

# 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. XL. No. 4.

15th APRIL, 1954.

Price Fourpence.

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.

## Emmeline Pethick Lawrence

By Vera Laughton Mathews, D.B.E.

St. Joan's Alliance, in common with all connected with the Woman's Movement, mourns the death on March 11th of Lady Pethick-Lawrence. She died at her Surrey home at the age of 86.

So passes the last of the older generation of the great Suffrage leaders—one who had been among us for so long, not looking down from the heights of her famous name, but one of us, a loved friend, sharing in work and interest, and letting her warm and generous personality shine on a wide circle of friends and colleagues.

The extent of the influence and importance of her long life of service is indicated by the Press obituary notices, that in *The Times* being nearly a column long. Tribute has been paid to her early social work among working girls in the East End of London and to the work for peace which was the main interest of her later years.

But it is her fight for the Suffrage which has gained her a permanent place in history. In most full lives there is one achievement which stands out as the peak, even though it may cover a comparatively short period. The peak in Lady Pethick-Lawrence's life is shown by the fact that nearly half her book "My Part in a Changing World," is devoted to the six years during which, with the Pankhursts, she led the militant suffrage movement, "the greatest bloodless revolution since history began . . . a revolution in ideas, which broke with traditions as old as recorded time and as widespread as the world . . . which will affect directly one half of humanity and indirectly the entire human race."

The place of the Pethick-Lawrences in that revolution in ideas cannot be over-emphasised. The dedicated Pankhursts with their brilliant new ideas and a small group of followers were in Manchester, whence the young Annie Kenney was sent forth as a dove, with £2 in her pocket, "to rouse London." The advent of the Pethick-Lawrences with their great gifts and their genius for administration, and also their financial security, established the Women's Social and Political Union and built up an organisation which became the wonder of the political world.

But it was not only gifts of organisation which

gave Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence her place as a leader. She was a real orator, with deep feeling, a sense of the dramatic and a great power of moving her audience. Much of the colour and pageantry of the militant movement was also due to her imaginative insight.

One of the young speakers at St. Joan's Annual General Meeting last month referred to the passage of years which removed the pioneers from the field of action and as inevitably brought to maturity those who would walk in their footsteps. The militant suffrage movement, still so alive to those who took part in it, is already in its third generation.

As a girl in my teens I was taken by my aunt, Leonora de Alberti, first Editor of *The Catholic Citizen*, to one of the vast Suffragette gatherings in the Albert Hall, a stirring scene of enthusiasm and self-sacrifice always to be remembered. Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, then at the height of her eloquence and dynamic personality, made the appeal for funds which poured in thousands of pounds into the campaign coffer.

A few years later, having thrown in my lot with the Suffragettes, I was present in court during one of the most dramatic and moving trials in contemporary history, the trial of Mrs. Pankhurst and Mr. and Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence for Conspiracy at the Old Bailey in 1912. There was a surging crowd around the doors and very small space for the public, but I was one who managed to get in. The eloquence and brilliance of the speeches from the dock can scarcely have been equalled ever, and the jury though impelled to return a technical verdict of "Guilty," declared the defendants morally innocent by a rider asking for "the utmost clemency and leniency" in view of "the undoubtedly pure motives."

After the vote for women was won and all through the long years since, Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence's work and interest in the Woman's Movement never flagged. She was President of the Women's Freedom League for nine years, and remained one of the grand personalities of the movement, an inspiration to the young women of to-day, with a spirit which remained as ardent as ever in spite of a failing body.



In 1943 she presided at that memorable luncheon held to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Woman Suffrage. On that occasion my daughter, at a similar age to mine when I attended my first W.S.P.U. Albert Hall meeting, spoke for the younger generation. She said that the Suffrage pioneers must be looking at the modern girls as a mother might regard a growing daughter for whom she had made great sacrifices, wondering if these had been worth while. "I hope," she said, "that the Mother is proud of the daughter, as we are proud of the Mother." When she sat down, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence bent towards her with the warm charming smile which was so completely her own, and said: "We are proud of you, dear."

She was not one to live in the past, however glorious, and her interest in the present was typified by one of her last utterances when she asked an old Suffrage colleague, "And how does the fight for equal pay go on?"

