

# THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society),  
8B, Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford Street, London W.1.

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15th FEBRUARY, 1957

Price Sixpence.

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

## Learned Ladies

By Vera Douie

In 1752, George Ballard published his *Memoirs of Several Ladies of Great Britain who have been Celebrated for their Writings or Skill in the Learned Languages, Arts and Sciences*. The book contains the lives of sixty-two ladies born between 1343 and 1706, and the author was patriotically of the opinion that "England hath produced more women famous for literary accomplishments than any other nation in Europe." It contains much interesting information about learned ladies now largely and undeservedly forgotten.

But Ballard might well have begun his story some seven centuries earlier, for in pre-Conquest days, the English Religious Houses for women had a great reputation for learning as well as for sanctity. In the 7th century, the erudite St. Aldhelm wrote his *De Laudibus Virginitatis* for the nuns of Barking. There is a charming picture in a manuscript in Lambeth Palace Library showing the presentation of the book to the Abbess, St. Hildelith, and her nuns. St. Aldhelm refers in his Treatise to the writings the nuns have sent him, and praises their scholarship. "Like bees," he says, "they collect everywhere material for study." In the same century, the double monastery at Whitby over which St. Hilda ruled was famous as a seat of learning. Five of the monks trained under her became bishops, and it was she who encouraged the cowherd-poet, Caedmon, and taught him sacred history and received him into the monastery.

In the following century, St. Edburga corresponded with St. Boniface, and sent him gifts of books, including at least one written in gold on vellum in her convent in Thanet. A number of other nuns were also among his correspondents, and St. Lioba, trained at Wimborne, went to assist him in his work of converting the Germans, and took charge of the community established at Bischofsheim. She wrote a book entitled *Hodoeporicon*—surely the first book written by an Englishwoman.

After the Conquest, standards of learning greatly declined, though the Revelations of

Juliana of Norwich and the Book of Margery Kempe have come down to us, and Dame Juliana Berners, Prioress of Sopwell in the 15th century, found time despite her religious duties to write at least part of the *Boke of St. Albans*, a treatise on hawking, hunting and other outdoor sports, printed by Wynkyn de Worde in 1496. Among the laity, probably more women than men could read, and many were the beautiful Books of Hours prepared for royal and noble ladies.

The Lady Margaret Beaufort, mother of Henry VII, was a lover of learning, though not perhaps herself a scholar, though she did translate the *Imitatio Christi* and other devotional books from the French. She was a patron of Caxton and his successor, Wynkyn de Worde. The latter styled himself in 1509 "Printer unto the most excellent Princess my Lady the King's Grandame." But her greatest claim to fame lies in her endowment of the Divinity Professorships at Oxford and Cambridge which still bear her name, and in her lavish benefactions to Christ's College and St. John's College, Cambridge. At Oxford, Dervorguila, in the 13th century, was responsible after the death of her husband, John de Baliol, for the foundation of Balliol College.

Elizabethan women were noted for their educational attainments. The daughters of Henry VIII themselves received the best educational advantages available. For all her tender years, the Lady Jane Grey was a prodigy of learning. The daughters of Sir Thomas More and Sir Anthony Cooke achieved a European reputation. Among the latter were the wife of Lord Burghley and the mother of Francis Bacon. Both these ladies are represented in the present Exhibition of British Portraits at Burlington House, the latter by a particularly charming bust by an unknown sculptor.

In the seventeenth century, educational opportunities for women suffered a set-back, but the early years of the eighteenth century saw the publication of Elizabeth Elstob's *English-Saxon Homily on the Birth-day of St. Gregory* and *Rudiments of Grammar for the English-Saxon*

*Tongue.* Elizabeth was probably the first Englishwoman to make a direct contribution to scholarship. She knew seven other languages in addition to Anglo-Saxon. Her path to knowledge was made hard for her, for her guardian was of opinion that "one tongue was enough for a woman." But her brother, William, also an Anglo-Saxon scholar, whom she later joined at Oxford, encouraged her desire for learning. Here, she was known as "The Saxon Nymph," and much esteemed by the little group of scholars interested in the Old English language and literature.

