

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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THE
Catholic Citizen

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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.

Votes for Women, 1918-1943

By Evelyn Billing.

The granting of Votes for Women in 1918 was celebrated at a Jubilee Luncheon at Friends' House, London, on Saturday, 6th February. The plan, initiated by St. Joan's Alliance, was adopted by the surviving Suffrage Societies and others representing every kind of thought and activity amongst women to-day. War conditions made it impossible for more than 300 guests to be catered for, but the speeches were relayed to an adjoining hall where some 200 people were present to hear them.

This quarter-century celebration of women's enfranchisement was one of those supreme hours in which past and future meet in a happy and full-charged present. Veterans of the Votes for Women Campaign paid grateful tribute to the women M.P.s who, disregarding party differences, have proved that enfranchised womanhood can (if it will) command political attention to women's needs and views; and the veterans gave glad welcome to the numerous young women present who will help to reconstruct the post-war world. But to these the veteran leaders gave warning that full social and political equality between men and women was not yet achieved, and indeed would not be achieved without struggle and without an adequate increase in the number of women in the House of Commons.

To old campaigners it was a pleasant and a homely touch that they found themselves assembled under the joint chairmanship of Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, each of whom spoke in well-remembered style. She, despite increasing years, spoke with her characteristic warmth and sincerity when recalling past leaders and comrades, and when pledging us all to the cause of women and humanity in the future.

He, with accustomed vigour and precision, urged his "battle-comrades" to remember that full equality of status was not yet won, and that women's contribution of imagination and sympathy was needed in the re-planning of the world.

Lady Astor spoke forcibly and inspiringly of the spiritual equality of men and women, as expressed in Holy Scripture; later she caught the attention of the Press by her picturesque language when humorously describing the various catastrophic phenomena which alone seemed able to bring recognition to women's abilities in what is still a man-dominated world. She began by saying that she "was born with the feeling that women were just as good as men and in some ways even gooder," and her speech ended with the words: "Fighting for women has been by far the most important fight I have ever fought, except the fight to be worthy of representing them."

Mrs. Tate, with her delightful thrust and parry, and her quizzically critical attitude towards men's assumed superiority, seemed to me to be the reincarnation of the old Suffrage spirit—staunch, humorous, critical of shams and shibboleths. On behalf of her own generation she paid warm-hearted tribute to the generally underrated heroism of the women who won the vote. Her speech closed with words which drew laughing appreciation: "This war has enabled many women to open the eyes of a few men—quite a lot! Some of us intend to prevent their ever closing their eyes again."

Miss Nina Boyle, with her usual speed and wit, gave a racy account of her courageous and amusing adventures when at Keighley she tried to stand as the first woman candidate for Parliament before the passing of the 1918 Act.

Miss Rathbone's tribute to Mrs. Fawcett was enhanced by her declaration of the non-militant leader's appreciation of the part played by militancy in the struggle for the vote. Mrs. Fawcett excelled, she said, "in four qualities most essential for statesmanship—veracity, faith, tenacity and sagacity."

Elvira Laughton Mathews, the 17-year-old daughter of our own recent Chairman, was happily chosen to represent the generation that stands upon the threshold of achievement. We shall surely remember Elvira's account of her presence at the unveiling of Mrs. Pankhurst's statue, when (perched on her mother's shoulder) she was told by Mrs. Laughton Mathews that her life and the lives of all women would be different because Mrs. Pankhurst had lived. She told us that the girl of to-day, leaving school, was "gloriously free" to choose what career she would. "When I remember the achievements of the young girl of to-day," she concluded, "I hope you are proud of her as she is proud of you. May I say 'Thank you'? I won't say we promise not to let you down, but I will say we promise to do our best."

Mrs. Key (N.U.W.T.) spoke with the incisiveness of a woman of affairs who has seen and suffered daily instances of the absurd treatment of women in a man-administered world. She urged women to demand their rights of full citizenship and individuality as a necessary step towards true democracy. Her audience appreciated the *bon mot*, "If women were braver, men would be fairer!"

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The background of the speakers was made colourful by banners which had taken part in the historic Suffrage processions. Prominent among them was that of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society and our beautiful banner of St. Joan. We welcomed grateful remembrance of Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Fawcett and Mrs. Despard. To our own beloved founder, Gabrielle Jeffery, we say: "St. Joan's Alliance is carrying on the work that you started. We pray for you and hope to be guided still by your inspiration."

