

Catholic Citizen

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

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Price Twopence

Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give;
Who knows the gifts which you shall give,
Daughter of the Newer Eve?

—Francis Thompson.

The Old, Old Story

BY ELIZABETH ABBOTT

To the average reader, comfortably ignorant of Trade Union history, Mrs. Hamilton's little book entitled "Women at Work: a brief Introduction to Trade Unionism for women" (Routledge 5s.) gives a certain amount of useful information. It opens with a chapter on the numbers of women employed in normal times and passes on to an explanation of the value of Trade Unionism as such, and the position of women in Trade Union organisation to-day. There follows the history of the Women's Trade Union League up to the moment, after the last war, when the National Federation of Women Workers with more than a million members became a "district" of the General and Municipal Workers' Union—an unfortunate term since it suggests to some of us that other term, "a depressed area". Subsequent chapters deal with Trade Boards, women's work from 1914-1918 and after, a survey of the position of women in certain trades, a chapter on women's wages, and another mainly on the question of the right of the married woman to work—a question left in the air by the writer—and the difficulty of organising women in general.

The final chapter is entitled "And Now?", and records those successes which have been won since the outbreak of the present war, notably the agreements with the Transport Unions that women substitutes after six months service are to have the man's rate for the job, the Boot and Shoe Trade Agreement on January 1940 that in certain processes which are almost exclusively reserved for men in peace time, women shall receive the men's rate; and the May 1940 agreement for substitution arrived at

between the Engineering Employers Federation and the N.U. of General and Municipal Workers and Transport Workers' Federation, that after training qualified women are to get the wage rate of the men they replace. These women are to be regarded as temporary workers, and after the war men are to be reinstated.

Those of us who have some knowledge of the past history of male Trade Unionism, and of its attitude towards the woman worker, knowledge, too, of the inter-war period, and also of some present facts, cannot be expected to take Mrs. Hamilton's book, as being in itself a valuable document, or of genuine help to the still underpaid woman worker. In her preface the author writes: "If errors of fact and heresies of interpretation appear, they are wholly my own". Alas! there are no heresies in this little volume. The writer's thoughts flow placidly in all the well-worn channels of ordinary Trade Union thought. Here is the old old story. Women are ill paid because they are ill organised. They are ill organised because they are badly paid. The men have feared them as black-legs: and have sometimes even treated them unjustly. Once upon a time the male Unions closed their doors to women. But with certain exceptions that day is past. They are now to be welcomed as equals. Let them come into the mixed Unions. "Loyalty and comradeship . . . are precious gains that Trade Unionism can bring to women . . . Trade Union membership can help, and that potently, to rid women of the sense of being inferior creatures." It was perhaps a little tactless of the author to add on the page immediately following the above quotation: "Few are the Unions which expect their women members to share in the leadership of the

**Women at Work. A Brief Introduction to Trade Unionism for Women.* By M. A. Hamilton. (Routledge. 5s.)

Union, although all expect—and get—a very high standard of fellowship from them . . . How true.

And how familiar it all sounds. Mrs. Hamilton's book is blood relation to that drive to organise women made every three years or so by the T.U.C. Every time it falls short of success; and so it must until there arises a leader who will face all the facts (not a selection of them) and draw the right conclusions.

It is not error of fact which mars Mrs. Hamilton's book, but the omission of some facts, a failure to co-relate facts, and the making of statements which the facts do not warrant. Here is one statement which should be examined. "If the position of the woman war worker is to-day fairer and more favourable than it was a quarter of a century ago, she has Trade Union action to thank for it . . . For the measure of fair treatment they now enjoy women workers have mainly to thank the Trade Union leaders, men and women, who upheld their cause first in the years between 1918 and 1939, and then since the outbreak of war". Now these statements suggest a continuous and, to use one of the author's favourite words, "selfless" endeavour by the Trade Unions to get fair treatment—and fair treatment is nothing less than equal opportunity and the rate for the job (equal pay) for women.

