

# THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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

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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*

## Women in the Congo

By F. Baetens

The first Government and the first Parliament have started their life in an independent Congo. The women of the Congo, though not called upon to vote in these first elections, are determined not to be left behind. Nine months ago (September, 1959) they asked for information about the new and important problems confronting their country, and the Christian Family Movement organised courses in the vernacular to meet their wishes.

Fifty women paid a fifty franc fee, a large sum of money for most of them, to be allowed to attend the course. Lectures were given from two to five on two Saturdays each month. But twice during the six month course the meeting stretched to the whole week-end, after a letter had been despatched to the husbands explaining that a longer session was needed from time to time if their wives were to get away from the worry about their children and their daily tasks.

The teachers wrote the main points of their lesson up on the blackboard, to help the students in taking notes. A short résumé of the lessons was only given out just before the examinations. The main aim was to get the students to take an active part in the course. Six women organised it with the help of two European councillors. Bibiane Odia, Elisa Bile and Marie Louise Ngadi presided over the sessions. Jacqueline Makoko was chosen because of her knowledge of French, to speak at the opening meeting and at the graduation ceremony. Madeleine Meno was elected treasurer. This committee, not only took charge of practical arrangements, publicity and discipline, but studied the programme, approached possible lecturers, drew up a budget and found the means to cover expenses. It met regularly to criticize the lessons that were being given, protesting when a

teacher did not make himself clear, or when he did not set a subject for further study. All this seems a long way from the reputation of African women for passive indifference!

Here are some of the subjects given in the course: human rights; family and clan; education; important social doctrines such as socialism, liberalism, communism, the social teaching of the Church. The lesson on Woman's Work was given by a teacher, Marie Fayilla. Mgr. Malula, bishop of Leopoldville, spoke of woman's vocation, Gaston Diomi, a burgomaster, spoke of municipal government. Josephine Kumu-Siongo, a former town councillor told of women in public life. There were also lessons about the history of money, what is an independent state, elections, party politics, political programmes, etc.

An effort was made to relate this teaching to the every day life of African women and to enable them to voice their problems in discussion groups. Some of these proved quite picturesque. The women complained that respectable wives were not considered as highly when shopping as some well-dressed prostitutes, and the discussion brought to light the following scale of values for public consideration in Léopoldville: jazz singers, football players, taxi drivers, and rich people. It seems that consideration is due to those who are well known, before all others.

Many other points were discussed of course during the last six months, bringing to light the need for training and information, but also the fact that women were outspoken in their opinions, and ever ready to discuss with ardour, even if their last baby was bobbing up and down, strapped to their back. In the Congo, women are eager to learn and determined not to be outdone by their husbands.

### ST. JOAN'S IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The League of Women Voters in South Australia secured Mrs. Jean Daly, twice Australian representative at the Status of Women Commission of the United Nations and ex-president of St. Joan's Alliance, New South Wales, to address them, on the occasion of their Golden Jubilee. A meeting of various Catholic groups, held in the Graduates Centre at the University of Adelaide, was subsequently arranged by Mrs. J. M. Dwyer, president of St. Joan's, South Australia. This first meeting of Catholic women in Adelaide interested in the international status of women proved a very great success.

Mrs. Daly chose as her basic theme the status of women at national and international level. She explained that international non-governmental organisations exercised consultative status through the Status of Women Commission. She spoke of Catholic organisations with consultative status, and stressed the very high esteem in which St. Joan's is held. Mrs. Daly criticised reactionary statements made by some of the Catholic organisations in relation to women's status, and quoted addresses by Pope Pius XII in which the Holy Father urged the vital importance of the participation of Catholic women in public life, and the need for them to inform themselves of trends in social thinking and practice, particularly those which contravened Christian principle and the moral law. This applied she pointed out, to every sphere of life, political, professional, civic, educational, and so on. She also stressed the need for the participation of Catholic voluntary groups in the world movement for the improvement of material conditions in the less developed communities of the world. Pope Pius XII himself had emphasised that Catholic organisations must unite with other Christian voluntary groups, not alone for social and economic betterment but also for the goal of spiritual betterment.

