

THE

Catholic Citizen

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

Vol. XVII, No. 6.

15th JUNE, 1931.

Price Twopence.

Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give ;
Who knows the gifts which *you* shall give,
Daughter of the Newer Eve ?

—Francis Thompson.

Rouen.

By BARBARA BARCLAY-CARTER.

When on May 29th, Cardinal Bourne, in full scarlet, the first English Papal Legate since Pole, stepped off the boat at Dieppe, he was followed by the St. Joan's Quincentenary Delegation, numbering thirty-five, of whom eleven were our own members, representing St. Joan's Alliance.

On reaching Rouen, our first act was to lay a wreath bound with our colours that were St. Joan's own, at the foot of her statue in the Vieux Marché, which was left there in the place of honour during the celebrations, May 30th and 31st. A few yards off a flame of remembrance, (surely too grim a symbol?) marked the spot where she suffered, and near by, behind a screen of plane-trees, perhaps on the very spot where Cardinal Beaufort, the Earl of Warwick, and the assembled prelates of the Anglo-Burgundian party sat and watched her burn, a stand had been erected, to be occupied the next morning by Cardinal Bourne and four other Cardinals in scarlet robes and trains, by eighty purple-clad Bishops from all parts of France and other lands, by Lord Tyrell, our Ambassador, Lady Haig, the Mayors of Bristol and Hastings, by representatives of the universities and learned professions, and by Generals and Marshals of France.

What was particularly pleasing was the real cordiality with which the French welcomed the collaboration of England in this act of atonement. When the orators had said their say, and the procession made its way to cast flowers into the Seine that had borne away the ashes of Joan, our Delegation was greeted with touch-

ing delight all along the crowded route. At our head went the Union Jack, carried by Lieutenant-Colonel O'Malley, then our banner of St. Joan, carried by Miss Jeffrey, Miss Monica and Miss Eleanor O'Connor, and Miss Tania Wood (Sir Henry Wood's daughter), with on its reverse side the words "Homage to St. Joan from England"; then the rest of the Delegates, marching four abreast, with pennons blue, white and gold. "Y a des Anglais ici," someone was overheard to say, "Ils sont épatants!" One felt that England and France had not been drawn so close together since the years of the war, and one remembered (a point stressed by more than one speaker), how St. Joan had dreamed of English fighting side by side with French, in "the greatest deed ever done for Christendom."

In the afternoon came the Cathedral ceremony: the entry of the Papal Legate preceded by little girls, blue-veiled, and bearing lilies, followed by the long procession of other prelates, while silver trumpets proclaimed from apse to porch "Eccesacerdos magnus"; Cardinal Bourne's address, apt and graceful, in admirable French; an oratorio, written for St. Joan by M. Paul Paray; a panegyric by Mgr. Tissier, Bishop of Chalons. Then, St. Joan's Quincentenary Delegation: Lady Haig, Dr. Fairfield, Miss Sidgwick, and Miss Butler-Bowdon, went up the aisle, and Miss Butler-Bowdon gave the Golden Book of English Homage into the hands of the Archbishop of Rouen. Immediately after, Cardinal Bourne blessed the foundation stone of the chapel that will rise, in per-

petual memory of St. Joan, at the corner of the Vieux Marché that saw her death.

This blessing of the stone was the kernel and culmination of the celebrations, which without it, for all their splendour and sincerity, would have left a sense of melancholy. For is St. Joan as yet fully understood even by those eager to honour her? The troublous question could not be silenced. She died for three things: the right of conscience, the right of woman to fulness of life, the right of nationality. One speaker only alluded to the first; there was no mention of the second, no mention at all. In St. Joan's own country woman has still far to travel before she comes into her own.

There seemed too a disproportion between all celebrations, and the stark, terrible events they brought to mind. Through all the press, and clamour, streets bright with banners, festooned with lights, processions moving to solemn music, one seemed to hear St. Joan's own haunting cry as she was led to death, "Rouen, Rouen, mourrai-je ici? Serais tu ma dernière demeure. Serais tu ma maison?"

