interest in the Disarmament Conference. It took a number of packing cases to carry to Geneva the vast total may be had free of charge on application to the Officeof signatures to the petition organised by the 190 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.I.

Women's International League. The Bulletin of the International Council of Women. January, is entirely devoted to articles on Disarmament by distinguished statesmen, and by leading women.

The women actually sent as delegates by their respective countries to the Disarmament Conference are: Canada, Miss Winifred Kydd. President of the National Council of Women of Canada; Great Britain, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship; Poland, Mme. Szelagomska; United States of America, Dr. Mary Woolley, President of Mount Holyoke College. We are informed by the I.A.W.S.E.C. that the report that Dr. Lüders had been appointed by Germany was a mistake and that Uruguay has appointed Dr. Paulina Luisi.

Members of St. Joan's Alliance were among the representatives of women's societies who gave Mrs. Corbett Ashby a send-off at Victoria Station on January 31st on her departure as British delegate to the Disarmament Conference at Geneva. The combined organisations presented her with two fountain pens for use a the Conference, and St. Joan's Alliance addee a medal of St. Joan, accompanied by the raessage, "We pray God to bless you and your work for world disarmament."

#### A. A. B.

The report of Mrs. Sen's address to St. Joan's S.P.A. will be given next month.

#### BRIDGE DRIVE.

Mrs. Laughton Mathews is holding a progressive Bridge Drive in aid of the funds of the Alliance at her house on Tuesday, March 8th at 7-45 p.m. Tickets 2s. 6d. (including refreshments) from 57 Carlton Hill, St. John's Wood, N.W.8.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

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#### LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH. Hon. Sec.: Miss N. S. Parnell, B.A.,

45 Falkner Street, Liverpool.

Our annual meeting held on January 4th proved a most enjoyable and profitable affair. After the customary business had been transacted, including the passing of numerous resolutions on points in our programme, we had the great pleasure of hearing one of Miss Barry's usual stimulating addresses, and also of listening to Madame Bragazzi (L'Opéra de Paris) who kindly played several pianoforte pieces for us and accompanied the songs of Miss Hilda Green, one of her pupils.

The elections resulted in the return of all the retiring members who were eligible, and of Miss Wylie. At the subsequent committee meeting the following were appointed as officers: Mrs. Murphy (Chairman), Miss Crawford (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. McCann (Hon. Treasurer and Paper Secretary), Miss M. Parnell (Refreshments Secretary), Miss Fox Taylor (Assistant Secretary) and Miss N. S. Parnell (Hon. Secretary).

As funds are low, we are holding a dance on February 25th, and we appeal to members to make this function as great a success as last vear.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS. January 1st to February 1st, 1932. Alberti, Miss L. de .. .. .. 2 6 2 6

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Augustine, Sister Mary				
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#### TREASURER'S NOTE.

We are very grateful to those members who have sent in their subscriptions at the beginning of the year, and we feel sure that if the others who have not yet done so only realised the trouble and expense they would save the office by paying promptly, they would send them in as soon as possible. Please help us to economise in this way.

P. M. BRANDT,

#### (Hon. Treasurer).

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Milicent Lady Moore writes: Dear Madam

May I beg you to be so kind as to find room in your next issue to correct an error in Mr. Granville Roberts' article on Voluntary Hospitals in your

January number? After stating how the Reformation swept away the Religious Houses and their work for the sick, he writes: "over two centuries elapsed before the London Hospital re-opened." No doubt Mr. Roberts is unaware that King Henry VIII. restored much of its property to Saint Bartholomew's Hospital for the purpose of a hospital, though under lay instead of religious management

Yours faithfully, MILICENT MOORE.

January 22nd, 1932.

#### OBITUARY.

We record with great regret the death of our member, Lady Dupplin, and offer our sincere sympathy to her mother and her sister, Miss Harley Bacon. Miss Barry represented St. Joan's S.P.A. at the Requiem Mass.-R.I.P. We also offer our sincere sympathy to our member, Mrs. Laudau, on the death of her husband, and to our member, Miss Macintosh, on the death of her brother.-R.I.P.

We have also to record with regret the death of Dr. Marion Phillips. We remember with gratitude her work for suffrage in the old days. -R.I.P.

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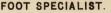
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