

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. XXIX. No. 5.

15th MAY, 1943.

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.

What the Vote has Done

By Vera Douie

Librarian, Women's Service Library.

The question "but what has the vote *done* for women?" is so frequently asked that it is well worth attempting some answer on this twenty-fifth anniversary of its conferment.

In the first eighteen years of the twentieth century, only five Acts embodying reforms in the social, political and legal position of women passed into law, and all involved arduous and prolonged labour on the part of individuals and of the women's societies. With the coming of the vote, a positive spate of Acts benefiting women found their way on to the Statute Book, and experienced workers for the women's cause observed a totally new atmosphere in the lobbies and committee rooms of the House of Commons.

Immediately after women were given the vote, the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act, 1918, enabling women to sit in Parliament, was passed. Though the number of women in the House of Commons has never exceeded fifteen, their influence has far outstripped their numerical strength. Miss Margaret Bondfield was Minister of Labour in the Labour administration of 1929-31, and four women have been parliamentary secretaries, two of whom hold office at the present time. Outside the House, both Conservative and Labour women have been chairmen of their parties and have presided at the party conferences. In local government, many women have been mayors and lord mayors, and Mrs. Lowe was chairman of the London County Council in its jubilee year.

The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, opened the office of justice of the peace to

women, and there are now over 4,000 women magistrates. Women are also eligible to be H.M. judges, and even—so long as they are not Catholics—Lord Chancellor. This same Act opened the higher grades of the civil service and the legal and other professions to women, and the younger women have made good use of their opportunities.

Many Acts affecting the status of women in the home have been passed in the last twenty-five years. The terrible plight of widows and orphans on the death of the family breadwinner was mitigated by the passing of the Widows, Orphans and Old Age Pensions Act of 1925. The Guardianship of Infants Act, 1925, gave mothers equal guardianship rights with fathers. The Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Act of the same year added to the grounds on which a separation order could be given and removed certain hardships affecting the poorer woman, such as the necessity of leaving her husband before applying for one. The Law Reform (Married Women and Tortfeasors) Act of 1935 placed married women in the same position as single women and men in regard to debt, bankruptcy, etc. The Inheritance (Family Provision) Act, 1938, prevented the complete disinheritance of either spouse.

The health of women and children has been immeasurably improved by the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918, and subsequent legislation, under which the great maternity and child welfare services have been built up.

The infant mortality rate, 108 per thousand

in 1913, reached the record low figure of 50 in 1939, and has never since 1933 been as high as 60. Similarly, the maternal mortality rate, which for years obstinately remained at over four per thousand births, reached a new low level of 2.60 in 1940. In 1922, the number of children entering school who bore signs of physical defect which could either have been prevented or cured was between 35 per cent. and 40 per cent.; in 1935 it was 13.8 per cent.

It would be unreasonable not to assume that women's interest in the health and education of their children, in decent homes, and in social security had had its effect in the direction of policy. In 1912, when the framers of a housing Bill asked for £500,000 for slum clearance, the opposition in the House of Commons was so violent that, even after the deletion of the obnoxious clause the Bill had to be withdrawn.

Time brings its own revenges. In pre-suffrage days, two of the favourite arguments against the enfranchisement of women were that they were particularly unfitted to help frame imperial policy, and that they were incapable of defending their country and therefore undeserving of a vote. To-day, one sees the views of Miss Margery Perham, Research Lecturer in Colonial Administration in the University of Oxford, commanding universal respect, and notes the many appointments by the Colonial Office of women medical officers and welfare supervisors. It is of interest also that on the first occasion when the Cape natives elected their own representative to the Parliament of the Union of South Africa, they chose a woman, Mrs. Ballinger, to look after their interests.

In regard to defence, since the passing of the National Service (No. 2) Act of 1941 and the order directing all women under 45 to register for fire-guard duty, they are not only permitted but compelled to take their part in the defence of their country—a responsibility they themselves are proud to assume. The first member (of either sex) of a fire guard party to win a G.M. was a woman. Their new status as citizens has conferred on women a freedom and an ability to give as well as to receive, and the country which entrusted them with the gift finds itself well repaid in the emergency of war.

Much, of course, still remains to be done. Peeresses in their own right may still not sit in the House of Lords; the British woman who marries an alien loses her birthright of British nationality; above all, in the economic field, far from the harvest being reaped, the ground is scarcely yet scratched by the plough.

