

WOMEN'S SERVICE  
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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.

## Helen Douglas Irvine—R.I.P.

With the passing of Helen Douglas Irvine, who died in Chile on May 24th, the world of letters has sustained an irreparable loss, no less than her many friends and the causes which she upheld.

Helen Florence Douglas was youngest daughter of the late Walter Douglas-Irvine, of Grangemuir and Dunino, Fife, Scotland. She was born at Grangemuir House, Fife, Scotland. Her mother's name was Anne Francis Douglas-Irvine. Her mother was Irish, her father Scottish. She was received into the Church in 1917.

Helen Douglas Irvine took her M.A. degree, with History honours, at St. Andrew's, after which she followed almost consistently a literary career, at one time working for the I.L.O. in a literary capacity. She was partly educated in France, had lived four years in Rome and many years in Chile and was much travelled. Her linguistic capabilities were considerable; she had a good knowledge of French, Spanish, Italian and German and published translations of books and articles from these languages. For some years she was a regular contributor to the *Times* of articles on South America and she contributed to the *Glasgow Herald*, the *Manchester Guardian* and many other journals. She published four historical works—*The Royal Palaces of Scotland*, *History of London*, *Mediaeval Markets and Fairs*, *The Making of Rural Europe*, and six novels—*Magdalena*, *Fray Mario*, *Mirror of a Dead Lady*, *Angelic Romance*, *Sweet is the Rose*, and *Torchlight Procession*. *Fray Mario* was the *Evening Standard* book of the month; these novels are a distinguished half dozen and have won high praise.

Miss Douglas Irvine at once recognised in St. Joan's Alliance a pioneering spirit which attracted her—one might almost say intrigued her—until the end of her life. She enjoyed the work she always most willingly did for us and rejoiced in the contacts she made through the society. As early as 1926 we find her on St. Joan's Committee and she was elected chairman for 1927 and 1928 and again

in 1931 till 1932. She served continuously on the Committee till 1936 when she went to Chile. She returned to England in 1940 to "do her bit" during the world war and was once more elected to the Committee. In 1943 she assumed editorship of the *Catholic Citizen*, and it remained in her able hands until once more she journeyed to Chile in 1945. Few people realise what hard work it must have meant to retain a high literary and technical standard during those war years when paper was cut down to a minimum and the poor *Catholic Citizen* was reduced to a double sheet in small type. Yet Helen Douglas Irvine was often to be heard saying, "I enjoy writing the 'Cit.'" (her abbreviation). Her pen was always at our disposal, both in the *Catholic Citizen* and as Press Secretary, but she was always willing to do any odd job which came along, at a moment's notice, and on one occasion was known to pack her bag and proceed to Rouen with our Hon. Secretary on the night boat, having only been told of the journey that same morning. At a dinner given in her honour she replied to the toast saying she, "enjoyed St. Joan's." There was undoubtedly something about us which appealed to her sense of adventure and her sense of humour.

Helen Douglas Irvine liked to call herself a writer, and indeed she was a writer. I do not intend to deal here with her literary output, though in a very short space of time she wrote many novels of a high literary value. I want to emphasise her feeling for words and the joy she took in using them. It was a poet's joy but this poetic sense did not preclude the logical, clear brain behind the brilliance of expression. For instance, the article she wrote for the *Catholic Citizen* on married women's work remains a model of clear exposition to which we continually refer, yet on the other hand for the St. Joan's Centenary appeal she translated a French poem and her translation was a poem in itself. There was never anything woolly or undecided about her writing. She hated

clichés and each word meant something and belonged in its proper place. The last article she wrote for us was sent from Chile and appeared in the *Catholic Citizen* of last month. It was always a satisfaction to publish her work.

Helen Douglas Irvine went as a delegate from St. Joan's Alliance to the Congress of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance in Paris in 1926. She welcomed this experience as she welcomed every new experience with gaiety and gallantry of heart, for she loved life and entered into the spirit of the simplest event with childlike zest and enthusiasm.

In May, 1932, she wrote in an article on the *Trial of St. Joan*: "It is perhaps this impractical element in the character of our patron, this quixotry which is, in common contemporary estimation, both foolish and undignified, of which we should be most mindful at a time when our work has become practical, when we have no longer to tilt at windmills, but are allowed to grind the corn. Joan the Maid is still our patron, and it is no less our duty than it was to listen for the Voices, and to follow them even at the cost of leaving our granary empty, becoming laughing stocks, and failing by every standard acknowledged in our world."