As we go to press we hear of the death of our gallant colleague, Nina Boyle, in her seventy-eighth year and still, as she showed at the jubilee luncheon, ardent and young. She was a pioneer in championing a cause which St. Joan's has since made its own, that of raising the status of "native" women. The Alliance was represented at her funeral by the Honorary Secretary.

EQUAL COMPENSATION.

The Select Committee on Equal Compensation has reported in favour of flat rates of compensation for war injuries sustained by all adult civilians, irrespectively of sex or occupation. The committee states that the proposal "not only has justice on its side but could be adopted with little practical difficulty and at relatively little cost." It "can be carried into effect most satisfactorily by the abolition of the distinction between gainfully and non-gainfully occupied persons." This latter distinction "has been widely felt to be unjust to the housewife. Moreover, this distinction has led to a further anomaly: a housewife who is not gainfully occupied and is a part-time unpaid Civil Defence Volunteer is entitled to benefit on a higher scale for injury sustained in the course of her part-time service (for example, at a Warden's Post) than for the same injury sustained in the course of her domestic duties. In each case she is doing her duty; in neither is she in receipt of pay; yet the pension in the first case is nearly double that prescribed in the second."

The committee recommends further that the same principle of equal compensation be extended to "all War Service Injuries sustained by Civil Defence Volunteers, and to disability pensions payable to men and women in the Services and the Merchant Navy," but makes the proviso that "equality in respect of disability pensions would not necessarily extend to the higher ranks in these Services."

The credit for these equitable recommendations belongs in the first place to Mrs. Tate, who has worked unremittingly, and with judgment, conspicuous resourcefulness and determination, to secure the act of justice for which they stand. Evidence was given on behalf of the Treasury that

"the principle of sex differentiation, whether it is right or wrong, is at present a matter of Government policy and it runs right through a large part of the social structure. It appears in all the social services, with the exception of Old Age Pensions."

It is to defeat this principle that St. Joan's Alliance and the other feminist societies exist. We must see to it that the Report of the Select Committee is implemented without delay.

Please ask your M.P. to support the amendments to the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill tabled by Colonel Cazalet and identical with those recently moved by Lord Balfour of Burleigh in the House of Lords.

Notes and Comments.

Mass will be offered this month at St. Patrick's, Soho, for our Founder, Gabrielle Jeffery, and for the first editor of the *Catholic Citizen*, Leonora de Alberti, whose anniversaries occur on March 19th and 26th respectively. We know all our members will remember them with affection and gratitude in their prayers.—R.I.P.

* * *

In Parliament.

On February 10th, MRS. CAZALET KEIR asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether in view of the announcement of the new terms and conditions of the diplomatic and consular services, he will now set up the Committee referred to in the White Paper to consider the admission of women to this service in order that the scheme may be completed at the end of the war.

MR. EDEN: I see no reason to alter the decision expressed in the relevant paragraph 33 of the White Paper. The question should be reviewed in the light of conditions after, not during, the war.

MRS. KEIR: Does not my Right Hon. Friend think that it would be in the best interests of the new foreign service to recruit at the outset from the widest possible field, and surely this cannot be achieved by leaving out of account rather more than half the population?

MR. EDEN: I am a little surprised at my Hon. Friend's questions, because I had the privilege of meeting a large and representative and very agreeable assembly of women's organisations in this country, and I thought that the arrangement to which we then came, which is set out in the White Paper, was satisfactory to them.

MISS WARD: If we are planning the post-war world in every other service now, why should we not plan it in the diplomatic service as well?

MR. EDEN: I thought that my Hon. Friend was among the satisfied.

* * *

The Minister of Labour's announcement that he is working out a plan which would provide domestic help "on a principle rather in line with that of district nursing" is a welcome recognition of the fact that the lives of many busy women, mothers of young children and others, are made difficult in this wartime by the almost insoluble problem of how to find anyone who will help them with their household tasks.