STATUS OF WOMEN.

A Conference on the Status of Women, convened by the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations, was held in London on March 6th, Miss Cécile Matheson (International Council of Women) presiding. Miss Henneker (International Federation of Business and Professional Women) gave a detailed survey of the action of the League of Nations in co-operation with women's international organisations, in the matter of the status of women, a subject familiar to any who have read the *Catholic Citizen* for the last few years. Mrs. Archdale gave an account of deputations from the Liaison Committee, received by twenty-three prime ministers, ambassadors, ministers or high commissioners, who urged that women should have equal status with men and the right to earn on the same terms as men, and that qualified women, as well as men, should be members of all reconstruction committees and allied bodies. For the most part members of the deputations were received sympathetically and often with understanding. Miss Bowie (International Federation of University Women) urged the necessity for incessant watchfulness to safeguard women's right to earn, whether they be married or unmarried. Mrs. Naftel (International Co-operative Women's Guild) dealt with the status of women as housewives, complaining that housewives were the world's Cinderellas, as far as any public consideration for them went. Miss Caroline Haslett, speaking of women in industry, said that we must get rid of the idea that women are best employed on repetitive processes, and that had they been kept only to these since 1939 the Germans would have been here long ago.

Miss Challoner (St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance) brought the women of the primitive races into the picture, stating that the subjection of women in any form or place hinders the attainment of full freedom everywhere. She cited instances of laws and customs among primitive races which reduce women to the level of chattels. St. Joan's Alliance had worked with the League of Nations Mandates Commission and the Experts Committee on Slavery and had been able to furnish much valuable information. Miss Challoner reminded the Conference that justice or injustice in Europe had its repercussions on the status of the daughters of "Darkest Africa."

Notes and Comments.

The Queen's gracious message broadcast to the women of the Empire was the fruit of her observation during much travelling with the King "through the length and breadth of the land." She paid tribute to "the astonishing work women are doing everywhere" with "quiet heroism" for the national cause. She looks forward to "a great rebuilding of family life" as soon as the war ends, a family life rebuilt on spiritual values.

With a woman's daring she mentioned the word "religion" at which statesmen balk: "In these last tragic years, many have found in religion the source and mainspring of the courage and selflessness that they needed." "The women of our nation," Her Majesty continued, "must be deeply concerned with religion, and our homes the very place where it should start; it is the creative and dynamic power of Christianity which can help us to carry the moral responsibilities which history is placing upon our shoulders." With a touching note of humility, the Queen concluded: "The King and I are grateful to think that we and our family are remembered in your prayers. We need them and try to live up to them. And we also pray that God will bless and guide our people in this country and our great family throughout the Empire and will lead us all into the paths of peace and righteousness."

The equalization of the rates at which compensation for war injuries is payable to civilian women and men, affects especially those not occupied gainfully, to whom the sum due has been raised for men from 21s. to 35s. a week, while for women it has been more than doubled rising to this sum of 35s. from only 16s. 4d. a week—a very notable increase for housewives. The weekly rate for the gainfully occupied is also 35s., which represents no increase for men but one of 7s. for women. These rates are payable while the injured person is unable to work; after six months they are replaced by pensions graded according to the degree of disablement. These equal compensation rates apply also to civil defence workers, and to disability pensions payable to the basic grades in the Women's Auxiliary Services and the Merchant Navy.

Dr. Edith Summerskill, M.P., is the person chiefly to be congratulated on Sir James Grigg's announcement in the House of Commons that a limited number of women between the ages of

18 and 65 will serve as auxiliaries with the Home Guard, not as combatants but as clerks, cooks or drivers or in similar capacities.

We are glad to note that this year both boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 19 who work in agricultural camps will be paid the same wages, namely, 8d. an hour.

We offer our congratulations to our member, Miss Brigid de Vine, on her marriage to Captain John Topliss, R.A., and wish them many years of happiness. We are indebted to Miss de Vine for her many sympathetic references to St. Joan's Alliance and the *Catholic Citizen* in her "This and That" column in the *Universe*.

During the first three months of the Jubilee year our chairman, Miss Challoner, has had three opportunities of discussing our work with different groups of women and girls. On Sunday, February 7th, she spoke at the Convent of Virgo Fidelis to the Catholic Nurses' Guild on our policy on Regulation 33B; on March 3rd, she went, on the invitation of our member, Mrs. Carver, who is teaching at Chichester High School, to talk to the girls there on the Woman's Movement; and on March 18th, when our member, Mrs. McFadyen, presided, she spoke to the Union of Catholic Mothers of St. Joseph's, Highgate, on "Mothers of To-day."

