

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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

Vol. XXXV. No. 7.

15th JULY, 1949.

Price Fourpence.

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 Report of the Royal Commission on Population

By B. M. Halpern

One of the most confusing moral problems—to-day or at any time—is that of two or more conflicting “goods.” It is particularly easy, in a period when absolute standards are challenged at every intellectual and moral level, to pursue one good, practically, and with the best of motives, at the expense of another, in this case a high standard of living and a Christian family life. If one does not permit oneself to do this, the result may well be an “impasse,” a stop to apparent progress, an “insoluble problem.” But, in all humility, those of us who do believe in absolute standards are not afraid to admit that we ourselves may be unable to solve a given problem. The best we can often do, practically as well as theoretically, is to be thoroughly contradictory and follow both goods at once, however much they appear to cancel each other out.

This somewhat moralistic introduction is designed to explain what must, I feel, be our view, as Catholic women, of the report of the Royal Commission on Population, Cmd. 7695, published on June 20th.

The Commission was appointed “to examine the facts relating to the present population trends in Great Britain; to investigate the causes of these trends and to consider their probable consequences; to consider what measures, if any, should be taken in the national interest to influence the future trend of population and to make recommendations.”

In the first place it traces the historical causes of the vast growth of our population in the nineteenth century and its subsequent decline. It also raises the difficult point that the higher the standards of intelligence of parents, the smaller the family they seem likely to have. This brings out one of the most peculiar and unexpected effects of the great social advances of the last century—better health services, compulsory education, greater leisure, etc.—that by producing higher standards, the expenses and handicaps of parents, relative to those of other people, have been greatly increased. If this is not to become a vicious circle the family must, as the Commission

says, no longer be “overlooked, or given a minor place in social policy.”

Wrestling with the rival bogeys of over- and under-population, the Commission explains that we are slightly below “replacement rate” and that the size of the family has been stable for the last twenty years or so at about 2.2 children, whereas 2.4 would be needed to keep the whole population static. They discuss the various arguments for and against large populations, in connection with the needs of emigration, economic theories and national defence. They finally reach the moderate conclusion “that if the average size of the family were to increase somewhat in consequence of measures of family welfare, this would not constitute to-day a serious disadvantage.” A fact which has, they add, “cleared the way for measures that are inherently desirable and just.”

Many of the measures advocated by the Commission are, as they claim, inherently desirable and just, and we would—indeed we hope we will—welcome them with delight.

They condemn utterly any attempt to restrict “the contribution that women can make to the cultural and economic life of the nation” and urge, as we do, that adjustments “be made that would render it easier for women to combine motherhood and the care of the home with outside activities.” Their suggestions include increased family allowances, including the first child and payable during pregnancy, larger income tax reliefs to benefit salaried parents, and a number of aids and facilities including communal laundries, home helps, nursery schools, holidays for mothers and housing priorities.

All these are undeniably “desirable and just” and their financing must, the report urges, be balanced against other forms of State expenditure—such as old age pensions and food subsidies—so as to give a more actually, instead of actuarially, fair distribution of benefits. What is more, they claim that “the economic deterrents to parenthood are still formidable” and that “hardship is still concentrated on the family in an undesirable degree” and that therefore “a moderate extension

of assistance to parents" is not merely "a desirable objective of long-term policy but . . . an urgent need."

The Commission was not entirely unaware of the less material side of the problem. They said: "We believe that the instinctive desire for a family and the realisation of its lasting satisfactions may be relied upon, given reasonable social conditions, to ensure that families will be of sufficient size to replace the population from one generation to another." Their attitude was, however, conditioned by practical causes and effects. It may be argued that in this the Commission were keeping strictly to their terms of reference, "but where a whole sub-division of the report is headed "Imponderables" and such questions as military security and the survival of Western Culture are discussed, some further emphasis on the spiritual values of family life might not have been out of place.

