

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.

The Income of a Married Woman

By Beatrice Pearson

It is probably true to say that the great majority of people though subject to the country's income tax laws and regulations have little or no conception of how the amount of income tax for which they are liable is computed. At Budget time a certain amount of interest is aroused but soon the veil descends again and most people just go on paying more or less as before.

Maybe it is this general attitude towards "Finance" which accounts for the fact that most married women continue year after year to accept their ignominious position under income tax laws which is, to all intents and purposes, one of being regarded as incapacitated persons. A glance at the form enclosed with that on which particulars of income have to be declared and entitled "Your allowances for the year . . ." should be enough to convince anyone of this truth.

Not that the married woman's existence is altogether ignored as witness the following phrases: "If your wife is in employment . . .;" "if you or your wife live or work . . .;" "if you are a married man and your wife is living with you . . .;" "if your wife has earned income . . .;" "an allowance can be claimed . . . insurance on your life or on your wife's life."

Some of the Notes on Allowances are addressed to others besides married men, viz.:—"If you are a single person, widower or widow . . .;" "if you are an unmarried man or woman;" but nowhere does the phrase occur: "If you are a married woman. . . ." Obviously the married woman is in a category of those not expected to declare their income. Why? In spite of the Married Woman's Property Acts, her income is not considered to be her property and for purposes of taxation it is deemed to be her husband's.

In 1951, a Royal Commission was set up "to enquire into the present system of taxation of profits on income, including its incidence and effects, with particular reference to the taxation of business profits and the taxation of salaries and wages . . .; to consider the present system of personal allowances, reliefs and rates of tax as a means of distributing the tax burden fairly among the individual members of the community . . ." Naturally, many women's organisations which had

been pressing for years for the abolition of the rule aggregating the incomes of husbands and wives, and for their automatic separate assessment and taxation, took the opportunity to submit evidence to the Commission on these points. Indeed the Second Report of the Commission states: "We received such a volume of representations from different quarters to the effect that the aggregation of the incomes of husband and wife ought to be abolished and the income of each assessed as that of a separate individual that we find it necessary to express an opinion as to the principle upon which this rule rests."

What follows does not appear to show that there is any "principle" underlying the rule of aggregation. It is admitted that it has been a feature of the income tax since it was first imposed in 1799; and that a married woman's legal control of her property was restricted then and thereafter in a way that it is not now. Nor was her personal status in the eyes of the law as free as it is to-day. "It is more likely that aggregation was introduced upon no stronger ground than that it afforded a convenient means of collecting the tax." If that still holds, why must the liability for payment at the aggregated tax rest on the husband, even in cases where he has no income and is dependent on the wife?

The Report recommends the maintenance of the general rule of aggregation. "In this country a husband and wife living together have always been treated as one unit, though in recent years this principle has been much modified in its application to a wife's earnings. In the result the separate incomes of husband and wife are, subject to this exception, added together and income tax and surtax charged on the total as if it were the sole income of one person." To be honest, the Report should have said, "the sole income of the husband."

Under present rules, taxable income is reduced for each individual by a personal allowance of £120, but a married man has his further reduced by another £90 (marriage allowance) making his personal allowance £210. The Report points out that when both husband and wife are working they pay less tax between them, within the limit of

£2,215 combined income, than two single persons earning the same income. A wife's earned income "enjoys a special relief of four-ninths of the amount up to a maximum of £120 which is also the figure of the single personal allowance. The members of the Commission took note of this fact that the two incomes together earned as much as £330 "relief" of tax, but instead of coming to the conclusion that the incomes should be treated as single incomes subject to the same allowances and reliefs as those of other single incomes, they recommended a reduction of the amount of the special personal allowance granted to the married woman in respect of her earnings.

Our concern, however, is not with the point as to whether married couples are better or worse off as a result of aggregation of incomes but with the question of the status of the married woman. It is our demand that women, whether married or single, should be treated as individuals with the same rights and responsibilities and no manipulation of the law should be allowed to treat the income of the married woman as belonging to anyone but herself. She, as any other citizen, should be held capable and responsible in the exercise of her rights and duties with regard to income tax payments.