We are grateful to our chairman for sparing time and energy for all this exacting and useful work, and also to those who have provided her with her opportunities.

On the eve of St. Joan's Day, Saturday, May 29th, there will be a Bring-and-Buy Sale by kind permission of Miss Barry, at Holly Place, Hampstead (three minutes from Hampstead Tube station), from half-past two onwards. Tea, costing 1s., will be provided from 3.30 to 5.30. Please bring a gift, food or something else, and also your purse so that you can buy. Bring your friends. R.S.V.P. to the office if you can come. If you can't, please send your gift in cash or kind. We want to make up the office rent.

We offer our sympathy to our members, the Misses Hynes, on the death of their sister, Mrs. Vulliamy, also our member, and to Mrs. Garrard on the death of her mother. We ask for the prayers of our readers.—R.I.P.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen"

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

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Women Not In The Diplomatic Service.

Women will still be excluded from diplomatic and consular posts if the proposals for the reform of the Foreign Service, put before the House of Commons on March 18th, become effective. In moving their adoption, Mr. Richard Law acknowledged "a certain lack of logic in proposals which, intended to make the Foreign Service more representative of the people of the country as a whole, yet debar rather more than half of the people of the country from entering the Service." He excused this illogic by recalling that although the committee which was appointed to enquire into this subject in 1934, and which reported two years later, was evenly divided on the question of admitting women to the diplomatic service, it favoured their continued exclusion from the consular service by a very considerable majority, and he cited the allegation made by a witness before this committee that there were twenty-eight countries to which it would be impossible to send women diplomats. He announced the only concession which is to be made to women, one which has a familiar and apologetic air: the Secretary for Foreign Affairs proposes that a committee of enquiry into the matter be set up after the war.

In the subsequent debate Mr. Pethick Lawrence showed that the exclusion of women cannot but lessen the efficiency of the service, since "if we limit our choice to one half of the human race, and that half the male half . . . we shall to that extent prevent ourselves from choosing the persons who may be best for this particular purpose." Lady Astor, analysing the committee of which Mr. Law had spoken, explained that while only those two of its eight

members who were women, favoured the admission of women to the consular service, three of the four who opposed their admission to the diplomatic service were Foreign Office officials, which suggests that this public department has some of the traits of trade unionism at its worst. She met the objection that women in the Foreign Service might marry citizens of the countries to which they were appointed by pointing out that men diplomats and consuls often do this, sometimes to the detriment of their careers, and that any unsuitable marriage to a foreigner would naturally prejudice the professional future of the official who contracted it, whether man or woman. Mr. Harold Nicholson, speaking as a determined opponent of the admission of women to this service, allowed that exceptions might well be made for exceptional women, instancing the extraordinarily valuable influence on the foreign relations of this country exercised by Gertrude Bell and Freya Stark. His contention that women would be sent only where conditions were healthy and convenient, and would thus enjoy an unfair advantage over their male colleagues, was met by Mrs. Tate's reminder of what happens to women missionaries.

A telling argument of Mr. Nicholson's was that women diplomats might be compelled to perpetual spinsterhood since the law of this land deprives them of their nationality if they marry foreigners. When Mr. Viant interjected that this law might be altered "possibly in a very short space of time," Mr. Nicholson retorted that it would take many generations to alter it. "You move like tortoises" was Mrs. Tate's comment.

In the later debate in the House of Lords on the proposed reform, the admission of women

to the Foreign Service was not advocated at all, and was opposed by Lord Monkswell on the ground that "the position of the husband of a married woman member of the diplomatic service would be intolerable." Lord Cranborne, in summing up, repeated the promise of a committee of enquiry made in the House of Commons.