All the celebrations were a great act of reparation, but there is no repairing the irreparable. And there can be no more fitting or fruitful commemoration of the Maid than this chapel, hallowed in her name, in the building of which England will have joined hands with France, where the cry may arise for ever: "St. Joan of Arc, pray for us."

Notes and Comments.—Continued from p. 49.

with the special duty of seeing that the local laws and regulations on the subject of Mui Tsai are carried out. The Under-Secretary for the Colonies, Dr. Shiels, thought everything was being done to end the system.

We have heard the kind of statement before, and still little girls are being sold into slavery under the British Flag. We hope to hear soon that inspectors are being appointed, amongst whom should be an adequate number of women.

The following resolution was passed at a Public Meeting convened by the National Union of Women Teachers at the Central Hall, Westminster, on May 15th:

"This Meeting draws attention to the fact that, although approximately 70 per cent. of teachers are women, the Standing Joint

Committee on Teachers' Salaries consists of 46 men and only 4 women. It asserts that any joint committee dealing with the professional interests of women teachers should contain a fair proportion of women among its members; and emphatically protests against:

- (a) the exclusion of any representative of the National Union of Women Teachers from the Standing Joint Committee on Teachers' Salaries;
- (b) the unsatisfactory attitude adopted by the Board of Education and the Standing Joint Committee, each of which disclaims responsibility for the constitution of the Committee."

St. Joan's Alliance sent a similar resolution to the Prime Minister, the President of the Board of Education and other authorities concerned.

A deputation of the London Committee of the Women's Indian Association waited recently on Lord Snell to request representation for selecting women delegates at the Round Table Conference. The deputation was supported by representatives of: British Commonwealth League, Women's Freedom League, International Committee Y.W.C.A., St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (Miss S. Hynes), National Council of Women in India, National Union of Women Teachers.

St. Joan's S.P.A. has written to the Prime Minister, and to the Indian Office, asking that an adequate number of British women shall be included in the Federal Structure Committee and the Round Table Conference.

We are glad to see that women have not been altogether forgotten in the Birthday Honours. We are particularly pleased to see that Miss Sybil Thorndike is now Dame Commander of the British Empire. Miss Thorndike was one of the early supporters of the St. Joan's Quincentenary Appeal, and has shown keen interest in it.

Miss Sarah Elizabeth Mair, a former suffragist, and a worker for the education of women, also figures among the Commanders as well as Dr. Kate Barratt, principal of Swanley Horticultural College.

Notes and Comments.

ST. JOAN'S QUINCENTENARY

The English Delegation of St. Joan's Quincentenary Celebrations Appeal were given an important place in the great official procession at Rouen on Saturday, May 30th. It was gratifying to see the spontaneous enthusiasm with which the contingent was greeted all along the route. Many saluted the Union Jack carried at the head of the section by Lieut.-Colonel Meyler O'Malley, and the beautiful banner of St. Joan on horseback, bearing on the reverse side the words "Homage to St. Joan of Arc from England," was received with acclamation.

At the close of the religious ceremonies in the Cathedral, the Golden Book containing the names of English contributors to St. Joan's Memorial Church to be built in Rouen, was handed to the Archbishop of Rouen by members of the Quincentenary Committee, headed by Lady Haig, and the artist, Miss Erica Butler-Bowdon. A certificate for £500 has been presented to the Archbishop of Rouen by His Eminence Cardinal Bourne on behalf of the English Quincentenary Appeal.

The Golden Book has been brought back to England temporarily to enable further names to be added. All those who desire to be so associated in this historic memorial should send 5s. or upwards before July 16th to the Hon. Secretary, St. Joan's Quincentenary Celebrations Appeal, 55 Berners Street, W.1.

We congratulate our French colleagues on the first number of the paper "Revue de l'Alliance Sainte Jeanne d'Arc." Miss Barry, who was in Rouen for the Quincentenary Celebrations, was present, by special invitation, at the first meeting of French Section of St. Joan's Alliance, held in Paris on June 2nd, at the house of Madame Archambault, Vice-President of the French Section.

