

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

WOMEN'S SERVICE
LIBRARY

Organ of St. Joan's Alliance (formerly The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society).
36A, Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford Street, London W.1.

Vol. LI. No. 6

JUNE/JULY 1965

10s. per annum

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 PRESIDENT'S CALL TO THE COUNCIL MEETING

ROME, SEPTEMBER 18th and 19th, 1965

In the great sorrow that has befallen us in the loss of our deeply regretted Florence Barry we have received messages of sympathy from all over the world. Certain of these messages have been particularly moving, for they emphasize the providential destiny of the Alliance, and the exceptional gifts of intuition, even of prescience, of her, who was for over fifty years the chief inspiration of our movement.

With courage and pertinacity she followed the line traced from the beginning, she battled with winds and waves, and defended her ideal without compromise or equivocation; she pursued her way—unwearying, following her vocation, ignoring detractors and even calumniators. Her remarkable intelligence, her solid formation in Christianity and philosophy as well as her intuition, preserved her from the slightest deviation.

In every field, events have proved her right. The status of women has been completely changed by the achievement of civic, social and economic rights, in the Western World and in that 'tiers monde' to whose 'feminine problem' the Alliance drew the attention of the League of Nations. Furthermore has not the encyclical 'Pacem in Terris' as it were consecrated the work? Finally the progressive importance that the Vatican Council gives to the place of women in the work of the Church encourages us to have faith in the future.

The only earthly recompense that Florence Barry ever accepted was the cross 'Pro Ecclesia et Ponti-

fic'; her last work was the dispatch to Rome of the petition on the reform of Canon Law; her last joy the knowledge that His Holiness Pope Paul VI had sent his benediction for the Jubilee of *The Catholic Citizen*. She could depart in peace: her work was done.

Ours is not. If we have confidence in the wisdom of our founders, which has won approval from high authorities, co-operation with organizations which share our views should continue to be our aim: the truth of this has been shown by recent events.

'In My Father's house there are many mansions.'

I propose that we pursue together the development of these ideas in Rome. I make an urgent appeal to all our national sections to send large delegations to the Council, and to bring us numerous resolutions to discuss. I address myself also to all our individual members, to all who have thought themselves isolated in their conception of the role of women in the Church, and who have been introduced to us by the publicity surrounding our work in this field. I beg them to write to us without hesitation; to tell us of their hopes and aspirations together with their suggestions as to how the fulfilment of these might be hastened.

Let them, too, come in numbers to Rome, so that together we may all, under the standard of our patron saint, continue to work for the building of the true 'Christian City'.

Magdeleine Leroy Boy

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Visit of the President

The President hopes to be with us at the beginning of July.

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Gift from Florence Barry

We have received with deep appreciation a legacy of £100 from our beloved Florence Barry. We have added this to the Savings Bank Fund which is to be called "The Gabrielle Jeffery and Florence Barry Memorial Fund". This is the Fund which comes to our rescue in times of emergency and is restored in times of affluence.

Summer Party and Sale

The Summer Party and Sale will take place on July 3rd, from three o'clock until five-thirty. This will take place at 25 Blenheim Road, N.W.8. by the kindness of Miss D. J. Collier, F.R.C.S. Blenheim Road runs between Loudon Road and Abbey Road and is near St. John's Wood Underground Station. It is to be a 'bring and buy' sale and it is suggested that items of food and general expendable domestic items would be the most acceptable. (Buses 159 and 159a to Marlborough Place.) We hope the President will be here for the Party.

Post-Conciliar Harvest

The wishes which we expressed to the Council at its inception, for a better standing for women in the Church and the opportunity of greater service, grow more urgent as the Council reassembles for its last session. We are more vividly aware that—humanly speaking—their fulfilment is in the hands of the great assembly.

We have been encouraged by forthright speeches delivered in open debate by Conciliar Fathers. They intervened to draw attention to woman's unsatisfactory position in the Church, to the great need of the Church for the services which women can give, and are still waiting to give, and said that the necessary changes should no longer be delayed.

Women all over the world rejoiced to read the reports of these generous speeches. They recall one Prelate saying that the schema on 'The Church in the Modern World' was unsatisfactory in so far as the position of woman was concerned,¹ another saying that women had not hitherto been able to fulfil their necessary role in the Church². With the approach of the end of the Council women everywhere await the Church's answer to their requests.