Mr. Pethick Lawrence reminded that House that if we admitted women to the Foreign Service we would not be pioneers, and it is indeed the fact that Mrs. Harriman was United States ambassador in Oslo and Señor Palencia Spanish ambassador in Stockholm, where Madame Kollontay is now Russian ambassador, while Señorita Durland is attaché at the Cuban Legation in London, and other minor diplomatic posts have been held by women at the Bulgarian Legation in Washington and elsewhere. Moreover, three Latin-American countries (Bolivia, Brazil and Chile), one English-speaking country (United States) and one Slav country (Bulgaria) have appointed women as consuls, who have discharged their functions in Chile, England, Holland, Scotland, Spain and Syria. We hope this list will cause Lady Astor to change her mind about what she called in her speech the "Latin point of view" on this subject. But let us have done with racialism in politics as with sexualism!

Finally, if there is to be a committee of enquiry on this subject, why must we wait for it until the end of the war?

HELEN DOUGLAS IRVINE.

MISDIRECTION OF LABOUR.

A grave misuse of its powers by the Ministry of Labour was disclosed by the Bishop of St. Albans when he asked in the House of Lords whether the manufacture of contraceptives is officially regarded as a matter of national importance. He related that in a certain country town a woman "directed" to work for a particular firm found herself, with other women of whom at least one was a girl of sixteen, employed on packing contraceptives by machinery. When she asked to be released because she objected to this work on religious and moral grounds, she was told she must work out her week and then give a week's notice, after which she might leave the firm's employment. Those interested in her case entered thereupon into a correspondence with the Eastern Regional Office of the Ministry of Labour in Cambridge, from which they elicited the statement that "the policy of the

Ministry was to give an opportunity for employment elsewhere to any woman expressing conscientious objection to the manufacture or distribution of contraceptives." Further statements by this office, which were quoted by the Bishop, showed, in his words, that this work "is in the opinion of the Ministry of the same importance as work which is classified as of national importance, and that women and young persons called up under the Registration for Employment Order may be submitted for such work." Hundreds of firms in the country are, he said, manufacturing these goods which means that thousands of people are employed on their manufacture. Lord Rankeillour agreed with the Bishop that the inference to be drawn from the correspondence was that "this manufacture is regarded officially as of national importance."

Lord Munster, replying for the government, stated that "there is no labour directed into these factories to work either part-time or full-time on the manufacture of these things." He did not, however, dispute the Bishop's facts. Firms manufacturing medical and surgical supplies are, he said, "protected." He allowed that some of these firms manufacture contraceptives, adding that if in the firm to which the Bishop had alluded "there were 24 women employed on this work, that is really no concern of the Ministry of Labour." This reply was characterised by the Bishop as "not in the least satisfactory." He submitted "that the government ought to direct that no labour should be used on the manufacture of these things."

The Catholic Council for the Family and Population, on which St. Joan's Alliance is represented, at its April meeting, noted with satisfaction both the Bishop's representations and the government's assurance, and urged "that the manufacture of these articles, which in the opinion of a very large section of the public are contrary to morals and injurious to the maintenance of a healthy population, should be forbidden altogether."

NINA BOYLE

On May 24th, Empire Day, at 6.30, a meeting will be held at the Alliance Hall, Palmer Street, S.W.1 (near Caxton Hall), in memory of that valiant servant of her nation, Nina Boyle. The speakers will be Mrs. Laughton Mathews, C.B.E., Miss Cicely Hamilton, Mr. Fuller, Miss E. M. Turner and others.

We know many of our members will appreciate the opportunity of going to this meeting.

International Notes.

Africa. *White Sisters* tells the story of the girl Bugoma. A sad story, showing how far we are still from the abolition of slavery. This child lost her parents when she was only six. Since then she has been sold and re-sold four times. Her last master worked her so hard that she was quite worn out and useless to him. He therefore decided to get rid of her by setting fire to her hut when she was in it. Bugoma escaped and fled to an English official who, a non-Catholic, directed her to the Catholic Mission of Makere, where the Father Superior passed her on to the White Sisters at Kerema on Lake Tanganyika.

* * *

Australia. We hear that the annual report of the Australian Section of St. Joan's Alliance is on its way. In the meantime we have received a letter from an Australian member which shows that a prejudice against nursery schools is making the lives of some mothers difficult. "The picture for the Catholic working mother is—keep all your children at home until they reach primary school age. Make all your purchases taking your children with you—one in your arms, the others taking various pieces of your clothing for clinging ropes. Gather up your parcels and if you are fortunate enough to have a pram, you may put them in it with the baby, but only if you do not intend to travel on a tram or bus, where prams are taboo. Shopkeepers do not deliver goods in this fair city of Melbourne. When you reach home, and you, to say nothing of the "small fry," are tired and irritable, it is quite an easy matter to do the chores and prepare the meal (help is out of the question) and be all fresh and smiling for father when he arrives. Truly, the war, apart from the men on the actual battle front, hits women and children hardest, particularly women of our Faith, for our men seem to be so far removed from reality in their thinking."