* * *

With much grief we saw the name of Senator Frantiska Plaminkova included in a list of Czech patriots whose death has recently been announced. This outstanding and able feminist was at all the International Women's Congresses; we saw her last at the Suffrage Conference in Copenhagen in 1939. Some of her friends then tried to dissuade her from returning to Czechoslovakia, but she answered that she could not live a refugee's life; she must go back to her own country—as she did.—R.I.P.

At the Conference on Health Education and Venereal Diseases held on February 26th, under the auspices of the Central Council for Health Education, more than 1,000 representatives of local authorities and voluntary societies, including St. Joan's Alliance, were present. The chief speakers were Dr. Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Rt. Hon. Ernest Brown, Minister of Health.

We quote the following extracts from the Archbishop's inspiring address:

"If men and women would abstain from fornication, the problem confronting the Minister of Health would be reduced to negligible proportions. . . . The object first to be aimed at is the practice of continence. Far more potent than any teaching. . . . is the attitude adopted by authority. . . . if teaching and suggestion are in conflict suggestion will win every time. . . . It is a fundamental principle. . . . that Governments affect the conduct of their subjects far more by the principles implicit in their acts, than by the requirements of legislation. . . . In dealing with venereal disease our rulers systematically ignore this principle. Thus in the Army, with a view to checking venereal disease instruction is given to recruits in the use of prophylactics. The implication and suggestion is that the authorities expect a considerable number to practice fornication. . . . this method by its inevitable suggestion causes an increase of promiscuous intercourse, and therefore also an increase of the disease which it is designed to prevent. The root trouble is the treatment of what is primarily a moral problem as if it were primarily a medical problem."

The fundamental objection to Regulation 33B is the same. . . . Its very existence tends to create the suggestion that infectious 'contacts' are being dealt with and that the concern of the Government is to make fornication medically safe. . . .

To make venereal disease compulsorily notifiable would be far worse than the Regulation. There is enough moral sensitiveness left among us to make the contraction of these diseases a matter of shame. If any man or woman who was known to be infected were thereupon to be isolated, the great majority would conceal the early symptoms. . . . The only way in which this could be averted would be by obliterating the sense of shame. . . . and that would be worse both morally and medically."

The Archbishop ended by outlining the lines on which an educational campaign should be conducted.

It is regrettable that succeeding speakers did not take the same high moral ground as the Archbishop. We deprecate the Minister of Health's distinction between the sphere of the mind and that of religion and morals, which are properly identical, and the positive antithesis between these spheres which later speakers tried to establish. We support most of the social and medical remedial measures suggested by the speakers.

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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ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

32nd Annual Report.

As in 1941, questions affecting the position of women have been much to the fore in Parliament during 1942, and women M.P.s have worked hard and valiantly. As woman power becomes more and more important to the nation, women often find themselves bearing a double burden—at home and at the job. As the demand for their labour outside the home increases, so, at the same ratio, does their difficulty in finding help to relieve them of the weight of any of their work within the home. Wartime nurseries and the system of part-time employment afford perhaps a solution of some women's problems. The status of the housewife is receiving some of its due recognition. The Alliance has been called upon to exercise a new vigilance as wartime regulations have enlarged their scope and as the call for woman power has diminished the leisure which members formerly gave to its work.

Equal Compensation for War Injury.

Much work has been done to obtain this measure of justice. The Alliance collected a large number of signatures to the petition organised by the Equal Compensation Campaign Committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. Tate. We note with pleasure that all the nuns of several convents were among the signatories and we congratulate our Liverpool Branch on the splendid number of signatures obtained on Merseyside. The petition was presented to Parliament in sections and at different times.

Mrs. Tate brought the matter forward during the debate on the Budget by the device of moving an amendment which would have lowered the income tax payable by women from 10s. to 6s. 8d. in the £, gladly withdrawing her amendment when she had obtained the publicity she wanted.

At the Annual Meeting of the Central Council of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations she moved a resolution in favour of equal compensation, which, despite an appeal by the Minister of Pensions to refer the matter back to the Executive Committee, was carried by a large majority. In September, Mrs. Tate led a deputation representing between three and four million women made up of forty M.P.s and representatives of societies, including St. Joan's Alliance. It was received by the deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee, who promised to submit the question to the Cabinet.

