

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

*Organ of St. Joan's Alliance (formerly The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society).
36A, Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford Street, London W.1.*

Vol. XLIX. No. 7.

15th JULY, 1963

10s. per annum

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

Australia Conference

"... One of the distinctive characteristics of our age is that women are now taking part in public life, a more rapid development perhaps in nations of Christian civilization." They "demand" the Holy Father says, "rights befitting a human person both in domestic and in public life". . . this was in the message received from the Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop Domenico Enrici, and read at the opening of the Second Australian Conference of St. Joan's International Alliance held in Brisbane, Queensland from 30th May to 2nd June.

It was four years since the first Conference had been held in Adelaide, and the opportunity to meet was warmly welcomed in a country where the state capitals are all about 600 miles apart. Delegates came from New South Wales and Victoria, and it was unfortunate that the South Australian delegates who had planned to come were prevented at the last minute. No delegates were able to come in person from West Australia as it would have involved them in a journey of about three thousand miles each way. However, West Australia was represented by a paper on education, and the good wishes of all members who could not attend drew all the Australian Sections together in an amity which defied distance.

We met in Duchesne College, the residential Catholic College for Women in the University of Queensland. It was a very stimulating place to be, as it is newly built—one of many new buildings in the University of Queensland, which is establishing itself for the first time in permanent buildings on a tongue of land surrounded by the Brisbane River in the leafy suburb of St. Lucia. The Religious of the Sacred Heart who conduct the College received us with outstanding hospitality. We had delicious hot luncheons in the College dining-room each day, and the nuns also served us morning and afternoon tea, which was a gift from them to the Conference. As it was vacation, visiting delegates were able to reside there.

The first act of the Conference was to attend mid-day mass celebrated by Father J. S. Kelly S.J. in the Chapel. A painting of St. Joan, painted and given to us by a young Brisbane artist quite recently, was in a prominent position.

"As we see the Challenge of the 1960's" was the theme chosen for the Conference. These challenges were explored in the five papers presented by different State Sections. After each paper the meeting divided into small discussion groups under a leader. When the paper had been discussed the meeting reassembled and each group leader reported on what had been said in her group. The person who had read the paper answered this discussion and then questions were asked and answered in open session. We found this method very fruitful as it enabled all present to join in the discussion of the papers. Some of our members had been most anxious for us to invite our teaching nuns to join us during the Conference. We were delighted that about twenty nuns from five different orders attended various sessions and joined in the discussion.

New South Wales presented the paper "Women and Society"—this examined the position of women in Australian society and the obstacles they encounter in employment and in public life. This situation has been fully described in Norman MacKenzie's book "Women in Australia" (reviewed Catholic Citizen December 1962). "Women and Careers" presented by Victoria, examined the careers open to Australian women, the qualifications necessary to enter them, and also the failure of women to accept the challenge to enter professions actually open to them, but demanding long and arduous education e.g. medicine and science. Women were urged to accept the responsibility of citizenship in the paper "Participation in Civic Affairs" contributed by Queensland. It was claimed that the average Australian woman accepted a role of inferiority because, in accepting it, she enjoyed ease of living. The crux of all these challenges to Australian women is the failure of many able girls to proceed far enough with their education—this topic was the central thought in the paper "Education as the key to the Emancipation of the Women in Australia" presented by West Australia. It pointed out that the real loss of women to careers, public service and politics occurs at the high school level, where there

is an enormous loss of girls before the completion of their course. Our final paper "International Responsibilities" was prepared and presented by Mrs. Jean Daly, who pointed out that it is Australian women's responsibility to educate themselves now in international affairs. We are no longer in happy isolation from the rest of the world. In view of our geographic position it has become an increasing and urgent need for us to know about Australia's position in South East Asia. If we are to make the most of our fortunate inheritance here in Australia, we must spare no effort to live as part of the geographical area in which we are placed.