One of our last happy memories of Lady Pethick-Lawrence was the Golden Wedding Dinner three years ago, when so many friends were there to rejoice with her and Lord Pethick-Lawrence on their long and happy married life. It was truly as Elizabeth Robins described it, "a Golden Evening."

Death is the lot of humanity, and what can a human being ask of earthly life: That it should be spent in God's service; in the pursuit of great spiritual ideas, of justice and freedom; that it should be faced with courage and with mercy; that the world should be left the better for that life; that love and friendship should warm the path.

In all these ways the life of Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence was rich indeed.

Let us emulate Shakespeare and say: This was a Woman.

#### ADDRESS BY LORD PETHICK-LAWRENCE

*Delivered at the funeral service for Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence at Woking, March 16th, 1954*

My very dear Friends,

All of you have come here because you knew and admired what Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence *did* in her public life. But many of you have come also because you were privileged to love her for what she *was* and to be loved by her in return.

In the few words that I am going to say to you I shall not attempt to separate the two because in everything she did and was she was essentially human.

Before I married her she once said to me: "Never forget the baby and the sinner." She was thinking primarily of herself, but her words applied equally to her own attitude to all mankind. She never thought of men and women as units to be expended in a political battle. They were always to her individuals to be loved for their weakness as well as for their strength.

She had a great and abiding sense of justice; and at whatever cost to herself she was prepared to resist tyranny. At all stages of her life she was a champion of the weak against the strong. As a child she was a rebel at school against harsh and cruel rules. At home

as the eldest of the family she upheld her younger brothers and sisters against the misuse of parental authority. As a Sister of the West London Mission she was the friend and uplifter of the outcast. In later life she stood out against class injustice and racial prejudice. Her fight for the equal sovereignty of women is written into the annals of our country's history. She risked her life to call a halt to oppression in Ireland. She loathed war and pleaded for justice to beaten foes. She espoused many lost causes and turned them into winning ones.

By her spiritual power she planted in the hearts of friends and foes the seeds of a new sense of human dignity and of a new approach to the problems of public and private life.

But of the many victories she won the greatest of all was the victory over herself—over her fears, her limitations and her frailties. Her first term of imprisonment as a suffragette was a fiasco. She just could not face it. To my intense alarm she decided to make a second attempt. Undaunted she went in and undefeated after serving her sentence she came out—not once but many times. She faced the hunger strike and forcible feeding.

So it was throughout her life, and so was it in the days of its approaching end. I do not think she was ever afraid of death, but she resented the intrusion of death's heralds on her activities. Pain, weakness, loss of independence, irked her and for a time broke down her composure and her gentleness. But before the end came she had won this battle too. Serene, loving and utterly happy she welcomed the coming of death's last herald, and in her sleep she awaited and received the Majestic Presence who gave her rest.

*The Alliance was represented at the funeral by the Hon. Secretary.*

### History of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society

By Leonora de Alberti

(continued)

At this time Poster-parades of the Leagues were held monthly; many posters bore the device "Freedom to serve." We find the Leagues on one occasion calling a National Week of Prayer for Women Suffrage, from November 1 to 8, 1913. During the week our London members attended Benediction twice at Westminster Cathedral, and our Liverpool Branch had Mass offered at the Pro-Cathedral, when a sermon on Women Suffrage was preached by Father Walshe. An evening reception and mass meeting of the Leagues was held at Caxton Hall on November 6, when Alice Meynell acted as hostess for the C.W.S.S., and Miss Abadam spoke as the C.W.S.S. representative.

We have had many proofs that one result of the work of the C.W.S.S. was to break down many prejudices and much misapprehension existing among our fellow countrymen regarding Catholics. Indeed, this was publicly acknowledged by a clergyman of the Free Churches at one of the Joint meetings.

The very existence of the Society caused reverberations in various parts of the globe. For instance, an Italian paper, reproving certain priests for condemning suffrage—which they could only do as individuals—pointed to the existence of a Catholic Suffrage Society in London—which had not been condemned—as a proof that women suffrage could not be contrary to Catholic teaching.

While ready to work with all societies, the C.W.S.S. took direct political action from the first. At every meeting resolutions asking for a suffrage measure were passed, and sent to the authorities. At first the C.W.S.S., like other societies, asked for Government support for private members' Bills, and when the futility of that had been proved, demanded a Government Bill.