Mrs. Daly urged that at the national level, Catholic women should support any move for the appointment of suitable women to international delegations, local boards, commissions and so on. Such women should be supported as candidates for Parliament, local government, and other posts. There was a changing climate of opinion in Australia, which urged consideration of quality and ability apart from sex. But Mrs. Daly warned against the tendency to limit women's share in public work to what might be called functional activities, that is, work concerned with such problems as those affecting the mother, child and home. Further, she warned, Catholics must not be isolationists. She quoted the Holy Father in support: "Let them remain open to every healthy undertaking and to all genuine progress, and not withdraw themselves into a sealed enclosure as if to preserve themselves from the world."

### BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE

The British Commonwealth League held its 28th Annual Conference on July 4th and 5th—at Victoria League House—the subject being "Women in Scientific and Technological Fields, Opportunities and Frustrations."

The Conference opened with a delightful party by the kindness of Mrs. Ignatieff, wife of the Deputy High Commissioner for Canada, on July 2nd. After the Council Meeting on July 4th, delegates met Mrs. Thatcher, M.P., at lunch, and listened to an inspiring speech from her, urging women to use their faculties to the full, for the trained mind is ready for any job and is certainly not wasted in marriage.

The two chief introductory speakers, Miss M. W. Nobbs, M.I.H.V.E., M.R.San.I., president of the Women's Engineering Society and Miss M. R. Hardy of the Central Personal Services of the English Electric Company Ltd., both stressed the great need for scientific work to be highly up-to-date, and spoke of the reluctance of firms to offer expensive training to girls who might only stay with them a short time. Many offered frivolous excuses for not employing women. These difficulties were however not insuperable; there will always be an opening for the determined woman, and there was a great need for training teachers in schools and other institutions for women who wished to utilise their skill.

Speakers from various parts of the Commonwealth spoke of their own country's particular needs and opportunities. The Conference ended with a Garden Party on July 9th, given with their usual charming hospitality by the president, Mrs. Alice Hemming and her husband in their home.

P.C.C.

### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From "The Catholic Citizen," July-August, 1935.

Australian Aborigines were dealt with in three resolutions which pressed the necessity for concerted action in the direction of a National Policy to deal with Aboriginal matters and welcomed (with an important proviso against compulsory examination of women for venereal disease) the publication of the report of the Royal Commission on the treatment of Aborigines in Western Australia.

A resolution proposed by Miss Nina Boyle on behalf of the Suffragette Fellowship and seconded by Mrs. Laughton Mathews on behalf of St. Joan's Alliance was passed urging the various Governments within the British Empire to secure the abolition of slavery and all customs and abuses akin to slavery within their territories, and also calling upon them to discountenance any practices relative to the bartering of women and children into domestic or any other form of slavery; further, expressing satisfaction "that the Mandates Commission of the League of Nations is devoting special attention to the important problem of the condition of women in certain Mandated Territories."—Report of British Commonwealth League Conference.

## Notes and Comments

Charlotte Despard, famous militant fighter for votes for women, but also rebel against poverty and helpless misery, founded in Battersea a Youth Centre. She pioneered in maternity and child welfare and in 1921 gave her home and the centre for social workers at Nine Elms in Currie Street to the Battersea Borough Council. Requisitioned by the L.C.C. for demolition, the premises vanish, but the price given has been handed by the Council to the Battersea United Charities, whose trustees will use it for a permanent Charlotte Despard Fund to be applied to the training of older women and widows for employment. A new road, named Charlotte Despard Avenue is yet another tribute from the Battersea Council to this great and inspired fighter.

We salute the memory of the Most Rev. Dr. Francis Xavier Gsell, first Catholic Bishop of Darwin, who died recently at the age of eighty-seven. R.I.P.