One of the highlights was the challenging address by our guest-speaker Mr. F. G. Brennan B.A., LL.B., entitled "The Respectful Revolution". He dealt with the subject of church schools, which constitute a special problem in Australia, because no state subsidy is paid for their maintenance. Mr. Brennan said that the standards in our schools are falling behind those of the public system, and that Catholic education is in danger of complete collapse. The revolution he called for was that lay people whose responsibility this is should assert themselves in this matter even against the Hierarchy if need be. He proposed that the Hierarchy together with appropriate laymen should form a committee and devise an allover plan so that the National Resources of the Catholic community can be marshalled to meet the danger of the failure of our schools.

The Australian Council met on the Sunday morning, and in the course of the meeting reviewed the Resolutions received, which were then presented to the General Meeting that afternoon. The Conference closed with Benediction.

All who attended the Conference agreed that they had enjoyed it. To have met, to have become better acquainted, to have prayed and studied together—in all this our Conference was a great success. Where we did not succeed completely was in the treatment of our ambitious theme; but that makes our Conference a new starting point in our efforts to discover what we hoped for, what we should hope for, and how we are to achieve these hopes. This is as it should be.

Australian President Mrs. F. L. Cullen.
Honorary Secretary Miss Joyce Fullagar.
Honorary Treasurer Mrs. M. Gordon.

* * *

A news item from Queensland—On the feast of St. Joan, the parish of Herston, Brisbane invited members of Saint Joan's International Alliance attending their Australian Conference to be present at the laying of the foundation stone of a new Church to be dedicated to St. Joan of Arc. The members were welcomed and the Queensland Section were thanked for their donation of the Cross of Lorraine to be set in the grounds in front of the Church.

PACEM IN TERRIS

The full text of *Pacem in Terris* was not available to us when our May issue went to press. We now publish without comment, these words from the Easter Encyclical of Pope John XXIII which are of prime importance to all of us:

"Human beings have the right to choose freely the state of life which they prefer and therefore the right to set up a family, with equal rights and duties for man and woman, and also the right to follow a vocation to the priesthood or the religious life"

STREET OFFENCES ACT

It is not our intention to comment on the Profumo affair. We would only say that the pitiable youth of certain of the witnesses in the squalid case to which it has given rise shows up the Street Offences Act in an even more deplorable light.

We now learn that Lord Stonham is expected to allude on July 8th in the Lords to a special report on the spread of prostitution. He is to ask the Government if, in view of evidence of the increase in procuring, exploitation of, and trafficking in women since the passing of the Street Offences Act, 1959, it will institute an immediate enquiry in the Act's effects.

Lord Stonham has disclosed some interim conclusions of the working party set up by the Josephine Butler Society, of which he is president. The Act has "cleaned up" the streets, but prostitution continues on a more insidious scale; girls have been "set up" in flats, and the call-girl system is far more extensive. Furthermore, the display of questionable—or, rather, unquestionable—advertisements in certain shop-windows has multiplied; we are only too familiar with "model available", "young French girl will give special lessons", etc. More men are now known to be living on the immoral earnings of women—it is understood that convictions for this offence in magistrates' courts have increased by 34 per cent.

The great tragedy is, of course, that the very young girls who are involved in this sordid racket, have been swept out of reach of the women police and social workers; the majority work in clubs or flats, and comparatively few come before the courts.

The Alliance sends sympathy to Miss Patricia Noonan on the death of her sister, Dr. Aileen Noonan who was a member of St. Joan's for the last ten years. Dr. Noonan was for several years on the Town Council of Mount Forest, Ontario. R.I.P.

Notes and Comments

On Sunday, June 30th, a huge crowd some 26,000 strong, witnessed the coronation of Pope Paul VI, held by his own wish in St. Peter's Square. Seats had been reserved for a party of miners from Milan, the Holy Father's former diocese. St. Joan's Alliance was present in spirit at the moving ceremony; earlier in the week it had addressed a telegram to His Holiness, assuring him of its loyalty and homage.

The Italian press had unanimously forecast that the new Pope would follow "*la linea Roncalli in un stile nuovo*." They were right, for Pope Paul VI is informed with the same desire for peace and unity as was Pope John XXIII. Did he not say after he had read the Easter encyclical: "We wish to make our own the Pope's great message, to make it an inspiration for a programme of life?"

