

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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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 Cry of the Children.

By CHRISTINE SPENDER.

The Report of the Care of Children Committee (Cmd. 6922)*—the Curtis Committee—has just been published. It is a highly technical report covering a great deal of ground and it will be impossible in a short notice to do more than make a few indications as to the matter covered. However, since the report deals with a most important and human aspect of our social life it would seem really necessary that as many people as possible should get hold of it and “read, mark, learn and inwardly digest.” Not only this but take action as far as in them lies.

The Report covers many classes of “deprived children” (i.e., children deprived of a proper home life.) It is surprising to the amateur in these matters how many people have a hand in the care of these children. This is one of the troubles—there is a certain overlapping of care so that two children who have similar circumstances and live in the same “Home” may be inspected by two different inspectors. The same might happen with boarded out children.

“Responsibility for providing or supervising the substitute home for the deprived child may be taken by the State, by local authorities, by voluntary organisations or by private persons. . . . Not only does the responsible department vary, but so does the closeness of State direction and control. . . . With local authorities, too, the degree of responsibility may vary.”

A great deal of the Report is devoted to “How The Children Are Cared For” and it is this part that has aroused widespread comment in the press. The Committee studied the living conditions of thousands of children, those living in “Homes” of all types, those boarded out and the physically or mentally defective children deprived of home life. Their conclusions are not so sensational as recent remarks in various newspapers would have us believe. Yet there is very much that is disquieting and very much that calls for immediate

improvement. For instance, the destitute child coming into the care of the local authorities may be put into a workhouse ward “where there is nothing but the barest provision for his physical needs and where the staff have neither the capacity nor the time to relieve his fears, make him feel at ease or give him occupation or interest. What is more, he may remain in such unsatisfactory conditions, temporary though they are supposed to be, not only for weeks, but for months, before something better is found for him.”

Conditions in Nurseries are generally speaking better than the conditions found for older children. Though the Homes vary a great deal and some are very much better run than others, the Committee found “in fact many places where the standard of child care was no better, except in respect of disciplinary methods, than that of say 30 years ago ;” and they found “a widespread and deplorable shortage of the right kind of staff, personally qualified and trained to provide the child with a substitute for a home background. The result in many Homes was a lack of personal interest in and affection for the children which was . . . shocking.” In fact, the Committee found “much to criticise in accommodation, equipment and staffing” though they had seen “much admirable and devoted work done by people putting their whole heart and energy” into the task of caring for the children.

What impressed them with regard to the boarding out system was “the need for a greater sense of personal interest and responsibility at local authority headquarters, and for more specialist staff there,” but—“On the whole,” writes the Committee, “our judgment is that there is probably a greater risk of acute unhappiness in a foster home, but that a happy foster home is happier than life as generally lived in a large community.”

When making conclusions and recommendations the Committee emphasise “the extreme seriousness of taking a child away from even an indifferent

*H.M. Stationery Office, 3/-.
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home. . . . The aim of the authority must be to find something better—indeed much better—if it takes the responsibility of providing a substitute home."

The recommendations of the Committee cover a large field within which improvements are suggested. Perhaps the most important and far-reaching of these recommendations is that the responsibility and care of deprived children should be in one department in which should be concentrated the relevant powers under various Acts. At the same time it is recommended that local authorities should have immediate responsibility but that each authority should work through a single *ad hoc* Committee, instead of various Committees as at present. This Children's Committee or Joint Board should appoint a Children's Officer who would be responsible for all the deprived children in one area.

Inspection of all Homes by the central authority at least once a year is recommended and that a staff of trained boarding out visitors should be available to the Children's Officer.

Various recommendations are made with a view to minimise the disadvantages of institutional life for the children; recommendations are made for their after care, for the improvement of administration in approved schools and in remand homes and for a revision of the Boarding out system. "Boarding out is to be preferred to institutional care for children" and "a fresh attempt to secure the necessary foster homes should be made with the appropriate national and local organisations."

There are recommendations concerning Adoption procedure and a paragraph on the needs of handicapped children remarks that "the present shortage of accommodation and staff for mentally deficient children should be remedied as soon as possible."

We understand that an Interim Report has made certain recommendations concerning the training and choice of the personnel who have immediate charge of the children in institutions or residential communities, and the present report recommends a specialised training for boarding out visitors and the central department inspectors.