Readers may remember that some time ago, we reviewed a book by Bishop Gsell "The Bishop With 150 Wives" in which he described his breach in the custom whereby the aboriginal tribes allotted to each man a "mother-in-law", all of whose girl-children belonged by right to him as wives and were inherited by his nearest heir at his death. As small girls were taken from his mission to act as wives to "some hairy anonymous old gentleman", the Bishop conceived the plan of buying the girls and bringing them up at the Mission. They were known as the "Bishop's wives" and grew up to marry young men of their own age and found Christian families while as widows they could "belong to themselves", a thing hitherto unheard of in Northern Australia.

The Royal Society was congratulated by Her Majesty the Queen, in the course of her opening address at the tercentenary celebrations, on the fact that women have been admitted as Fellows "something that took nearly three hundred years to accomplish. I am delighted," she added, "to see the increasing part women are taking in the scientific work of this country."

The Gulbenkian Foundation has made a new kind of grant; money to allow an African holder of an overseas scholarship to have with him his wife for at least part of his time abroad. This excellent and imaginative move shows real insight into the problems both of the isolated student, and of the wife otherwise left outside his new range of interests.

We send our congratulations to Miss Ann Whittles on her marriage to Mr. Anthony John Kennedy, and wish them many years of happiness.

The London Conference called to consider the next stage of constitutional advance in Nyasaland ended in agreement on August 5th. As regards the franchise, two electoral rolls are suggested. Both should have as qualifications nationality as a British subject or British protected person, residence in Nyasaland for two years and an age of 21 or over.

Voters in the constituencies in the lower franchise should also have an income of £120 a year or property not less than £250, with literacy in English or have met their tax obligations for ten years and are literate in English or language commonly used in Nyasaland; or hold a post such as a chief, headman or member of a district council.

The other additional qualifications for the lower franchise were for master farmers or pensioners or ex-Servicemen.

The question of women's franchise has been remitted for consideration to the working party.

In the House of Lords, Lord Stonham drew, on July 1st, a horrifying picture of the growth of low grade clubs, numbering now nearly 25,000 in London, where vice is exploited. Lady Ravensdale observed that this was a direct result of the Street Offences Act: the street women had been driven by legislation into drinking dens. The Lord Chancellor, replying, stated that it was not the police view that the Act had affected the growth of these clubs: nevertheless, the Government was considering legislation to amend the present law on easy registration for a small fee.

The Second United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, is being held at Church House, London, from August 8th to the 20th. Miss W. M. Price is representing St. Joan's International Alliance.

### DAME VERA MEMORIAL FUND

We express our gratitude to those of our readers who have so generously and promptly responded to this appeal. At the same time, may we remind those who still wish to be associated with the appeal, that donations should be forwarded as soon as possible to: Miss W. M. Price, either to the office or to 46, Belgrave Square, S.W.1. Cheques should be made payable to the Dame Vera Memorial Fund.

We know that members will remember Dame Vera in their prayers, more especially on September 25th, the anniversary of her death. R.I.P.

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

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## Letters to Women\*

There is a tendency to think of St. Ignatius Loyola as especially a "man's saint". And indeed, of the seven thousand letters still extant, only fifty are addressed to women. The remainder of the one hundred and thirty-nine letters included in this book are to the saint from women. The bulk of this most scholarly work, which runs to well over five hundred pages, provides a historical and biographical background to the correspondence. It is excellently translated and produced.

Their letters often present saints in a more human and approachable, though no less holy light than do the pictures drawn of them by the hagiographers. The letters in this book are no exception. They are delightful, breathing a spirit not only of deep Christian charity but also of human affection. They are expressed, too, with true Spanish courtliness. Many are very beautiful, as for example his letter of condolence to Donna Violante Gozzadini on the death of her beloved youngest son.