In Memoriam—Emmeline Pethick Lawrence

I know that there is no such word as "stateswoman" in the English language. But I think that a country, which has had so many statesmanlike women—from Queen Elizabeth down to our own times—ought to add that expression to its vocabulary. Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence was of that famous breed. I remember seeing for the first time that legendary fighter for Votes for Women, as she appeared in the British delegation to the second Congress of The International League of Women for Peace and Freedom, held at Zurich in May, 1919, at the same time as the Peace Congress in Versailles began its work of sabotaging the future peace. Together with Mrs. Swanwick, Chrystal Mac-Millan and a few others, Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence dominated the Women's Congress. Even the American delegation under its world-renowned leader, Jane Addams did not inspire us with the same confidence. At the same time, in a gathering where Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence was present, you never lacked warmth and sincerity of feeling. I know that the world at large has forgotten it, but I like to remember that it really was the women at the Zurich Congress who first of all protested against the conditions of peace as they were published in May, 1919. I remember that Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, especially, worked out the women's protest against member-states of the future League retaining their sovereignty in questions of peace and war, "because," the women stated, "the principle is quite out of keeping with the fact, that the League *must* become the over-riding factor in foreign policy, if it is to be a factor of any use at all for the nations of the world." Also she did much work on the document afterwards known as "The Women's Charter," which was sent to Versailles to be added to the Peace agenda as an expression of the hopes and wishes of the women of the world. Heaven knows in what wastepaper basket it was thrown by the wise men in Versailles! I only know that countless politicians—wise after the event, in the manner of their kind—afterwards deplored that

the sovereignty-principle was not ruled out in creating the League; for it was this mistake which led to the breakdown of the League of Nations. More than one of those politicians has gone on record as saying later on what Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence had said already at the Women's Congress: "Europe must federate or perish." But Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence was not only a clear-sighted stateswoman, she was also a friend, whose warmth and gaiety, whose sincerity and human understanding was singularly inspiring to all around her. A host of memories, gay or sad, crowds into the mind of even a foreign friend and admirer like myself, when I read that Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence has gone to her well earned rest! One's heart goes out to all around her, especially to her husband and comrade in all her work. One would speak with the words of the Book of Wisdom: "Far and from the uttermost coast is the price of a valiant woman."

ANNA LENA ELGSTRÖM, Stockholm

SUFFRAGE MEMORIES

We are glad to publish extracts from a letter sent to St. Joan's Alliance from Mr. Charles J. O'Callaghan on the death of his sister, Miss Mary A. O'Callaghan ("Poll") who was a founder member and one time Chairman of the St. Joan's Liverpool Branch. She died on 27th February, aged eighty-six.

"Our Mother, Poll and Nell, were enthusiastic members of the W.S.P.U. and the male members of our family were in entire sympathy with the Movement and lent a hand when we could—for instance Mat went bail for various ladies. . . . At the first Great Woman's Suffrage Procession in 1908, I marched in procession with mother and Nell and I will never forget the experience. The event took place on a Sunday in good weather. . . . Each contingent had its banner and everyone had an appropriate favour and there were several brass bands, the favourite air all along the route being:—Put me among the Girls! There were several platforms at the Marble Arch and speeches were made by recognised leaders of the Movement. At times there were indications of trouble from unruly elements in the great crowd. I personally was much relieved when the proceedings ended without anything of a tragic nature resulting. In the previous year I had attended the meeting at the Exeter Hall in the Strand, called to protest against the Dickinson Bill for the Grant of Equal Rights to Men and Women having been talked out in the House of Commons. There was a galaxy of talent on that occasion:—Mrs. and Christabel Pankhurst, Keir-Hardy, Philip Snowden, the Rev. C. F. Aked and Israel Zangwill. There was great enthusiasm. What a pity the present generation of women cannot display some of the interest, to put it mildly, of that generation.

"Our mother, Poll and Nell were always in evidence carrying sandwich-boards, selling *Votes for Women*, chalking slogans on the pavement or acting as stewards at public meetings. I always remarked on the great efficiency of those running the meetings; everything thought of beforehand, no bungling anywhere. Many meetings of the local members took place at our present address in Liverpool, and I can recall one occasion when Mrs. Pankhurst and Miss Annie Kenny were here with others to decide on their course of action against Mr. Lloyd-George who was to address a Liberal demonstration at the nearby Sun Hall. As he had, a short while before, suffered a bereavement in the loss of a daughter, it was decided to forego any heckling of him for that particular meeting, but there were many other occasions when he did not have the sympathy of the women, and rightly so."