It is strictly true that, since the outbreak of war it is the Unions concerned which have negotiated the man's rate for the woman substitute. But where, during the years 1919 to 1938, are the efforts to get the same occupational rate for women? Where has there been any effective propaganda for equal pay for the same or similar work? Where has there been any protest from the Unions as to the absolutely artificial division of labour into "men's work" (carrying a high rate of pay) and "women's work" (carrying a low rate of pay)? Surely Mrs. Hamilton knows that during those years many Unions have not only negotiated much lower wage rates for women than for men, but have also made many agreements with employers forbidding women to do many classes of work—not necessarily heavy work: but work which the men desired to reserve for themselves at the male rate of wages. Where has there been any protest from the Unions as to the misuse of the Trade Board Acts? These were intended to lay down a minimum wage rate in certain trades. They have been used to lay down widely varying minima, far higher for the man worker than for the woman: and certain of these Trade Board agreements, by making the rate apply to

males only, exclude women from the higher paid processes. Why then this sudden change in 1939 and 1940? Have the men's Unions changed their hearts overnight? We know it is not so—and that the present "fair treatment" to women war workers has not been fought for in order to treat women fairly, but to safeguard the man's rate of wages. Why not say so frankly? It happened in 1914-1918—though not so completely as to-day. Certain lessons were learnt then as to the dangers of substitution, and Trade Unionists are concerned that the same mistakes should not be made again. Far be it from us to condemn men for safeguarding their hard won wage rates. It is their right and their duty to do so. This may secure fair play for women—but that is not the prime motive.

While this review is being written the Typographical Union, in spite of the scarcity of men, is refusing to allow women to work the linotype machine: work which is light and "suitable" for women! And, more interesting still, a woman Trade Union organiser is not up in arms, fighting the battle for women. On the contrary she states "This is a domestic affair of the Union". Where is the loyalty, the comradeship, the leadership, the selflessness of Unionism which Mrs. Hamilton continually exalts?

Mrs. Hamilton, without errors of fact, manages to give an entirely false picture of the attitude of male Trade Unionism towards women, and of the benefits likely to accrue to women by joining Trade Unions en masse.

Let it not be thought that this criticism of the picture drawn by Mrs. Hamilton means opposition to the necessary organisation of women in Trade Unions. The criticism is of the *leadership* (in the hands of men as the author points out) and to the policy and aims put forward for women. Mrs. Hamilton accepts Mrs. Sydney Webb's plea for equal pay—the standard rate for the job. She does not mention that at the same time Mrs. Webb recommended the sweeping away of all discriminations and special conditions based on sex and the setting up of a high standard of health and amenity in the factory for all. The organisation of women is not only difficult, it will remain *impossible* until policy and aims are changed. Only for complete equality, liberty and responsibility, within a common framework of safeguarding law, can women be organised. This war may help women: or it may not. All depends on future policy. The woman worker needs not a docile Trade Union or Labour Party follower as a leader. She needs a heretic; another Emma Patterson.

Notes and Comments

On May 30th, anniversary of the burning of St. Joan, our member, Canon Reardon, kindly offered Holy Mass for the Alliance, at St. Patrick's, Soho. A laurel wreath tied in our colours was placed on the shrine of St. Joan, in Westminster Cathedral.

* * *

St. Joan's Alliance mourns the loss by death, as a result of enemy action, of Miss Elizabeth Mary Bowden, the devoted Hon. Secretary of the Liverpool Branch, for whom we ask prayers. R.I.P.

Miss Bowden was a teacher in the Bishop Goss School, attached to St. Joseph's, Liverpool, and had been Hon. Secretary of the Liverpool and District Branch of the Alliance for the last five years. Miss Bowden's father was an ardent supporter of Josephine Butler when she was working in Liverpool.

Holy Mass was offered, on behalf of the Alliance, for the repose of her soul, at St. Patrick's, Soho, and the headquarters Hon. Secretary attended the Requiem at St. Clare's, Sefton Park, and the burial in Allerton Cemetery. We offer our deep sympathy to Miss Bowden's brothers, to Mrs. McCann and our other Liverpool colleagues, in their great loss. Elsewhere we publish appreciations of Elizabeth Bowden from our Liverpool Branch.

* * *

Members will be glad to know that we have received news that our colleagues in France are all well and ready to take up the work again when circumstances permit.