In his Latin broadcast delivered to the world on June 22nd, Pope Paul VI said that the most important part of his pontificate would be occupied with the work of the Second Oecumenical Council of the Vatican which will reassemble on September 29th, and he went on to speak of John XXIII's "unique goodness". "Our service as Pope will continue with the greatest solicitude the great work begun with so much hope and under such happy auspices by our predecessor: the realisation of the wish *ut unum sint* so longed for by all and for which he offered up his life."

To long for peace, however, is not enough. The Holy Father when he was still Archbishop of Milan said in his wisdom: "Peace is not something that just happens; it is created, constructed." Already, he has pointed the way to us, has told us that "the unequivocal duty of love for one's neighbour, the touchstone of our love for God, demands a more equitable solution of social problems, "calls upon us to help the undeveloped countries and ensure for all men a standard of living worthy of their human dignity."

The Holy Father is well aware of the particular problems of our age. "The new epoch opened for mankind by the conquests of space will be blessed by God if men are truly able to recognise each other as brothers rather than competitors, and if they are able to build order in the world in fear of God, in respect for His laws, in the light of charity and mutual collaboration."

When all men of goodwill were mourning for Pope John, the then Archbishop of Milan asked himself: "What marvel of spiritual convergence has produced this grief without precedence in history?" and the answer came to him: "The sympathy that enveloped him was not a delusion or a fashionable whim: it was a secret revealing itself, the mystery of two words which, united in magic, dazzled us: truth and charity." It is on these twin rocks of truth and charity that Pope Paul VI has founded his own pontificate.

To Valentina Terschikova goes the honour of being the world's first woman in space. While we extend all our admiration to her, we can enter into the feelings of the brilliant American pilot, Miss Jerrie Cobb, who has passed all the rigid astronaut tests and who now sees herself beaten at the post. The fact is that the N.A.S.A. (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) has been severely criticised for discriminating against women aeronauts, whereas in Russia, as Margaret Mead, the anthropologist, and Mrs. Claire Boothe Luce, former American Ambassador to Italy, agree, men and women are regarded as interchangeable. That they are not so regarded in this country, even when they have achieved an identical success, is manifest in the odious word "cosmonette" that has been coined for Terschikova. Cosmonette—really! could anything be more coy, more whimsy or more belittling?

* * *

The attempt by peers of all parties to reintroduce the seven year divorce clause into Mr. Abse's Matrimonial Causes and Reconciliation Bill has failed. After a three-hour debate, the proposal was defeated in the House of Lords by 52 votes to 31. Amongst those who spoke was Lord Gladwyn who said that he himself was the child of a broken marriage: "My personal experience suggests that it would certainly have been in the interests of my own family, and in the general interest, too, if the clause was the law of the land." Baroness Summerskill, opposing the amendment, told Lord Gladwyn that one should not try to argue a case from a special problem and that hard cases make bad law. "If it is established that divorce can be secured after seven years," she continued, "the stability of marriage itself must suffer." It would, she argued, affect the attitude of teenagers towards the institution of marriage. The next generation might well say: "Those old fogies fixed seven years. Why not five? Why not three?" An equally telling point was made by Lord Longford when he declared: "If divorce is allowed after a seven-year separation, it will enable a guilty man to dispose of an innocent wife. I cannot express to the House how revolted I am by this clause." After the vote had been taken, the Committee Stage was adjourned.

* * *

Brigitte Simon is in entire charge of the famous workshop in Rheims where the Simon family has carried on the craft of the design and execution of stained glass windows since the sixteenth century. The workshop passed from father to son until a few years ago when Brigitte took over from her father. With her husband Charles Marq, she has executed all the windows designed by Marc Chagall for the synagogue in Jerusalem, and is now engaged on a new Chagall series for Metz Cathedral.

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

founded 1911

BRITISH SECTION OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

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A New Deal for Housewives

On June 21st, opening the debate in the House of Lords on the need for an industrial charter for women, Baroness Summerskill exclaimed: "Valentina Terschikova and her male colleague will be equally feted and paid for the job. If Valentina were in orbit now and could glance into this chamber, she would be amazed to learn that British women have still to plead for simple justice."