Notes and Comments

ST. JOAN'S FAIR

This month we have more news of our St. Joan's Fair which is definitely fixed for Saturday, November 20th, at Westminster Cathedral Hall. Some members have answered our appeal for helpers, but we still need many more—chiefly to take charge of a stall. This means hard work, because those who take charge are responsible for collecting the goods for furnishing the stall; for transporting them to the hall; and for displaying them for sale. In the list of stalls and stall-holders which follows, you will see that some stalls are not already manned, but we feel sure volunteers will be forthcoming to undertake the duties in connection with these vacant stalls.

Children's Stall—Dame Vera Loughton Mathews, Mrs. Mathers.

Sweets and Cakes—Miss Challoner, Mrs. Jackson.

Books and Stationery—Miss Douie, Miss Spender.

Gift Stall—Miss Blackburn, Mrs. Loughran.

Groceries—Miss Guessard, Miss Jameson.

Haberdashery.

White Elephants—Miss Barry.

Toilet Requisites.

Linens and Fancy Goods—Mrs. Stevens.

Refreshments—Miss Carr, Mrs. Willis.

Lucky Dip—Margaret and Richard Acres.

Competitions.

Side-shows.

We are particularly anxious to have the names of those willing to be responsible for the stalls before the office closes for the August holiday, so will you be kind enough to send in your names and your preference as soon as possible. Will every single individual member of the Alliance begin collecting *now* for the various stalls and will you also start telling all your friends to keep the date free? We hope to announce the official opening time and the person who kindly consents to open the *St. Joan's Fair*, in the August issue of *The Catholic Citizen*.

Please send your name and address to Miss N. Carr, Hon. Treasurer, St. Joan's Alliance, 55, Berners Street, W.1, if you can take charge of a stall or send goods.

Noreen Carr, Hon. Treasurer

On June 11th the Fawcett Society and friends gathered outside No. 2 Gower Street, to pay homage, on the anniversary of her birth, to Dame Millicent Garrett Fawcett, and to attend the unveiling of a plaque, placed by the London County Council, on the house where she had lived and worked for the Suffrage Cause. In the absence of Miss Philippa Strachey, Mrs. Stocks performed the ceremony. She called to mind other gatherings at street corners when the audience had not been so united; she spoke of Dame Millicent's great liberality of mind, of her belief in true democracy and of her pertinacious work for the suffrage. The Mayor of Holborn and Mrs. Jeger, M.P., for the constituency were present, as also were Lady Astor and Miss Irene Ward, M.P., together with representatives of many of the women's organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance.

It will be remembered that Millicent Fawcett joined the small Committee which launched the first Woman Suffrage Petition to Parliament, in 1866—signed among others by Florence Nightingale and Harriet Martineau—and that this Committee led to the formation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, of which Dame Millicent was president from 1897-1918. The N.U.W.S.S. inspired women to organise for the first time on their own behalf and to awaken the public conscience by bringing vigorous political pressure to bear on Parliament.

The plaque reads as follows: L.C.C.—Dame Millicent Garrett Fawcett, 1847-1929—Pioneer of Woman's Suffrage—lived and died here.

* * *

The British Commonwealth League held its Twenty-Second Annual Conference on May 27th, 1954. On the previous afternoon delegates were entertained to tea at the House of Commons, where Lady Davidson and Mrs. Eirene White were hostesses on behalf of the women M.P.s, several of whom introduced themselves in short speeches.

On May 27th, a most successful day was spent at County Hall when representatives from all the Dominions and many of the Colonial territories spoke on "Women in Political Life throughout the Commonwealth and Empire," on the lines laid down by the Conference Committee. Have women equality of opportunity to serve? What is their influence when elected? How can their numbers be increased?

The morning session was opened by Lord Pethick Lawrence and the afternoon session by Lady Astor.

St. Joan's Alliance, which is affiliated to the British Commonwealth League, was represented by the chairman and hon. secretary. It was good to hear women from the newly emancipated territories; their speeches promised well for their political future.

* * *

We grieve to record the death of our eminent co-religionist Mrs. Anne O'Hare McCormick, foreign correspondent for the *New York Times* since 1922 and a member of the editorial staff since 1936. Mrs. McCormick won the Pulitzer prize for foreign correspondence in 1937 and was the first woman to serve as a regular contributor to the editorial page of the *New York Times*. Mrs. McCormick had been a friend of the present Holy Father ever since he was Cardinal Pacelli, Secretary of State to the Vatican. The *New York Times* carried tributes from famous people all over the world who not only admired her work but knew and loved her as a person.