The Commission takes the admitted fact that artificial birth control is now being widely practised, and assumes that it must therefore be accepted as a permanent and basic necessity. The report says: "We agree with the view that there is nothing inherently wrong in the use of mechanical methods of contraception. Our survey of the history of family limitation leaves us in no doubt that, if these methods were unavailable other means would be used, and some of them, e.g., criminal abortion, the prevalence of which is even now distressingly high, are very undesirable."

The Commission recommends, therefore, that the National Health Service accept the duty of providing free advice on contraception to married persons, in conjunction with advice on infecundity.

At this point we must differ and return to our, no doubt, less "rational" but also possibly less presumptuous, belief that, however good the reasons for it may appear to be, the short cut is not the best way home.

We must nevertheless wholeheartedly admire the care and conscientiousness with which the Commission has done its work. May its many invaluable and financially moderate suggestions not be strangled by red tape or starved by austerity.

Duckett

Britain's Greatest Catholic Book Centre

140 Strand, W.C.2. FACING ALDWYCH

New and Second-hand Catholic Books in all languages sent all over the world.

READ DUCKETT'S REGISTER.

The new Catholic Literary Monthly, 3d. per copy; 4/- per annum, post free.

Telephone: TEM. 3008 Telegrams: Gallows, Estrand, London.

International Notes

Italy. The Italian Senate Commission has unanimously approved the Bill introduced by Senator Boggiano Pico; it prohibits the maisons tolérées, the registration of prostitutes and compulsory treatment for venereal disease.

We congratulate our Italian colleagues, particularly Signora de Silvestri whose courage, hard work and persistence has brought the matter to this stage. We trust that the Bill will be passed into law without further delay.

* * *

United Nations. Among resolutions passed at the Third Conference of International non-Governmental Organisations at Lake Success in April was one on Education and the United Nations. Point II of this resolution emphasises the necessity of trying new methods of presentation of the principles of U.N. so that these might reach "people of varied backgrounds and needs, such as inhabitants of under-developed areas, and persons who have had little schooling, for whom the more formal methods of teaching are not suitable . . ." and, further, that special techniques should be developed "to reach through accredited educational channels the men, women and children of Trust Territories and Non-Self Governing Territories in Africa and throughout the world in order that these people may be well informed of the work of the United Nations and the Specialised Agencies." Madame Wanda Grabinska, who represented St. Joan's International Alliance at this Conference, sponsored this resolution in the name of the Alliance.

Another resolution, dealing with educational reconstruction, reads as follows:

The Conference considering that the moral reconstruction of faith, goodwill and spirit of brotherhood among the peoples of the world is of primary importance and should be carried out along with material reconstruction, recommends: that Unesco take special care to preserve the principles of objectivity, truth and freedom of expression and research, in education of children, youth and adults. A special emphasis should be placed on the programme designed to eliminate indoctrination in hatred based on any kind of ideological intolerance, whether political, racial or religious, and recommends that International Non-Governmental Organisations pledge themselves to an unwavering adherence to the principles expressed in this resolution in all their activities, educational and otherwise.

Madame Grabinska moved the latter resolution in the name of the International Council of Women and supported it in the name of St. Joan's International Alliance.

Madame Darbre kindly represented St. Joan's International Alliance at the Regional Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations held in Geneva, June 28th and 29th.

Notes and Comments

With great sorrow we record the sudden death of His Excellency, Archbishop Hughes, on July 12th, at his home in Ewell. R.I.P.

As we go to press we learn with satisfaction that the Lord Chancellor has formally introduced in the House of Lords the Married Women (Restraint upon Anticipation) Bill. This Bill makes the relief sought by the Mountbatten Estate Bill generally applicable instead of applying only to one person and the Mountbatten Bill has been withdrawn.

Readers will remember that St. Joan's Alliance wrote to the Lord Chancellor and the Attorney General begging for such a Bill and the matter was dealt with fully in our last issue.

The Act of 1935 removed restrictions upon anticipation or alienation of property by women married after the passing of the Act; the present Bill is retrospective and will place all women married before January 1st, 1936, in the same position as a man or other married or unmarried woman.