It would seem as though this passage was a message left to us by Helen Douglas Irvine, for indeed she herself never failed "to listen for the Voices" and to tilt at windmills when necessary. It was part of her quixotry to follow an uncongenial job during the war for the sake of her country, it was at one with her gallant spirit to tell us in her last letter that she hoped to continue her writing "next Monday" after the "tiresome" illnesses which had held her up. We last saw her at the little farewell party given in her honour before she sailed last August. It pleased her so much.

We ask prayers for her soul. In the name of the Alliance a Mass was offered for her at St. Patricks, Soho, on May 30th, the day we commemorate St. Joan, and this year Ascension Day. Many members were present.—R.I.P.

CHRISTINE SPENDER.

terms with men. Millicent received great help from her husband, Henry Fawcett, the blind Postmaster-General, and after his death she devoted her whole life to the women's cause. As Dame Millicent Fawcett, she will always live in our memories as a great leader.

One caught the echo of a crusade in these broadcasts and it was a consoling thought that there were Catholic women who realised the implications of their own sociology, and in forming the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, took their part in the battle for freedom.

MONICA O'CONNOR.

### QUEEN VICTORIA WAS FURIOUS

It is difficult to understand why Queen Victoria, occupying the position she did, was furious when other members of her sex wished to make their own contribution to public life, but it has always been a melancholy feature of the struggle for the emancipation of women, that some of the bitterest opposition has come from among the women themselves. Women have hugged their chains. This was not the state of mind, however, of three young women in the 1860's, Elizabeth and Millicent Garrett and Emily Davies, who dedicated themselves to the task of surmounting the wall of prejudice which prevented them from taking their rightful place in the life of the country, and the B.B.C. in giving us a record of their achievements has performed a very useful service.

At that time the only careers open to women were to get married or to become a governess. Elizabeth Garrett decided to become a doctor. There were no facilities for training women in England and the difficulties seemed unsurmountable, but after many heartbreaking setbacks, Elizabeth was allowed to attend lectures at the Middlesex Hospital, where she obtained a certificate of honour but almost immediately afterwards she was asked to leave. The wall of prejudice was too strong. She then discovered that she was eligible to take the examinations of the Society of Apothecaries, which she passed. This enabled her to practice as a doctor and from thenceforward her success was assured, culminating in the opening of the Royal Free Hospital in 1877. She combined a happy married life with her profession, and she lived long enough to see removed many of the restrictions on the training of women doctors. Her daughter was the first woman doctor to go to France in the 1914-18 War.

In the meantime Emily Davies had been devoting her immense energy and determination to the cause which she had undertaken, the higher education of women. She wished them to be admitted to the Universities on the same terms as men, but here again the fortress was not to be easily stormed, and she decided to found a women's college. She appealed for funds throughout the country and although the response was not very encouraging she decided to start in a small way with six young ladies who were anxious to learn. Her experiment was a success and the foundations of Girton College were laid.

The task allotted to Millicent, the third and youngest member of the trio, was to secure the Parliamentary Vote for Women, and this proved to be the most difficult of attainment. Over fifty years of ceaseless propaganda, of agitation, meetings, processions, petitions, militancy and finally a world war, were necessary before women were admitted to the franchise, and then not on equal

continued on previous column

### Notes and Comments

On May 30th, St. Joan's Day, and this year Ascension Day, the Rev. Father Christopher Spender kindly offered Mass for our intentions, and members of the Committee gathered for Benediction at the Cathedral when a laurel wreath was placed by Miss Challoner, our chairman, on the shrine of St. Joan.

Mrs. Castle, M.P., is to be congratulated on the success of her fight in the Standing Committee for the inclusion of the employed married woman in the National Insurance Bill. Though by no means all we want, nevertheless this is a very great victory. We thank Mrs. Castle for her efforts in the Standing Committee and those women who so ably and persistently worked outside so to amend the Bill as to give justice to women.

A Deputation from the Joint Standing Parliamentary Committee was received by Mr. Walley, Senior Officer of the Ministry of National Insurance, and his colleagues, in May. The chief speaker was Mrs. Elizabeth Abbott, who brilliantly put forward the views of the Committee. Mr. Walley and his colleagues showed much interest and understanding. The Alliance was represented on the Deputation by Miss Barry.