The late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries saw also a number of women playwrights, poets and novelists, of whom Sarah Fielding, translator of Xenophon, alone had any pretensions to learning. Later in the century, the group of women known as "The Bluestockings" appeared on the scene. All of them were women of intelligence, widely read and able to hold their own in intellectual society. Most scholarly among them was Elizabeth Carter, whose translation of Epictetus, first published in 1758, has been reprinted in modern times. Boldly refuting Voltaire, Elizabeth Montague sprang to the defence of the dramatist in her *Essay on the Writings and Genius of Shakespear*. Catharine Macaulay, the historian, was considered by Mary Wollstonecraft "the woman of the greatest abilities, undoubtedly, that this country has ever produced." Unfortunately, posterity has not endorsed her verdict.

Later, came the scientists, Caroline Herschel, discoverer of eight comets, and Mary Somerville, honoured by the Royal Society and other learned societies. All these women made their contribution to knowledge before the opening of higher education to their sex, and often in the face of great difficulties. An exhibition covering their achievements was organised by Women's Service Library in connection with the official opening of the new premises of the Fawcett Society at 27, Wilfred Street, S.W.1, where many of their works are to be seen in the Library.

#### ANNUAL MEETING

We remind members of the Forty-Sixth Annual Meeting of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance on Saturday, March 16th, at 2.30, Mrs. Shattock, M.D., D.P.M., presiding. It will be held at 27 Wilfred Street, off Palace Street, S.W.1, next door to the Central Catholic Library. Among the speakers will be Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, D.B.E., Miss Noreen Carr, Miss A. M. Green, Dr. Marita Shattock Harper, Miss D. Retchford and Miss Christine Spender.

Tea 1s. 6d. will be available after the meeting.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor, *The Catholic Citizen*  
Dear Madam,

##### The Unpaid Domestic Worker (Not a Wife)

We should be grateful to Miss White for reminding us of the flaw in the National Insurance Scheme whereby the woman who remains at home to care for a relative and receives no pay or very little, and so can contract out of paying National Insurance contributions. Her employer, too, is under no obligation to pay contributions on her behalf.

These women very often lose their livelihood on the death of an elderly relative at an age when they are past much hope of securing ordinary paid employment. They are faced with application for National Assistance which is available on a means test.

It seems that every effort should be made to ensure that this group in the community is covered by National Insurance contributions which will give them entitlement to retirement pensions. The obvious remedy is to make it compulsory for the employer to pay the contributions. This will mean an amendment to the National Insurance Act, 1946, and, as a start, Members of Parliament could be made aware of the need by bringing to their attention cases of women in their constituencies who are faced with a precarious future owing to this defect in the Act. Many of the feminist societies, from the time of the "Beveridge Proposals" for Social Security, worked to try to get security for this group.

Beatrice M. Pearson

88, Queen Elizabeth Walk,  
London, N.16.

#### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Mrs. Belloc Lowndes in "*The Catholic Citizen*,"  
15th February, 1932

But it was owing to the twin efforts of my mother (Bessie Rayner Parkes) and of her closest friend, Barbara Leigh Smith (afterwards Madame Bodichon), that the first Bill was introduced into Parliament for securing the earnings of married women to their own discretionary use. It was sponsored by Lord Brougham, and the remarkable list of signatures, urging the importance of the measure, included that of Elizabeth Barrett Browning. But, needless to add, that Bill was not carried.

What was then known by the pitiful name of "Educated Destitution" was the first question which was considered by this energetic group of young fellow-workers. And their first practical action—surely a touching and noble action on their part, for they were naturally all looking forward, and could not have felt very much interest in which lay behind them—was to found annuities for aged governesses.—*Some Little Known Beginnings*

## Notes and Comments

At the enthronement of the Most Reverend William Godfrey, D.D., Ph.D., Archbishop of Westminster, on February 11th, the Alliance was represented at Westminster Cathedral by the chairman, Mrs. Shattock, M.D., D.P.M.