Lady Summerskill drew particular attention to the financial disabilities of women working solely in their own homes. It is a blot on our society that these devoted wives and mothers should be completely dependent, should enjoy none of the rights of their more fortunate sisters. St. Joan's Alliance espoused their cause many years ago, and fully supported Dr. Edith Summerskill, M.P. in 1944 when she presented a petition to the House of Commons, asking that legislation might be passed that would give the "full-time" wife the right to any savings from the housekeeping money and a share in the home built up by the joint efforts of her husband and herself.

The full-time housewife's work can only be assessed in terms of love, but she fully earns her rights and is as much entitled to them as her husband. Yet, as Baroness Summerskill emphasised, any money she may have managed to save belongs in law to her husband; she has no legal claim to it or anything else for that matter, and a widow may well be left penniless, without a roof above her head, since her husband may if he wishes, will house, furniture, cash all he possesses to the local dog's home! The position of the widow, said Lady Summerskill, reflects the complete financial dependence of the wife, and went on to say: "Is it surprising that those concerned with settling matrimonial differences find that difficulties over money are the initial cause of the troubles?" Whenever the proposal to establish an equal partnership in marriage came up, she continued, certain people

protested: "To come between husband and wife will only cause trouble!" They reminded her of the opponents of the Married Women's Property Act who had (erroneously) prophesied woe in the nineteenth century. She reminded the House that in West Germany, post-war legislation provided that husband and wife shared everything equally. "We are apt to look disparagingly on the *hausfrau*, yet she has established equal partnership in marriage."

Baroness Elliot of Harwood supported the case for a women's charter. Lord Longford spoke vigorously on equal pay for women who "receive on the average much worse chances than men and, much worse chances than their talents deserve." But the speaker who really came to grips with the vexed problem of the housewife's rights was the Earl of Dundee. "The Lord Chancellor thinks the Government would have no objection to the recommendation of the Royal Commission about the joint ownership by husband and wife of savings from the housekeeping money," he said. "This might be a suitable subject for a private member's bill. I would not like to say how much good such a measure might do, but I hope it will be followed up."

Baroness Summerskill hailed these words: "In the last few minutes, Lord Dundee has said something which in my opinion could well revolutionise the economic position of many working-class women." She lost no time in introducing the Married Women's Savings Bill which had its Second Reading on July 5th.

The Bill states: "If a wife makes savings out of what her husband gives her for housekeeping, half of any money so saved shall belong to her absolutely."

One has some sympathy with Lord Boothby when he said that if the housewife is allowed to keep half of what she saves from the housekeeping

money, it would tempt her to underfeed her husband: "The temptation will be to feed her husband—if it was on herrings, I wouldn't mind—on lentils, chips or some ghastly concoction which can be obtained in a tin for sixpence!" He himself, however, has nothing to fear as he is a bachelor!

The Earl of Dundee told Lady Summerskill that there seemed no possibility of getting the Bill through the Commons before the end of the session. He invited her to consult the Lord Chancellor about drafting a subsequent Bill, an offer she has accepted.

It seems that at long last a new deal is on the way for the housewife. We agree with the leader writer of the *Daily Mail* when he says:

"If equal pay were applied throughout industry, it would introduce an attitude of mind which would break down a bad but age-old convention, and could come to be applied to the home. Women have the vote. They should have the money too."

P. D. Cummins

BRING AND BUY SALE

Those members and friends of St. Joan's Alliance who braved the downpour on June 29th were rewarded when they reached Mrs. Bentley's beautiful home at Walton-on-Thames which she had kindly lent for the Bring and Buy Sale for *The Catholic Citizen*. The house is full of Chinese and English treasures and the garden, in spite of the rain, was looking lovely. It was an added pleasure to meet the entire Bentley family.

Things brought and bought, dips, raffles and roses, not to speak of the delicious tea (with front seats for Wimbledon on T.V. thrown in) all helped to raise £30.

The Alliance is most grateful to Mrs. Bentley and to the keen group who helped with transport, selling and the teas. One of the happiest features of a delightful afternoon was the group of children, ranging from Mrs. Moles' tall son to Dr. Shattock's latest grandchild, not forgetting the Shuldham trio who, following the O'Connor tradition, took round the lucky dips.