* * *

According to a recent P.E.P. survey, 64 per cent. of the women in this country who have graduated from Universities since 1930, are doing housework only; 19 per cent. are in full-time paid employment.

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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Commission on the Status of Women Eighth Session

The Eighth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women was held at United Nations headquarters, New York, from March 22nd to April 9th.

The Commission elected the following officers: Chairman: Miss Minerva Bernardino (Dominican Republic); first vice-chairman: Mrs. John Warde (United Kingdom); second vice-chairman: Mrs. Zofia Dembinska (Poland); rapporteur: Mrs. Safiyeh Firouz (Iran). One hardly thinks of complimenting Miss Bernardino on her competence, so accustomed have we at U.N. headquarters grown to taking for granted her outstanding ability and high personal qualities.

The excellence of the documentation prepared for the Commission "by the Secretary-General"—an expression which veils in anonymity the able and hardworking members of the U.N. Status of Women Section presided over by Mrs. Mary Tenison-Woods—won the praise of delegates and representatives of non-governmental organisations alike.

Political Rights.—In the field of Political Rights of Women, the annual report noted that Mexico and Syria had granted political rights to women during the past year; however there still remain seventeen countries in which women enjoy no political rights, and an additional six in which women's political rights are limited. Furthermore the situation in many Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories is unsatisfactory. Discussion arose as to whether the right to vote should wait upon the acquisition of adequate education. Madame Lefauchaux (France) stated that her Government had never subscribed to the theory that literacy is a prerequisite to the right to vote.

Regarding the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, the Commission would reiterate the appeal to States to sign, ratify or accede to it.

Equal Pay.—N.G.O.'s were commended for their constructive efforts to "promote increased public acceptance of the principle of equal pay"

and "to secure implementation through the enactment of appropriate legislation." The resolution adopted stresses the need for an informed public opinion, and recommends that further efforts be made to carry into effect everywhere, including Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, the principle of equal pay.

Part Time Work for Women—Older Women Workers.—The I.L.O. presented two interesting reports on (1) Part-time (not to be confused with "short-time") Work for Women, and (2) Older Women Workers. A woman becomes "older" at age 40. I.L.O. was asked to continue to study and report on those problems.

Nationality of Married Women.—Two resolutions were passed on this item. The first recommends that Governments take necessary action to ensure that a wife shall acquire the nationality of her husband only as a result of her positive request, and not as a result of her failure to object to such things at the time of marriage, or failure to make declaration that she desires to retain her own nationality. The Secretary-General is requested to continue to collect information on recent changes in legislation, and to prepare a new revised edition of the U.N. publication on "The Nationality of Married Women." The second resolution recommends that a revised text of the proposed Convention on Nationality of Married Women, be circulated to Governments for comment.

Status of Women in Private Law—(1) Article 22.—The Commission devoted six meetings to the Status of Women in Private Law. The greatest number of N.G.O. interventions was addressed to this item and five resolutions emerged, one being a recommendation relative to Article 22 of the Draft Covenant on Political and Civil Human Rights. Paragraph 4 of this article states that "the legislation of the States . . . shall be directed towards equality of rights and responsibilities for the spouses as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution" (emphasis added). The Commission decided to recommend the following as a

HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY

By Leonora de Alberti

(continued)

substitute for the first sentence of paragraph 4 of Article 22: "Men and women shall have equal rights and responsibilities as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution."

(2) **Independent Work.**—Concerning the right of married women to engage in independent work the Commission recommended that Governments "take all necessary measures to ensure the right of a married woman to undertake independent work, to carry it on and to administer and dispose of her earnings without the necessity of securing her husband's authorisation."

(3) **Property Rights.**—Another resolution would eliminate legal discrimination against married women in property rights. An interesting report had been prepared by the Secretary-General of a comparative study of existing matrimonial regimes, absolute community property, limited community property, and separate property.