* * *

The Government will shortly introduce a bill to raise the rates of National Health Insurance benefits for sickness and disablement by 3s. a week, with effect from Jan. 5 next.

At the same time black-coated workers earning up to £420 a year will be brought within compulsory health and pensions insurance. Rates of contributions will be raised by 2d. a week for men and women, 1d. being paid by the employer and 1d. by the worker.

Mr. Arthur Greenwood, Minister without Portfolio, is to conduct an investigation into legislation which will be needed later for a thorough overhaul of health insurance, pensions and workmen's compensation. We trust that when this overhaul takes place we shall at last see the elimination of all differentiations on the ground of sex in insurance and pensions legislation.

Hospital-trained nurses have asked the Ministry of Health to help them to get better salaries.

They agree with the Ministry's recommendation that student nurses should receive £40 a year, compared with the £20-£25 which has ruled for many years in hospitals, and with the increased rates for the Civil Nursing Reserve. But they suggest that the nursing profession is entitled to increases on a similar scale and to conditions which would bring it into line with other professions open to women.

The Royal College of Nursing, to which over 30,000 fully trained nurses and 8,000 students or probationers belong, laid a definite scale before the Ministry on May 29th. It ranges from £600 to £1,000 a year for the matron of a hospital of over 500 beds to £140 to £200 for sisters and £100 to £150 for staff nurses.—*Daily Telegraph*.

* * *

We congratulate Mother Mary of the Cross of Tyburn Convent who on May 23rd celebrated her religious Silver Jubilee. Mother Mary was an ardent member of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society and the W.S.P.U. and as a young girl she spoke in support of Votes for Women on the seashore at Hove. "What a hard, uphill work it was dealing with the man in the street and how much harder dealing, as Miss Jeffery had the courage to do, with the good, pious people who *could* not see . . . It is a great joy for me to follow from afar the movement that I have never dissociated from my love of the Church, appreciating it, if anything more as the years go by."

Her Mother, Mrs. O'Brien Christitch (R.I.P.) and her sister, Miss Annie Christitch were also ardent workers for the C.W.S.S. and well known in the International Women's Movement. *Ad Multos Annos*.

* * *

Spend the afternoon at Hampstead on Saturday, June 21st. From 3 p.m., 5 Holly Place (3 mins. from Hampstead Tube Station) will be open to you and tea will be served (1s.). There will be opportunity for walks and recreation on the Heath, after which Buffet supper will be provided (1s. 9d.). Help to swell the funds of St. Joan's Alliance. Each member is asked to **bring and buy** a useful gift. Food, soap, stationery, crockery, matches, etc., are suggested. R.S.V.P. to the Office if you are coming.

Would country members help us by sending a gift?

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

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55 BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.1. Tel. Museum 4181

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

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"Women and Work"

An article by Miss Joan Morris under the above heading appeared in the CATHOLIC CITIZEN of October 1940. This article has been very widely quoted, notably in *Le Mouvement Féministe* (Geneva) and the *Southern Cross* (Cape Town). It is an honour that this should be so, but the latter paper has a contribution by Mary Singleton which is in effect an attack levelled against Miss Joan Morris' contribution to our paper. We feel that Mrs. Singleton, because she is keen to present to her readers a certain view-point, has indulged in a certain amount of misrepresentation. Briefly, Miss Morris wished to state that women should not be denied work or the development of their capacities because of any false "back to the home" slogan. She proposes that men and women, even whole families, including the children, should be enabled to work together at one trade or profession, since work binds all together "in a way that recreations and pastimes can never do". She points out, what is very often quite true, especially in British family life, that "the man who carries out his business as something quite apart from his family life causes a big crevice between him and his wife." Women's contribution to the support of the home, she goes on to say, used to be purely within that home, but the coming of a mechanised age has narrowed the scope of housecraft and now "both (men and women) have obvious equal rights to wage-earning", in order to supply the family needs. But (and this is the most important sentence in the article) "Work is first and foremost the exercise of our creative faculties in the production of things and in the service of mankind. To deny woman the right to exercise these powers is to cripple and cramp her nature". She ends by declaring that instead of "one section lying more or less dormant . . . All should give their best to the general benefit of humanity".