It will be seen that nearly all the above recommendations count on an immense recruitment of workers in the field of child care. We hope that all the many branches of work which will open out in this field will be given a high and well paid status which will justify the specialised training involved—and we say this for the sake of the children. The nursing profession is crying out for the recruits it does not get because the status of the nursing profession sunk so low, and it is the patients who suffer. In the dehumanised society in which we live every means will have to be used to bring home to the general public their responsibility in the care of these "deprived" children. Although voluntary help has gone very much out of fashion

because of its untrained, irregular status yet one cannot help wondering why the Committee did not feel it worth their while to draw attention to the fact that in every area all over the country there must be kind-hearted people with a little leisure who would be glad to spend it helping to amuse some lonely, deprived child. Personally, in reading this report I have often thought, "Oh, if only someone in the village (or town, or suburb) had *known*—surely they would have been glad to read to that child, to bring it a toy, to make it feel cared for in some way." There are the children temporarily in workhouses, the crippled children—to quote only two examples. It may be argued that skill is needed to help even in this way. But if this is so why not give a course of lectures under the local authority, or the Women's Institutes, etc., to which people interested could come? The value of this kind of public and personal interest would not end here because the younger people might be drawn into the orbit of sympathy and thus find their life's work, instead of going to the nearest Food Office to count bread units for a living. It should be understood by now that only personal and human contacts will really make people come alive to crying social problems. People *must* listen to the cry of the children if we are not to disgrace ourselves as a nation. They will surely do so if approached in the right way.

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE—NEW SOUTH WALES

In reply to our cable wishing success to the inaugural meeting in Sydney, of the New South Wales Section of St. Joan's Alliance, we received the following from the chairman, Mrs. J. Daly:—"Thanks cable. Section most successfully launched. Wonderful meeting. Letter follows." We congratulate the five founders, Mrs. Phillis Burke, Mrs. J. Daly, Mrs. John Witton Flynn, Miss Norma Parker and Mrs. Mary Tenison Woods who called this meeting and we look forward to further details for our next issue.

EQUAL PAY

The Report of the Royal Commission on Equal Pay comes to hand as we go to press, and we shall deal with it fully in our next number. The Commission which was set up to examine "the social, economic and financial implications of the claim of equal pay for equal work," has *not* concluded for or against the claim itself. The general conclusions are that, while there is no insuperable difficulty in applying equal pay in the Civil Service and professions generally, there is much greater difficulty in applying it in industry. It is on this last point that three of the women signed a "memorandum of dissent." Meantime, St. Joan's reiterates its demand for "a fair field and no favour" and for equal pay for equal work—the rate for the job.

Notes and Comments

Among many other organisations the Catholic Adoption Societies and the Catholic Child Welfare Council gave evidence before the Care of Children Committee. We note that their representatives were all members of the clergy. We are surprised that no woman acted as a representative since many of the Catholic deprived children must be cared for by nuns or Catholic laywomen and in any case the executive committees of the societies concerned must surely include women.

* * *

The Care of Children Committee (see our front page article) found again and again in their investigations that girls in institutions were given less vocational guidance and less choice in ways of earning a living than were boys similarly placed. Too often the only trades indicated for the girls were domestic service and laundry work and in a few institutions older girls were being used as housework or laundry drudges and very little pay, if any, was accorded to them besides their keep.

"In the past," reads the Committee's Report, "the assumption that domestic work is the only outlet for the girls in public authority or voluntary Homes has been far too prevalent, and there is a tendency even now to retain girls after school leaving age for the domestic duties of the Home."

The Committee recommends—"Great care should be taken to make the children aware of the possible careers open to them. Full use should be made of the Juvenile Employment Service. Girls and boys remaining in Homes on domestic work, or work earning money for the Home, should be treated as employees."

* * *

Scotland Yard is to recruit 150 more women Police and women are to fill important posts in the C.I.D. Women are eligible as assistants in the laboratories and other special departments dealing with scientific detection in Scotland Yard.