In these pages are to be met all the great women of the Renaissance. To Margaret of Austria, first woman Governor of the Netherlands, St. Ignatius was confessor. He was on the friendliest terms with Vittoria Colonna, the poetess, and with her sister, Joanna Colonna, Duchess of Ascanio, the most beautiful woman of her age, whose marriage he tried to mend. Doña Leonor Mascarenhas, Governess to Philip II and his sisters, and later to his son, Don Carlos, corresponded with him for many years, both on temporal and spiritual matters. To the ladies of the House of Hapsburg, St. Ignatius owed much, for they were in general enthusiastic for the new order, whereas the men tended to be tepid, if not actively hostile. It has to be admitted, however, that these imperious royal ladies were sometimes

\*St Ignatius Loyola: Letters to Women. By Hugo Rahner, S.J. (Nelson, 63s.)

very difficult, and needed careful handling. St. Ignatius handled them with consummate tact.

Women were particularly prominent as foundresses of Jesuit colleges, and St. Ignatius was deeply and charmingly grateful. Many earned from him the title of "Mother of the Jesuits." Their motherly solicitude went far beyond the provision of bricks and mortar. Food, bed-linen and other comforts all poured in. But on one point the General was adamant; there was to be no corresponding female order, though the Infanta Juana, for five years Regent in Spain, did actually achieve the unique distinction of admission to the Society. Again and again, pious and devoted women addressed to him what appeared to them so reasonable a request that they could not believe it would not be granted. They felt themselves already to be members of the Society. Always they received a kindly-worded but inexorable "no." Nor were vows of obedience to be accepted. Even the spiritual direction of women was as far as practicable to be avoided. The foundation of colleges and the training of men was regarded as of paramount importance, and Jesuits should have "as few ties as possible, in order to be able to go wherever obedience to the Sovereign Pontiff and the needs of our neighbours may call us." Also, great ladies were all too apt to become over-attached to individual members of the Society, and had to be gently persuaded that the Society had other and more important duties than looking after their souls and those of their dependants. In almost every instance, these rebuffs were accepted in an admirable spirit, and did not in any way impair the relations between the ladies and the saint.

The ladies with whom St. Ignatius corresponded were encouraged to undertake works of charity, especially work for fallen women. Doña Leonor de Vega Osorio, wife of the Imperial Ambassador in Rome, appears to have been an earlier Josephine Butler, seeking out prostitutes

## INTERNATIONAL NOTES

**Ceylon.** Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike is the first woman in the world to become Prime Minister. She heads the Freedom Party in Ceylon though she is not a member of either of the Houses of Representatives. She must be elected within four months of assuming office. Mrs. Bandaranaike, aged forty-six, was educated mainly at St. Bridget's Convent in Colombo where her two daughters are now at school. She herself is a Buddhist.

**France.** We rejoice with our French colleagues that the legislature has finally voted to ratify the 1949 Convention on the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

On June 28th, *un projet de loi* introduced by the Minister of Health, Monsieur Chenot, supported by the Prime Minister and the Ministers of Justice, of Foreign Affairs, and of Home Affairs was adopted by the Assembly authorising this ratification. A few days later, by an overwhelming majority, the Senate also voted for this ratification.

**Guatemala** has deposited at United Nations Headquarters its instrument of accession to the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women. This is the twenty-second accession to the Convention which came into force in 1958 and provides that a woman's nationality shall not automatically be affected by marriage, its dissolution, or a change in her husband's nationality.

**Iran** has welcomed for the first time a Board Meeting of the International Alliance of Women. Representatives were present from Pakistan, Sweden, Germany, United Kingdom, Israel, Lebanon, three affiliated societies of Iran, i.e. the Women's Council of Iran; Roh-eh-Nor (which means the New Way) and the Zoroastrian Society. The President, Mrs. Ezlynn Deraniyagala, from Ceylon, the Administrative Secretary, Mrs. Elizabeth Halsey (U.S.A.) and two gallant travellers from Australia, Mrs. Bessie Rischbeith and Miss Ruby Rich were present.

**Japan.** Mr. Hayato Ikeda, newly elected Prime Minister of Japan, announces Japan's first woman Minister, Mrs. Masa Nakayama, who will be in charge of welfare policy and administration.