The W.R.N.S., the A.T.S. and the W.A.A.F. are to be continued permanently on a voluntary basis. Their rates of pay are still under consideration. This in effect is a social revolution which has passed almost unnoticed.

On May 14th a conference of women shop stewards at Llandudno, which represented 50,000 women members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, adopted a resolution regretting profoundly that employers placed such a low value on the services of women that they were prepared to offer them only "a miserable wage increase" of 4s. 6d. The union's rejection of the offer was endorsed and the claim for equal pay for equal work and a minimum rate not less than the district rate for male workers was reaffirmed.

Following a meeting of the Employers Federation and the Amalgamated Engineering Union, on June 5th, a joint recommendation was submitted by them to the National Arbitration Tribunal suggesting a wage increase and leaving the amount to be fixed by the Tribunal. The Ministry of Labour issued an official statement announcing that a mutual reference would be made to the Tribunal on the basis that:—

"(a) Having regard to the special circumstances of the case, and without recognising a precedent, an increase be given dating as from the beginning of the pay week following Monday, May 6th, amount to be determined by the Tribunal; (b) As part of a long-term policy, it is agreed that a joint committee should

be set up to investigate the wage structure relating to women in the industry."

Alison Settle, writing in the *Observer* on the causes of scarcity of good shoes for women and children, remarks that one of them is "the shortage of girl labour for stitching and finishing, or, as the trade says, for 'the closing rooms.'"

"Men have been brought into the closing room for the first time in the history of the shoe trade," writes Alison Settle, but their introduction "is a policy of desperation, for . . . even with the right type of fingers, thin and long, they are neither so pliable nor adaptable as the girls. Now, after a few months training, they do only from three to four dozen 'rounds' of work a day, rising, it is hoped to eight or nine, compared with the girls' objective of 14 to 16. What is more, men's work raises the cost of the shoe, for there is no attempt at 'the rate for the job' though here the job is identical. The men earn 85s. a week, the women only 62s."

Our job is to comment as well as to note and therefore we remark that for the fair-minded lady to watch her male colleague receive over £1 more per week for clumsy and inadequate work must be trying to say the least. Imagine the tables reversed—what an outcry there would be!

The management committee of the London Co-operative Society have decided to cancel the embargo on the employment of married women in their stores. War-time experience of married women workers has brought about this rational change in their policy.

We note that for the second time only in 315 years women were guests at the Mansion House Livery Dinner of the Clockmaker's Company, which took place on May 23rd. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress and the Sheriffs and their ladies were present.

We ask prayers for the repose of the soul of Cécile Lambert, an early member of the Catholic Woman's Suffrage Society, who died recently, and for Ellen Mary Fraser, sister of our member Mrs. Wickham, to whom we offer sympathy. R.I.P.

We offer our apologies to Miss P. C. Challoner who contributed the excellent article entitled "Grace Hadow" for our May issue. In the second line from the bottom of the page (right-hand column), "usefulness" has been printed instead of "uselessness." The paragraph should read, "She herself stressed the value of a high standard of criticism, and training in judgment, and the **uselessness** of short cuts in intellectual things . . ." We feel sure our readers have supplied the right word themselves!

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

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"Catholic Citizen."

## Call to the Fourteenth Congress of the International Alliance of Women, Interlaken, Switzerland,

AUGUST 10th to 17th, 1946.

The International Alliance of Women after seven years of separation, years of anguish, horror and destruction, invites its member societies and its individual members and friends to its Fourteenth International Congress, to be held at Interlaken from August 10th to 17th, 1946.

At its Copenhagen Congress in 1939 on the eve of the war, the Alliance recognised the immediate danger of the totalitarian regimes and felt it impossible, at a moment when human rights were being trampled under foot, to consider solely the rights of women. A Declaration was adopted culminating in the recognition that, "The woman's battle is that of all mankind."

Three of the delegates paid with their lives for their devotion to that idea: **Rosa Manus, of Holland; Frantiska Plaminkova, of Czechoslovakia; Halina Siemienska, of Poland.** They and the many unknown others who shared their fate are a shining example. Their martyrdom lays upon all who were spared an obligation to take up the torch and keep it aflame.

Since the victory of the democracies, many women and women's organisations are now free to express this idea, and co-operation among all democratic and liberty-loving women urgently needs to be co-ordinated. Do not let us lose the solidarity created by resistance movements and common perils. Let us use this wealth of shared experience to serve constructive and not destructive ends.