Some of the Provincial Presidents and delegates of the "Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes" who were in Paris for a Congress of this Union were present, and gave their

views on the formation of the new section. The discussion was very lively and prolonged.

Miss Barry was able to meet the objections raised against the formation of a French Section of the Alliance, by showing that the situation in England had been identical at the formation of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society in England. The same objections had been raised by certain Catholics, but time had proved the wisdom of the Founders of the C.W.S.S. M. Delamare, an associate of St. Joan's Alliance, was also most helpful in converting opponents. Mlle. Lenoël explained the objects of the Alliance.

Mrs. O'Connor and Miss Hynes, after seeing the Delegation off to Rouen, proceeded to Westminster Cathedral, and placed a wreath, tied with our colours, at the Shrine of St. Joan, bearing the inscription: "Homage to our Patron St. Joan, from St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance."

We have to thank Father Henry Day, S.J., for offering Mass for our Alliance on our feast day, May 30th.

We congratulate Sir John Simon on his excellent speech in the House of Commons on May 11th in defence of the Mui-Tsai, or girl slaves of Hong Kong. The Mui-Tsai, he said, were not the subject of adoption but of purchase. They were frequently the subject of a bill of sale, just as negro slaves were in the eighteenth century.

The Colonial Office had made considerable efforts at different times in the last eight or nine years to bring the system to an end, or at any rate to mitigate its worst results, but he found it impossible to accept the view that what had been done was adequate, nearly every mail from Hong Kong brought additional cases of the sale of these girls. Legislation by itself would be of little use, without effective inspection and control. Yet he had a letter from the Colonial Office, dated April 8th, stating that no inspectors or additional police officers have been appointed by the Hong Kong Government

Continued on previous page.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

55 BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.1. Tel. Museum 4181

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

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Equal Rights and Protective Legislation for Women.

We have received from America a pamphlet by the Revd. Doctor Ryan voicing the opposition of the National Council of Catholic Women to the Equal Rights Amendment, because it is opposed in principle to their understanding of the relative rights and consequent duties of both men and women, and because, amongst other things, it would possibly wipe out protective legislation for women in industry.

Our co-religionists are, of course, as free to oppose as we are to advocate the principle of equal rights. The same differences occurred when the vote was claimed for women, indeed the reasons put forward in opposition to equal rights have an old familiar ring; they are brought forward much in the same way whenever women claim any right whatever. Or so it seems to us, since we most certainly heard of physiological differences and special functions when women claimed the suffrage; to say nothing of the destruction of the family, were women granted the right to go to the ballot box once every few years.

None of the dreadful prophecies then uttered have been fulfilled, and we firmly believe that civilization and the Christian family will bear with a like serenity the shock of "Equal Rights."

We know that women are the best judges of their own capacity for work; the War gave them an opportunity of proving their worth, and they performed successfully many and varied jobs for which they had been previously considered quite unfitted.

As to the question of night work, as we have often said, no one would suggest that nurses

should cease night work, or that we should revert to a Drama in which men were engaged to play women's parts. It is, therefore, only to certain kinds of night work our friends take exception.

We are told that the number of women who have been handicapped, or deprived of employment by restrictive legislation is relatively small and insignificant in comparison with those who have benefitted. Even if this were so it would be cold comfort to those driven into the desert.

We are glad that the subject is gaining wide publicity, it has nothing to lose by that. Women are divided on the point, we know, they were also divided on the suffrage; in our own country leading women, who opposed the suffrage, thought it not wrong to stand for Parliament when the vote was won.

Almost by the same post St. Joan's Alliance received two feminist papers, "La Femme Polonaise," in which an opponent of the Open Door Council wrote that the movement was purely intellectual, based on theories and abstract ideas; the other "Equal Rights," Organ of the National Women's Party, giving a report of Miss Casey's work in Georgia, where she is organising the women deprived of their work, because the Cotton Textile Institute had "protected" women by prohibiting them from night work.