We assure His Grace of our loyalty and of our prayers.

Oxford has ended the restrictions on the number of women undergraduates. In moving the promulgation of this reform in Congregation, the Warden of Wadham, Sir Maurice Bowra, said that the present quota rule (the total number of women undergraduates to be less by one hundred and sixty than a quarter of the total number of men) was "most foolish, out of date and finicky."

In speaking of the relationship between the sexes at Oxford, he said this had been extremely sensible, "they do each other good, there are no disasters and they improve each other's manners."

In the new Government, Miss Edith Pitt keeps her post as Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance. Miss Patricia Hornsby-Smith goes from the Ministry of Health to the Home Office as Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary.

Two outstanding women have died recently, Professor Winifred Cullis, C.B.E., who founded the British Federation of University Women, which celebrates its Silver Jubilee in May; and Dame Caroline Haslett, D.B.E., who founded the Electrical Association for Women in 1924, and of which she remained Director until a few months before her death.

Both women were pioneers, each in her own sphere. Winifred Cullis was the first woman physiologist, and became head of the Department of Physiology at the London School of Medicine for Women. Caroline Haslett was the first woman Chairman of the British Electrical Development Association, and the first and only woman on countless Committees, and in turn Chairman and President of the British Federation of Business and Professional Women, and late President of its International.

Both were used by the Government during the second World War and sent on missions to other countries. From their different angles they were both keenly interested in education and the opportunities that were opening for women—to which they, themselves, made such outstanding contributions.

In a review of *Women's Two Roles* by Alva Myrdal and Viola Klein (Routledge and Kegan Paul, 25s.), our contemporary, *New Life*, writes thus: "Two important facts have to be remembered: first that in this age of planned families, child-bearing and looking after the children take up only about fifteen years of a woman's adult life, and her expectation of life is considerably lengthened; secondly, there is today a shortage of man-power, and women, especially married women, are a great source of unskilled labour."

"The authors are of the opinion that part-time work is impractical; women should not divide their time equally between their home and a job, for both suffer. What happens nowadays more customarily and will probably be a future habit, is for women to take up their working lives after an interval of raising a family. Many women welcome an escape from the home which for increasing numbers today has become too much of a tie.

"Will the family suffer from the absence of the wife and mother? Before one gives the traditional answer that it will, it would be as well to ask whether today the family is adequate to meet the challenge of the modern world. When we say that the family is the bedrock of civilised living what do we mean by family? What is the nature of the concept 'home'? Nothing will alter the facts that millions of women are engaged in working life and that there are many married women among them."

The review ends with the question—"What steps should be taken to revitalize and renew the meaning and the function of the family today?"—and the answer—"Perhaps the secret is to be found in its missionary character."

*New Life* is a "Review of the Social Apostolate" edited by the Chaplain at Y.C.W. National Headquarters.

We ask the prayers of our members for the repose of the soul of Miss Mardon—a faithful member since the days of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, who died recently in Edinburgh. R.I.P.

Congratulations to Mrs. Clynes (née Monica Munro) and her husband on the birth of their second child, Celia, on November 19th, 1956, in Grenada, West Indies.

Lobbying of Members of Parliament in support of the Attachment of Income Bill will take place in the House of Commons on February 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th, from 4 p.m. The Bill will have its second reading on March 1st.

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "The Catholic Citizen"

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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### Party for Madame Pesson-Depret

On January 31st, at the kind invitation of Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, the committee and some of the most active members of the Alliance met at Ashley Gardens for a buffet supper and to welcome from France Madame Pesson-Depret, a vice-president of St. Joan's International. Although the opportunity of meeting other members in such pleasant surroundings and enjoying Dame Vera's bountiful hospitality was a pleasure in itself, an added enjoyment was a talk by Madame Pesson on her recent visit to Russia.