* * *

The Marquis of Reading has given notice of the following motion in the House of Lords:—

"That in the opinion of this House, without prejudice to any such change in the general composition of the House as may be subsequently effected, steps should be taken to obtain leave to introduce legislation in the course of the present Parliament to confer upon women Peers, who under existing conditions are not qualified to take their seats in this House, the same rights, duties and privileges as are now enjoyed by male Peers having seat, place and voice in this House."

* * *

The Bill for increasing the permitted maximum for married women's maintenance orders has passed through the House of Commons and is now before the House of Lords. The limit for the wife is raised to £5 and the limit for each child is raised to 30s.

* * *

Mr. Glanvil Hall, replying to Mr. Carson on May 26th, said that "the approximate cost of giving equal pay to men and women in the public service would be about £35 million."

Fifteen thousand mule spinning operatives in Lancashire mills have been given a rise in pay; some will receive 7/6 a week more, others 1/- in the pound. These workers, who receive about £9 a week, cannot be regarded as low-paid workers—yet no protest has been made by Sir Stafford Cripps about inflation.

A resolution calling for equal pay for men and women and for improved conditions was carried

unanimously at the Conference of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers at Bridlington.

Resolutions on equal pay were also passed by the Civil Service Clerical Association and the Tobacco Workers' Union at a Conference of T.U.C. Affiliated Unions catering for women workers.

* * *

Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur, Minister of Health, headed the delegation from India at the Assembly of WHO held recently in Rome. The delegates to the Assembly were received by His Holiness, and Raj Kumari herself had a special audience.

Passing through London on her way from the Assembly, Raj Kumari spared time to meet representatives of some of the women's organisations, through the kind invitation of Miss Agatha Harrison. Raj Kumari described the work of the Assembly. The Hon. Secretary of St. Joan's Alliance was delighted to be told by Raj Kumari that she never failed to read the *Catholic Citizen*. The prayers of the Alliance go with Raj Kumari in the colossal work for which she is responsible as Minister of Health and Housing in India.

* * *

On June 28th, by kind invitation of Miss Marian Reeves, members of St. Joan's Alliance attended a delightful party given at the Minerva Club in honour of Lord and Lady Pethick Lawrence. In a moving speech Lady Pethick Lawrence showed us what the spirit of the suffrage movement had meant in the world of yesterday, and what the same spirit could contribute to the world of to-day and to-morrow. She expressed her gratitude to the suffrage movement for the friendships and comradeship it had brought her. Lord Pethick Lawrence, in a most interesting speech, told us something of what the decision of India to remain in the British Commonwealth of Nations would mean in the distribution of world power and, in passing, let us know a little of his work in helping to bring about freedom for India. Miss Marian Reeves as gracious hostess expressed the feelings of all present when she said how very much we honoured Lord and Lady Pethick Lawrence and held them in affection.

It was announced at the end of a happy meeting that Miss Marian Reeves had been elected the new Chairman of the Women's Freedom League.

* * *

We congratulate Dr. Marita Harper on the birth of her second child—a daughter—on July 5th.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen"

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

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ex-officio DAME VERA LAUGHTON MATHEWS, D.B.E., *President, St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance.*MRS. SHATTOCK, M.B., B.S., D.P.M., *Chairman.*MISS F. A. BARRY, *Hon. Secretary.*

MISS PAULINE M. BRANDT.

MISS P. C. CHALLONER, M.A.

MISS J. F. COOPER, M.A.

MISS GABRIELLE DAYE.

THE HON. MRS. GEOFFREY EDWARDS, B.A., J.P.

MISS N. FAHIE.

MRS. HALPERN, B.A.

MRS. ISABEL POWELL HEATH, M.B., Ch.B.

MRS. JACKSON, B.A.

MISS J. M. ORGAN, *Hon. Treasurer.*

MISS NANCY STEWART PARNELL, B.A.