Mrs. Singleton, on the opposing side so to speak, seems to think that any work outside the home must remove the woman both literally and spiritually away from the family. "To me there is no more un-Catholic picture than a home where the man and the woman work as wage-earners and the children are left to outsiders to rear." But Joan Morris writes: "Where this is so (i.e., where work takes the woman away from the home) the work might be reorganised to suit the woman". Whatever may be thought of the practicability or no of Joan Morris' development of this idea, it is quite clear that she does not wish the neglect of the children. "In the greater number of cases children do not lose by the mother taking work", she writes, "as she is keener and more able to understand how to prepare her children for the world in which she has taken her full part". This does not look as though Joan Morris subscribed to the children being "left to outsiders to rear".

We think Mary Singleton's picture of the wife greeting her husband "with rested body and mind" and sharing "with him the events of her day and of his" is somewhat sentimental and out-dated for a wartime world. At any rate in England to-day it is more likely that husband and wife would be discussing the sharing-out of A.R.P. duties, or that the wife, busy with billetees, would call to her husband to lend her a hand with the supper—that is to say if the husband were anywhere within the home vicinity at all. And has Mary Singleton forgotten that in a peace-time world, in France and many other Catholic countries, the wife often has a very large share in her husband's business? Even when his business is not a family affair the wife is invariably consulted over any important decision since the husband feels that two heads are better than one. There is not the same problem of "married women's

work" as in England, simply because the majority of the women are married and there would be no woman labour at all if married women were not permitted to work outside the home.

We will, however, quote two sentences from Mary Singleton's article, clearly showing her point of view:

"Throughout the article there runs the sound of 'equality' of men and women; men and women will never be equal for they were never meant to be equal; they are complementary to each other, and each should see in the other something to be admired and respected but not imitated, for they are by very nature different. Especially in the home is this so; each has his or her sphere to fill and success in home life is attained when each brings to their task a full knowledge of their separate responsibilities, making of their two parts one sound whole."

"It is very easy to fall into the habit of scoffing at the slogan 'back to the home', but it is a very dangerous habit to acquire. There is no career that demands more in work and effort than the career of wife and mother, and that the walls of the home are the witness of her work makes her career little known, but what greater task can any woman achieve than to make a home happy and contented? No 'Career' woman can hold a candle to the 'home' woman, who is in very truth dealing with souls as her business."

"May the day be not far distant when there will be far fewer women employed in office and shop and factory," continues Mary Singleton. Well, unless the war ends promptly, I fear that day will not come very soon in the belligerent countries.

We have shown the possibility of men and women co-operating in business. It remains true that many women find their fulfilment and their vocation in home life, and in it their best service to humanity. But it is just as true that they should not narrow themselves to this one aspect, for to do so is good neither for husband, children, nor themselves. Even the largest family grows up and then where is mother if she has cultivated no outside interests? Indeed, if she has not done so, where is she to-day in this war-time world of scattered homes? Through putting all her eggs in one basket she becomes a burden to herself and to other people.

When this war is over women will probably rush back to the vocation of homekeeping, for there is no doubt that many will find relief and solace in a more varied occupation after the monotony of factory work. But the majority will probably always remain grateful for a widened outlook on human affairs.

Joan Morris is right. Woman should be able to use her creative faculties to the full. "To deny woman the right to exercise these powers is to cripple and cramp her nature. All should give their best to the general benefit of humanity."

CHRISTINE SPENDER.

Elizabeth Bowden, R.I.P.

MRS. McCANN, Chairman of the Liverpool Branch: Dear, lovable, kind Miss Bowden. I cannot tell you how much I will miss her; we talked over everything together. Instead of flowers (she did not want them) we are having a novena of Masses said for her.

When she was away in the country with the evacuee children from her school last year, there was no Mass for them on Sunday, so she gathered them in the school-room on Sunday mornings and read the Mass right through for them, and in the afternoon said the Rosary, and they sang Benediction hymns. Sometime later, when they were back, the priest giving them religious instruction on the Mass asked: "Who says Mass?" "Miss Bowden," was the surprising reply the priest got from all the children together.