Dame Vera, introducing the speaker, said that last September a Seminar had been held in Moscow to show representatives of non-governmental organisations the rôle women play in the life of the Soviet Union. Dame Vera explained that St. Joan's International Alliance had felt unable to accept the invitation of the U.S.S.R., but some members of St. Joan's had attended as delegates from non-Catholic organisations. Among them was Madame Pesson representing the International Abolitionist Federation.

Madame Pesson began by saying that she had lived in Russia before the revolution until the age of thirteen and she could speak the language. Eighty-nine delegates from all over the world attended the Seminar. She gave a vivid description of her arrival in Moscow at two in the morning to find it ablaze with light, the streets swept and washed. Her hotel was splendid with marble and crystal and every modern amenity. Cars and interpreters were put at their disposal.

At Mass on Sunday, she found the bulk of the congregation was made up of women. She learned from the priest that he was allowed to keep the church open and to say Mass provided there was no anti-Communist propaganda. She remarked on the poverty of the congregation and the difficulty he must have in finding the necessities of life; he said that the generosity of his parishioners exceeded their misery. She was also

able to visit some of the Orthodox churches. They were always full, but no men were to be seen.

Each day the morning was spent on various lectures to illustrate how the principle of equal rights for women was implemented in the U.S.S.R. These lectures embraced all aspects of social, economic and civil life, and were followed by discussions. The afternoon was taken up with visits to institutions and other places of interest that would illustrate how the theories which had been expounded in principle were carried out in practice. In the evening they were entertained at receptions and at the Ballet.

Her first impression of Moscow was of its cleanliness and size. Secondly, the thoroughness with which everything was carried out, whether it was a lecture at the Botanical Gardens or the work of the women road sweepers. Food seemed to be plentiful. A noticeable feature was the absence of advertisements, which of course are superfluous in a totalitarian régime. In the streets, people were soberly dressed in Western style, save that the women wore shawls instead of hats. Few girls used cosmetics. There were no accounts in the papers of crimes of violence; at the cinema nothing improper was shown. Alcohol was not prominently sold, nor was it served unless specially asked for.

They observed that the children's leisure was completely organised into group activities with their classmates. Thus parents and children could never enjoy their leisure as a family group. The young people married at eighteen or nineteen. Parental approval was not required. Divorce was not encouraged and it was even forbidden in cases where young children might suffer thereby. Abortion was only permitted for medical reasons.

Regarding prostitution, she was told that there had not been any since the German occupation and that venereal disease had also been eradicated. The Russians claimed that there was no

need for prostitution since every woman could find properly paid work. They said that there was no bar to a woman entering any trade or profession.

Madame Pesson had observed that the older people still clung to their belief in God and practised their religion quietly. It was the older people too, who lived in fear of the régime. The younger people all claimed that they had no belief in God or a hereafter. Everywhere she went, especially in the factories, she saw slogans exhorting the people to work harder; everyone greeted her with the cry: "We want Peace."

Margaret C. Clarke

### WOMEN ON STOCK EXCHANGES

In the early part of 1956, Mrs. N. Neale of Birmingham made application for membership of that City's Stock Exchange—the first application had been confronted. For six months the matter was under consideration and during that time it had been raised at the Council of Stock Exchanges, the provincial governing body covering twenty-one Exchanges in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. The Council of the London Stock Exchange had also been kept in touch with developments.

At last came Birmingham's decision—the application had been refused.

Mrs. Neale has been with a local stockbroker for thirteen years and her qualifications fulfilled all the rules of the Exchange so that the inference to be drawn is that sex prejudice played a major rôle in the members' decision. Such prejudice is not, of course, confined to Birmingham and no doubt alarm spread throughout the country that Birmingham, in admitting a woman as member, might create a situation in which it would be difficult for other Exchanges to refuse a similar application.