The reception which inaugurated the 31st Annual Conference of the British Commonwealth League was held in the beautiful setting of Marlborough House. Delegates and guests were received by the President, Mrs. Hemming, and presented to the guests of honour Sir Saville Garner, K.C.M.G., (Permanent Under Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Officer), and Lady Garner. St. Joan's Alliance was represented by Miss Brandt and Miss Challoner.

WANTED. Self-contained unfurnished flat, two rooms, kitchen and bath. Central, moderate rent. Box 5, St. Joan's Alliance.

ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

The Twentieth Council Meeting of the Alliance will be held at Freiburg, Germany, September 5th-8th. The Council Meetings will be held in the *Rathaus* on Saturday, and Sunday, September 7th and 8th.

The German Section has kindly made the following arrangements for our entertainment:

Friday, September 6th, 10 a.m. excursion by coach and lunch at the Schauinsland where there is a magnificent view of the Rhine Valley and the Black Forest.

In the afternoon, a visit to the famous international Catholic publishing house of Herder.

Saturday evening. There will be a *gemütlich* supper in the old wine-cellar restaurant, (said to be the oldest in Germany). Here delegates will have the pleasure of meeting some of the distinguished women of Freiburg.

Monday, September 9th. It is hoped delegates will stay for a coach tour to the Feldberg, the highest mountain in the Black Forest.

Accommodation. Has been arranged at the Albertus Magnus Burse at a cost of 12 marks per day for board and lodging. *Bookings for accommodation must be made direct to Dr. Bardenhewer* at 1 Sybel Strasse, Düsseldorf, Germany. She would like to know at the earliest possible moment how long delegates wish to stay.

The Council Meeting will be open to all members of the Alliance though only accredited delegates will be entitled to vote. Will those who wish to attend the Council Meeting notify the hon. secretary, St. Joan's International Alliance, 36a Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford Street, London W.1. when the agenda will be sent to them. The Conference fee for members is £1.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Ghana. The ratification by Ghana of the International Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery brings the total number of ratifications to forty-eight. It is to be hoped that this example will be followed and so greatly strengthen the hands of ECOSOC.

* * *

South Africa. On April 7th, Mrs. Helen Suzman was the only M.P. in the one hundred and sixty Member House of Assembly to speak and vote against the "No Trial anti-sabotage Bill which was passed by a combination of Government and United Party Members. Mrs. Suzman called the Bill" a gigantic blot on the Statute Book."

The Month in Parliament

Nurses

In a reply to Mr. Pavitt, the Minister of Health replied that the working hours of student nurses include 180 and 270 hours of formal instruction in a year.

Then Mr. Pavitt exclaimed that it was appalling that a girl of 22 or 23 gets 3s. 2d. an hour for a 90 hour week. Mr. Braine retorted that the recent industrial court award gave substantial increases to qualified staff and this improved the future rewards for the student nurse who has successfully completed her training. (June 24th).

Widow's Pensions

Dame Irene Ward asked about the pensions of widows of officers in the regular forces.

After Mr. Thorneycroft had referred to a table of figures appearing in the official Report, she said "May I ask my right hon. Friend whether he has given the same amount of study to the table of figures as he has given to the questions from both sides of the House."

Mr. Thorneycroft replied: "I have studied the figures and I am grateful to my hon. Friend for putting this question on the Order Paper and enabling me to look at the matter again."

Mr. Lipton then followed with, "Has not the Minister of Defence observed that some of these widows are drawing pensions which are well below the National Assistance scales. Is not that a disgraceful state of affairs?" (June 26th).

Miss Vickers asked the Civil Lord of the Admiralty what arrangements are made for the accommodation and education of the families of Her Majesty's Royal Navy at the base at Bahrein.

She also asked why men have been encouraged to go from Aden to Bahrein on the condition that they may take their families, to find that after all arrangements have been made, houses sold, new accommodation rented at fantastic prices and so on, they are unable to have their families with them.

Mr. Hay said, "If that is so it would certainly need looking at, and perhaps she will allow me to do so." (June 26th).

The Peerage Bill, by which hereditary Peeresses will be enabled to take their places in the House of Lords, was read the Third Time and passed. (June 27th).