To know Miss Bowden as I did, intimately, was to love and admire her. She radiated contentment more than anyone I have ever known, doing her best for everyone from her own niche in life. Her loss to St. Joan's is irreparable. She gave us loyalty and steadfastness—and all her friends. I feel she will always be near us and guiding us in our work for the Alliance, a work we must try and carry on according to the example she gave us and which will ever live in our memory. R.I.P.

Miss M. HICKEY, Hon. Hist. Oxon. F.C.C.S.:

"Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

In writing this appreciation, the one insistent thought in my mind is that Elizabeth would have joyfully made the supreme sacrifice, and would wish all her friends to echo with her the words of Our Lord: "Thy will be done."

When first I met Miss Bowden, it was her bright, attractive and dignified personality which made its appeal to me. Later on, when privileged to know her intimately, the quality which impressed me most was the deep and arresting contentment with which she regarded her allotted niche in this world of ours. She loved her teaching work, which was to her a vocation. She was utterly devoted to Christ's little ones and yet found ample time to bestow profound thought and attention on social problems, especially those concerned with the natural rights and welfare of women and children. The whole of her career and outlook was motivated by her attitude to existence itself, the *raison d'être* of which was to her "What could be put into life," not "What could be got out of it."

I well remember on one occasion a number of us were discussing the subject of promotion in the teaching profession, and Miss Bowden quietly said that she was content to make the most of her position in a primary school. Our beloved secretary valiantly rose to the emergencies of war. Her home was always open to the bombed victims; her constant attention given to her war committee work, including the Catholic Women's League Huts' Committee, and her loyal weekly attendance at the Soroptomist Club Soldiers' Canteen in Dale Street.

I should like to conclude this appreciation with a message which I feel sure Elizabeth would wish me to convey to all her friends in The Alliance, at home and overseas, grouped under the banner of St. Joan. It is this: "Do not mourn me. Do not grieve. All is well and Everything is worth while. Take courage dear ones. Have faith and confidence in the Divine and Carry On."

SAME RISK, SAME RATE

In last month's CATHOLIC CITIZEN we noted that on May 1st Mrs. Tate moved in the House that the Personal Injuries (Civilians) Scheme, made under the Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act, be annulled in order to remedy the grave injustice of inequality of compensation between the sexes. Sir Walter Womersley, in winding up the debate which followed, said:

"I am quite prepared to consider carefully all that has been said in this Debate. . . I am prepared to hear opinions at any time, and . . . this is not the last word on civil compensation. I am certain of that, because in the light of experience I am bound to find ways and means of improving things, and if I can improve them, I shall do so; because it is my desire not to go down to history as a Minister of Pensions who was a petty-minded, pettifogging, mean person, but, on the other hand, I am not going to seek cheap popularity by handing out money in every direction simply because this task has been entrusted to me and I want to become a popular Minister. What I am out to do is this—to give justice to all those who have fair claims and fair play to the taxpayer, who has to find the money."

The House divided Ayes 30 Noes 80 as follows:

AYES.

Barr, J.; Baxter, A. Beverley; Bevan, A.; Brooke, H.; Cazalet, Thelma; Charleton, H. C.; Davidson, Viscountess; Davies, Clement; George, Megan Lloyd; Granville, E. L.; Hannah, I. C.; Hannon, Sir P. J. H.; Hardie, Agnes; Harvey, T. E.; Hill, Dr. A. V.; Horabin, T. L.; Hughes, Moelwyn; Isaacs, G. A.; Lipson, D. L.; Morris-Jones, Sir Henry; Pethick-Lawrence, Rt. Hon. F. W.; Rathbone, Beatrice F.; Rathbone, Eleanor; Rothschild, J. A. de; Sloan, A.; Thomas, Dr. W. S. Russell; Ward, Irene M. B.; Wilson, C. H.; Wright, Wing Commander J. A. C.

Tellers for the Ayes.—Mrs. Tate and Dr. Summerskill.

NOES.