It appears to me idiotic that a woman able to do original, creative work (art, writing) should exhaust herself over housework when someone unable to spell should be unwilling to render that *service unless she/he* could see a better-paid impersonal work in e.g. a factory were better *service*. —Fr. C. C. Martindale in *The Catholic Herald*.

and sheltering them in her own palace till a place could be found for them in a House of Refuge. For the time, this work for prostitutes was on enlightened lines. St. Ignatius was also in advance of his age in recognising that there might be a life for the virtuous woman other than the contemporary alternatives of marriage or cloister.

Nor was it only great ladies who were drawn to St. Ignatius and enjoyed his friendship. The bourgeois Ines Pascual, in whose house he lived at Barcelona, looked after him like a mother. Women of all classes held him in reverence, and in the process of beatification the evidence of women played an important role.

Vera Douie

## STATUS OF WOMEN COMMISSION

As we go to press, we have received the resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council arising out of the Report of the Commission on the Status of Women at its Fourteenth Session. We give the text of the resolutions on Marriage and Ritual Operations.

## Minimum Age of Marriage, Consent to Marriage, and Registration of Marriages

## The Economic and Social Council,

"Requests the Secretary-General to transmit these documents to the Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialised agencies with a request that they submit any observations which they may wish to offer:

- on the question of whether a convention or a recommendation, or both, should be prepared, and
- on the provisions of the drafts drawn up by the Commission, in time for the submission of such observations to the Commission at its fifteenth session."

**Operations based on Custom** performed on women and girls.

## The Economic and Social Council,

"Notes with satisfaction that individual Governments concerned are already working towards the elimination of these practices,

"Expresses the hope that the Governments concerned will continue and accelerate their efforts with a view to the complete abolition of all such practices and, for this purpose, take advantage of all available and appropriate services of the United Nations and of the specialised agencies which they consider would assist to this end."

We regret the postponement concerning the convention on the minimum age of marriage consent and registration to yet another year. We should have thought the Governments had had ample opportunity to submit their observations and to come to a decision.

Members are asked to keep Saturday afternoon, October 15th free, when an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Alliance will be held. Members will receive the agenda and particulars of the meeting in due course.

## THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

It was pleasant to hear Mr. Vosper remind the House that husbands are for the first time given the same right to relief as wives when the Matrimonial Proceedings (Magistrates' Courts) Bill was read the third time and passed on June 29th.

After earnest discussion the House voted against taking action upon the recommendations in Part 2 of the Wolfenden Report (to alter the law concerning homosexuality). In a carefully reasoned speech Mr. Butler said: "There are, unfortunately, people today to whom criminal law and moral law are coterminous in the sense that they have no other point of reference. They consider that if conduct is not prohibited by criminal law there is no reason why they should not indulge in it."

On July 6th, Mrs. Barbara Castle tried to get a new clause into the Finance Bill, whereby the small maintenance allowance paid to a separated wife should no longer be treated as unearned income for the assessment of income tax. It was the principle involved that concerned Mrs. Castle more than the small relief that would ensue, but dearer to the heart of the Government supporters was the principle of maintaining the "status quo." The clause was rejected.

In a written reply to Mr. Aubery on July 7th, about the shortage of women teachers of science and mathematics, Sir David Eccles replied: "I know that the shortage of teachers in these subjects is serious. As part of a campaign that I am preparing to attract more teachers, special attention will be paid to this shortage." Later he added, "I am proposing to undertake a national recruitment campaign to attract married women teachers back to the schools." We hope he will bear in mind the many abortive attempts that have been made to remove the disincentive by which the professional woman's income is assessed together with her husband's for income tax.

The Prime Minister in a moving and generous tribute to the memory of Aneurin Bevan, expressed the sorrow of the House and sympathy for Mrs. Bevan. Women have cause to remember him for his defence of equal pay which followed naturally from his burning belief in the dignity of the person. It was in 1944 that Mrs. Cazalet Keir succeeded in getting an amendment to a clause in the Education Bill, providing for equal pay for teachers. The subsequent removal of the amendment by Mr. Winston Churchill making it the subject of a vote of confidence was passed. One of the twenty-three who defiantly voted to retain the amendment was Mr. Bevan. "Nye's" character was summed up by Mr. Gaitskell: "He is without guile." May he rest in peace.