MISS CHRISTINE SPENDER, *Hon. Editor "Catholic Citizen."*

The Need for Catholic Nursery Schools

10th June, 1949.

Dear Madam,

Under the 1944 Education Act, Nursery Schools Education is now recognised, and will be provided, where the need arises. Although it is not compulsory, and never will be, I would like to give you a few practical reasons why I, as a Catholic mother, welcome the provision of Nursery Education for our children.

I have taken a particular interest in the idea of Nursery Schools for a long time. Apart from other considerations, experience has proved to me, that here is a real way of helping family life. I can speak with some little knowledge on the subject, having had three children under the ages of four and a half years to cope with, whilst running the home, and doing the hundred and one other things which the average mother has to do.

When children get to a certain age, they need special attention and amusement, which the average mother is unable to provide, because she has so many other things to do in the home. Furthermore, it is good for young children to mix freely with other types of children, apart from their own brothers and sisters, and in the case of the unfortunate "only child," the need for Nursery Schools is even greater, for reasons which are very apparent.

There has been, and still is, a good deal of criticism levelled at the protagonists of Nursery Schooling, but I feel most of it is complete ignorance of the subject, or else prejudice against the idea of mothers being relieved of their children for a few hours daily. Some people have a very poor idea of the conception of motherhood, when they imagine that if mothers are so relieved it would be to their detriment, and that as a consequence the home would be neglected. To most mothers sending their children to Nursery Schools would simply mean a little more time to look after the home, and to be more cheerful and less

harassed wives to their respective husbands. Home life, as a result of the introduction of Nursery Schools would not be imperilled, but enhanced.

I would further welcome Nursery Schools, if they gave mothers the opportunity of devoting some time to a healthy interest, whilst not having any adverse effect on family life. Many think it is wrong for mothers to have another thought in their heads outside family life. Of course the family comes first! But if mothers are to be precluded from having any other interests, then such canalising of one's interests will not be in the best interest of the family. It is debatable whether mothers, who are so completely wrapped up in their own family to the exclusion of other interests, make the best mothers, or produce the best children.

For my part, I gladly welcome any opportunity which will enable mothers to play a bigger part in the shaping of the world around us. Women generally have far too few opportunities in this direction.

Being a Catholic mother, I naturally want Catholic Nursery Schools, and I want them to be of the highest standard. As Catholics, we should welcome Nursery Schools, because as Catholics usually have the largest families, we will benefit most from this great Social Service.

I deplore the attitude of some of our Catholics, in suggesting there is some sinister motive behind Nursery Schooling. I have been a member of the Nursery School Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for some years, and this Association was mainly responsible for Nursery School provision being included in the 1944 Education Act. This Association is composed of people who have devoted their lives to the needs of young children, and family life. To those Catholics who are suspicious, I would say: "Join the Nursery School Association, and prove for yourselves how

Polygamy

In the June issue of *La Femme, La Vie, Le Monde* (Brussels) there appears an article on polygamy in the Belgian Congo by Father A. Van den Heuvel.

Apparently there exists an unhappy state of affairs where the men who are most apt in becoming rich gradually annex all the available wives of a district so that many bachelors are left unable to marry. This leads to all kinds of abuses, such as the lending out of wives so that the rich may amass still more wealth and the consequent spread of disease. A wife is a potential source of wealth as it is she who does all the work on the land. With what she gains for her polygamous husband he can procure for himself yet other wives. Polygamy on such a large scale is a fairly modern abuse. It does not affect the four and a half millions of Christians who are protected by their ideals and their moral sense, but it is for Christians to demand the suppression of this scourge of Africa, by the necessary legislation. The women's sections of Catholic Action in Belgium have already taken official steps to demand legislation in this sense.