After reading Dr. Ryan's pamphlet we find no reason to alter our policy, and with the O.D.C. we declare that to impose restrictions on women only, is to treat them permanently as minors, and to lower their status as workers.

L. DE ALBERTI.

International Notes.

Miss Idola St. Jean, President of the Canadian Alliance for Women's vote in Quebec, had an interesting article in the "Montreal Herald" on the present position of the movement in Quebec. As we reported last month, a Bill improving the position of married women, amongst other things, giving them a right to their wages, was recently passed. Miss St. Jean writes that the greatest victory won by this Bill is that the woman legally separated from her husband will enjoy the same rights as the unmarried woman or the widow, which means that they "are not affected by any legal restrictions."

The feminists of Quebec are endeavouring to reconquer a right which they enjoyed under the French regime, from the year 1667. French Canadian women were then acting as lawyers in all the Courts of *Nouvelle France*. But above all the women of Quebec are fighting for the vote.

The "Vote" of May 8th gives an interesting interview with Finland's first Woman Cabinet Minister, Mäna Sillanpää, Minister of Social Affairs in the Social Democratic Government of 1927-8. Finland was the first country in Europe to give the vote to women. Nineteen women were elected to the Diet in 1907, among them Mäna Sillanpää, who has retained her seat ever since. In principle inequalities between men and women do not exist in Finland, in practice they do. In our own country there is a Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill, but we know how many inequalities still exist!

"Stri Dharma," Organ of the Women's Indian Association, Madras, in considering women's status in the New Constitution, says that the Association is in favour of adult suffrage as the only just method of self-expression, and considers that any mistakes and difficulties found in starting the New Constitution on that basis will be preferable to the anomalies and inequalities which will come about by fancy franchises for numerical reasons. While claiming the same opportunities for election to the Legislative Councils and Central Legislatures as now exist, the Association desires that there should be no nominal seats in future for women, but that there should be twenty per cent. of reserved seats for women to be filled from a panel of names sent forward by officially

recognised Women's Associations. These names to be voted for by proportional representation by the newly-elected members of each Council, who have been elected by men and women.

The Egyptian Feminist Union, as reported in *L'Egyptienne*, has sent a telegram of congratulation and thanks to the President of the Municipal Council who gave order that the maisons tolérées, of the town of Damanur, were to be closed. The telegram says, amongst other things, that the President by his wise decree has satisfied the decree of religion.

A. A. B.

DINNER TO DAME RACHEL CROWDY.

The Council for the Representation of Women on the League of Nations, to which St. Joan's S.P.A. is affiliated, is giving a dinner in honour of Dame Rachel Crowdy, at the Café Royal, on Thursday, June 25th. Speakers are to be Dame Rachel Crowdy, the Rt. Hon. Mr. Arthur Henderson, the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, and Miss Maude Royden. Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon will preside. Tickets 7s. 6d., may be had from St. Joan's S.P.A., 55 Berners St., W.1.

We hope many of our members will attend the dinner as a tribute to Dame Rachel's work at the League of Nations, especially in connection with the League's work to put a stop to the traffic in women.

THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

The British Commonwealth League, to which St. Joan's S.P.A. is affiliated, is holding its Annual Conference on June 24th and 25th, at the Institute of Journalists, 4 Tudor Street, E.C.4. The Conference is to deal with the Special Contribution of women towards closer unity with in the Commonwealth; the clash of culture and its general effect on Family Life; Overseas Settlement, etc., etc.

TREASURER'S NOTE.

Now that the Quincentenary is over, we hope all our members will think of the funds of St. Joan's S.P.A. A Jumble Sale will be held soon, please look out garments and other useful articles.

Reviews.

The New Testament Witness to Our Blessed Lady. By Fr. Vincent McNabb, O.P. (Sheed and Ward. 3s. 6d. net).