Their anxiety is aroused by the absence of any reported developments to this stirring first news, other than their admission as auditors and inclusion in the personnel of some of the Council's Commissions. They are very grateful for these manifestations of the Church's confidence in the services they can render and know that there can be no sudden change. Any contribution to the Church's work which they have been permitted to give has varied from place to place and from century to century within the prevailing historical climate; only recently have they been able to voice their aspirations without fear of being thought disloyal. But everywhere there is a resurgence among those who care most and look into the future for the removal of these limitations. What they now ask of the Church is neither new nor revolutionary. St. Theresa of Lisieux, in the idiom of her time, rendered thanks for being permitted to die before the usual age of ordination to the priesthood, such was her desire for it. The women of today express a wish for ordination with the frankness demanded by the 'Church of the aggiornamento'.

As the Council enters on its last phase there is a growing awareness that the tremendous task of renewal it has envisaged can only be initiated. Innovations must be gradually introduced and directives issued to Post-Conciliar Commissions must carry the task forward. These directives will shape our destinies for years and possibly for centuries to come by elaborating the Council's wishes in the form of practical applications. We therefore earnestly appeal to all the Conciliar Fathers, and in particular to all those who have already shown their support for an improved standing of women in the Church, to come to our aid, so that the disadvan-

tages under which women still suffer are gradually eliminated. If this great step forward is taken by the Council before its closure women the world over will show their gratitude by ever increasing loyalty to the Church. **F. Mackenzie Shattock**

Ecumenism at Durham

Katherine Burton, journalist, editor and biographer, who since her conversion to the Church has enriched the Catholic literature of America, wrote for the County Advertiser of Durham, where she is now living, an article on a meeting of Catholics and Protestants held this year at the Town Hall.

'There was', she wrote, 'acknowledgement of mutual guilt for past bigotries and persecutions. The Lord's Prayer became dearer as Protestants and Catholics said it together. Yet, in spite of all this I was disappointed.' Her disappointment was due to the fact that on the platform, the focal point of the Unity meeting, there were about twenty people, of which three were laymen and not one was a woman. 'Does not a straw show which way the wind is blowing?' she asked; 'in the Church of "One Lord, One Faith, one Baptism" can it be that a man's soul is of some superior make to that of a woman's?'

Mrs. Burton commented on the fact that the number of Christians in the world is decreasing. She asks if this is surprising, for in a world where women are rapidly taking a greater part in national affairs, 'adult Christians are not in practice regarded, if they are women, as having adult status, as being persons, individuals, with rights and talents to be used as fully as possible in the service of God and their neighbours.' She suggested that a closer look be taken at the word 'Ecumenical', and wonders if the slowing down of the Ecumenical movement, as reported on the Continent, may be due to the over-emphasis on the 'men' syllable and under emphasis on the 'u'.

The article led to some letters, in one of which a correspondent said that Miss Mulhall (Mrs. Burton) seemed to be setting herself up as a second Mrs. Pankhurst, and thought there was no longer any need for this as there is no 'male conspiracy to keep women down'.

Another writer looked forward to the day when there will be 'neither bond nor free, neither male nor female', adding, 'Then we really will be one. It is surely only out of this approach that the Church of Christ can grow.'

Informations Catholiques Internationales

Of the 168 churches of all denominations, of the 'Ecumenical Council of Churches' 48 admit women to their full ministry, while others either restrict or refuse their services.

¹Bishop Augustus Frotz, (Cologne).

²Bishop Gerard-Marie Coderre, (St. Jean, Quebec).

NOTES AND COMMENTS**ST. JOAN'S DAY**

A beautiful Mass Card from Monsignor Georges Hakim, Archbishop of Galilee, assures us that Mass was said for our intentions in the Holy Land on May 30th. This is indeed a great privilege and we are most grateful.

A group of St. Joan's members followed custom by attending Mass at the Cathedral on May 30th, and visiting the Shrine of St. Joan where the traditional wreath tied with the colours of the Alliance was laid.

We count on the loving intercession of St. Joan and our particular friends in Heaven.