At the fourteenth meeting of the Trusteeship Council, holding its fourth session at Lake Success in February, the Annual Reports of Western Samoa and the Cameroons under French administration were examined. Mr. Watier, special representative for the Cameroons, remarked in connection with the right to vote in the Cameroons that if universal suffrage were to be instituted at once, the polygamous inhabitants would be able to profit, not only by their own vote, but by the votes of their wives who would probably vote in the same way as their husbands. As a result, rich Cameroonians who had many wives would thus have more votes than poorer Cameroonians who had fewer wives. That circumstance, he thought, well illustrated the need for prudence in the matter.

The article we have quoted points out that polygamy is not democratic and it seems that Mr. Watier's observations bear out this point of view.

In our last issue, copying from a general press release, we announced that Madame Simon Bidaux had been made the first woman judge in France. A reader points out to us that since 1946 there have been many women judges in France—she thinks fifty—and one woman Councillor at the *Cour de Cassation*, the highest civil court in the country.

We offer our deep sympathy to Mrs. Whately on the death of her youngest daughter, Veronica, for whom we ask our members to pray.—R.I.P.

very wrong you are." I am proud to be a member of this Association, and my one regret is that so few Catholics are interested.

We cannot hope for the N.S.A. to be "all Catholic," but if we are interested in young children, we should be there to see that the foundation of Nursery Schooling is at least based on Christian principles. Forgive my referring to the N.S.A. so much, but one does not think of Nursery Schooling without thinking of the N.S.A., who were the pioneers in this great work.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope we are going to have Catholic Nursery Schools, because we believe in them, and not, as has been regrettably suggested, "They have been forced upon us, and really we are against them." I have no desire to send my children to Catholic Nursery Schools under such circumstances, as I consider that they would not do their best for my children, and after all, only the *very best* is good enough for all our children.

Yours sincerely,
ANNE LEE.

Visitors from Egypt

By the kindness of Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, officers of the Alliance had the privilege of meeting a distinguished co-religionist from Egypt, Madame Marie-Catherine Boulad, who is a lawyer and Director of the Foreign Department of the Political and Economic Department of the Arab newspaper, *Al Mokattam*.

To the surprise and delight of the party, His Excellency, Archbishop Hughes, the Papal Internuncio, who had arrived from Egypt the previous day, honoured the party with his presence. He said how glad he was to be among us again and how he followed our work with the greatest interest. He introduced Madame Boulad as an ardent Catholic and an ardent feminist full of the courage and constancy which he thought were the special marks of St. Joan's Alliance. Madame Boulad spoke on the position of women in Egypt and we hope to publish her paper in our next issue.

We were happy to have at the party Mrs. Burston from Melbourne, Mrs. Atkinson from Perth, and Miss Noreen McGrath, who is shortly returning to the Transvaal.

We congratulate Dr. Isabel Powell Heath (Ind.) on her election to the Rural District Council of Castle Donington in the Parliamentary Division of Loughborough.

The Month in Parliament

Among Bills discussed during the month were the National Health Service (Amendment) Bill, the Landlord and Tenant Bill, the Lands Tribunal Bill, the Legal Aid and Advice Bill, the Colonial Development and Welfare Bill, the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Bill, the Housing Bill and the Finance Bill.

On May 20th, Mr. H. S. Hughes returned to the question of political tests of employees. Mr. Thornton Kemsley, who admitted that he was responsible for the resolution at the meeting of the John Lewis Partnership, excluding Communists from that organisation was called the "Chief Redbaiter" by Mr. Hughes and a somewhat heated discussion followed ending with a request from Lieut.-Colonel Lipton for an assurance that Labour Exchanges would not accept requests for engagement of labour from an employee who states that employment is restricted to persons of certain religious or political opinions. Mr. Isaacs: "That is the attitude which, as I have explained, is already adopted."

On May 21st, Mr. Cocks asked the Minister of National Insurance about the position of a married woman who has reached pensionable age since 5th July, 1949, but is not receiving a pension, because her husband who reached pensionable age before that date and is drawing a pension of ten shillings a week has not yet retired from employment. Mr. Steele: "We are amending the regulations to enable the retirement pension such a woman may receive when her husband retires or reaches the age of seventy, or on his earlier death to be increased by one shilling a week for every twelve months which have elapsed between her sixtieth birthday and the date when the pension becomes payable."