(To be continued)

## Notes and Comments

The Melbourne members of St. Joan's Alliance recently sent a message of prayers and good wishes to the Holy Father while he was seriously ill. In reply they received the Apostolic Blessing, with the Holy Father's thankfulness and appreciation for their thoughtful message.

\* \* \*

It is with regret that we record the winding up of The People and Freedom Group and the discontinuation of its organ "People and Freedom." As the letter announcing this decision rightly declares—during the eighteen years of its existence the Group has made a useful contribution to contemporary Christian-Democratic thinking and its passing will not be un mourned. We remind our readers how much our member, the late Barbara Barclay Carter, had the group at heart. She founded it and for many years edited its paper.

\* \* \*

We draw the attention of our readers to the advertisement on page 32.

The International Catholic Girls' Society have written to us announcing that at their Hostel in Cottesmore Gardens the Daughters of the Heart of Mary run a Secretariat. As the majority of the enquiries received from abroad concern employment, they have obtained a Licence from the London County Council to carry on the work of an employment agency, in order to find good posts for reliable girls. References are required from both sides. In this way it is hoped to assist a few of the vast numbers of foreign girls coming to this country to work.

\* \* \*

On March 11th the Merseyside Branch of the Alliance held a meeting in Liverpool at which Miss Chave Collisson, Secretary of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene gave a splendid address on Josephine Butler, a great reformer. Mrs. McCann presided.

\* \* \*

**Nigeria.** "The Times" records that the House of Assembly in Enugu has debated the high price of brides and asked for a Government Committee to be set up to try to regulate the present position. The custom of bride-price has become subject to much abuse leading to a big increase in prostitution and indebtedness. The one woman in the House pointed out that marriages on this basis are unsatisfactory, for the man feels superior because of the price paid. We ask—is it not time that the custom itself should be gradually eradicated?

\* \* \*

**U.S.S.R.** Moscow radio has announced the appointment of Maria Dimitryevna Kovrigina as Soviet Minister of Health. She is the only woman in the Soviet Government.

The Aga Khan recently sent a message to Pakistan women read at a function organised by the Begum Liaquat Ali Khan, president of the all-Pakistan women's association. Advising the women to organise themselves and fight for their rights, the Aga Khan declared:—

"I do not think you realize yourselves, and I am sorry to say certainly the men of Pakistan do not realize, the importance of women taking equal rank with men in the welfare, in the government, and in the general activity and prosperity of the country. Only the other day, the Minister for Religious Foundation, one of the leading ulemas of Egypt responsible for religious affairs, was telling me that a country is like a human body: men and women are the two lungs; if you reduce the power of women you crush them with inhibitions and imaginary restrictions based ultimately on man's superior physical power.

"Ladies, believe me if Pakistan does not rise to the modern idea of the equal position of women, you will find not only Europe but all other countries of Asia going far ahead of you.

"First of all you must win the right to prayers; then win your right to equality in production, industrial service, and in office work. Perhaps the greatest blot in Pakistan is the neglect of Friday prayers generally, but above all not giving women occasions for participating in these most important prayers. In practically every Muslim country, women are allowed to go to mosques for Friday prayers.

"O my sisters, agitate! Leave no peace to men till they give you religious freedom by opening the mosques for prayers, not side by side with men but in reserved quarters attached to all mosques, so that the habit of praying in public and self-respect and self-confidence become general among women. On that foundation of religious equality you can then build social, economic, patriotic, political equality with men."

The Begum Liaquat Ali Khan said the women in Pakistan would resist and fight for their rights.

\* \* \*

We offer our congratulations to Dr. Marita Shattock Harper on the birth of her third child—a son born on April 3rd.

\* \* \*

The Chancellor's Budget statement on equal pay is a bitter disappointment to all concerned. Mr. Butler, after saying equal pay was much in his mind, continued:—

"I think that a gradual solution of this problem will prove to be the right one. So far as the Civil Service is concerned, for which alone I can speak as employer, I would like shortly to meet the National Staff side representatives myself to discuss with them the manner in which we are most likely to make progress and the basis on which further Whitley talks should rest. But here too I cannot ignore the prospects for the Exchequer."