Regulation 33b Again

On the adjournment of June 28th, Mr. Marsh raised the question of what he called "the terrifying growth" of the incidence of venereal disease in this country.

"I make no apology for bringing this subject to the House," he said, "because I think that, although it is generally regarded as an unpleasant topic it has reached proportions which make it a matter of national concern."

He referred to the latest figures which show that

in 1961 new cases reported to the special clinics totalled 141,361, that in that year complications of syphilis alone killed 600 people, that a quarter of all infected females were between 15 and 19 years of age, and that of the total increase in cases among females one-third were teenagers.

He made reference to the notorious Defence Regulation 33b adding, "The only argument I have heard against it is that it is a breach of the traditional defence of individual liberty that is an infringement of the rights of the individual to insist that he or she should go for examination and treatment."

"I regard that," he went on "as pure, woolly, doctrinaire liberalism," and added, "Since other methods have not worked, some such step as this should be carefully considered."

"I know that after the last speech I made on the subject, I was approached by a number of very respectable large organisations which said that forced treatment and inspection of this type was a monstrous infringement of the built-in rights of the individual. I am not prepared to support those rights in this respect."

The Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health (Mr. Braine) expressed his appreciation of the fact that this grave matter had been brought to the attention of the House.

He said: "It is a hopeful sign that the figures for 1962 which are not yet published suggest that the trend has at last been temporarily arrested."

For the record I should make plain that the figures quoted by the hon. Gentleman include cases of people found to be suffering from conditions which were not venereal disease. In 1961 a total of about 141,000 people attended clinics, but this included 75,000 with other conditions, of which 40,000 required no treatment at all.

"Now," went on the Minister, "I turn to the question which the hon. Gentleman asked me fairly—the question of compulsion. I am sure the House would agree that compulsory examination and treatment would be alien to our traditions and could be justified only in the most exceptional circumstances. We had experience of such measures under Defence Regulation 33b between 1942 and 1947, and that experience provides no indication that compulsion would be effective. On the contrary, I am advised that it could have unfortunate consequences. The existence of the Regulation did not increase the number of contacts receiving treatment, moreover I am bound to say this in the House, the re-introduction of compulsion would impair the confidence which exists at present between doctor and patient. It would be likely, in many cases, to deter patients from attending a clinic at all and might lead to an undesirable increase in attempted self-treatment and unqualified treatment."

C. M. Cheke.

REVIEWS

International Morality. By Alfred De Soras, S. J. (A Faith and Fact Book, Burns Oates, 9s. 6d.)

This book is the 105th in the series edited by Lancelot C. Sheppard designed to meet the challenge of the twentieth century. To assess the facts of any given international situation, one must have an informed mind, and thinking Catholics who wish to acquire a true sense of essential values will find much that is helpful in the latest addition to the series.

Father de Soras quotes Pope Pius XII on the necessity for "the universal and absolute rule of morality either in the cause of the individual or in society and in international relations," and discusses the implications of these words in our approach to the problems that face us today in the international sphere.

Mary the Mirror. By a Carthusian. (A Paraclete Book, Burns Oates, 5s.)

These meditations of a Carthusian monk on the life of Our Lady in which he shows her as Mary, the Mirror of Christ, the Vision Blest reveal his own great love for her. The book is translated from the French by a monk of Parkminster.

The Missal, Step by Step. By Gerald Vann, O.P. and Donald Young. (Burns Oates, 6s.)

This is an introduction to the use of the missal which combines the Latin text, a full translation and a simple summary of the prayers so that it can be used both by children and adults and lead gradually to the understanding of the Latin. It is a pity the illustrations are not better. **P.C.C.**

Your Child's World. Practical Guidance for Catholic Parents. By Robert P. Odenwald. (Robert Hale.)

There is little in the section on infancy in this book that is not adequately dealt with in the popular women's magazines. It is when discussing the school-age child that Dr. Odenwald has some valuable points to make to Catholic parents. He describes the difficulty a child may experience in separating actual events from fantasy so that what to an adult may seem a lie may not be so to the child. The importance of constantly assuring children of the mercy and goodness of God and the care which must be taken when talking about hell and punishment are rightly emphasized.