We can pay tribute to the Dublin Exchange, however, where there is no objection to the election of women members, purely on the grounds of sex. In fact, a Miss Keogh was elected a member to this Exchange in July, 1925, and continued a member until her resignation in July, 1939. It was doubtless this election of a woman to the Dublin Exchange which brought into being a "gentlemen's agreement" by all the Member Exchanges of the Council of the Associated Stock Exchanges that the Council would be notified of any application received from a woman.

How long can the Stock Exchanges of the country be allowed to maintain this attitude towards women of barring their applications to membership on grounds of sex? We must all acknowledge our gratitude to Mrs. Neale for bringing the question into the open by making an application and we should have felt overjoyed

if she had been successful. We must not, however, let the question sink into oblivion. Perhaps another qualified woman will follow suit with an application. Aberdeen Exchange, during the war, went as far as employing women Authorised Clerks. Might one of these, in the interval, have qualified sufficiently to seek membership of any Exchange?

It is not unlikely that among the members of the various Exchanges there are some who will be found to be in agreement with the claim that barriers to membership should not be on sex grounds and that they might welcome encouragement in ventilating this point of view.

The first woman judge in this country has been appointed and there is some hope that in the not too distant future women may be admitted as members of the Second Chamber. It is an anachronism for women, on account of their sex, to be debarred from undertaking work for which they are qualified as members of Stock Exchanges.

B. M. Pearson

### INTERNATIONAL NOTES

**Australia.** Senator Agnes Robertson has been appointed by the Federal Government to the Foreign Affairs Committee, the first woman to hold such a post.

**Belgian Congo.** Madame Josephine Siongo has been elected to the Leopoldville City Council. She is the first African woman to be thus elected.

**Canada.** We congratulate our co-religionist, Miss Huguette Plamondon, who has been elected as Quebec Vice-president of the Canadian Labour Congress. Miss Plamondon is an excellent feminist and has done valuable work in labour disputes in connection with the twenty-five Unions of the Packing House industry in Quebec and the Maritimes.

**Netherlands.** Miss N. Z. N. Witteveen has been appointed permanent representative to the Council of Europe in Strasburg, with the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary.

**Spain.** Señora Navakas is the first woman to be invited to speak at a Pontifical University. She is to give four Conferences on "The Christianization of Europe" at the Pontifical University of Salamanca.

**New South Wales.** Congratulations to our member, Miss Aline Fenwick, on her election as President of the Women Lawyers Association of New South Wales. She tells us that women lawyers who are in the public service do not receive equal pay and her association is campaigning for this.

## THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

Parliament reassembled after the Christmas Recess on Tuesday, January 22nd. The principal topic discussed was the Homicide Bill, which went through its Committee stage on the 24th, 28th and 29th. On Tuesday, 22nd, two further cases of Breach of Privilege (in addition to the case of John Junor of the "Sunday Express") were referred to the Committee of Privileges. Both were concerned with references to the amount of petrol allocated to Members of Parliament and one of them concerned a remark broadcast during a B.B.C. discussion by Mrs. Mary Stocks.

Very little of particular interest to us has yet occurred. On the 29th January Mr. Hector Hughes asked the Secretary of State for Scotland: "If he is aware of the desirability of legislation to implement . . . the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Marriage and Divorce and also the Report of the Mackintosh Committee regarding the law of Succession in Scotland; and if he will state the policy of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the implementation by legislation of both or either of these Reports or any of the recommendations contained in them." Mr. Maclay replied: "The Royal Commission's Report contains many recommendations which would require legislation. All are being thoroughly examined and I am undertaking consultations about some of them. With regard to the Report of the Mackintosh Committee on the law of succession in Scotland I cannot say more at present than that there is no prospect of legislation during this Session."