Adamson, W. M.; Albery, Sir Irving; Amery, Rt. Hon. L. C. M. S.; Anderson, Rt. Hon. Sir J.; Aske, Sir R. W.; Assheton, R.; Attlee, Rt. Hon. C. R.; Beauchamp, Sir B. C.; Beaumont, Hubert; Bernays, R. H.; Bevin, Rt. Hon. E.; Blair, Sir R.; Boulton, W. W.; Brass, Capt. Sir W.; Brocklebank, Sir C. E. R.; Caine, G. R. Hall; Campbell, Sir E. T.; Courthope, Col. Rt. Hon. Sir G. L.; Crookshank, Capt. Rt. Hon. H. F. C.; Crowder, J. F. E.; Drewe, C.; Duckworth, Arthur; Ede, J. C.; Emrys-Evans, P. V.; Evans, Colonel A.; Fremantle, Sir F. E.; George, Major G. Lloyd; Gibson, R.; Gower, Sir R. V.; Grenfell, D. R.; Grimston, R. V.; Harris, Rt. Hon. Sir P. A.; Hely-Hutchinson, M. R.; Henderson, J. J. Craik; Hopkinson, A.; Hudson, Rt. Hon. R. S.; Hurd, Sir P. A.; Jeffreys, Gen. Sir G. D.; Johnston, Rt. Hon. T.; Jones, Sir G. W. H.; Kerr, Sir John Graham; Lathan, G.; Lloyd, G. W.; Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. O.; Mabane, W.; Makins, Brig.-Gen. Sir E.; Mitchell, Colonel H. P.; Montague, F.; Munro, P.; O'Neill, Rt. Hon. Sir H.; Paling, W.; Peake, O.; Plugge, Capt. L. F.; Pym, L. R.; Reed, Sir H. S.; Reid, W. Allan; Ridley, G.; Royds, Admiral Sir P. M. R.; Russell,

Sir A.; Salter, Dr. A.; Sanderson, Sir F. B.; Scott, Donald; Shakespeare, G. H.; Stuart, Rt. Hon. J.; Thomas, J. P. L.; Tomlinson, G.; Touche, G. C.; Wakefield, W. W.; Ward, Col. Sir A. L.; Waterhouse, Capt. C.; Wedderburn, H. J. S.; Wickham, Lt.-Col. E. T. R.; Williams, C.; Williams, T.; Windsor, W.; Winterton, Rt. Hon. Earl; Womersley, Rt. Hon. Sir W. J.; Wood, Rt. Hon. Sir K.; Young, A. S. L.

Tellers for the Noes.—Major Sir James Edmondson and Major Dugdale.

We ask our members to scrutinise the above lists and, if the name of their M.P. appears to let him know either of their approval or disapproval. Pressure must be continued until justice is secured by equal compensation rates.

In this connection we urge all our London members to attend the Mass Meeting, to claim equal compensation for war injury, at the Kingsway Hall on June 24th at 6-30 p.m. Admission free. Reserved seats 1/- from St. Joan's Alliance. For particulars of speakers see our advertisement columns.

ETHEL FROUD

We offer our deepest sympathy to the National Union of Women Teachers on the death of their first General Secretary, Miss Ethel E. Froud, who gave twenty-three years of arduous work to secure for women teachers equal pay and equal opportunities with their men colleagues.

Miss Froud was an ardent worker in the suffrage movement from 1914-1917 and took a prominent part in the later campaign for equal franchise. St. Joan's Alliance has happy memories of working in close contact with her during this campaign which was brought to a successful issue in 1928.

A brilliant speaker, and incisive writer on feminist subjects, Miss Froud's unbounded confidence in women's capacity, her own indomitable courage and refusal to compromise on first principles made her a magnificent leader in the woman's movement, and her death is a loss not only to the National Union of Women Teachers to which she devoted so many years of her life, but to the whole woman's movement.

In her last message to the York Conference of the N.U.W.T. at Easter, Miss Froud wrote saying that she knew that younger members would carry on the good work of the N.U.W.T. while older colleagues, the pioneers, remained convinced that the watchword for women is still that found on the Union's banner: "Who would be free herself must strike the blow". Flowers tied with our colours were sent from the Alliance to her funeral at Brighton.