His views on sex education are interesting although one may wonder why "special teaching in this subject should be given to little girls." The opinion that emotional control entails mastery and not suppression of impulses and passions is important as is the fact that the Commandments relating to sex are not the only ones that count in a child's education.

It is refreshing to read that children of working mothers who are "well guided and enjoy the

mother's love when she is at home . . . may even be better fitted to assume responsibilities than more sheltered children because they have been given a greater measure of freedom."

But perhaps the most important message of this book is contained in the final paragraph: "if you pursue your role as parent with love, kindness and understanding, you need have no real fear of what the future will bring." **M. H. Harper**

BOOKS RECEIVED

Fifty Meditations on the Passion. By Archbishop Goodier, S. J.

Delight in the Lord. Notes of Spiritual Direction and Exhortations. By Daniel Considine, S. J. (Both Paraclete Books, Burns Oates, each 5s.)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Women's Service Guilds have addressed a letter, signed by the State President of the W.S. Guilds, Mrs. Hope Rankin, to the University Registrar, expressing the strongest disapproval at the proposal to amend the University Act of 1911 with the intention of altering Clause 40 which reads:

"The provisions of this Act and all the benefits, advantages and privileges of the University shall extend to women equally with men."

Should this clause be amended, it would do away with the present principle of equality of advantages and privileges between men and women students. It is sincerely to be hoped that no such retrograde step will be taken.

* * *

At a public conference on the condition of the Aborigines held in Perth under the auspices of the Western Australia Native Welfare Council in April, the training of Aborigine girls was raised by Miss Talbot. It was agreed to call a special meeting of women's organisations to give full consideration to the status of Aborigine girls and women, both from a social and an economic point of view.—*The Dawn*.

OLYMPIC GAMES

Thanks to Sheila Waddington, formerly Sheila Willcox, women riders will compete for the first time for the Gold Medal at the Olympic Games to be held at Tokyo. Three times winner of the Badminton Horse Trials, champion of Europe at Copenhagen in 1957, this fearless rider has carried on a long campaign to get the event thrown open to women; although she was repeatedly told: "It's too dangerous for them," she persisted, and finally, in December, 1962, the International Equestrian Federation announced that it would allow women to compete at Tokyo. Congratulations to Mrs. Waddington who has thus cleared the stiffest fence of her career—she is now training for the event, and we wish her every success on her horse Up and Coming.

HERE AND THERE

The shortage of girls at Basildon, Essex, has become so acute that boys leaving school are being taken on as sewing machinists.

The number of boys who are on the way to being qualified sempsters at Basildon, however, is not large, and the factory which is taking them on is not finding that all are as adaptable or patient as girls. Of six boys taken on during the last three months, only two are still on the machines.

Mrs. Iris Gibson, the manageress of the Julian Jerseywear factory, says the boys are "not in love with it." She finds that she has to take more boys off the machines than she would girls, and after three months training boys, she says: "I don't want the publicity about this because I don't want to be snowed under with boys."

Of the six boys who started training as machinists, three have transferred to cutting and one to dispatch, which are by tradition men's jobs.

The two who survived are doing well and are now engaged on sewing darts in skirts. One of them Keith Walker, aged 15, said that he enjoyed the work and that he had not been mocked for doing girl's work. "Its a good job," he said, "and I don't see why I should change."

The Guardian.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

V.L.M. in 'The Catholic Citizen', July-August, 1938

Readers who recall the letter in our last issue sent by ten Women's International Organisations to the International Labour Conference on the subject of the employment of indigenous women, will be interested to hear the report of the discussions which took place at the Conference on the subject. . . The passage in Section 18 of the draft questionnaire against which the International Organisations protest was chiefly directed, read as follows:

"Women not to be permitted to conclude contracts except when accompanying and for employment with their husbands or adult male relatives, or for employment as domestic servants."

A very full discussion took place on this Section and several amendments were proposed. The Spanish Government said that the text "suggested a wide restriction of the right of women to accept written contracts of employment. The purpose of any provisions adopted should be to protect the woman during employment rather than deprive her of her right to seek employment." . . .

The amended questionnaire though by no means perfect, is considerably improved, and we thank those members of the Committee who helped to achieve this result.—*International Labour Conference.*

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