With the Equal Pay Campaign Committee we deplore the Chancellor's failure to give a definite undertaking as to the Government's intention to establish this reform and we reject the view that a gradual solution of the problem is the right one. We call upon the Government to declare unequivocally that it will implement the principle of equal pay for equal work in the public services in full, at an early date.



## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND  
Editorial Office of "The Catholic Citizen"

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

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Ex-officio* DAME VERA LAUGHTON MATHEWS, D.B.E., *President, St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance*  
MISS P. C. CHALLONER, M.A., *Chairman.*  
MISS F. A. BARRY, *Hon. Secretary.*  
MISS PAULINE M. BRANDT.  
MISS NOREEN K. CARR, *Hon. Treasurer.*  
MISS SHIRLEY CATLIN, B.A.  
MISS VERA DOUIE.  
MISS GUESSARD, B.A.

MRS. ISABEL POWELL HEATH, M.B., Ch.B.  
MRS. JACKSON, B.A.  
MISS MAUDE MCGOVERN.  
MRS. ELVIRA MATHERS, B.A.  
MISS W. M. PRICE.  
MRS. SHATTOCK, M.A., M.D., D.P.M.  
MISS CHRISTINE SPENDER, *Hon. Editor,*  
"The Catholic Citizen."

### 43rd Annual Meeting

The 43rd Annual Meeting of St. Joan's Alliance took place on March 20th at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho, Miss P. C. Challoner presiding.

Before proceedings started the Chairman said that she felt sure members would wish to stand and pay tribute to Lady Pethick-Lawrence, and to send as well a message of sympathy and affection to Lord Pethick-Lawrence. Miss Challoner also announced the death of Miss M. A. R. Toker, a friend of the Alliance from its earliest days (R.I.P.).

The Annual Report was read by the Hon. Secretary, Miss Florence Barry, followed by the presentation of *The Catholic Citizen* report by the Editor, Miss Christine Spender, who stressed the importance of new subscribers and of advertisements to cover the costs of production.

The adoption of the Annual Report was moved by Lady Muir. While women in this country were still agitating for entry into the Diplomatic Service, said Miss Challoner, Lady Muir had held a diplomatic post in the Bulgarian Legation in Washington. Lady Muir declared that she read the Annual Report very carefully every year and this year she was struck by its excellence, worthy of the Coronation year. She was especially interested in the international work of the Alliance, as recorded in *The Catholic Citizen*. She wished to say that through personal contacts she had learned that French women were most impressed by the staunch work of British women and by the status they had gained already and were still gaining. Though Lady Muir had been a member for twenty years this was the first time she had been able to attend an Annual Meeting as she had been living in Scotland. She expressed admiration for the efficiency and brilliance of the work done by so few people and said she was glad to be among them. Lady Muir ended by dwelling on the sad state of so many European refugees.

Lady Wijeyekoon, who seconded the adoption of the Report, was introduced as a member from

Ceylon who had spent some time in this country and had been present at the Coronation of the Queen in Westminster Abbey. Lady Wijeyekoon said that she read *The Catholic Citizen* with great interest and noted therein the changes in the status of British women. In Ceylon, equality of status was written into the Constitution and prevailed nearly everywhere though in certain occupations there was inequality of pay the excuse given being that the country could not afford it. Lady Wijeyekoon hoped there would be a woman High Commissioner in Ceylon in the not too distant future. She described the preparations being made to welcome Queen Elizabeth in that country.

Mrs. Margaret Morgan, introduced as a daughter of the late Mrs. Whittles who had been a devoted and long-standing member of the Alliance, declared herself to be very much impressed by the enormous volume of work contained in the report. She sadly bade farewell to the Alliance in England as she was shortly departing with her husband and young family to Malta. She hoped to be able to do good work out there with the Women of Malta Association.

The Chairman described Mrs. Elvira Mathers as a member who at the age of three had walked in St. Joan's procession of thanksgiving for equal franchise in Westminster Cathedral. Mrs. Mathers assured her audience that her son (now aged a few months) would be trained in all the right ideas. Mrs. Mathers felt that there was an amount of missionary work to be done among women themselves for the cause of equal pay. There was, for instance, a good deal of opposition from housewives who thought they would be the losers if equal pay were introduced. They refused to see the importance of the principle. She would hate to feel that her husband (a doctor) might be undercut by a woman doctor.