The introduction of compulsory fire-watching for women, a measure which made yet more glaring the injustice of

awarding women lower compensation than men, was not announced by the Home Secretary until the day after Parliament adjourned for the summer recess, though Mrs. Tate had pressed for this information on the previous day. In September, Mrs. Tate tabled a motion asking for equal compensation on the ground that women were compelled to fire watch and were conscripted for factories, and within a month she obtained for it the backing of 142 M.P.s. Later she took the unprecedented course of moving an amendment to the King's Speech, regretting that civilian men and women did not receive equal compensation for war injuries. This she pressed to a division and it received 95 votes to 229, the largest vote yet cast against the present Government. There has been much evidence that public opinion is now generally in our favour. The Select Committee appointed by the Government has, at the time of writing, reported in favour of equal compensation.

Equal Pay and Opportunities.

Last July the Home Secretary stated: "It is the general policy of the State and industry that there are certain broad levels of wages for men and women. I am not saying whether it is right or wrong . . . the principle adopted by the Government at the beginning of this war was that the rate of pay for women should be approximately two-thirds of the rate of pay for men."

Thus the policy of the Government still is to pay men and women unequally. M.P.s of course have equal pay, but throughout the Government Services the principle of inequality persists in salary and bonus alike. In the principle industries in July, 1942, women's rates of pay ranged between 55 and 70 per cent. of men's rates. Only where women are employed during the war on work previously performed by men and are equally efficient, does the principle of equal pay apply.

The few instances of an apparent grant of equality generally prove, on examination, to be hedged about with provisos which nullify the principle involved. For example, while men's pay is granted to certain women doing men's jobs in Royal Ordnance factories, these women receive only 75 per cent. of the men's war bonus. Even for the school children employed in agriculture, pay has been 6d. for boys and 5½d. for girls. The inequalities in both the salaries and the bonuses of men and women in the teaching and civil services remain.

As a temporary measure, for the duration of the war, various bodies in the electrical industry have agreed that women may now be employed on skilled work and at the same rates as men. One real gain is the decision of the Amalgamated Engineering Union to admit women to its ranks, as the result of a postal ballot which showed a large majority in favour of their admission. The principle of equal pay for equal work is, however, flouted by an agreement between the Engineering and Allied Employers' National Federation and two workers' unions, which lays down that engineering work shall be divided into men's and women's work, and the rates of wages adjusted on that basis.

We regret several inequalities among the proposals of the Beveridge Report: these are beyond our present scope.

It is satisfactory that in the auxiliary services pensions to the dependents of women, women's "constant attendance allowances," and the education allowances made to their children, have been equalised with the similar payments made to men in the fighting forces for their dependents.

Finally, we are grateful to Miss Rathbone and Mr. Ellis Smith for voicing, in the House of Commons, anxiety lest the Pre-war Trade Practices Bill should, as after the last war, be used unfairly to exclude women from many jobs.

Diplomatic Service.

The deputation of women's organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance, which was received by the Foreign Secretary in September, 1941, drew forth from him a reply received by the Woman Power Committee early in 1942. He said that all regular entry into the Civil Service of either men or women had been suspended for the duration of the war, and that it was impossible for him now to give an undertaking that the decision to exclude women from the Diplomatic and Consular Services would be reversed. On the other hand, he pronounced himself ready to consider the appointment after the war of a committee, not restricted to the civil service, which would again examine this question, and also ready to consider, in the meanwhile, applications through the normal channels, by women as well as men, for such temporary posts of the administrative grade as might become vacant in the Foreign Office. This latter undertaking seems to have been implemented when Miss Mary Craig McGeachy was appointed Public Relations Officer for the Ministry of Economic Warfare in Washington, Mr. Eden having announced that all the members of the staff of the British News Chief in the U.S.A., to which she belongs, have been granted local diplomatic status. Thus at last a breach, if only a temporary one, has been made in the hitherto impregnable defence against women in the diplomatic service.

Nationality.

On December 8th, the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill was read a second time in the House of Lords. The Alliance wrote immediately to the Lord Chancellor to protest against the omission of any clause to remove the injustice suffered by many British women who have lost their British nationality by marrying aliens.

At the same time, we wrote to ask for help in the matter to Lord Samuel, and to Lord Balfour of Burleigh whose persistent championship of women's right to their own nationality will be recorded in next year's report.

Equal Moral Standard.