Since the foundation of the Alliance in 1904, much has been won in regard to those equal political and civil rights for men and women, the achievement of which is its main object. Every Congress has reported fresh victories and now we shall rejoice in the suffrage given to women in France, Italy, Japan and Jugoslavia, or enlarged as in Bulgaria. To-day there are more women in the Parliaments of the world than ever before. Above all, we welcome the declaration in the Charter of the United Nations of faith in the equal

rights of men and women and repeated expressions of the view that there should be no discriminations based on sex any more than on race or creed.

But the real influence of women on world affairs is yet imperfectly exercised. Economic equality and freedom must be won; women must have a real share in government, both in policy-making and in administration; they must have full opportunity to play their part in the gigantic task of moral and material reconstruction, and in laying the foundations of effective world co-operation and lasting peace. Women must be at the side of men in fighting for those human rights of liberty of speech, freedom of the Press and of conscience and religion, without barriers of race, class or sex, as the fundamental basis of a sane and happy world.

Women need, too, to take up that old cry, "Woman's place is the Home," and see that the lip service paid to the value of the work of the housewife is translated into practical recognition of her need for economic independence and security; that her burden is lightened by intelligent housing and social services, and that not all the sacrifice of health, freedom and leisure falls upon the mother, who bears the children, but is shared with the father. We must also ensure that the home does not represent enforced seclusion for women.

Never has it been more vital for women to discuss with their fellow women the burning questions of our time, on the solution of which the fate of all humanity depends. Difficulties of travel must prevent our Congress from being a Mass Demonstration, but we ask you to do your utmost to send delegates so that as many as possible of our affiliated societies shall be represented. We appeal also to our individual members to offer themselves as delegates of their national organisations; or where these may not yet be fully organised, to come in a personal capacity to take back a new inspiration to their national movement.

## The Month in Parliament

The great issues this month have been the National Health Bill and the Nationalisation of the Coal and Steel Industries. In the resulting dust of Party battle our own specific questions have been rather lost to view. The women members have not been markedly in evidence, though Mrs. Braddock continues to lay about her with outspoken vigour. Two more women members have made their Maiden Speeches, Mrs. Ganley and Mrs. Corbet, both on the Health Bill. Mrs. Ganley spoke mainly of preventive care and maternal and child welfare, while Mrs. Corbet made a spirited plea for a better dental service. Miss Bacon and Lady Davidson also spoke in the Debate.

During the report stage of the **National Insurance Bill**, on 22nd May, Mr. Griffiths made a concession of considerable value, though it does not go the whole way to meet the criticisms raised by the Standing Committee—particularly Mrs. Castle. His amendment proposed that women who continue in gainful employment after marriage should be automatically covered by the scheme and would have to opt out if they did not wish to continue instead of opting in, if they did, as originally planned. Self-employed married women and those who ceased to be employed on marriage would still have to opt in, as before.

Mrs. Castle tried to push the whole point. She said, "I suggest that right through this Bill my Right Hon. Friends approach to married women is unsatisfactory. . . I fail to see why this distinction should be drawn." Mr. Griffiths pleaded administrative difficulties and possible hardship in collecting back dues from non-employed married women who had not bothered to opt out and had not realised that they would be liable for heavier contributions. As Mrs. Manning pointed out, however, this might be arguable in the case of women who give up their work. "But I do not know why this should apply to the woman who is self-employed." The amendment was passed as worded by Mr. Griffiths.

One further gain was registered. Maternity grants for twins will be at double rates, treble for triplets, and so on up . . . as Mr. Lindgreen said, "I am not sure if it is the sky or the stork that is the limit."

Miss Wilkinson was asked by Mr. G. Thomas, on 23rd May, "if she is aware of the decision of the Glamorgan County Council to dismiss a **married woman teacher** on grounds of pregnancy and whether she proposes to take action . . . to prevent this dismissal." Miss Wilkinson replied that no teacher (in Glamorgan) had as yet actually been dismissed in these circumstances.

She added, "In my opinion, the dismissal of a married woman teacher in any county or voluntary school solely on grounds of pregnancy is precluded by Section 24 (3) of the Education Act, 1944. In other cases I have advised that suitable periods of leave of absence should be granted. This opinion is being brought to the notice of the local education authority."