(4) **Women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.**—One of the most effective N.G.O. interventions of the Session concerned the status of women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. The representative of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations asked how should the balance be struck between respect for indigenous custom and respect for fundamental human rights of women? "If certain practices or customs entailed social consequences degrading for women and prejudicial to the healthy development of the nation as a whole, or contradictory to the fundamental human rights of women, concern for the common good and respect for fundamental human rights must take precedence over custom." Miss Zizzamia further commented, that in discussions involving the status of women, "more respect was paid to indigenous custom" than in discussions relating to political or economic changes. Her organisation specifically requested that appropriate measures be taken "to ensure to women complete freedom in the choice of a spouse, to guarantee the right of widows to the custody of their children and their freedom to remarry, to eliminate the betrothal of girls before the age of puberty, establishing appropriate penalties where necessary, to ensure that all cases involving personal rights were tried before a duly appointed magistrate, and, in territories where family allowances were granted, to provide that such funds should be administered so as to help the wife and family and not to encourage polygamy." The text of the Resolution (E/CN.6/L.134/Rev. 1) adopted, was published in the May number of *The Catholic Citizen*.

The Eighth Session coincided with the dramatic efforts of the Egyptian women to achieve political rights. During the session also the chairman, on behalf of all members of the Commission, paid tribute to the memory of Lady Pethick Lawrence.

Frances McGillicuddy

A great opportunity for propaganda was afforded by the annual Catholic Congress. Thus we find a branch being founded at Plymouth during the Congress week, when Miss Abadam and Miss FitzSimmons were the speakers. Another branch was formed at Cardiff when the Congress met there. Miss O'Sullivan went down ten days beforehand to work up the meeting. A decorated car, provided by Mrs. Head, caused considerable excitement, not to say alarm, since certain prominent persons at the Congress conceived the ridiculous idea that members of the C.W.S.S. intended to interfere with the Congress procession. As usual the suffrage cause obtained a splendid advertisement—the C.W.S.S. made good copy, and like their colleagues of other societies Catholic suffragists were good advertisers.

A very successful meeting was held, the speakers being, Miss Abadam, the Hon. Mrs. Walter Roch, and Mr. Francis Meynell, with Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald in the chair. At Cardiff, we made a life-long friend in Father Fennell.

The Manchester Branch was founded by Miss FitzSimmons, who (with the hon. secretary, Miss Sullivan), was the moving spirit of it until her death, 1914.

We find other branches existing at this time at Birmingham, Stirling, Wakefield and a Midlothian Branch, with Mrs. H. More Nisbett as chairman. Mrs. Finlayson-Gauld was an active worker in Edinburgh. All the branches continued their work until the passing of the first instalment of woman suffrage, 1918, when owing to the difficulties of the post-war period they dissolved, with the exception of the Liverpool and District Branch. Many members of the old branches were, of course, transferred to headquarters.

To return to the suffrage agitation prior to the European War, it was after the conciliation Bill had been "torpedoed" to use Mr. Lloyd George's expression, and the loss of the Government's Franchise Bill, of 1913, that the societies concentrated on demanding a Government measure, and nothing but a Government measure. Members of the Executive of the C.W.S.S. were picketing the House of Commons, when news came through that the Speaker had ruled that if women were included in the famous Government Franchise Bill, which had replaced the Conciliation Bill, it would constitute a new measure. This meant that the Bill was stifled at birth. As the news spread, it was amusing to see all the neighbouring shops boarding up their windows for fear of militant reprisals. One of the offices of the great "Liners" hung out a placard: "We send women to lands where women vote—avenging angels pass on."

(to be continued)

THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

During June, matters of feminist interest have been conspicuous by their absence from the proceedings of Parliament. As is usual at this time of year, the Committee stage of the Finance Bill has absorbed a large share of Parliamentary time. On June 15th, Mr. Grimond and others stressed the relatively unfavourable position of the married man with children in comparison with the bachelor. Mr. Grimond complained that nowadays "a family of children is treated as a luxury, and as a somewhat disreputable luxury at that." A man with a family of five, earning £2,600 a year after paying income tax had only £1,858 left on which to support them all, while a bachelor with the same income would have about £1,600 over, on which to support himself alone. The same topic was again considered on June 29th, when Mr. Jay moved a new clause to increase the income tax relief for a child from £85 to £100. Miss Margaret Herbison said self-sacrificingly that she would be most willing as a single person to be taxed more heavily if it would benefit children, but would object if relief were given in such a way as to ensure that people better off than herself received a bigger whack of the share she was ready to give up. Mr. Maudling, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, expressed the view of the Chancellor that now that the Report of the Royal Commission had been received, it would be unwise to tackle this complicated branch of income tax law piecemeal. To raise the children's allowance generally from £85 to £100 would cost £13m. this year, and £16m. in a full year, which was certainly a larger sum than the Chancellor was contemplating at this moment. The proposed new clause was negated by 281 votes to 242.