Mr. Niall Macpherson asked for an estimate of the loss of revenue that would be involved by exempting from payment of National Insurance Contributions all widows who are between fifty and sixty years of age, who are in receipt of widow's benefit under any previous Acts at the ten shillings rate. Mr. Steele: "The loss of revenue is estimated to be about £1,500,000 a year at the present time, falling to about £500,000 in ten years' time." Mrs. Jean Mann said that great hardship was caused by these regulations which take from a widow over fifty-five who has only ten shillings a week three-eighths of her ten shillings. Did he not think that something should be done very quickly for these widows between fifty-five and sixty? Mr. Steele said that if a widow had an income of less than £104 per annum she could opt out and would not be required to pay the contribution, but Mrs. Mann pointed out that her benefit would be affected if she did.

On May 24th, Lord Willoughby de Eresby asked the Minister of Pensions the provisions avail-

able for widows of ex-service men not entitled to a pension under his Department or under National Insurance owing to the man's inability to contribute. Mr. Marquand said that he had no power to award a pension to the widow of a war pensioner whose death was not related to the effects of his war service, but he understood that the Minister of National Insurance would review any case that the Hon. Member had in mind and that a widow who was ineligible for either pension could obtain assistance from the National Assistance Board.

The following day Mr. M. Phillips Price asked the Minister of Defence whether in the case of retired officers of the Armed Forces, who, on account of age or other reasons are not eligible for the new Contributory Pension Scheme, a pension will be granted to a widow on his death irrespective of her age. Mr. Alexander said the regulations debar a widow who is more than twenty-five years younger than her husband, otherwise her eligibility is not affected by her age.

After the Whitsun recess the Tourist Industries were treated at some length in the debate on Civil Estimates and the discussion ranged round such questions as staggered holidays—bad conditions in the catering trades—the ethics of tipping and the inferiority of British hotels. Mr. Mack's suggestions for brightening London in order to attract foreign visitors included an open-air restaurant in the Mall and on Sundays a Fôlies Bèrgères Show "with certain modifications."

Various clauses of the Finance Bill were discussed on June 22nd. During the discussion of Clause 10 (Pool Betting Duty) which increases the tax on pool betting, Mr. Glanvil Hall (Financial Secretary to the Treasury) referred to the Campaign embarked on by the Football Pools Promoters' Association, who, it was said, had circulated ten millions of their clients urging them to write to their M.P.s to protest against the increase. Mr. Haworth referred to intimidation of employees by pool promoters and said he had received scores of letters from girl employees, some stating definitely that they had been told they would lose their jobs should the tax continue and that pressure had been put on them to write. Mrs. Braddock pointed out the tax increase did not affect the pool promoters financially. It came out of the pool to be divided among winners. A reduction of the number of people paying into pools meant a reduction in the staff. As to the suggestion that there had been intimidation, the organised Labour and Trade Union movement would deplore any pressure put on an employee by an employer. When the Committee divided on this question, the Ayes (for the tax) were 186, the Noes fifty-nine.

P. M. BRANDT.

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance

The Annual Council Meeting of St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance will be held in London on October 8th and 9th.

On the evening of October 7th a party will be given by the President, Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, when members of the British Section of the Alliance will have an opportunity of meeting their colleagues from abroad. Please note this date.

* * *

L'ALLIANCE JEANNE D'ARC

It is with deep regret that we learn of the resignation of the President of l'Alliance Jeanne d'Arc, Madame Pesson-Depret, owing to ill-health. We are glad to know that she will be at hand to help and advise. The new President is Madame Marie-José Russo, to whom we send our best wishes for the success of her work.

We have been pleased to hear recently from Mademoiselle Lenoël, the founder of l'Alliance and from Madame Gouffé, the Hon. Treasurer.