This tribute to Our Lady is written with so great a devotion and understanding of the position of Our Lady in the Church, and in the life of a true Catholic, that few will read it unmoved. Father McNabb brings the witness of St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke and St. John to testify to the greatest of mankind, Who, being Mother of God, is also our Mother, directly bequeathed to us by Her Son.

The Difficult Commandment. By C. C. Martindale, S.J. (Manresa Press, 6d.)

Father Martindale addresses his book to young men advising them on the methods required to obtain self-control, and to live chastely in the midst of the temptations of life. Incidentally the writer touches on the evils resulting from immorality, prostitution, and the attempt, by State Regulation of Vice, to make immorality safe. Here Father Martindale states definitely that even if the iniquitous system did reduce disease (which as our readers know it does not) it is perfectly unjustifiable, an outrage upon human nature, and religiously indefensible. This is what we, of St. Joan's Alliance, have always maintained, and we have wondered how any Catholic could think otherwise. It is, therefore, with shocked surprise, that we find on page 42 a note which makes the statement quoted above of no value. Father Martindale says: "I do not deprecate, for example, *all* 'regulation.' We have some: other lands have more, e.g., they confine all prostitutes to one quarter of the city. Those then who go there *have* to go, and know what they are going for. But it is wrong so to certificate and enclose a prostitute as to make it morally impossible for her ever to be anything else."

We feel confident that Father Martindale does not realise all the horrors and corruption involved in the segregation of prostitutes. If he does know and does not deprecate it, what kind of State Regulation would he consider wrong?

Careers for Women. By Leonora Eyles. (Elkin Matthews and Marrot, 5s. net.)

Mrs. Eyles is a well-known authority on Sociology and Domestic Economy, and her experience fits her to give advice on careers for

women. The book will be very useful to many girls and women who are in doubt as to the career they should choose. Mrs. Eyles goes carefully through the professions and jobs which are open to women, and lays stress on the need of training if a worker is to be efficient. She rightly names masculine jealousy among the obstacles in the way to woman's progress. We are surprised, however, to find Mrs. Eyles putting forward the old fallacy that an unmarried woman "is almost certain to suffer more or less severely from trouble in the reproductive organs in middle age, or possibly to be a victim to the neuritis (sic) which is coming to be looked upon partly as a result of a disturbance in the ductless glands, since any bodily function misused or unused will exact its penalty." This is not true, but the surest way of making it true, that is to the extent of curing neurosis, is to impress upon the unmarried that these disorders are to be expected. This is a blot on an otherwise useful book; the pernicious theory should be repudiated by modern woman.

L. DE ALBERTI.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

Hon. Sec., Miss N. S. Parnell, B.A., 45 Falkner Street, Liverpool.

The ordinary monthly meeting was held at Bluecoat Chambers on May 19th. As it had not been possible to secure an outside speaker, Miss N. S. Parnell B.A. gave an address on "Restrictive Legislation."

A guinea has been sent in the name of the Branch to the Margaret Beavan Memorial Fund.

MEETING OF ST. JOAN'S S.P.A.

Under the auspices of St. Joan's S.P.A., an open meeting was held at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho, on Monday, June 8th, when several pilgrims reported on the Quincentenary Celebrations in Rouen. Miss Fedden, presiding, drew a parallel between the life of St. Joan and of Our Lord. After Our Blessed Lady, she said, St. Joan seemed to her the greatest of saints. Dr. L. Fairfield and Miss B. Barclay Carter gave interesting descriptions of the celebrations, both religious and civil. The Golden Book was on view.

The International Abolitionist Federation at Strasburg.