* * *

The annual Conference of the National Council of Women met at Cheltenham early in October and dealt with resolutions on many urgent problems of the day. We only have space to mention those demanding fuller opportunities of employment for qualified women; a policy for education for family life "based on the highest moral and spiritual principles"; equal nationality rights and rights of legal domicile for married women; better facilities for midwives. Among other resolutions was one for "a rapid rectification of the position of widows and other persons drawing pensions and grants, who at present have their family allowances deducted," and one to implement "the principle of an ethical and Christian civilisation" in our policy in Germany. A resolution, to which we take exception, asked the Government to make illegal the marriage of mental defectives.

The following resolution has been passed unanimously by the Nationality of Married Woman's Committee and sent to the Home Secretary:—

The Nationality of Married Women Committee urges His Majesty's Government to include in the forthcoming British Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill clauses which will ensure that:

- (1) The facilities announced by the Secretary of State for the Home Department on August 1st, 1946 to enable British women to retain their nationality on marriage to a foreigner shall be retrospective in action and so apply to all living women who have lost their nationality by reason of the present law.
- (2) Facilities shall be granted to those foreign women who have compulsorily acquired British nationality on marriage to a British subject to renounce such nationality if they so desire.

* * *

The National Conference of Labour Women held recently at Hastings, passed a resolution calling upon the Government to establish equal pay in all establishments under its control irrespective of the findings of the Royal Commission.

* * *

Miss Joan Bamford Fletcher of the W.T.S. (F.A.N.Y.) has been awarded the M.B.E. for her bravery in personally supervising the evacuation of 2,000 internees from a camp in Sumatra. The Japanese soldiers whom she used as guards told her: "You have gained the respect of every man in the convoy, but they have decided they will never marry a European woman—they are too tough."

Miss Bamford used Japanese soldiers to guard the convoys of lorries, and the Japanese officer was so impressed by her courage and efficiency that he presented her with his family sword.

* * *

We congratulate our Liverpool member, Mrs. E. Bligh, J.P. (Lib.) on her election to the City Council for St. Peter's Ward with a majority of 195 over her Labour opponent.

* * *

Members and their friends will be interested to know that Miss Margaret Bond, who gave us a delightful talk on Hansard, when she first joined St. Joan's, is back from her work as Chief Repatriation Officer with U.N.R.R.A. in Austria. She will speak to us on Displaced Persons in Austria: their lives, their problems and their future, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 26th, at the Interval Club, 22, Dean Street, Soho.

* * *

We ask our members to pray for Mary Angela Trotman who died on October 8th. She was one amongst many of those who have given valuable service in the office over a period of many months. We ask prayers for the mother of our member Miss Quinn, who died recently, and for Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, our first chairman, whose anniversary occurs about this time. R.I.P.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen"

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

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"Catholic Citizen."

A Great Triumph

St. Joan's Alliance has been taking part in the celebrations in London in honour of those who have fought so long for the abolition of state regulation of prostitution in France and whose triumph in the days of her liberation was so astounding and so complete. The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene organised a luncheon at the Criterion, and the Alison Neilans Memorial Lecture was given at Livingstone House afterwards, by Madame Legrand Falco, who spoke on the struggle in which she has played a leading part for so long.

Madame Pesson Depret, hon. secretary of the French Branch of the International Abolitionist Federation and President of *l'Alliance Jeanne d'Arc* was our guest at a party at the Minerva Club on October 26th. Miss Eleanor FitzGerald in the chair introduced her as one who had done great work for the women of France and congratulated her on her share in the victory won by the abolition of state regulation.

Madame Pesson thanked the chairman for her warm welcome and went on to speak of the practical impossibility of women once in the tolerated houses escaping; they were kept there by threats and blackmail. They were obliged to undergo medical examination and they lived under certain regulations and were provided with a special card which in fact gave them prostitution as a profession. They were pursued by the police and there were house inspections. During the German occupation, certain houses were placed out of bounds for the French population and put at the disposal of the German troops; this had led to a realisation in France of the degradation suffered by the inmates of these houses so that when liberation came, many cities and eleven Departments closed them, and so the way was prepared for the passing of the law abolishing state regulation.

In Paris alone, 180 houses had been closed and 1,500 women liberated. Fifty per cent. of these women have found work on their own initiative; some have married; 20 to 25 per cent. have asked social workers to find them employment; there remain only 15 to 20 per cent. who choose to go

on with their old life. "Who would have dared to hope they were so few?"