HINSLEY HOUSE

The name 'Sword of the Spirit' has been altered to 'Catholic Institute for International Relations', as indicative of the society's present day task.

St. Joan's Chairman attended a reception given in honour of Cardinal Laurian Rugambwa, Bishop of Bukoba, Tanzania, at Hinsley House on Sunday May 9th. Earlier he had blessed the premises of the Africa Centre where the Club and Lecture Hall are now in use.

Women's Institutes

On Wednesday, May 25th, Mr. Crossman, Minister of Housing and Local Government addressed 5,500 delegates at the opening of the annual meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

Mr. Crossman quoted from a poem written and read out by the poet, Cecil Day Lewis for the golden jubilee of the movement.

'We nagged for piped water and electric light . . . We ran the authorities ragged till we got what we wanted. . .'

He added, 'Nagging is the basis of Democracy.'

Tory Women

Conservative women in conference have not on the whole been given a favourable image by the Press. But the recent annual Conference of Tory women held at the Albert Hall generally received kindlier notices. One delegate was applauded for proclaiming that the Conservative Party will be in peril if it ignores women. Another declared: 'Those at the top (i.e. of the Party) are "out of touch".' *The Guardian* notes that 'the favourite opening to a speech was, as always—"as wives and mothers—". Is this opening really necessary?

Equity?

It is still a man's world in the theatre, according to actress Miss Margery Mason speaking at the Annual Meeting of British Actors' Equity Association. She claimed that at least ten jobs were available for an actor to every one for an actress and she urged that an independent survey be made of unemployment in the profession with particular reference to would-be actresses and the work available. This motion was carried unanimously so perhaps soon we will see equality of opportunity in this field. In television there is a tendency to produce serials and plays with nearly all-male casts and in our humble way we wonder where have all the ladies gone?

They order these things better abroad; casts are more evenly balanced and the woman's point of view is considered. She is not always dragged in as light relief. Of course we have our 'Compact' and 'Coronation Street' but these are exceptions.

Perhaps we can blame it all on Shakespeare with his thirty-nine-men-and-three-women casts, and those three played by males. But that was long ago. Let us hope that writers will redress the balance, there is plenty of scope. **G.D.**

A happy occasion

A happy sequel to the canonization of the Uganda martyrs to which the Anglican Bishop of Uganda was invited in St. Peter's last October, was the presence of White Fathers, Mill Hill Fathers, and Verona Fathers at an Anglican Service at the pre-Reformation Church of St. Katharine Cree in London to honour the Protestants and Catholics who died together at Namugongo.

Commonwealth Countries League

Delegates from the Alliance will be attending the 33rd Annual Conference of the Commonwealth Countries League on Monday and Tuesday July 5th and 6th, 1965. Members of the Alliance will be welcome and further details can be obtained from the office.

**ST. JOAN'S COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18th—19th**

The Villa Bassi is located at 24 Via Giac. Carini, a little way up the Janiculum Hill within easy walk of the Piazza Argentina Bus Depot. A marked map will be available for each person who is attending.

The next number of *The Catholic Citizen* will come out in August. The office will be closed in August but correspondence will receive attention.

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

founded 1911

BRITISH SECTION OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "The Catholic Citizen"

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

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MOTHERS ARE ALSO PEOPLE

More than ever before the child who suffers from disabilities arising from emotional stress is getting expert attention.

Little troubled Johnnie or Jeannie is taken out of school for certain periods during the week and 'straightened out', not by an insistence on rigid conformity, but by being taught how to cope with the frustrations and disappointments so often inherent in school or family life, and how to respect the rights and needs of others.

With Johnnie the task has been somewhat easier—for he would be growing up into a man's world with a fair choice of occupation suited to his abilities and tastes. In some ways it has not been so easy with the girl: for one thing her trouble is less readily detected, for she does not so often proclaim it by boisterous, destructive or defiant behaviour, but rather by a sad or sullen withdrawal. Then she must face and cope with traditional taboos.