Another subject dominating the thoughts of M.P.s was the visit of Sir Winston Churchill and Mr. Eden to President Eisenhower. On June 17th, in answer to Mr. Dodd's question, if the Prime Minister would consider taking the initiative in an effort to arrange a meeting at top level, representing the U.S.A., the U.S.S.R. and this country, in an attempt to lessen the tension, Sir Winston delighted the House with the following reply: "Perhaps on this somewhat delicate topic I may be permitted by the House to take refuge in metaphor. Many anxieties have been expressed recently as to the severe character of the course of the Grand National Steeplechase, but I am sure it could not be improved by asking the horses to try to jump two fences at the same time."

On June 4th, Lady Tweedsmuir's Protection of Birds Bill, received the Royal Assent. On the same day, Mr. Mayhew (Woolwich, East), on the adjournment, raised the question of the refusal of the Minister of Education to agree to the transfer of Eltham Hill School to form part of the Kidbrooke Comprehensive School. He said the

Minister's last-minute decision has caused dismay and controversy in the area and throughout the educational world. He hoped the affair would be settled purely in terms of the welfare of the schoolchildren of the area. That a fine school, such as Eltham Hill School, should be closed was sad, but under the L.C.C. proposals the girls would have been transferred *en bloc* with their teachers, to follow the same course of study in new surroundings. He accused Miss Horsbrugh, in refusing to agree to the transfer, of having given way to political pressure. Mr. W. A. Steward (Woolwich, West) spoke most highly of the school, which was the only girl's school of grammar school status in Eltham and its immediate neighbourhood. The local people were proud of the school. They wanted no change, and had no confidence in the comprehensive school idea. The fact was that the all-powerful L.C.C. had been checked in carrying out one of its unpopular schemes, and that that august body did not like it. After other speeches illustrating both points of view, Miss Horsbrugh said that, after receiving objections to the closing of the school, she had studied the subject as a whole, and had come to the conclusion that it would not be an educational advantage to close this good grammar school with a fine tradition. She denied that she was thereby attacking the idea of comprehensive schools. Should pupils or teachers from Eltham wish to transfer individually to Kidbrooke they were free to do so. She concluded by wishing both schools well.

In a question on June 3rd, Miss Herbison asked the Home Secretary whether he had considered the disadvantages of the return to prison conditions at Holloway, of Borstal girls needing psychiatric observation and treatment. Sir H. Maxwell Fyfe admitted the disadvantages, but there were medical, psychiatric and nursing services at Holloway not available in any other penal establishment for women. The number of girls involved did not exceed a dozen a year, and they remained in Holloway only as long as was necessary for the purpose of the treatment. He would, however, consider the points she had raised.

Vera Douie

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Finland. Most of us think of Britain as being a fairly advanced country, even in respect of women's rights. But the reports of the last Finnish general election makes me wonder if we can make any such claim.

Out of the 200 members of their Diet, the Finns have returned 30 women. Of the 54 Social Democrat M.P.s in the new Parliament, no less than 12 are women, and the largest vote received by any Social Democrat candidate went to T.

BOOK REVIEWS

Pope St. Pius X. By F. A. Forbes (Burns Oates, 5s.).

Giuseppe Sarto, later Pope Pius X, was born in 1835, in Rieti, in the Venetian Plains. He was the son of the municipal messenger and postman and of his wife, Margherita, and the eldest of eight children. In spite of the poverty of his family, Giuseppe was enabled to study at the grammar school of Castelfranco and later at the Seminary at Padua. He was ordained in 1857 and appointed curate at Tombola in the following year, where he remained, becoming much loved, until 1867, when he was appointed rector at Salzano. When "a holy, wise and purposeful man" was required as Canon of the Cathedral of Treviso, in 1875, he was chosen. In 1884 he was appointed to the Bishopric of Mantua. Here, as elsewhere, the teaching of Christian doctrine was one of his first cares, for the adult as well as the child. "Religion has no fear of science," he said. "Christianity does not tremble before discussion but before ignorance." The fame of his zeal and piety soon spread beyond the limits of his diocese and in 1893 Pope Leo XIII named Bishop Sarto Cardinal and Archbishop and Patriarch of Venice. He who loved to take the lowest place was soon to occupy the greatest, for on the death of Pope Leo XIII, in 1903, he was elected Pope.