Madame Pesson spoke of the difficulties of the fight amongst which were the "ignorance and abhorrence of the good people towards the subject, making them unconscious accomplices of the evil-doers; the indifference of the many and the tremendous financial power of the international traffickers."

It was the women's first action as soon as they were enfranchised to attack this evil. Great help was given by the women's organisations, religious organisations and youth organisations.

It was not any use seeking easy solutions, said Madame Pesson. Once the tolerated houses had been abolished, the authorities must be convinced that the only effective remedy for venereal disease was to give free, voluntary and confidential treatment for men and women. She concluded by saying that the work of abolition had always been supported by St. Joan's Alliance.

Miss FitzGerald then introduced Madame Leroy of Belgium, assistant secretary of the International Abolitionist Federation, who said how pleased she was to be there since St. Joan's Alliance had been her first friend in England and she thanked members of the committee for having allowed her to work with them. There is plenty of work to do in Belgium for the feminist and abolitionist causes; they have not yet the franchise (for 15 years a suffrage Bill has been ready) and there is still state regulation.

During the discussion the question of the redemption of *sonteneurs* was raised and Madame Pesson said that when rescue work was started in Grenoble many years ago, successful work had also been done on this side of the problem.

At the luncheon at the Criterion on Tuesday the 29th, Madame Pesson spoke again, most movingly to a large and sympathetic audience, with Mr. Barrs Davies in the chair. She was followed by Monsieur de Felice, secretary of the I.A.F., who spoke of the International Abolitionist Congress to be held in Brussels in 1947. Speeches of great interest were made by Dr. Sark, treasurer of the Netherlands

Branch of the I.A.F., and Miss Dorothy Moses from Calcutta.

Finally Miss E. M. Turner, in moving the vote of thanks to the speakers said how greatly Alison Neilans would rejoice on this occasion.

The Luncheon party then broke up and those present re-assembled with others at Livingstone House to hear the second Alison Neilans Memorial Lecture given by Madame Legrand Falco, who spoke on the "History of the Abolition of State Regulation of Prostitution with Special Relation to France and the Position To-day." Dame Rachel Crowdy from the chair paid a fine tribute to the work and personality of Alison Neilans.

The lecture was a magnificent and inspiring record of the long struggle against all the forces of apathy, ignorance and evil. It was given in perfect English and with an eloquence, supported by occasional touches of irony and humour, which enthralled the audience. Madame Legrand spoke with restraint and a full sense of the fight still to come—but with a certainty in the justice of the cause and a recognition that France has found her soul in getting rid of what Josephine Butler called "the evil thing." B.C.S.

A considerable number of cases are being brought up by various members in which the working of the *Family Allowances Bill* is causing grave disappointment. This situation is due to the ruling by which there was to be no duplication of benefits, a ruling which results in the reduction of many other supplementary pensions and allowances. Members feel very strongly that these reductions often mean that the benefits of Family Allowances are denied to precisely those families most in need of them. The Minister of National Insurance, on the other hand, pointed out on October 10th, that "if Family Allowances were disregarded in assessing payments from Exchequer funds based on need, the additional direct charge . . . would be rather over £10 million a year." The whole question is a very difficult one.

The Foreign Office still pursues the question of U.S. Servicemen (*Paternity Orders*) and on October 17th Mr. Mayhew declared that His Majesty's Government "attach great importance" to the matter. Mr. John Hynd, however, when asked on October 23rd by Mr. William Shepherd "what legal process exists by which a woman of German nationality . . . can establish the parentage of her child where a British soldier is alleged to be involved," showed no disposition to depart from the letter of the law, by which "no maintenance order . . . of any foreign court could be enforced against a British soldier." No one has yet commented on the way in which circumstances alter cases.

B. M. HALPERN.

PARLIAMENT—MONTH BY MONTH.

Parliament started work again on October 8th with renewed energy. Already a wide field has been covered, including such important subjects as Housing, Coal, Foreign Affairs and Atomic Energy.