L'Alliance works with the Paris Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations and has joined with other societies in a group to help the United Nations Information Centre in Paris. Members attended an interesting meeting when Mademoiselle Lahaye reported on the meetings she had attended at Lake Success in April.

Madame Pesson-Depret has made numerous representations to the Government regarding the Draft Convention against the Traffic in Persons and against the present unsatisfactory position in France, where the system of medical control of prostitutes is concerned.

On St. Joan's Feast, a delegation from l'Alliance placed flowers on the statue of St. Joan in the Place des Pyramides.

* * *

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE IN AUSTRALIA

Western Australia. St. Joan's Day brought us the good news of the foundation in Western Australia of a new Section of St. Joan's International Alliance. Mrs. Coombs from Sydney, whom we were so happy to welcome at our Council Meeting in Paris last October, writes of her recent visit to Perth. She called together a number of friends and sympathisers on May 30th and the new Section of the Alliance was inaugurated. The President is Miss Westhoven, who some months ago had the opportunity while in Melbourne of meeting Miss Margaret Flynn and Mrs. Lalor and discussing with them the aims of St. Joan's Alliance. Miss Hester Hoad of Fremantle is the Vice-President. A cable of welcome was sent from the headquarters of St. Joan's International Alliance. Another meeting was held on June 23rd

and we await with interest further news of this latest Section.

Victoria. Miss Flynn writes that on St. Joan's Day she and the President, Miss Anna Brennan, placed a wreath on the statue in the precincts of the Public Library and Mrs. O'Brien acted as hostess at "morning tea." Miss Flynn also speaks of the action taken against certain proposals for the amendment of the Divorce Laws, particulars of which have not yet reached us.

Headquarters were happy to meet Mrs. Burston and Mrs. McGrath from Melbourne.

We congratulate Miss K. M. Walsh on her appointment as Welfare Officer to the Department of Immigration for Overseas Service. We hope her work will bring her on a visit to England.

New South Wales. The President, Mrs. Daly, writes of the strenuous and interesting time she has had while in New York at Lake Success, and in connection with the New York Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations. We are looking forward to her arrival in England.

* * *

SOUTH AFRICA

Miss Challoner sends us further particulars of the new Section of St. Joan's International Alliance in the Transvaal. The Interim Committee consists of: President, Mrs. McGrath; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Kettle; Publicity Officer, Mrs. Russell; and Hon. Secretaries, Miss Hope Jones (Pretoria) and Mrs. Linsell (Johannesburg). All these have been members of St. Joan's Alliance for several years.

They decided that work should be confined to the status of women; that membership should be open to all races; that special attention should be given to the integrity of the Bantu family. There is to be a further meeting on July 16th.

We wish all success to the President, Mrs. McGrath, who is standing as an Independent candidate for the Municipal Council of Roodepoort-Maraisburg in October.

* * *

During her stay in Johannesburg Miss Challoner had the great advantage of a talk with Dr. Louis Franklin Freed, the eminent specialist in venereal disease, who has just written an authoritative book on *European Prostitution in Johannesburg*.

Dr. Freed considers the establishment of a force of women police of the first importance in dealing with this problem and condemns all measures of compulsion as driving it underground.

* * *

On Saturday, September 17th, we hope to arrange a party to welcome back Miss P. C. Challoner on her return to England when we shall look forward to hearing of all her splendid work for the Alliance in South Africa. Please make a note of the date. Particulars later.

EIGHTY-FIVE IN THE SHADE!