"The United Kingdom have undertaken, at the request of the Ghana government, to provide and finance training for twelve Ghanaian nurses each

year for two or more years, the second group of twelve girls is at present receiving training in this country." This information was given by Mr. Allport in a written reply on July 14th.

During the discussion preceding the Second Reading of the Nigeria Independence Bill, Mr. Robert Edwards said, "I was very pleased to hear that the women of the North and South Cameroons are for the first time to be included in the electoral register. I hope this will encourage the Nigerians in the Northern territory to do likewise and include in their electoral register their very intelligent, active and cultured Muslim women, so that they may take their full part in the running of their country. I am happy to know that we have agreed, at least I think this is true, to include all the women in the electoral register for the plebiscite in February next year."

On July 19th, Mr. J. Griffiths moved a vote of censure on the government for its appointment of Mrs. Rachel Jones as chairman of the Broadcasting Council of Wales and Welsh National Governor on the B.B.C. Board of Governors. The objections were not on personal grounds but on account of the manner in which the appointment had been made and the fact that Mrs. Jones does not speak Welsh.

M.P.'s alleged that Mrs. Jones was unknown in Wales outside Brecon of which her husband is Dean, that there are many men and women of all political opinions who would have been more able to fill the post. Objections had come from all kinds of people cutting across party alignments and loyalties. They came from college principals, university professors, men and women distinguished in the arts and sciences, social workers, local and County councillors, the Council of the Free Church of Wales, and the Church of Wales through its official organ and a diocesan letter from a bishop.

Mr. T. W. Jones (Merioneth) quoted "The London Welshman" as saying, "This lady's elevation cannot fail to evoke suspicions of such thorough paced patronage as to be an anathema to public conscience, long suffering though that is in the Principality." Objections to the appointment came from six out of the eight members of the Broadcasting Council for Wales, among them the chairmen of two Education Committees one also a High Sheriff, a famous choir conductor, the president of the Welsh National Party, the secretary of the Welsh Council for Labour and Mr. H. Morris Jones "one of the ablest men in the University of Wales."

Many M.P.'s, mainly Welsh, vigorously opposed the appointment, Mr. Griffiths said that in his experience no appointment had been so universally condemned. Mr. Williams said that it had stag-

gered exiles from Wales and amazed and annoyed people in Wales. Mr. Roberts alleged that no consultation with Welsh opinion had been sought. Mr. Gaitskell said that it would be extremely difficult for a non-Welsh-speaking chairman to do the job properly as half the broadcasts are in Welsh.

The motion of censure was lost: the appointment remains.

On July 21st Miss Joan Vickers asked if an amendment to the Street Offences Act was being considered (in view of the increase in the number of solicitations of young girls in the streets for the purpose of prostitution) so that the men who thus solicit may be prosecuted. The reply was in the negative.

Bills which received the Royal Assent on July 29th include The Offices Act, Matrimonial Proceedings (Magistrates' Courts) Act, Nigeria Independence Act, Charities Act and the Adoption Act.

On July 27th, the Prime Minister announced the new Ministerial Appointments and the House adjourned for the summer recess until October 25th.

C. M. Cheke

## REVIEWS

**The Catholic Church in South Africa.** By William Eric Brown, M.C., D.D., M.A., B.Sc. (Edited by Michael Derrick). (Burns Oates, 35s.)

Dr. Brown, who retired from University work in Glasgow in 1946, prepared this book while seeking better health in South Africa, where he died in 1957. It is a valuable study of the Catholic Church there since the first Vicar-General was appointed in 1837, and a fascinating record of colourful personalities and impressive missionary activity.

The first care of the new Vicars-General was officially to continue the work of the "chaplains to the Roman Catholic community" whose position was recognised by a grant from the Colonial Government towards their support. The work spread, first wherever Catholics might be found throughout the whole of South Africa and then among the African peoples. The astonishing variety of nationalities engaged in the work of the Church in South Africa prevented it from becoming too national; it retains the flavour of the European culture brought by its priests and nuns.