An advance is marked by the abolition of State regulation of prostitution in Mexico. In Holland and France there is retrogression. In the former country, under Ger-

man occupation, prostitutes must now submit periodically to a medical examination and provide themselves with a Government pass, and in France there is a new tax on the *maisons tolérées* which will tend to increase their number.

Regulation 33B.

This Regulation, ordered by the Government on November 5th, obliges any man or woman accused, by two independent patients suffering from venereal disease, of being their suspected source of infection, to submit to medical examination and to undergo, if found diseased, the treatment prescribed by the Medical Officer of Health, on pain of three months' imprisonment or a fine of £100 or both. After careful study of the Regulation, in its moral, legal and medical aspects, the Alliance sent a strong protest to the Government and called for its annulment on the grounds that it would act as an incentive to vice, is repugnant to British sense of justice, and would tend to increase rather than diminish disease.

While fully realising the gravity of the present position, largely due to wartime conditions, the Alliance recommended, in place of the Regulation, the increase and development of medical facilities for the free, voluntary and confidential treatment of venereal disease; the appointment of an adequate number of trained almoners of both sexes and also of policewomen; the increase and improvement of means of recreation, especially for men and women in the Forces; and the enlightenment of the adult population on the sinfulness and danger of incontinence, with emphasis on continence as the only safe prophylactic.

Immediately on the announcement of the Regulation, an emergency meeting of women's organisations was called. St. Joan's Alliance was one of the 22 organisations represented on a deputation, headed by Mrs. Tate, which was received by the Minister of Health and which put forward legal, medical and social objections to the Regulation. The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, which is, as ever, zealous for the honourable tradition it inherits from its founder, Josephine Butler, was represented as the consultative expert society. The Alliance did further intensive work on this matter, approaching high dignitaries and M.P.s and making use of the Press. Fr. Vincent McNabb, O.P., S.T.M., contributed an important article on the moral aspect of the subject to the *Catholic Citizen*, and Dr. Shattock wrote an invaluable memorandum on its medical aspect.

The motion for the annulment was defeated in the House of Commons by 245 votes to 31. Among those who spoke in favour of annulment, from our point of view, Lady Astor, Mrs. Hardie and Dr. Morgan were outstanding in the House of Commons, and the Archbishop of York and the Bishop of Norwich in the House of Lords.

Women Police.

The Home Secretary stated that up to March 31st, 1942, the women of the Regular Force and First Reserve of the Police numbered 358, and the Women's Auxiliary Police Corps 3,296. Although the number of policewomen has been increased throughout the year, there are still far too few of them. In one or two instances, local effort has succeeded, in the teeth of the chief constable's opposition, in procuring their appointment. Women over 24 years of age may now apply, as an alternative to joining the Services or working in a factory, to be employed as policewomen, chief constables being asked to inform Local Labour Exchanges of vacancies for them. Policewomen are now appointed in the A.T.S. and the W.A.A.F.S.

The Alliance is represented on the women police committee of the N.C.W.

Women in the Services.

The absurdity of appointing a committee of four men to enquire into amenities and welfare conditions in the three women's services was fortunately recognised by the Government, after it had drawn forth protests from many quarters. The committee, presided over by Miss Violet Markham, which made this investigation, and incidentally cleared the A.T.S. of unfounded charges against them, consisted of 5 women and 3 men. Their report gave high praise to the work the service-women have done, in conditions often uncomfortable and sometimes dangerous.

Colonial Affairs.

Increasing interest has been shown in the attitude of the public and the Government with regard to Colonial Affairs. The Alliance has written to the Secretary of State for the Colonies asking that qualified women be appointed to the various advisory committees which are being set up by the Government. The Hon. Secretary attended a conference called by the Overseas Branch of the Medical Women's Federation where the need for more medical women in the colonial services was stressed. She also attended a conference of some 30 organisations called by the N.C.W. to consider the urgent need for experienced women in administrative and advisory positions both at home and in the colonial territories, so that their expert services may be utilised, more especially to aid the colonial peoples in developing their services for education, health, welfare and labour.

At a conference held by the Fabian Colonial Bureau to consider the application of the Atlantic Charter to colonial peoples, St. Joan's Alliance proposed that the words "men and women" should be substituted for "persons" in the resolution. This amendment was accepted by the meeting but finally, for technical reasons, it was regrettably omitted from the resolution.