The Chairman introduced Miss Shirley Catlin as the youngest election agent in the country and as a candidate at the recent by-election in

Harwich. Miss Catlin declared herself a newcomer to St. Joan's Alliance and she was delighted to have found an association so active in ideals near to her own heart. She found that many young Catholic women thought it rather amusing than otherwise that women should be politically-minded, so she was doubly glad to find a group of Catholic women active and politically alive. The countries that had achieved the near emancipation of women still had a tremendous task to do in helping on their emancipation in the rest of the world, and we should none of us sit down and be satisfied till all women had ceased to be oppressed and had gained their rightful independence.

Owing to illness the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Noreen Carr, was unable to be present, so Miss Jameson read her report and the appeal for funds in her place. The Chairman said that though she much regretted the absence of Miss Carr she was indeed glad to introduce Miss Jameson, who was such a very valuable helper at headquarters. Miss Carr exhorted members everywhere to work hard and think of ways and means to cover the expenses of the Alliance notably the office rent. The appeal brought in £43 0s. 8½d from members present (later made up to £45).

Dame Vera Laughton Mathews gave a brief report of the international work. She declared that though St. Joan's International Alliance might not be large it was certainly important and influential. Through the representations of the Alliance the question of female circumcision had been brought to the attention of the United Nations and the Alliance would continue to be vigilant in keeping this matter to the fore. The Council Meeting held in Paris in September had meant hard work and a full programme. One of the memorable things connected with this meeting was the presence of Soeur Marie André who had urged the Alliance to continue the work for African women. Dame Vera declared that in the coming year the question of Slavery would occupy much of the attention of the Alliance. There was need of a new Slavery Convention and conditions analogous to slavery as they affected women should be brought under the terms of this Convention. Dame Vera read a note published in *The Catholic Citizen* where Monsignor Lefévre, Apostolic Delegate to Dakar, condemns the virtual slavery suffered by women in certain parts of Africa. No organisation which realised the sufferings of these women would be able to relinquish efforts on their behalf till freedom was achieved. The Alliance should go forward with courage, deep spiritual conviction and endless determination.

The Chairman, Miss Phyllis Challoner, said that when going through past files of *The Catholic Citizen*, she had been struck by the corroboration they afforded of the fact that the Alliance had never swerved from the principles

both Catholic and feminist which had been laid down by its founders. Miss Challoner quoted a letter from a member who was a Canon of the Westminster Diocese in which he said: "I shall never feel that you have really succeeded in your work until the quiet statement of a priest that he has for years been a feminist is not followed by a burst of incredulous giggles from the average audience of Catholic women. As far as 'the household of the Faith' is concerned you are still very much a 'minority movement,' not merely in membership but in ideas. More's the pity." Our task then, said Miss Challoner, was to do more propaganda in an individual sense. Every member should make herself responsible for this for at the present moment the Alliance was too much of a "secret society." She appealed to each member present to do something to spread the knowledge of the work achieved and still to be done. When all the rights of British and European women had been won there would still be work to do for the women of the under-developed territories.

Resolutions were then put to the meeting and passed unanimously. They will be found on page 31.

The names of the new Committee were announced. These names will be found on page 28. Miss Challoner took the opportunity of thanking members who had not been returned, for their valuable work for the Alliance. She welcomed the new members.

The meeting ended with a splendid tea which was consumed with feelings of gratitude to donors of cakes, scones, etc., and to the willing dispensers Miss Gadsby, Miss Hayes and Mrs. Willis. The atmosphere of the meeting was most lively and stimulating. Those who were not present, take note and resolve firmly to come next year!

Christine Spender

**The Catholic Way.** By Theodore Maynard.  
(Staples Press, 15s.).

Although this book is mainly intended for non-Catholics who are seeking the answers to many points about the Catholic way of life which they may find difficult to understand, Catholics will draw much comfort from it too. The author has explained his points simply and clearly and leaves us in no doubt at all that his life really began from the moment when he became a Catholic as a young man of twenty-five. His immense gratitude for the gift of Faith is apparent throughout the book. The picture he gives of Catholic life in the United States is, on the whole, a heartening one, even though he feels that Catholic influence is not as strong there as it is here where the Catholic population is proportionately much smaller than in the U.S.A. He does not elaborate his statement that the Church accepts the equality of the partners in marriage but he makes it abundantly clear that no other view is possible.