The Triennial Congress of the International Abolitionist Federation (founded by Mrs. Josephine Butler in 1875) was held in Strasbourg and Colmar from April 30th to May 1st. One of the most important and impressive functions of the Congress was a large public meeting called to commemorate the suppression in 1881 of the tolerated houses in Colmar. It will be remembered that the then Mayor of Colmar, Mr. Schlumberger, after studying the papers and reports of the Abolitionist Federation decided to close the brothels. This momentous and courageous decision was the first Abolitionist victory, preceding by five years the repealing of the English Contagious Diseases Acts. In 1895 the Mayor of Colmar, invited the Federation to hold their Congress in Colmar, and he, as the chosen representative of his city, received the delegates and in the name of his town thanked Mrs. Butler, the founder of the Federation, for the inspiration and initiative which had so greatly benefited Colmar. Now in 1931 Colmar, which in 1881 was the one spot of light in Regulation darkened Europe, sees its example being followed on a world-wide scale.

On Tuesday, April 30th, M. de Graaf, President of the Federation, opened the proceedings of the Congress. He and Professor Gemähling, of Strasbourg University, welcomed the delegates from the various countries. At the first session the delegates discussed "The General Situation as regards Prostitution in Europe and the Colonies." Reports presented by the branches of the Federation and describing conditions in the various countries formed the basis of the discussion. It is noteworthy that M. Maus (Belgium), an official delegate appointed by the Traffic in Women and Children Committee of the League of Nations, was able to report that the investigations of that Committee proved there had been no increase either in disease or in breaches of public order where Regulation had been abolished.

This was followed by a discussion on Compulsory versus Voluntary methods of Treatment of Venereal Diseases.

On the following day the Congress discussed Solicitation, following papers read by Dr. Meinberger, Director of the Bureau for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children in Vienna, M. Hogendijk, Commissioner of the

Children's Police in Amsterdam, and Professor Ude, Austria.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Sir George Newman, chief medical officer of the Ministry of Health, recently delivered the inaugural address of the Post-Graduate Week for Public Health Nurses, organised by the College of Nursing. In the course of his address Sir George referred to the question of maternal mortality. He said that there were 700,000 girls in the flower of their young womanhood who were faced with childbirth every year. We lost 3,000 of them and we damaged thousands more, and all because we did not take this great function seriously enough in England. "When a young woman dies of typhoid fever," he said, "we are full of regrets, but when she dies in the attempt to make her contribution to the community, how many of us realise that a home has lost its mother and that a young man has lost his companion? And the tragedy of it all is that we are losing these mothers in the discharge of a physiological function. Childbirth is not a disease. If you gave me the care and supervision of these 3,000 girls I guarantee that I would save three-quarters of them."

TRAINING WOMEN FOR TRADES AND PROFESSIONS, OTHER THAN DOMESTIC SERVICE.

Our readers will be interested in the following recommendation submitted by the Six Point Group to the Royal Commission on Unemployment.

We recommend the training of women in the following trades and professions in which there is such a noticeable shortage of women. Solicitors, electrical engineers, aviation, chauffeurs, agriculture, including poultry and bee keeping, administrative posts in commercial houses and laundries, hotel managers, restaurant managers, commercial travellers. Every employment exchange should have a woman to advise the unemployed women on possible professions and trades. She should be able to give very full information as to pay, conditions and promotion. Such advice should not be confined to trades and professions in which women are already established but should cover those in which few or no women are found and explain whether the scarcity of women is due to a custom, law or trade union regulation.

**ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND
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of the Catholic Social Guild

will be held in OXFORD

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Tuesday, July 21st, 5-30 p.m.—**Annual Meeting of the Guild,** His Lordship the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle in the chair.

Sunday, July 26th, 11 a.m.—**High Mass, Sermon** by His Grace the Archbishop of Birmingham. In the evening, **Demonstration** to commemorate the Encyclical *Rerum Novarum*.

During the Week—Lectures by Rev. Lewis Watt, S.J., B.Sc. (Econ.), **The Future of Capitalism.** Dr. K. G. Fenelon, Ph.D., **Some Trends of Modern Industry.** Capt. F. N. Blundell, J.P., D.L., **Land Settlement and Agricultural Marketing.** Lectures by Miss M. M. A. Ward, O.B.E., Mr. H. Somerville, Rev. Francis Day and others to be announced later.

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