International Notes

France has always honoured St. Joan of Arc on the second Sunday of May. Her Feast has been celebrated by the Church and been recognised by statesmen, clerics and laypeople as an occasion of National rejoicing. This year on Sunday, May 11th, the Chaplain of the Free French forces sang the Mass of St. Joan, at Westminster Cathedral, in the presence of His Eminence Cardinal Hinsley. His Lordship Bishop Myers preached in French before a great assembly of French people. The French soldiers in this country paraded before the Mass with flags and banners flying and music playing. Our Chairman, Miss Challoner, was present.

* * * * *

On May 15th, at the Polish "Foyer," in Emperor's Gate, representatives of women's papers and women's societies were invited to a lecture on "The Polish Family Under the Nazi Regime," given by Madame Davan, who represented the Polish Ministry of Information. Surrounded by pictures of the happy and peaceful Poland of former days, the description of the humiliations now poured forth on the Polish people by their German oppressors was all the more poignant and distressing. Beautiful carved figures wearing the peasant dress of the different districts of Poland were exhibited. They were carved and dressed by the hands of artists. May the day be not far off when Poland shall return to her former glories!

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Miss B. L. Hutchins quoted in the "Catholic Suffragist," June, 1916:

"War inevitably means for the time the predominance of man over woman, the predominance of the soldier over the industrial, the predominance of reaction over democracy. It is significant that the stress of war was quickly seized as a pretext for suspending the protection of the industrial workers by the State, and for relaxing the Education Acts. . . The problems offered by the great war, gigantic and staggering as they are, are not so different in kind from, though vaster in degree and more appalling than, the problem of the industrial revolution itself. Each is a problem of the development of material civilisation, which has (we know it now too poignantly) far out-distanced the growth of civilisation on its social and spiritual side. Each includes the question whether man is to be the master or the slave of the mechanic powers his own genius has evoked. Neither can ever be solved without the conscious co-operation of Woman and Labour, failing which we must for ever fall short of the highest possibilities of our race.—*Women in Modern Industry.*"

Passing on the Torch

On Wednesday, May 21st, the Chairman and Hon. Secretary of St. Joan's Alliance visited Coloma, Croydon, the recognised Secondary School of the Ladies of Mary. By the kindness of Reverend Mother and the acting Headmistress (Mother Marie Lucie), Miss Challoner had been invited by a member of the Staff to give the girls a lecture on the Woman's Movement. Her speech—a perfect miniature of a speech—set forth in logical fashion the Catholic origin of the honouring of womanhood, the contrast in the status of women in this country before and after the Reformation, the long constitutional and the brief militant struggle for the vote, the use of the franchise, and lastly the still urgent need for vigilance and agitation in defence of women's hard-won rights.

The girls listened with absorbed attention to their first history lesson on Woman Suffrage, then put many good questions to the speaker, and have since demanded of the teaching staff a debate and further information on the subject. Altogether, an excellent harvest to our Chairman's skilful sowing, and "Coloma" showed its lively gratitude.

E. B.

HON. TREASURER'S NOTE

Unfortunately there still remains a deficit of £5 6s. which has not yet been covered by the deficit 10s. fund. We draw our members' attention to this fact and beg them not to delay in sending 10s. to help cover the debt. We are aware that there are very many more monetary demands on everybody than heretofore, but we feel sure that once members and friends are reminded of our need they will not fail to come to our aid.

Latest donations are from: Miss Christitch £1 1s.; Miss Crosse 5s.; Mrs. Dixon Davies 10s.; Miss E. C. Fortey 10s.; Miss Graham 10s.; Mrs. Harrington 10s.; Miss Hopkins 5s.; Miss Lynn 12s.; Miss Cayzer Lloyd 2s. 6d.; Miss Ryan 3s. 6d.; Mrs. Saint George 5s., to all of whom we offer grateful thanks.

We hope to re-start the Market Barrow after Whitsun and shall be most grateful for any old clothes, etc., that readers can spare since we depend on our sales to cover at least half the office rent. Please turn out your drawers and cupboards and send the results of your rummage to the Office.

J. M. ORGAN.

We congratulate Miss Johnstone, former Hon. Treasurer of our Liverpool Branch, on her marriage to Mr. Fitzsimmons, which took place recently. We offer Mr. and Mrs. Fitzsimmons warmest wishes for their future happiness.

We congratulate our member Mrs. Apthorp (née Ruth Barry) on the birth of a son, John Michael.

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