The Child Care officers are of course every bit as concerned for the 'problem girls' as for the boys. But society inclines to suppose that the girl, once past school age, certainly when married, and most decidedly when a mother, is no longer vulnerable. Yet many mothers, especially those who have had a troubled childhood, remain immature and become emotionally disturbed, under the pressures of all around them. When the symptoms of their distress begin seriously to affect the family, then they are encouraged or obliged to seek help: the child guidance clinic becomes, in effect, a mother guidance clinic. Some of these mothers are urged by their medical advisers to find an occupation that takes them away from the continual round of household chores and child management, and in some cases, from complete financial dependence on the father. The problem of the adequate supervision of the children is one that needs to be settled by both parents consulting together and considering the needs of every member of the family. The mistaken view that, in the interests of the child, the mother's health and happiness can be sacrificed, is

still held by many who have only a superficial knowledge of the problems involved.

Some recent experiments with young anthropoid apes, whose development is very similar to that of humans, have shown that these young primates develop normally when the mother is replaced by a substitute so long as their physical needs are met and they have some adult to whom they can confidently turn when danger appears to threaten. The young who became neurotic were those who had been deprived of the opportunity to play freely, especially with their own age group. Young humans must also play, but a bored or seriously frustrated human adult cannot join in children's play or even tolerate the noise and mess incidental to it. (The same is true, we all know, of some stable adults). So restrictions are placed upon the growing child to the detriment of its mental health. An integral part of the rehabilitation of 'problem children' of school age is the provision of the opportunity to indulge in the kind of formative play of which they have been too soon deprived.

Our Jeannie, now say 25 years old, is still as important as when she was five. She will still be important when she is middle-aged or elderly, and whether married or single. Her ambitions, her needs, her tastes matter as much as those of the now grown-up Johnnie.

The mental health of the mother, as of any other person, depends primarily on her own recognition of her value as a person, and of her worth to others. No-one can be an effective parent or teacher until he or she has achieved this degree of maturity. To praise the disturbed mother for her achievements in housework, for the tidiness of her children, and so on, can be of little help unless she is first made to realize, 'You are the loved one.' Properly understood, religion, with its assurance of her intrinsic value in the sight of God, should instil sufficient faith in this truth, but how often, openly or by implication, is the idea implanted, 'You are *only* a woman.' Restrictions made on a basis of sex dis-

crimination, references to the 'sexus fragilis' and such like—arising from what Pope John spoke of as the 'superiority complex based on sex'—give rise in some women to what he also called the 'inferiority complex based on sex'.

The person with a conviction of inferiority is ineffective, unable to use his or her potentialities to the full, often troublesome to others because of attempts at overcompensation, and afflicted with unnecessary and useless suffering.

Women who accept the suggestion of inferiority by agreeing to any circumscriptions based on sex, either for themselves or others, should do a lot of heart searching, for they may be encouraging conditions that cause ill-health and distress as well as helping to maintain a tradition whereby many of one half of the human race conceal the talents that should be gaining interest for the Master.

C. M. Cheke

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THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Arab States

Reports show that the attainment of independence, economic development, and social changes have led to a decrease in opposition to the education of girls and, in several cases, to a ready acceptance or even demand for it. There is no legal discrimination against girls concerning the right to education in any of the Arab countries from which information is available, yet there are in most places fewer boys than girls receiving primary education and there is a shortage of women teachers. Economic and social obstacles still affect the provision of educational facilities for children and especially for the girls.

Egypt

In Egypt the employment of women as well as the need to improve the lot of the very young children of the poor, have led to the setting up of nursery centres, some sponsored by the Government, some by the employers, and most by the women's voluntary organizations. The Cairo Women's Club encouraged the women to take part in projects aimed at improving their living conditions. The women were touched by the interest taken in them, and finally the men allowed them to come out in the daylight, for many—a thing previously unheard of.

Ethiopia

All doors are open to women with a University education, that is, in theory; but as in every part of the world the jealousies of some men have still to be overcome.

Gabon

At Port-Gentil a plywood factory employs 300 women on an equal basis with men. At this modern factory work is done in three shifts and the Gabonese woman is able to hold her own. She has great skill and a sharp eye for inspecting work pieces in progress.