With one major exception our own interests have not been much in evidence. The exception, of course, is the *Removal of the Marriage Bar in the Civil Service*. On 15th October the Chancellor of the Exchequer asked permission of the Speaker to answer a question "of considerable public interest" which had not been reached on the Order Paper. The question—whether any decision had yet been reached on the abolition of the marriage bar—had been put down by Mr. John Edwards, and Mr. Dalton circulated the following statement:—

"In future married women will not be ineligible by reason of their marriage for appointment to established posts in the Home Civil Service, and women who already hold such posts will not be required to resign on marriage. Married women who remain in the Service will be required to comply with the normal conditions and practices of their employment, including regular attendance, the working of overtime when necessary and the acceptance of liability to transfer both within the United Kingdom and outside it. Those who, on account of domestic responsibilities or otherwise are unable to comply with these conditions will not be retained in the Service.

"The abolition of the marriage bar will take effect today. It will not give any right of reinstatement to women who have in the past been required to resign from the Civil Service on marriage. Marriage gratuities will be paid, as hitherto, to women who voluntarily resign from established Civil Service posts on marriage. The Government have decided to accept the recommendation of the National Whitley Council Marriage Bar Committee (Cmd 6886) for improved maternity leave terms.

"In order that married women shall not now be debarred from competing in the main open reconstruction competitions of the Home Civil Service, the Civil Service Commissioners have decided to extend until 1st January 1947, the last date for applying in certain competitions for which the closing date was fixed at 1st September 1946. They will publish forthwith a complete list of the competitions affected.

"This statement refers to established posts in the Home Civil Service. The marriage bar will be retained in the Foreign Service. There are a few posts in the Home Service, closely analogous to posts in the Foreign Service, the holding of which involves residence overseas on representational duties. In this very limited field the possibility of retention on marriage will have to be examined on merits in relation to the facts of each individual case."

On 24th October, Mr. J. Lewis asked the Home Secretary, "When he will be in a position to introduce legislation which will have the effect of restoring British *Nationality* to British women married to aliens." Mr. Oliver replied that he was not yet in a position to make a statement about the date of legislation.

Mr. Glenvil Hall reported on October 10th "that the Chairman of the Royal Commission on Equal Pay has recently stated publicly that if there is no unforeseen obstacle the report will be received almost at once."

(continued in previous column)

International Notes

United Nations. The following countries have sent women delegates to the United Nations Assembly:—*Chile*, Senora Amanda Labarea; *Denmark*, Mrs. Bodil Begtrup (alternate); *Dominica*, Miss Minerva Bernardino; *France*, Madame Lefaucheux (alternate); *India*, The Hon. Mrs. Vizaya Lakshmi P. Pandit (chairman of delegation); *New Zealand*, Miss Agnes FitzGerald Rutherford McIntosh; *Norway*, Mrs. Aase Lionees (alternate); *U.S.A.*, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Representative Helen G. Douglas (alternate).

* * *

Brazil. The Association of Housewives, whose president is Mimi Miranda, and which counts several thousand associates, is pursuing a brave campaign against the high prices and scarcity of food which cause thousands of women every day to stand for hours in order to get a little milk, meat and bread.

* * *

India. From the *Bulletin* of the Indian Women's Movement we learn that the inter-Asiatic relations Conference will meet early next year in Delhi. Invitations have been extended by the interim Government under Pandit Nehru to thirty-two Asiatic countries. The question of women's status is included among the vital questions to be discussed. There will, of course, be women delegates.

* * *

Sweden. In the Swedish Diet there are now five women out of 150 members in the First Chamber and eighteen out of 230 in the Second Chamber. From *Hertha* we learn that a woman has been appointed for Gotland amongst the twenty-two district antiquaries, who are each in charge of antiquities and monuments in a county or district of Sweden.

* * *

Switzerland.—We have received several numbers of *Die Schweizerin*, organ of the Swiss Catholic *Frauenbund*, whose able Editor, Dr. Vèrène Borsinger, we are glad to number amongst our members. The September issue contains a vivid account of the life and work of Mother General Teresa Beck, of the Holy Cross Sisters, who died in July, R.I.P. Under her rule the number of her daughters rose from 6,458 to 8,569. The branch of her work which especially appealed to Mother Beck was the care of small girls and boys. Soon after her profession she was moved to the institute St. Josef at Gouglera, one of the few institutions in Switzerland, where co-education was successfully carried out.