On May 8th Mr. Silkin began the debate on the New Towns Bill by saying, "My researches on new towns go back to the time of Sir Thomas More. He was the first person I have discovered to deplore the 'sururban sprawl.' . . . Incidentally, Sir Thomas More was beheaded, but that must not be regarded as a precedent for the treatment of town planners." Whereupon Sir Thomas Moore, M.P., for Ayr Burghs, appealed to the Speaker for protection. "It has just been announced by the Right Hon. Gentleman that I have been beheaded. I want to know whether there is any confirmation of that." "I was referring to the past, not to the future," retorted Mr. Silkin. In a more serious mood, however, he added, "It is a long cry from More's Utopia to the New Towns Bill, but it is not unreasonable to expect that that Utopia of 1515 should be translated into practical reality in 1946." We can only hope he is right.

The House has shown, this month, that it still knows how to insist on the righting of a grave injustice. No fewer than six times during the period different members have questioned the right of the Government to forbid **soldiers to marry German or Austrian women.** Mr. Lawson and Mr. Bellenger, for the War Office, have been harried in all sorts of ways. On April 30th the Secretary of State answered that they "were discussing the question with the other ministers concerned." After being pursued on May 7th and again on the 14th, Mr. Bellenger was driven to reply, on May 21st in answer to Mr. John Freeman's question "by what authority he has forbidden (these) marriages." "As explained to the House on April 15th during the course of the debate on Army Estimates, the orders forbidding such marriages were issued on the advice that a General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Forces in occupation of foreign territory is competent to issue such orders. As that advice was challenged, I promised to take the advice of the Law Officers of the Crown. That is being done, and until I get their advice, I do not think there is anything I can usefully add." Clearly there is doubt as to the legality of the ban. In any case the sense of responsibility for justice and personal freedom of the individual member will not allow the ban to last much longer.

continued overleaf

## International Notes

**Status of Women—U.N.O.** The report of the Sub-Commission on the Status of Women incorporated in the report of the Human Rights Commission is now before the Economic and Social Council at present sitting in New York. We are awaiting the text of the report of the Commission which, we understand, has covered much ground under the chairmanship of Mrs. Bodil Begtrup. Judge Dorothy Kenyon, of the League of Nations Committee of Experts on the Status of Women, was invited to address one of the sessions of the Sub-Commission.

**International Abolitionist Federation.** The International Committee of the International Abolitionist Federation, which has not been able to meet since 1939, sat in Geneva from May 9th to 11th, 1946.

They decided to ask the Peace Conference to insert in Peace Treaties a provision by which each ex-belligerent Power will be bound by the four pre-war International agreements against Traffic in Women and Children, and to include the provisions of the Draft Convention for suppressing the exploitation of the prostitution of others which had been prepared under the aegis of the League of Nations, as well as an article prohibiting any other kind of regulation of prostitution, as such a system is fully contrary to the essential liberties included in the Charter of the United Nations.

They rejoiced at the passing by the French Constituent Assembly of a bill abolishing the "maisons tolérées" and penalising any exploitation of the prostitution of others, but they regretted that neo-regulationist measures had been adopted.

They deplored the initiation in many countries of laws or regulations which are antagonistic to the system of voluntary treatment for venereal disease, which last brought good results, and decided to fight against any tendency to re-establish, under any form, the special regime of the *Police des mœurs*.

**The International Labour Office.** *The I.L.O. Official Bulletin* for December gives the text of the resolution concerning the protection of children and young persons adopted on November 4th, 1945, at the Paris Conference.

We are glad to note that opportunities for education for technical and vocational training and for apprenticeship apply to "all young workers." Regarding wages, provisions should be made with "the objective of assuring . . . wherever possible the principle of equal pay for comparable jobs."

Section 4 draws special attention to an important point regarding "the admission of a child to domestic service outside of his own family. . . . Special efforts should be made to eliminate forms of employment involving the placing of children

in, or their transfer on a basis of quasi-adoption to, the family of an employer—where they work for maintenance." A system which, in some countries, has led to grave abuses.

**Brazil.** We congratulate Sra. Renata Crespi de Silva Prado on being the first woman Mayor of Guarujá in the State of Sao Paulo.

**Holland.** Three women have been elected to the Dutch Parliament—one from the Christian Historic Party, one Socialist and one Communist.