It is satisfactory that Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.P., is a member of the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of Colonial Peoples in the United Kingdom.

St. Joan's Alliance.

The 31st Annual Meeting was held at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square, on March 14th, and had a special character because brief speeches were made at it by women from Belgium, France, Germany, Greece and Poland, nearly all of them our members. We were happy to have Canon Reardon with us. During the year Miss Billing had to our regret been obliged by pressure of work to resign from the committee. Miss Joan Morris was co-opted in her place. A full account of the meeting, and the resolutions which were passed at it, will be found in the *Catholic Citizen* of April 1942.

Throughout the year Mass has been offered, by request of the Alliance, at St. Patrick's, Soho, on the second Sunday of every month, for peace and for all killed in the war. In March, Mass was offered for the repose of the souls of Gabrielle Jeffery and Leonora de Alberti, whose anniversaries occurred in that month.—R.I.P.

On St. Joan's Day, Father Henry O'Brien kindly offered Mass for the Alliance, and a laurel wreath tied in our colours was placed on the shrine of St. Joan at Westminster Cathedral. Our Annual Mass for deceased members, benefactors and associates was said at St. Patrick's on the first Sunday in November.

The Alliance took the initiative in the matter of the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Women's Suffrage, our plan being adopted by the six other surviving suffrage societies. Much preparatory work for the celebration was done before the end of the year.

A questionnaire sent to candidates at the Putney by-election covered our five equality points and also asked for the prohibition of the issue to His Majesty's Forces of prophylactic packets for venereal disease.

At Kensington House Convent, Miss Challoner addressed the club of the two St. Teresa's, a club of business girls and women clerks and civil servants, on "Equality"; and she responded to a kind invitation of the Catholic Club for German-speaking People by lecturing to its members on "The History of the Woman's Movement in this country."

Letters on further subjects written by the Alliance to various departments include one to the Minister of Health and the B.M.A. to press that training, with opportunities for pre-graduate and post-graduate work, be made available for men and women medical students equally. In correspondence with the Industries and Manufactures Department of the Board of Trade, we made the point that members of the Girls' Training Corps, unlike some uniformed boys' associations, had to give coupons for their uniforms. In a letter to the Ministry of Pensions, we protested because certain supplementary allowances to old age pensioners are less by 1s. for women than they are for men.

The Alliance took part in the following conferences and meetings:—Women's Freedom League (Feminist Brains Trust); Women's Influence in Parliament and Local Government; Women's International League (Declaration of the Rights of Man); National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child; Married Women's Association (Effect of Economic Status of Housewives on Sex Equality, Post-War Planning for Housewives); London Women's Parliament (Wartime Nurseries); Edinburgh "Will to Win" Meeting; University Catholic Federation (Social Science). The Alliance is represented on the Catholic Council for the Family and Population. In Edinburgh it is represented on the Women's United Council, and sent a representative to the Will to Win Women's Rally.

The Alliance was represented when Sir Ramaswarami Mudaliar, K.C.S.I., Indian member of the War Cabinet, addressed the Women's Advisory Council on Indian Affairs; and was one of the eighteen women's organisations on whose behalf, on December 31st, Mrs. Corbett Ashby broadcast a message of greeting to the All-India Women's Conference, then meeting at Cocanada, Bay of Bengal.

A representative of the Alliance was among those asked to meet Mrs. Roosevelt at the Ministry of Information in November.

International.

Through the representatives on the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations, Miss Barry and Madame Leroy, we have taken active part in its work, especially as members of the deputations sent to the representatives in London of foreign Governments to urge that their post-war planning include provision for the equal status of men and women, and the assurance to women, on the same terms as to men, of the right to earn. On the whole these deputations were very sympathetically received. We were among the signatories of the committee's protest against "the crimes that are being committed during the present war, wheresoever and by whomsoever they are committed."

In January, 1942, we entertained to luncheon our former chairman, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, and members of ours from Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece and Poland:

and in October the committee met Miss Gertrude Gaffney, the distinguished Irish journalist and a member of the Alliance, at an impromptu tea-party. Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Miss Barry have entertained to luncheon Señorita Rose Durland, whom we welcome as a new member and whom we congratulate on her appointment as attaché at the Cuban Legation in London. We have much appreciated invitations we have received to attend interesting functions organised by associations of the Free Austrian, the Czech and the Polish women now in London. Our representatives were among the hostesses at a series of parties given by the International Women's Suffrage Alliance. We were also represented at the opening of the Newman Association Centre by the Hon. Anthony J. Drexel Biddle.