The number also contains some pathetic letters addressed to Dr. Borsinger, from Austrian and German Catholic women, telling of what they endured during the past sad years.

Reviews

History of Great Britain in Modern Times—1688-1939 by Christopher Hollis (Hollis and Carter, 6s. 0d.).

This is the third of the Ashley Histories, and gives in clear and concise style a brief outline of modern history. Mr. Hollis follows the orthodox line, but on occasion he can restate facts in a few words so as to modify an accepted opinion. It is the more to be regretted therefore that he gives no words to any of the remarkable women of the nineteenth century, except Florence Nightingale, and even then he omits the Catholic nursing sisters who went with her.

Perhaps it is not surprising that Mr. Hollis makes no reference to the woman suffrage movement, not even under the word "franchise" in the index. The only allusion to the enfranchisement of women is in a summary of dates: "1918 Women Enfranchised." This is only partly true, as women of under thirty were not enfranchised till 1928, a date he omits.

P.C.C.

Women and a New Society by Charlotte Luetkens (Nicholson and Watson, 6s. 0d.).

This is a further contribution to the New Democracy series. Mrs. Gertrude Williams' "Women and Work" dealt with women as producers, Mrs. Luetkens' *Women and a New Society* is concerned with women as ordinary members of a consumer community. The book is well produced and vividly illustrated with many fascinating charts and diagrams.

Mrs. Luetkens compares the freedom and comradeship of men and women today with the sentiment and romanticism which too often marked their relationship in the Victorian age. She traces the gradual emancipation of women and shows their actions and reactions in each stage. The comparisons shown in the illustrations are interesting but some seem somewhat forced. Both the group, "playing to Mama seventy-five years ago" and its companion picture, "playing with Mummy," show a disregard of the true happiness of children, which is playing together in the happiness of the family group, with parents as an assured background of love and security capable of romping at times, but more often capable of leaving the children to romp alone. The picture of the suppressed group in the one is no more pathetic than the picture of the only child with "Mummy" as his only and very unequal companion, in the other.

Through all the stages of history as it affects women, Mrs. Luetkens sees the man's need for security as the chief obstacle to women's emancipation. He wants a woman who worships him, to feed his desire for the domination which gives him security, or one who is innocent and ignorant, to feed his masculine pride. She shows how the woman of today refuses to be either the one or the

other; and the outcome of the strains and stresses she describes so vividly is that both men and women want the security of the home where they can experience a feeling "of belonging." Mrs. Luetken points out that it was men who by industrial inventions took away woman's work, and by depriving her of her share in production forced her into a life of useless activities or idle leisure—"feminism was born when men began to usurp women's work." Now that men and women have learned to work together as comrades, both can make the security of home which in earlier days men sought in a submissiveness that merely cloyed while it seemed to satisfy. We must join issue on one point: self discipline, not birth prevention is the key to the happy home, where children are regarded not as burdens, or impediments to the pleasure of the parents but as a cause of union "in the responsibility of being wardens of the future society."

P.C.C.

THE CHRISTMAS SALE

A Sale is to be held at St. Patrick's Club Room on December 7th from 12 o'clock till 6 p.m. to augment the depleted funds of the *Catholic Citizen*. Lunch will be served from 12—2 and tea from 3.30.

Members and sympathisers are asked to do all they can to support this event by personal help, many gifts, cakes for the refreshments section and articles for sale. Come and buy, and bring your friends.

Articles for Sale. I can almost hear you say, "I've nothing left." It is perfectly true our homes have been almost denuded by the demands of the late war.

What is there left?

Well there are some things, white elephants,—superfluous ornaments, unused vases—a plethora of pictures and many other items. As one grows older one feels the burden of material possessions and our commonsense says—"Discard!" There are no household helps to clean them and their retention makes us domestic drudges. Hoarding only encourages rust, tarnish, verdigris, moth and dust, in spite of the dictum—"Keep a thing for seven years and you're sure to find a new use for it." Clear out your cupboards and drawers, boxes and trunks. You can only live in one room at a time and you can only wear one suit of clothes at a time.

"What a nuisance there will be
All that shall remain of me—
Shelves of books I never read
Piles of bills undocketed."