Eighty-five degrees in the shade—the only thing to do is to think of something cold—ice, snow, winter. Which brings us to the point: our **Annual Christmas Sale**. Please make a note in your diary NOW, for Saturday, November 26th, the sale to be held in St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square. We want to beat all records this year. Will you think out which stall you would like to help furnish and start collecting. New and secondhand garments (the secondhand must be in good condition), books, knitted goods, groceries, glass and china ware, etc., are all needed. Why not make it a Christmas Party day with your friends? Lunches and teas will be served at a reasonable cost. Of course any contributions in money, however small or large, will be most gratefully received and acknowledged—but please remember the date, November 26th.—N. Carr, Hon. Sales Secretary.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

*Leonora de Alberti in the "Catholic Citizen,"
July-August, 1924.*

In an interview granted to "El Mercurio" (Santiago de Chile), Father Guido de Ramberga, of the Capuchin mission to the *Araucanians*, that is, to the native Indian people of Chile, shows that the education of women is the most important part of missionary work. After praising the Araucanian women's fine qualities and describing their frequent sufferings as slaves to their husbands, to whom their fathers sell them, Father de Ramberga says: "It is the Araucanian women who best exercise a civilising influence on their tribe and race. . . . The work done in the schools for the men has a most limited usefulness, while there is no girls' school. The youth who leaves these schools marries an entirely uneducated girl, ignorant of the very rudiments of civilised life. . . . While Indian women are not educated, the civilised Indian will lack the moral and religious support necessary to the preservation of school influences, necessary to keep him from relapsing, as he sometimes does, into barbarism. . . . And what can be hoped of the Araucanian boy whose mother is still plunged in the dreams of ignorance and the absurdities of superstition? A well educated woman is in herself a little school."—*A Missionary's View of the Influence of Women.*

DAUGHTERS OF BRITAIN

An Account of the Work of British Women during
the Second World War
by VERA DOUIE

Librarian of the Women's Service Library

This book gives an authoritative account of the part played by women in the winning of the war, and will be an invaluable source of information for future historians. It contains, among others, chapters dealing with:—

The Scheme of Mobilisation	The Services
Civil Defence	Care of the Sick and Wounded
Food Production	Transport and Communications
The War Factories	Trade Unionism
The Housewives	The Members of Parliament

To be obtained from: THE LIBRARIAN, Women's Service Library, 12 Charlbury Road, Oxford. **Price 7/6.**

Catholic Funeral Upholders**JOHN HUSSEY Ltd.**

2 Berkeley Gardens

(Adjoining 104) Kensington, Church St., W.8

Habits supplied for deceased members of
the Confraternities of the Brown Scapular,
Children of Mary, Guild of the Blessed
Sacrament, Etc.

A SUITABLE MORTUARY CHAPEL

can be placed at the disposal of families

Tel. BAYswater 3046 Telegrams: Requiem, Kens, London

Tel. BAYswater 3046.

Telegrams: Requiem, Kens., London.

**THE HOSPITAL OF
ST. JOHN & ST. ELIZABETH**

60 GROVE END ROAD,

ST. JOHN'S WOOD, N.W.8.

Tel. Cunningham 5126.

Under the care of the Sisters of Mercy

The Hospital is still voluntary and not state controlled.

Medical, Surgical and Maternity cases taken.

The Children's Department closed during the War has been re-opened. Private rooms from 14 gns. per week. Curtained cubicles available. Trained Nurses sent to patients' own homes. Apply to the Superintendent in charge of the Trained Nurses' Institute, 34 Circus Road, N.W.8. Tel. Cunningham 2788. Training School for Catholic Nurses recognised by the General Nursing Council

Please help by sending donations to the Secretary

THE WORLD'S GREATEST BOOKSHOP

FOYLES
* FOR BOOKS *

Famed for its excellent
Theological Book dept.

*New and Secondhand Books on every subject.
Stock of 3-million volumes.*

We buy Books, too.

119-125 Charing X Road, London, W.C.2

GERRARD 5660 (16 lines) * Open 9—6 (Inc. Sat.)

A Painting Book of Our Lady of Fatima. Comprising 44 Drawings. (Bloomsbury Publishing Co., 34, Bloomsbury Street, W.C.1. 2s. 6d.)

* * *

WANTED.—Tinker's Leave and In My End is My Beginning, by Maurice Baring.—Write Box 84, St. Joan's Alliance.