During his Pontificate, his programme was the restoring of all things in Christ. A true statesman, he laid down the principles of Christian democracy founded on the natural laws and the precepts of the Gospels. Above all, he advocated frequent daily Communion and Communion for the children.

Among the many problems which preoccupied him were the separation of the Church and State in France; the rise of Modernist doctrines; persecutions and revolutions in various parts of the world, and finally, after all his efforts to avert it, the outbreak of the first world war, a blow which fell crushingly upon him.

He died after a short illness on 19th August, 1914, deeply mourned by his own flock and by many who were not of his fold.

Monsignor Benson wrote: "Pius X has left his mark on the world, perhaps more than any Pontiff of the last four centuries." He was beatified in 1951 and canonised on May 29th, 1954. This book is a brief though useful, record of his life.

M. O'C.

The Education of Girls. (National Union of Women Teachers. 6d.)

This admirable pamphlet comes at an opportune moment. The first stages in the fight for equal educational opportunities were won by the pioneers, and many have forgotten what the position of woman—married and unmarried—was a hundred years ago.

(see overleaf)

Leivo Larsson, chairman of the Social Democrat Women's Union.

We are used to being led by the Scandinavians when it comes to women's rights but the extent of their lead is worth measuring. To take two European countries at random, we have little Finland at the top with 15 per cent. women membership in Parliament, Italy halfway with nearly 6 per cent. and Britain at the bottom with less than 3 per cent.

As a Swiss woman commented to me, "We may not have the vote, but *you* still live in a man's country."

Gold Coast. Of the three women candidates in the recent general election, one has been elected—Mrs. Dove—to whom we send our congratulations.

Italy. The only woman Senator in Italy, Signora Angelina Merlin, is presenting her Abolitionist Bill to the new Assembly, since it was caught up in the dissolution of Parliament. We send her our best wishes for its passage to the Statute Book. Another distinguished Italian, Signora Maria Jervolino, has just been appointed Under-Secretary of State for Education. St. Joan's members who were at the 1950 Rome Congress, may remember being entertained to tea at Monte Citorio by Signora Jervolino and her colleagues.

Portugal. A recent decree permits baptised natives of Portugal's overseas territories in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea, to marry in conformity with civil and canon law, and forbids polygamy in these cases. The choice of bride is to be free, and widows and children may no longer be made over to the relatives of the deceased man in accordance with tribal custom.

South-East Asia. The so-called backward areas of the world are still taking the lead when it comes to recognising the gifted women in their midst. Pakistan has just appointed the Begum Liaquat Ali Khan as ambassador to the Netherlands. The Begum accompanied her husband, Pakistan's first Prime Minister, on many of his visits abroad and on his other public functions, and was his constant companion. Her honour is the more significant since it comes from a country devoted to Islam, a religion whose principles have often been invoked to justify the subjection of women.

Mrs. Pandit, one of India's great women and President of the U.N. Assembly visited the U.K. last week at the invitation of the Government.

U.S.A. Barbara Ward, British Catholic economist, was given an honorary doctorate of *Literae Humaniores* at Columbia University, New York, last month. Said the citation: "The wife of a diplomat, she is herself an envoy extraordinary."

S.C.

There is now in many quarters a desire to adapt the education of girls to their "function" in society.

The pamphlet stresses the fact that equal pay is valueless if equal opportunities for professional and technical training are withheld from women; it points out that many of the so-called feminine qualities are not inborn but induced by upbringing and the pressure of custom; and exposes the fallacy of training the intellect on lines dictated by physiological function.

Respect for the family as the unit of social life is not lessened by the determination of feminists to pursue the goal of complete equality of opportunity for education and training for boys and girls, according to their individual skills, and not according to any preconceived and irrelevant "function."

P.C.C.

Japan. The Omi Silk Spinning Company, of Hikone, is the centre of a strike organised by 13,000 operatives, mostly girls, who have started a trade union of their own. They accuse the management of dismissing women workers when they marry; separating male workers from their wives because "wedded life lowers their efficiency;" enforcing attendance at weekly Buddhist services, compulsory singing of the "company song," and mass recitation of the "company constitution" and "company oath" daily before work; enforcing frequent overtime without extra pay; and the opening of employees' personal mail and periodic inspection of their personal belongings by company agents. The girl workers are reported to receive the equivalent of 10s. a week plus food and living quarters in company dormitories. Office girls, it is alleged, have at times been forced to take the place of geisha.—*Manchester Guardian.*

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