We hope that our co-religionist, Miss Julia Flynn, a pioneer of women's education, who has just retired from the post of chief inspector of secondary schools in Victoria, will stand for election to Parliament.

* * *

China. We note with pleasure that Madame Chiang Kai-Shek has been awarded the Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of

Surgeons of England in recognition of all she has done for the relief of suffering and the advance of medicine in China.

* * *

Greece. We have received a moving plea from Greek Women asking us to promise that in the hour of victory "all of us united shall demand the creation of a new world free from all forms of tyranny, from wars and destruction; a world based upon the freedom of the individual and on social and universal justice."

* * *

U.S.A. *The Medical Missionary*, quoting from the *Pontificio Annuario*, points out that there are more than twice as many women as men doing God's work in the Mission Lands. Priests number 20,578 and nuns 44,894. This is in accordance with tradition: at the foot of the Cross the women were four to one man.

* * *

The *Interracial Review* for January gives a most interesting account of the careers and work of the five negro judges of New York. One of them is a woman, the Hon. Jane M. Bolin: she practised law for some years before 1937 when she was appointed Assistant Corporation Counsel to the City Law Department—the first negro woman ever to hold such a post. She was assigned to the Manhattan Family Court. Her good work there was soon recognised and in 1939 she was promoted from Counsel to Justice in the same Court.

* * *

It was surprising to learn from the *Saturday Evening Post* of Philadelphia that medical women in the United States, of whom there are about 8,000, are not accepted in the armed services of that country. If they want to help fighting men they have to go to Britain, Russia or China! The women doctors are not taking this state of things quietly; under the able leadership of Dr. Emily D. Barringer, of New York, they are fighting for equality of status with their men colleagues.

* * *

A Dominican nun, Sister Mary Elizabeth, chairman of the science department of the new Institutum Divi Thomae centre at New Orleans, is in charge of a unit at present seeking a seaweed substitute for agar, important medicine formerly imported from Japan. The search is being carried out along the coast of Florida.—*The Universe*. E.F.G.

REGULATION 33B.

Regulation 33B has now been in operation for some months and two prosecutions have, so far, been reported. The first was at York, when on March 5th a young married woman was sentenced to two months' imprisonment for refusing to submit to a compulsory medical examination; the second early in April at Grimsby, where another young woman was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for refusing to continue treatment when ordered to do so after being found diseased. In both cases the names of these two young women were widely advertised. How bitterly they both must envy the blessed anonymity that surrounds and protects the "informers"—the men whose "information" has led to their imprisonment! And while they are in prison, both young women will no doubt be greatly comforted and sustained by the reflection that their accusers, who may (or may not) be under treatment, can default if they choose without further consequences.

In both cases, but particularly at Grimsby, the "contacts" were told that the sentence of imprisonment was not intended as "punishment." The medical officers of health and the presiding magistrates appear to believe that this "imprisonment" is for the "contacts' good—they will be forcibly hospitalised and, perhaps, compulsorily cured. Neither magistrates nor doctors appear to have considered the possibility that this imprisonment and publicity combined may have an extremely bad effect on these young women. Unjust treatment does not normally manufacture good citizens. Medically, the imprisonment of refractory "contacts," even if diseased, and even if they are rendered non-infectious in prison, cannot possibly benefit the community. It may be argued that some men may be saved from infection while the "contacts" are being rendered non-infectious, but there can be no certainty even of that; these men will probably merely divert their custom to other women. And for how long can the condition of non-effectivity remain a certainty when the "contact" is released?

Futile as Regulation 33B is from the medical point of view, it is from the legal point of view not only futile but dangerous. It runs counter to English legal practice, for the accused "contact" is called upon (as Dr. C. O. Hawthorne has pointed out in *The Shield*) not to meet evidence of guilt, but to provide proof of innocence; the proof required being submission to an intimate medical examination. Actually, the accused "contacts" have no possible chance of refuting any accusation, because the identity

of the informers remains secret. Indeed, no proof seems to be required by the Regulation that the statutory *two* informers do, in fact, exist. The medical officer (not legally trained) has to decide whether the accusations are valid and then to bring the case against the "contact," without, however, having to offer any evidence beyond the fact that information (which may be false, or careless, or malicious, even if the M.O.H. has decided that it is not) has been given by two anonymous persons, whose identity is carefully hidden from the fierce light of publicity which beats upon the "contact."