On the 28th Mr. Benn asked the Foreign Secretary "Why Her Majesty's Government have not ratified the anti-slavery convention signed at Geneva on September 7th, 1956." Mr. Ian Hervey replied: "Her Majesty's Government are unable to ratify this Convention until certified copies in all the five official languages of the United Nations have been received from the United Nations Secretariat. I can assure the hon. Member that immediately they are received the formalities of ratification will be completed as speedily as possible."

Dame Irene Ward's latest attack on the Chancellor of the Exchequer was answered by Mr. Powell. She asked the Chancellor "if he will give an assurance that there will be no concession to Surtax payers without special tax reliefs to elderly persons living on small fixed incomes." Mr. Powell replied in traditional if "friendly" vein: "At this time of year I must not say anything that could be interpreted as in any way anticipating my right hon. Friend's Budget, but my right hon. Friend is well aware of my hon. Friend's point of view." Dame Irene charged on. "I am becoming slightly bored about Chan-

cellors in purdah. Will my hon. Friend convey to his right hon. Friend that my 'Geordie' blood is up and that if the small fixed income groups do not get some relief in this Budget, as a Sassenach I intend to stage a demonstration—and as a Sassenach I shall win."

On January 24th Mr. R. Harris asked the Prime Minister "when he intends to introduce legislation to reform the House of Lords." The Prime Minister replied: "I am not yet in a position to make a statement on this subject."

Mr. Dodds and Dr. Johnson are conducting a campaign against the Ministry of Health on the subject of the mentally deficient, their treatment and the conditions under which they are deprived of their liberty. In the course of this campaign, which is largely a battle of attrition at the moment, the two Members contrived to put, orally and in writing, no fewer than thirty-eight questions to the Ministry during one week. Whatever the rights of their case, it is an admirable example of Parliamentary technique, as is that of Dame Irene Ward for the small fixed income groups.

B. M. Halpern

## The Married Women's Association

## PUBLIC MEETING

at the

## CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER

on

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25th,

at 7.30 p.m., on

## "The Attachment Of Income Bill"

(for the payment of arrears of maintenance Court Orders)

CHAIRMAN:

Lord Merthyr

SPEAKERS:

Miss Joan Vickers, M.P. John Parker, M.P.  
Dr. Horace King, M.P. Ronald Russell, M.P.  
Geoffrey Wilson, M.P.

IN GENERAL PRINCIPLE THE BILL IS  
SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING  
ORGANISATIONS:—

The Howard League	Suffragette Fellowship
National Marriage Guidance Council	National Women's Citizenship Association
Six Point Group	National Association of Probation Officers
British Commonwealth League	
St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance	The Alliance
Women's Freedom League	Engineers Study Group

## REVIEWS

**The Gospel To Every Creature.** By Leon-Joseph Suenens, Preface by Archbishop Montini. (Burns Oates, 8s. 6d.)

This stimulating book by the Auxiliary Bishop of Malines tackles the problem of spreading the Gospel, especially to our "neo pagans," from a fresh angle. Many readers will say "wonderful—for someone else," but they would miss the point of the book.

Msgr. Suenens demonstrates that the command of Our Lord to teach all nations must be obeyed by everyone in virtue of their Baptism. The baptismal character, and thereby the sharing in Christ's Priesthood, is the theological basis for the participation of the laity in the Sacrifice of the Mass. This same character is now seen to impose a corresponding sharing in the apostolic duty of spreading the faith—a duty which should normally be fulfilled through action and not only by prayer and good example. Bishop Suenens has widened the usually accepted scope of our duty in this respect; in a spirit of love, with a smile, a word, an attentive ear, all Catholics should make opportunities of approaching everyone.

The part to be played by women in the apostolate is highly important. However the need for organisation and leadership is stressed. Msgr. Suenens suggests that religious sisters should act as "auxiliaries" to the parish clergy in the training and guidance of lay-women for their missionary activities. Indeed he has some strong words for Religious: a vocation, e.g. to a teaching congregation, does not limit the command of Christ to teach all men; if necessary the constitutions and traditions of the Community should be changed (quel audace!) to facilitate more missionary work, even outside the convent.