**Italy.** "People and Freedom" reports Miss Barclay Carter's attendance at the Congress of the Italian Christian Democratic Party in Rome. She brought greetings from "People and Freedom" in London and the mention of the name of their common master, founder of the Popolari, Don Luigi Sturzo, was wildly cheered.

**Portugal.** The new law now gives votes to married women who are literate and who pay a minimum property tax of £2. Formerly single women who were entitled to the vote lost this right on marriage.

### The Month in Parliament—cont. from page 33

It may be remembered that there has been some agitation, supported by the Government, to enable **deserted wives and unmarried mothers** in this country to obtain support from Dominion and United States soldier fathers. On May 28th Mr. Sorensen asked the Secretary of State for War, "What action will be taken to implement the principle that Servicemen shall at least financially bear their share of paternal responsibility even though the woman involved be German." The answer to this was simply, "A soldier can only be compelled to contribute to the upkeep of an illegitimate child if an affiliation order is produced against him. A woman living outside the jurisdiction of British courts would not be able to obtain such an order." This is precisely the situation we are endeavouring—with virtuously outraged feelings—to get round in the case of our own deserted and unmarried mothers. In equity, to say nothing of charity, we should do as we would be done by. B. M. HALPERN.

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## Reviews

**Saint Catherine of Genoa — Treatise on Purgatory. The Dialogue.** Translated by Charlotte Balfour and Helen Douglas Irvine. (Sheed and Ward, 6s.).

Helen Douglas Irvine finished this beautiful translation of two spiritual classics not long before her death. Mrs. Charlotte Balfour had begun a translation of the dialogue from the French and this has been collated with the Italian original and revised where necessary while the remainder of the translation has been effected from the Italian. Miss Douglas Irvine wrote an interesting foreword on the life of St. Catherine of Genoa, explaining that the *Dialogue* is attributed to St. Catherine's god-daughter, Battista, who became an Augustinian Canoness of the Lateran. "The *Dialogue* reproduces the incidents of the saint's spiritual life as these are recorded in her earliest biography and its doctrine is that embodied in the *Treatise on Purgatory* and in her recorded sayings. . . ."

C. S.

**An Experiment in Co-operation 1925-1945;** The History of the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations. (1s. from the Hon. Secretary, 406, Elm Tree Road Mansions, N.W.8).

This well-arranged and interesting pamphlet gives the history and aims of the Liaison Committee (of which St. Joan's is a constituent society), from its inception in 1925. In 1926 its aim was "to work for the appointment of women on committees or other bodies of the League of Nations," but this single aim was rapidly enlarged so that the Committee became a goad to the League of Nations whenever questions concerning women's political, economic or social status arose, and in 1931 the Liaison Committee was collaborating with the League in its enquiry (made by the Committee of Experts) into the civil and political status of women.

When the Charter of U.N.O. was sketched out at the San Francisco Conference the Liaison Committee was on the spot, making sure of the representation of women in the new organisation and during its meetings in London the good work was continued.

As the Viscount Cecil, of Chelwood, says in his foreword, "the purpose of Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations . . . is to secure first that the international interest of women shall be safeguarded and secondly, that women shall have a full opportunity for contributing to the International Peace and Progress of the World."

The compilers are to be congratulated on this concise, well-written, well-indexed and interesting document.

C.S.

**Facilities for Training Women as Engineers,** by Verena Holmes, B.Sc. (Eng.), M.I.Mech.E. (The Women's Engineering Society, 20, Regent Street, S.W.1, 4d).

This little booklet gives details of the facilities—University and otherwise—available for the training of girls as engineers. A girl may gain her degree for the technique and theory of engineering at almost all the British Universities and later on she should be able to acquire practical knowledge through apprenticeship to an engineering firm but "unfortunately it has not yet become the general practice for engineering firms to accept girl apprentices, although the position in this respect is improving."

C.S.

### A NEW WORLD FOR WIVES.

On the 18th May at a Conference called by the Women for Westminster and The Married Women's Association, the fourteen points of a questionnaire, previously sent to M.P.s, were discussed. The opening address was given by Dr. Edith Summerskill, M.P. Resolutions were passed demanding equal treatment with other workers for married women under the National Insurance Act, that Children's Nurseries should be retained and the numbers increased, and that a woman should have the right to retain or change her nationality on marriage. In addition, after hearing Mrs. Hartree's account of the present state of negotiations on nationality it was decided to send a letter from the meeting to the Conference of Dominion Prime Ministers.