Australia. It is with a very special feeling that we have received regular reports from Australia, the country which is bearing the hazards and privations of war in the southern hemisphere as we ourselves are in the northern, and we are truly glad that our Australian section is as active as ever.

We are proud of the many Australian members of the Alliance who are doing important national work. The section has dealt with problems which arose when large numbers of women were recruited for the Services. It sought to obtain for them, and for women engaged on defence work, pay and allowances at the rates applicable to single men, and for those sent abroad the right to repatriation enjoyed by men. The Alliance was represented on a deputation which was informed by the Minister of Munitions that the Government's policy was to pay men and women equally, and that a tribunal would be set up to evaluate the work done by women who replaced men, who would be paid at the rates previously applicable to men if no inferiority were discovered in their work. At its June meeting, the section heard most interesting accounts of missionary work among the aborigines.

We were glad to have news of our **Brazilian section** and its members and evidence that its valiant secretary continues her uphill fight.

From **France** we received the moving intelligence that at Rouen the President of l'Alliance Ste. Jeanne D'Arc placed flowers on the statue of St. Joan on her feast day.

Press.

We wish to express our thanks to the *Catholic Herald* and the *Universe* for the publicity they have given to our activities, especially to Miss Brigid de Vine of the *Universe* for her several references to the *Catholic Citizen*. We are also indebted to the *Catholic Herald* for publishing tributes from us to Miss Alison Neilans and Dr. Mary Hayden (R.I.P.) These papers were also generous in their notice of our work for the annulment of Regulation 33B.

Letters were sent to the *Catholic Herald* on married women in industry, and to the *Sword of the Spirit Bulletin* explaining what feminism is.

The *Birkenhead Advertiser* gave good publicity to the Equal Compensation meeting of the Liverpool Branch.

A question in *Catholic Truth and Book Notes* drew forth a reply that a woman covered her head in church to mark her "hierarchical subjection." The writer of this reply answered, when we queried his statement, that "this phrase has led to misunderstanding and we intend to deal further with the subject in a future issue." We still await this promised elucidation. The Alliance was represented at a conference of Catholic journalists and writers from many countries held to consider the reconstruction of the Catholic press in Europe after the war.

"Catholic Citizen."

The standard of the paper and its circulation have been well maintained. We are very grateful to those, some of them experts, who have contributed articles on important subjects. In this country the paper is exchanged for several Catholic papers and for all the feminist papers. We still receive many papers from overseas, and we are particularly pleased to be kept in touch with the international movement by the I.C.W. *Bulletin* and *Le Mouvement Féministe* (Geneva).

Liverpool and District Branch.

Hon. Secretary, Miss A. McNeish, 61, Rosedale Avenue, Crosby, Liverpool 23.

The Annual Meeting was held at Sissons Café, Liverpool, on February 2nd. The existing committee was re-elected with the addition of Mrs. Graham and Miss Helen Douglas Irvine.

Early in the year, members worked hard in helping to collect the 40,000 signatures of Merseyside citizens to the Petition for Equal Compensation. The annual garden meeting was held in August at Birkenhead by kind invitation of the Misses Barry. A resolution was sent from the meeting to the local M.P.s demanding equal compensation for war injuries and also a letter of thanks to Mrs. Tate for her valiant work on the subject.

At the Wallasey by-election, letters were sent to the candidates asking whether if returned to Parliament they would press for equal pay and opportunity; equal compensation for war injuries; entry of women into the diplomatic and consular services; the elimination of all sex discriminations in pensions and insurance legislation. The replies were sent to members having votes in the constituency and to the press.

A resolution was sent to the local M.P.s asking them to vote for the Annulment of Regulation 33B. We are glad to record that Mr. Reakes and Colonel Sir John Shute did so.

The Branch is represented on the Women's Organisation Committee of the Liverpool Council of Social Service. Much work was done by Mrs. Graham in the survey of Corporation property and by Mrs. Brady, Mrs. Graham and the Misses Leece in assisting the appeal for linen for Russia.