The Church on earth is Militant; all must work together. Seminarians, religious and laity must be better prepared to face their immense task. Bishop Suenens is completely convincing. Let us pray his book will be appreciated in circles where it can do most good.

C.L.M.

**The Maid of Orleans.** By Sven Stolpe. Translated from the Swedish by Eric Lewenhaupt. (Burns Oates, 25s.)

Each century sees a new evaluation of history in general and of its outstanding personalities in particular. This latest book on St. Joan treats of her primarily as a "mystic." The author says "the importance of a mystery is not diminished by examining historical background," but too much background can obscure the view and there is too much that is speculation rather than argument. St. Joan's sanctity does not, it is true, depend on her visions, nor does it greatly matter whether she was, or was not, a military genius,

but the attempt to make her a mystic after the author's pattern and a martyr according to his mind, leads him into strange paths. "It seems improbable that a religious attitude of much marked clarity . . . should develop spontaneously in a primitive consciousness without the guidance of a priest." Therefore she "must have" told her parish priest of her revelations in spite of her clear statement "I told my visions to no one!" As if an archangel and two saints were not enough to form her. To "explain" her passion for chastity and martyrdom, the author interpolates long histories of St. Margaret and St. Catherine.

More serious is the failure to distinguish firmly between attempted escape and attempted suicide; between risking one's life in order to escape, and throwing away one's life in despair or defiance. The author's own account of her careful "drop" from the battlements contradicts his "almost in the nature of attempted suicide." St. Joan acknowledged that her Voices had told her to bear her captivity and that she was wrong to try to escape. Again, when she recanted—though she scarcely knew what "to recant" meant—she retracted surely because her Voices told her she had been wrong, and not because the promises made to her were broken. "I am more afraid of saying things that would displease my Voices than I am not to answer you," she had said.

Finally, it seems far from the truth to suggest that there is anything in common with the brain-washed victims of communism today which makes St. Joan a martyr so particularly consoling to our times. "How you weary yourself trying to make me give in," she said to Cauchon, a remark in which I find nothing "pathetic." Never were answers clearer even in the face of torture or when illness and ill-treatment had brought her to death's door. Her readiness to die for her country's sins which the author imagines for her "during the silent Good Friday in the dark prison" does not seem to square with her belief that her sufferings in prison were her martyrdom, her almost certain hope of deliverance, and her desperate weeping when she knew she was to die. Nor does the sense of desertion she felt almost at the end detract from the glory of her last moments.

P. C. Challoner

A new and cheaper edition of the translation of the New Testament by Monsignor Knox, which brings it within the means of all, is published by Burns Oates at 8s. 6d.

**The Masses of Holy Week and the Easter Vigil.** By Godfrey L. Diekmann, O.S.B. (Longmans Green, 2s. 9d.)

**HON. TREASURER'S NOTE**

Firstly, I would remind you that subscriptions (£1) for 1957 are now due. Please send yours as soon as possible, so that we can keep pace with our various commitments. Do come to the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, March 16th—it is a good way to meet other members of the Alliance and to hear, first hand, what is being done and how your money is being spent. Please start to collect things for our Spring Jumble Sale, the date of which will be announced later.

**Noreen K. Carr**

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Court Shoes, Size 4, navy blue.—Box 9, St. Joan's Alliance.

Gestetner (hand) Duplicator.—Box 10, St. Joan's Alliance.

**African Women**

will help teachers, social workers and others overseas and especially in Africa, by bringing original articles on various problems concerning women's education, professional training, community life, health and home problems. The journal also collates material which shows the general progress of African women and girls. It contains a section on books and articles of interest to women. From time to time it will include reading lists on special subjects: local government, baby care, visual aids, etc.

The periodical is published twice a year in June and December. Copies (single copy: one shilling; four issues: three shillings and sixpence) can be obtained from:

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