The book gives proof of the eternal wisdom of the Church which has integrated barbarians and dealt with pagan customs from the beginning of history, though not all Catholics have put into practice the principles they officially accept. Bishop Allard wrote in 1856, when the colour question was first raised by a priest working north of the Orange River; "As to colour, the Catholic Church does not pay attention to it;" and the final chapter of the

book (added by Michael Derrick) describes the present tragic position and quotes the "severe and uncompromising condemnation" by the Hierarchy in 1957, of that white supremacy which "over-rides justice" and "humiliates one's fellow-men."

The question of pagan customs did not at first arise, but when the conversion of the Basutos began with the friendly co-operation of the King Moshesh, questions of initiation rites, polygamy, lobola, etc. were met. Dr. Brown says that Bishop Allard seemed to share the views of the Calvinists that lobola constituted a traffic in wives. He himself gives the usual excuse or explanation of the custom as a guarantee of the marriage—but he adds "it could unfortunately help to maintain" the system of polygamy. Bishop Allard took for granted the eventual independence of the Basutos and his success in creating a Basuto Catholic culture found its justification when a Basuto was consecrated Bishop in 1952.

A special section is given to the wonderful work carried on by German Trappists of Mariannhill who gave an example unusual in South Africa—in that the white monks and nuns did not dispise manual work.

P. C. Challoner

**Study of Discrimination in Education** (United Nations, 9s.) by Charles D. Ammoun. E/CN.4/Sub.2/181/Rev.1.

The Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities has produced a study of this subject for the United Nations. Mr. Charles D. Ammoun has discussed Discrimination in Education based on race and colour, sex, religion, social origin, property, political or other opinion and as it affects rural, nomadic and indigenous populations and the peoples of the under-developed countries. He then discusses action to prevent such discrimination on the international, national and local planes. His general conclusion is that "discrimination in education is losing ground . . . legal discrimination has been virtually eliminated . . . as a political principle it is no longer advocated." It has not, however been eliminated in practice. It will not vanish at the wave of a magic wand, but by long and patient work, the prejudices that feed it will be eradicated and everyone without distinction will have the opportunity of attaining the educational level he is capable of realising.

In the chapter on discrimination based on sex, Mr. Ammoun proves beyond doubt that in many countries the education of girls still lags far behind that of boys—for parents consider education wasted on girls, or keep the girls at home to work or to prevent their exposure to "bad influences." A good result of a bad thing is that some countries encourage the education of girls because education increases the value of a bride. On the other hand

"Initiation rites and early marriages impede the level of girls' education."

Mr. Ammoun says truly that in non-self governing territories "in the past, Administering Authorities have often been over-cautious in counteracting prejudice against girls' education and in some cases have not kept pace with changes in the attitude of the people. The percentage of girls in primary schools is still generally low, it is lower in secondary schools and lowest in the higher grades of education—though the roots of this discriminatory situation lie outside the educational system. "Discrimination against women is particularly striking in technical and vocational education—based chiefly on the notion that women should be employed solely in household work." This orientation affects the education of girls at all stages and to a certain extent in all countries.

A special committee of governmental experts has recently met in Paris, at UNESCO headquarters, to draft an International Convention on Discrimination in Education. The draft will be presented to UNESCO's next General Conference, opening in Paris on 14th November.

P.C.C.

#### BOOK RECEIVED

**The Eye and The Heart.** By Carlo Coccioli. Translated from the French by Bernard Frechtman. (Heinemann, 18s.).

**WANTED.**—Copy of "Dreams" by Olive Schreiner.—Box 3, St. Joan's Alliance.

**STAMPS.**—Packets 3d. and 6d. of 25 and 50 all different foreign stamps.—Box 5, St. Joan's Alliance.

**WANTED.**—Pensioner resident, companion-help to active elderly lady.

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