Regulation 33B is, in short, such a sinister and un-English form of legislation, that, whatever our views about the treatment of V.D., we should be heartily ashamed of it. It should be immediately withdrawn.

E. M. TURNER.

Review.

And Your Verdict? By Elaine Burton.
(Frederick Muller. 3s. 6d.)

This small book puts in attractive and simple form the case of the women of this country against the Government; accusing it of failure to utilise the services of experienced and older women, and to lighten the domestic burdens of the married women, whose work it had stated to be indispensable. The points raised are indisputable, but it is useful to have them summarised in so readable a form, with instances and examples to support them.

Miss Burton urges women to make use of the powers they have to influence and control policy, but it is a pity that she accepts the present Factory Act classification of women with young persons. May we point out that if women are to be recognised as responsible enough to take their 'full share as citizens' they must not be classed with young persons as needing the special protection accorded to minors. P. C.

Oldham Branch.

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

A meeting of the branch was held on April 2nd when Miss Annie Mannion, chairman, gave an interesting account of the Annual General Meeting of the Alliance in London, at which she had spoken. The schools question was also tackled and members promised to attend an open meeting on the proposed Education Bill, the next evening.

Mrs. Kilcoyne, our late chairman, was congratulated on her election as President of the Oldham Branch of the Catholic Teachers' Federation. The next meeting of the branch will be on May 20th at 146, Hillside Avenue.

Oxford Branch.

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

The fifth meeting of the branch was held on Sunday, May 2nd, at St. Michael's Workshop, Miss Joan Morris presiding. Mrs. Forster spoke on Regulation 33B.

Mrs. Forster said that the prime cause of venereal disease was promiscuity, and that war and venereal disease were invariable concomitants. She traced briefly the history of attempts made from time to time in this and other countries to provide women free from disease for the use of soldiers, all of which had failed.

Mrs. Forster gave an outline of the terms of the Regulation and the manner in which it would work. She pointed out that the fact that women were examined, gave a false sense of security which could only lead to an increase in disease, and that the creation of a special class of suspected persons, who had committed no crime, was absolutely unconstitutional. The wrong use of the most profound of human relationships led to many evils besides venereal disease, and the only way in which the latter could be eradicated was by the introduction of a higher moral standard.

Mrs. Forster's address was most warmly appreciated by a small but deeply interested audience, and all the members present took part in the discussion which followed.

At the previous meeting, on March 21st, the Hon. Mrs. Packenham spoke on "Women in Politics," and gave an interesting though somewhat disquieting account of her experiences as a prospective Labour candidate. She had found, generally speaking, that women were both ignorant of, and apathetic regarding, political questions, and felt that a campaign to educate them and to rouse them to a sense of their responsibilities was very necessary.

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 subscription to 5s. a year.

EQUAL COMPENSATION.

A Shilling Fund has been opened to make a presentation to Mrs. Tate, M.P., in appreciation of her magnificent work for Equal Compensation. Donations should be sent, before the end of May, to St. Joan's Alliance, or direct to Miss D. S. Greene, Hon. Secretary, British Federation of Business and Professional Women, 58, Somerset Road, New Barnet, Herts.

ART NOTES

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SUMMER NUMBER 1/3

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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

Leonora de Alberti in "The Catholic Citizen,"
May 15th 1918.

"It is surely a sign of the eternal bouyancy of the human spirit that in spite of the darkness that has come upon us mankind can look beyond the horror of these times to the world that is to come. On all sides there is a widespread determination that that new world shall be a different place to the world we tolerated before the war. The scheme of social reconstruction put forward by the Inter-denominational Conference of Social Service Unions comes therefore most opportunely. The scheme has been drawn up by representatives of ten religious bodies, including representatives of the Catholic Social Guild; and realising the importance that such a scheme should not alienate progressive minds one reads it with jealous eyes, and a certain anxiety. Not that we have anything to fear from true Christian principles, but from past experience we almost expect to find hoary prejudices, common to Christian and pagan alike, set forth in pious terms as Christian teaching."—*Christian Social Re-construction.*

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