India

'After two hours on a steady snow slope we roped up to tackle the heavily crevassed area ahead. We made our way along ledges sometimes not more than a foot wide, between gaping crevasses, or traversed precarious snow bridges. We had to circumvent jagged seracs and grope our way round smooth ice walls. No-one was feeling any ill affects from the height (18,000 ft.) so we decided to push on to a higher camp.' This is the description of the first Indian Women's Himalayan expedition given by Mrs. Dunseath who led the party of five, ages ranging from 18 to 32.

Ivory Coast

Two Bills have been introduced in the National Assembly: 1. Interdiction of bride purchasing and setting up of marriage regulations; regulation of family names and establishment of registrar's offices. Parliament is about to pass a law to abolish the dowry system altogether.

Thanks to the help of various organizations, among them the Rural Catholic Youth, a woman's association which has the support of the administrative authorities, the young women are gaining influence in the town councils. Even in small villages, where old customs are observed, women are allowed to assist at the councils and express their opinions. All women are interested in learning French and attend courses given by voluntary teachers of public education.

Kenya

Sister Marie Bernard, the doctor in charge of the Lorigumu hospital, looked up one day to see a plane approaching, and as it taxied towards the tin hangar, Turkana women clad in goat skins and coloured beads, schoolchildren in uniform, and naked men and boys, waited to see the Medical missionary, Sister Michael Therese, step from the plane. She is to operate a shuttle service between the hospital and another, 110 miles away. Missionary work in this area is no picnic: the climate is scorching and dry, the people very poor. Nevertheless the priests and nuns are meeting with a good response.

Morocco

Princess Lalla Aisha, aged 36, eldest sister of the young King Hassan II, has just been appointed Morocco's first woman ambassador. The King holds modern views and has great confidence in his sister's ability. When the Princess was a teen-ager she stood in the market place and harangued her fellow countrywomen to give up their veils, and to fight for the right to be treated as individuals—citizens of the modern Morocco. Princess Lalla has been appointed to act in London. She speaks a passable English and prefers serious discussion to talk about clothes and so on. Her husband is accompanying her to London but will need to fly home frequently to look after his business matters; so they will both be commuting between London and Rabat.

THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

During the month, the time of the House of Commons has been largely taken up by the consideration of major measures, such as the Finance and Race Relations Bills. Wednesday mornings, moreover have been occupied by consideration of the controversial Murder (Abolition of the Death Penalty) Bill which, on account of its importance, was sent, not, as was originally intended, to a Standing Committee, but to a Committee of the whole House. In regard to Private Members' Bills, it is good to be able to report that, on the last Friday of the month, Dame Joan Vickers' Guardianship of Infants Bill was agreed to without division or debate, the only one of the 24 Private Members' Bills up for Second Reading to survive.

Time was found on April 30th for a Debate on Teachers' Recruitment. This turned very largely on the question of the loss of women teachers on marriage, and the means adopted to persuade them to return to the schools when their family responsibilities permitted. Mr. Tinn said that in the next ten years, of 300,000 women recruited, 240,000 would have left the profession, and suggested as a remedy for the alarming shortage of teachers the training of a larger proportion of men. Sir E. Boyle drew attention to the fact that when a woman teacher left to take up other gainful employment and subsequently returned, this period of employment was taken into consideration when calculating her salary. No such consideration applied in cases in which the woman had spent the time in bringing up a family. He also said he understood from the Minister of State that the scheme to provide nursery classes for the children of mothers willing to return to teaching had had little success, only eight authorities having started 16 classes, producing an estimated gain of 68 teachers. Other Members mentioned the need for greater publicity, more part-time work and tax inducements, especially for the provision of domestic assistance. Mr. Crosland, in replying, said the sex ratio in training colleges, till recently 30%, was likely to go up finally to 40%. In regard to nursery classes, it was true local education authorities had been slow to avail themselves of the concession. The effects of taxation on married women's earnings was much exaggerated. A married woman earning £860 per annum, unless her husband earned well over £2,000, would only pay from £140 to £150 in income tax. Similarly, the tax liability of a part-time teacher earning £430 would only be £25. He agreed that the local education authorities were not doing all they might to attract married women returners.