We are grateful to Mrs. McCann, our chairman, for kindly putting her house at our disposal for meetings, and to Mrs. Johnston and Mrs. Fitzsimmons, two of our earliest members, for their work on behalf of the Alliance. We regret they have now left Liverpool.

Mass was offered for Miss Elizabeth Bowden, our late hon. secretary, who was killed by enemy action on May 3rd, 1941. We ask readers to pray for the repose of her soul and for Mrs. Claudillon and Mrs. Crawford who died during the year.—R.I.P.

Oldham Branch.

Hon. Secretary, Miss Muldowney, 43b, Roscoe Street, Oldham.

Letters were sent to the local M.P.s on Equal Compensation for War Injuries and Regulation 33B.

Oxford Branch.

Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Burrough, Women's Service Library, c/o St. Anne's Society, 56, Woodstock Road.

We are happy to record the inauguration of an Oxford Branch of the Alliance, the first meeting of which was held on October 31st, by kind permission of St. Anne's

Society, in Hartland House, where the Women's Service Library is now housed. Miss Challoner, Mrs. Shattock and Miss Barry attended the meeting, and a resolution for equal compensation for war injuries was passed and sent to the local M.P.s. A committee was formed which included Miss Joan Morris (Chairman), Miss Douie (Hon. Treasurer), Mrs. Burroughs (Hon. Secretary). On December 6th a meeting was held to discuss the necessity for Catholic women to take their part in public life.

Obituary.

The Alliance has sustained loss by the death of Mrs. Gordon, Miss McManus, Miss Mary McSwiney and Mrs. Poundall, who were old and valued members, and also of Dr. Mary Hayden, the distinguished Irish vice-president of St. Joan's International Alliance. All feminists must mourn the death of Miss Alison Neilans, secretary of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, often our valued helper, and that of Miss Florence Underwood, secretary of the Women's Freedom League. The international women's movement has suffered by the death of Miss Rosa Manus, of Holland, in a concentration camp, and of Countess Alberti Apponyi in Budapest.—R.I.P.

Treasurer's Report.

There is a slight drop in members' subscriptions as compared with last year; on the other hand, the office "Bring-and-Buy" and Christmas sales show a welcome increase of £34. The barrow has had to be discontinued for want of time and staff. In its place the secretary has added to her already too numerous occupations that of perpetual saleswoman in the office.

We have had two moneymaking parties this year, thanks to the kindness of Miss Barry and Mrs. McFadyen, which have helped our finances and also allowed our members to meet.

Catholic Citizen subscriptions have increased by £12, but advertisements are few and far between these days. Owing to the increased cost of printing an advance of £26 has had to be given from the General Fund.

The Committee decided to give up one office, owing to the difficult financial position, from September. Thanks to this we were able to finish the year with a small balance of £21.

Our grateful thanks go to the following who have helped regularly with clerical work and in sending out the *Catholic Citizen*: The Misses E. Barry, E. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Harrington, Mrs. McFadyen, the Misses O'Hart, Organ and Hope Robson; to Mrs. Benjamin, who has most kindly audited our accounts; and to the Misses Billing, Davis, Gadsby, Mrs. Maxfield and others who have helped us at our sales.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

Leonora de Alberti in the "*Catholic Citizen*,"
March 15, 1918.

"The more the *Catholic Citizen* provides a platform for progressive Catholics to discuss the questions of the day, the better pleased we shall be. Frank and free discussion is the best way of coming to a profitable solution of any vexed question. Just as the best way to overthrow an opponent is to meet him face to face and hear what his aims and motives actually are, and not to depend upon what someone else has said that they are."—*The Future of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.*

HON. TREASURER'S NOTE.

We thank all those who have sent their subscriptions to the Alliance and the "*Catholic Citizen*" promptly. To economise paper and printing, we are marking this note in blue pencil for members who have not yet paid their subscriptions. Please accept this intimation in place of the usual slip and send your subscriptions at once. We remind subscribers that the minimum subscription to the "*Catholic Citizen*," 3s., and the minimum annual subscription to the Alliance, 1s., do not cover even the expense of sending notices, especially nowadays, and we appeal to them to raise their total MINIMUM subscriptions to 5s. a year.

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