Perhaps we have no "great possessions," but we all have something we can sacrifice for the cause of the *Catholic Citizen* which is doing great work for Christianity in the world.

M. FEDDEN.

Religious Care of Children

In paragraph 472 of the Curtis Report, reviewed in our front page article, the following is written, with regard to religious care in foster homes:—

"We have given close consideration to the rules regarding the weight to be given to 'religious persuasion' in selecting the home for the child. The Home Office Rule, following the Children and Young Persons Act, is that the authority shall 'if possible' select a person who is of the same religious persuasion as the foster child or who gives an undertaking that the foster child will be brought up in accordance with that religious persuasion. The Poor Law rule lays it down that a child shall not be boarded out or be allowed to remain boarded out with a foster parent of a different religious creed. It seems to the majority of the committee that a regulation is unjustifiable which may involve keeping a child in an unsatisfactory environment, or removing him to a less satisfactory foster home available is of a different denomination from that assigned to the child, perhaps a very young child. On the other hand we all feel that a genuine effort should be made to find a home of the appropriate denomination, and we deprecate an arrangement by which the child follows different religious observances from those of the home in which he is placed."

A reservation made by six members of the Committee is found on a back page of the Report:

"We regard it as a matter of the first importance that all children who are boarded out in foster homes should receive adequate religious care."

The adoption of the following clause is recommended to be embodied in all boarding out rules:—

"The religious denomination of every child shall, where possible, be ascertained. Where that denomination is ascertainable as being Anglican, Roman Catholic or Free Church, a child shall not be boarded out with a foster parent of a religious creed different from that of the child. Where no such home is available, consultation shall take place with persons representative of the denomination concerned with a view to finding the home required. . . . Where the religious denomination of the child cannot be ascertained, the child shall be boarded out in a foster home where adequate religious care will be provided."

There is also a minority note on Religious Care in general. The recommendation on this subject in the body of the Report states that the Committee do not "desire to lay down rules on the subject of religious observances," but the seven members who signed the minority note are of the opinion that:—

"the rights of children as defined in the Poor Law Act of 1930 to have religious instruction suited to their age and capacity, and in accordance with any ascertainable religious persuasion of their parents, constitute a basic principle which should be maintained in any future legislation, and methods adopted to implement it."

Needless to say, we associate ourselves with the minority recommendations.

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"Euthenics"

The word "euthenics" was used in one of the recommendations of the Sub-Commission on the Status of Women to the Economic & Social Council.

The Chairman of the Sub-Committee in one of the Sessions proposed, under the heading of Education, "that there be equal opportunity for compulsory, free, full education, equal opportunity in all specialised fields as well as training in euthenics, the right to enjoy scientific discoveries applied to household tasks." Mrs. New brought to the attention of members that there was a branch of science dealing with human growth and development. The last paragraph was changed to "equal opportunity in all specialised fields as well as training in euthenics, the right to enjoy scientific discoveries applied to human growth and development."

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Leonora de Alberti in the "Catholic Citizen," November, 1921.

We print in another column a letter we have received from the German Catholic Women's League, which, with the pamphlet they send, makes sad reading. The C.W.S.S. is considering what steps it may be useful to take. The attitude of our Society on this matter is well known, we oppose without compromise state regulation of vice, wherever it is to be found, in peace or in war; whether for the alleged benefit of soldiers or civilians, of whatever nationality. We look to the time when a government, which makes itself a purveyor of women will be considered to be outside the pale of civilisation. A step in that direction was taken at Geneva the other day, when sixteen nations signed the Convention against the Traffic in Women and Children. We are proud of the part played by Mr. Balfour, the Senior British representative at the League of Nations Assembly, who carried the day, in spite of the opposition of France. It is hoped that many more nations will sign the Convention, when their delegates return—*Notes and Comments.*

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

We are glad to draw attention to the Memorandum on Technical Education issued by the N.U.W.T. and sent to the Minister of Education and to Local Education Committees. It points out that English Technical Education lags behind that of many continental countries and gives as one of the reasons the practice of restricting girls mainly to domestic courses. It urges the implementation of the plan laid down in the Education Act, 1944, and demands that the training and appointments in Technical Schools and Colleges be open to girls and boys, women and men without discrimination, and that remuneration throughout be according to the rate for the work done.

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