On May 6th, Dr. Shirley Summerskill urged the Secretary of State for Education to withdraw Circular 8/60, so as to enable local education authorities to provide nursery schools in general, and not only for the children of teachers. The need existed also

for the children of women wishing to return to medicine, science and nursing. Mr. Crosland, however, held out no hope, as the teachers to staff these could not be diverted from classes for older children. On the following day, on the Adjournment, Mrs. Shirley Williams initiated a very useful Debate on Pre-School Playgroups.

Moving upwards to the House of Lords, on April 29th, Lord Errol of Hale asked for a list of all new Councils, Committees, etc., set up, or about to be set up by the Government. These numbered 63, mainly of a technological character. The number of women appointed to serve was not stated, but three of the Committees have women as Chairmen—Lady Albemarle of the Albemarle Report Review Committee, Councillor Mrs. E. Dennington of the Standards of Housing Fitness Sub-Committee of the Housing Advisory Committee and Dame Jean Roberts of the Committee on Inducements to Teachers to serve in areas of teacher shortage.

Lady Emmet, on May 13th, asked Her Majesty's Government how many countries had ratified the United Nations Convention on Political Rights of Women, whether the United Kingdom had done so, and if not, why not. The answer was that 44 countries had ratified the Convention, but that the U.K. had not done so, as the Convention did not include an express provision which would enable H.M. Government to ratify it separately on behalf of the U.K., on the one hand, and the various dependent territories on the other.

On May 25th, Lady Summerskill, following a recent judicial decision, drew attention to the unsatisfactory position of the deserted wife in respect of the matrimonial home. Lord Gardiner said that if Lady Summerskill were to introduce a Private Bill for the wife's protection, he could see no reason why it should not be sympathetically considered by the Government.

Lord Arran's Sexual Offences Bill, providing for a change in the law relating to homosexual offences, was carried on Second Reading on May 24th by a majority of 45, only two of the eight peeresses—Lady Horsburgh and Lady Strange of Knokin—voting against it. In the House of Commons, however, on the 26th, Members refused permission for the introduction by Mr. Abse of a similar Bill, brought in under the Ten Minutes Rule.

Vera Douie

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Books for review

Fr. Jose Idigoras, a Peruvian Jesuit, and Fr. H. van der Meer, a Dutch Jesuit, have each written theological dissertations on the subject of women's ordination to the priesthood. We hope to review their theses in *The Catholic Citizen*.

THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

U.S.A.

The breezy news items arriving from America give the impression that it must be fun to live there these days.

There are the reactions of nuns to the new uniforms of which we have seen pictures in our Press. Says Sister Immaculata, teacher in an Oklahoma High School, 'I feel like I have gender again; I feel like I've been freed and let out of armour.' A nun from another order exclaimed on seeing the new outfit, 'I pray to God we're next.'

We have a picture of Sister Mary Annunciata, optometrist, giving a child an eye examination in Our Lady's Dispensary at Asato, Naha City, Okinawa, using equipment donated by Dr. Dzik of Tennessee, and one of Sister Jean Lawrence of Michigan preparing to make a coloured glass window. She and Sister Janina, of Detroit, have worked as apprentices in a decorating plant in Ohio, where the two nuns became known as the 'Chip nuns' as their bits of glass reminded people of the coloured trading stamps, called 'Chips', which are sold by the stamp companies to retail stores.

'Badge 77' is a woman police sergeant in San Jose. Fingering her .38 calibre pistol, she observed, 'Men don't like to be told what to do by a woman,' and she is the only woman among 79 sergeants. 'Badge 77', Stella Sullivan, thinks that there is a growing need for police women. But the qualifications are getting higher: more degrees are needed for advancement. She said that it is still hard for women to get into police work.

In Sacramento, Cal. the number of girls that have up to now gained entry to State Colleges is about equal to that of boys, but as girls generally get better 'high school grades' the number of girls is gradually creeping up on that of the boys. Therefore new tests are being devised, including aptitude tests in which boys do very well, so as to maintain the present ratio.

An Editorial in *The San Francisco Chronicle* comes out strongly in favour of admitting women to the priesthood. The writer quotes an observation that a preacher is, after all, a conduit for transmitting the spiritual message, and that sex has nothing to do with one's competence to discharge that task. 'St. Joan, we should say, was a better preacher than even Savonarola, though not trained and ordained to save souls. Her example is inspiring women... today to agitate in the Church for clerical equalitarianism.'