It was agreed in principle that there should be an economic partnership in marriage and that the time had come for alterations in the laws relating to the maintenance paid to separated wives, and a committee of ten co-operating organisations was set up to study these points and make practical proposals.

M.J.

### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

*Mrs. Crawford in the "Catholic Citizen,"*  
June, 1921.

The news from India reported in detail in "Jus Suffragii" (May), is better than suffragists have dared to hope. Already the Legislative Council for Madras, under the new constitution, has passed a resolution by a large majority in favour of giving Indian women the vote on precisely the same terms as enjoyed by men. Thus Indian women will vote at twenty-one, while their English sisters remain disfranchised to the age of thirty. This great victory was the outcome of a well-organised women's campaign. It is anticipated that the Bombay Legislative Council will soon follow the good example set by Madras, and it is worth noting that already three Native States—Travancore, Cochin and Jhalwar—have given the suffrage to women.—*International Notes.*

**NATIONALITY.**

On May 22nd the Dominion Prime Ministers discussed the question of the nationality of married women when the Lord Chancellor and the Home Secretary were both present. There was general agreement that "the marriage of a British woman to a foreigner should not automatically entail loss of British nationality, and that the marriage of an alien woman to a British husband should not automatically confer British citizenship on her." It was agreed to hold an early meeting in London of legal experts from Great Britain and the Dominions to consider the matter.

As a result of these talks, the officials will report to their respective Governments. The next step will be an exchange of views between the Governments for the purpose both of overcoming the difficulties which have existed in the past regarding the national status of married women and of arranging the further examination of certain general questions relating to the nationality laws of the respective countries. Lord Samuel's motion on nationality will come before the House on June 26th.

Under the auspices of the Nationality of Married Women Committee, and the Status of Women Campaign Committee, a very successful meeting was held at the Bonnington Hotel on May 8th to demand equal and independent rights for married women. Mrs. Cazalet Keir, who has done so much for this cause, was in the chair. The chief speakers were Mrs. Hartree, chairman of the Nationality of Married Women Committee, Miss Marion Reeves and Mrs. Mellor Coutret. Lady Pethick Lawrence said a few words in support of the resolution and Miss Joan Evans and Mrs. Rischbieth spoke of the position in Australia and New Zealand, while Colonel Hemmings spoke of the new Canadian Citizenship Bill which has recently passed its third reading.

The resolution asking for equal and independent nationality rights for men and women was carried unanimously and was sent to the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary.

**BRING-AND-BUY SALE**

Owing to the increase in our work our expenses are growing alarmingly, and to meet this we are having a **Bring-and-Buy Sale** on Saturday, June 22nd. We shall look forward to welcoming members and their friends at 5 Holly Place, Hampstead; any time after 2.30 p.m. Tea will be provided for 1s. and delightful walks (or sits!) may be taken on the Heath. Each member is asked to bring and buy a gift (clearly priced), and those unable to come are asked to help by sending a contribution in cash or kind.

R.S.V.P. to the Office if you can come, and do bring a friend with you.

**ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE**

NON-PARTY

Office—55, Berners Street, Oxford Street, London, W.1.  
Patron: Saint Joan of Arc. Colours: Blue, White & Gold.

Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 2d. 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 5s. 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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Character from Handwriting. Helpful, interesting, true. A priest writes: "Certainly helpful." Send 1/3 and stamped envelope with specimen of writing. W.f., St. Joan's Alliance, 55 Berners St., London, W.1.

**FATHER ARTHUR DAY, S.J.—R.I.P.**

We record with deep regret the death, last month, of Father Arthur Day, S.J., a life-long supporter of our Alliance and a faithful reader of the *Catholic Citizen*.

In June, 1926, Father Day spoke on our platform in Hyde Park, at the joint demonstration of women's organisations, to demand Equal Franchise for women. He was present with us on many occasions, notably at our "Coming of Age" dinner in 1932 and at the *Catholic Citizen* Silver Jubilee lunch in 1940, when we saw him for the last time. In 1944 he wrote to us for St. Joan's Day, May 30th, and promised a special memento each day for a week "for St. Joan's living and dead."

He was a most zealous worker in the cause for the conversion of the Jews.

We know that all our members will remember Father Day in their prayers. R.I.P.