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A Los Angeles divorce court judge, basing his thinking on the changing times, spoke out for legislation limiting the time for which alimony payments should have to be made 'Women are not the "clinging vines" of the 1890's—they are capable of supporting themselves,' he said.

On May 18th President Johnson announced the nomination of the first Negro woman as ambassador. She is Mrs. Patricia Harris of Washington, D.C. and she is to be Ambassador to Luxembourg.

The Times reports the death, at 83, of Miss Francis Perkins (Mrs. Paul C. Wilson) former United States Secretary of Labour. *The Times* obituary speaks of her as 'an indefatigable social reformer of wide sympathies and advanced views', and adds: 'She had established such a great reputation as an expert on social problems that President Roosevelt included her in his first Cabinet. Thus she became the first American woman to hold Cabinet rank. As head of a great department Miss Perkins displayed efficiency, energy and courage. Before long she had put through a number of reforms: Child labour was abolished, and she crowned her earlier successes with the Social Security Act, which gave the American worker the benefits of unemployment insurance and health services.'

She wrote several books of which *The Roosevelt I Knew* is the best known.

Basutoland

As Basutoland advances towards its independence its leaders will be encouraged by the help offered by the British Government towards the expansion of the University incorporated by Royal Charter last year as the University of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland. It is the joint heritage of the three Protectorates, and draws its students, men and women, from all the territories around, Rhodesia, Zambia, Malawi, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa itself.

This valuable centre for higher education was established in 1945 as Pius XII College at Roma near Maseru, by the Catholic Church and provision is still made for Catholic teaching, theological and philosophical studies, a residential unit for Catholic Students, and a Chaplaincy.

The Sisters of the Holy Family have recently celebrated the centenary of their arrival in Basutoland where they established a novitiate for African girls in 1871. Today an hundred and fifty Basuto Sisters of the Holy Family are working as Religious in their own land.

Uganda

A UNESCO expert, Mrs. Helen Tacchi, from the United Kingdom, is helping the Uganda Council of Women, with assistance from UNESCO, to organize classes in English. English is used in all the important spheres of life, but over seventy different languages and dialects are spoken.

The Synod of the French Reformed Church

The French Catholic weekly *La Croix* gave a good deal of space to the 'problem' caused by the fact that the current of opinion in favour of the admission of women to pastoral office is rapidly gaining ground among the Protestants. Pierre Galley suggests that the solution of the 'problem' may be worked out on the ground that the 'pastoral' office is attributed not to a person but is a service, a ministry, where as the sacerdotal office is conferred on the individual person. In the one case the sex is of no import, but in the other the office can only be conferred on a male.

M. Galley thinks that emphasis on this distinction may cause some anxiety to Catholic and Orthodox Christians.

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RONALD KENNETH JOSEPH OLDHAM. A bible has been bought at a Railway Lost Property Auction and it is inscribed to Ronald Kenneth Joseph Oldham from his wife. If the afore-mentioned or any person who knows of his whereabouts will communicate with *The Catholic Citizen*, details as to the present possessor of the bible will be given.

GERMAN GIRL aged 18 wishes an 'Au pair' post with family from mid July to mid Sept. Speaks and writes very good English, French and Latin. Would help in household duties and give lessons in the German language. Would pay her own return fare.

WANTED. An office on ground or first floor; must be central and reasonably priced.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From 'The Catholic Citizen',
15th June, 1940

One of our members just embarked for the West Indies to join her husband, tells us of her indignation at the difficulty she experienced at the Passport Office in obtaining a permit to take her two children out of England. She was asked for the written authorization of her husband. On replying she was the children's mother she was then informed, if we understand rightly, that she was not their legal guardian. Only after producing various letters she had received from her husband was she finally given her passport. 'As a good feminist I nearly committed assault,' she declared.

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OBJECT

To band together Catholics of both sexes, in order to secure the political, social and economic equality between men and women, and to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens.

MEMBERSHIP

All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of £1 which includes *The Catholic Citizen*. Men are invited to join as Associates, on the same conditions, with the exception that they may not elect or be elected to the Executive.

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