M. Guessard



## THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

During March the Commons continued the Supply Debates. Other topics were Atomic Energy, the new Television Bill and East-West Trade.

From our point of view the biggest day was, of course, March 9th, when the Equal Pay petitions were presented, a spate of questions asked, and Mr. Douglas Houghton (Sowerby) obtained a first reading for his Equal Pay Bill.

Miss Ward presented the first Petition, signed by 80,000 citizens of the United Kingdom, and Mr. Pannell presented the second, signed by 1,282,000 people, representing the Staff side of the Civil Service National Whitley Council, the National Union of Teachers, the National and Local Government Officers Association and the National Federation of Professional Women workers.

This Petition, he said, was supported by the Trades Union Congress, which is on record as saying: "That this Congress is of the opinion that the General Council should now make the strongest representations to Her Majesty's Government and acquaint them with the strong demand of the whole trade union movement for tangible progress to be made without delay." Mr. Pannell commented: "I believe the Chancellor is aware of that recent resolution."

Questions were asked by Mr. Pannell (3), Mr. Houghton (3), Mr. George Craddock (3), Dr. King (3), Mr. Lewis (3), Mr. Simmons (3), Miss Burton (3), Mr. Dodds (1), Mr. Morley (1), Mrs. Castle (1) and Mr. Bence (1). Miss Bacon protested that her question had not been taken and Mr. Speaker explained that he had allowed 25 questions and no more. Miss Bacon then asked: "It would be for our guidance to know at what stage no more questions would be accepted." Mr. Speaker replied: "The determination of that question—when it becomes a campaign—is left to the discretion of the Chair and is therefore wrapped in a certain amount of impenetrable mystery."

Mr. Bence's question was whether the Chancellor "will reduce the hours of work of women employed in the public services pending the introduction of equal pay." Mr. Butler replied: "No, Sir," and added: "There is so much work to do that it would be very undesirable."

Mr. Houghton's Bill will, he stated: "End the uncertainty and even doubt lasting so many years about the sincerity of the House on this important matter. How will the Bill propose to do it? Quite simply, by making any contract of service void as regards the rate of pay if it contains any differentiation between the pay of a woman and a man based solely on sex." The Bill will be given a Second Reading on Friday, April 9th.

The question of equal pay for Factory

Inspectors (other than Grade II which already enjoys it) was raised on March 4th and 11th by Miss Ward. Answering a question about the early history of the Grade II equality, Sir Walter Monckton said: "Although the position was not exactly the same before 1929—that was when Grade II began—as far as my researches go, substantially the same pay and starting salary were to be found as long ago as 1893." At this point Dr. Summerskill asked: "What factors influenced the Minister's predecessors in granting this favourable discrimination?"

Sir Walter only answered: "I should prefer to ask the right hon. Lady to ask two of her right hon. Friends on the Front Bench what factors induced them to retain it during their time in office."

On March 1st, Mr. E. Fletcher asked the Attorney General: "What steps Her Majesty's Government propose to take to implement the recommendations on the law of domicile contained in the First Report of the Committee on Private International Law?" Sir Lionel Heald replied: "This Report was published only on February 18th and consideration of the far-reaching changes proposed in it is bound to take some time." Mr. Fletcher pursued: "The right hon. and learned Gentleman said that he recognises the far-reaching consequences of these proposals, so may we have an assurance at least in connection with the status of married women that the Government will give it early attention?" Sir Lionel Heald replied: "I cannot give any undertaking as to when it will be dealt with."

Another important question dealt with this month was that of Affiliation Orders and American Service men. It was raised on the Adjournment on March 19th by Mr. R. W. Sorensen. As he said, "I am sure that the Under-Secretary knows that where a British court makes an affiliation order against an American Service man it is not enforceable in this country to-day. We all know it is not enforceable when he returns to the United States." Mr. Nutting (Joint Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs) said that instead of 70,000 cases of this kind (quoted at one stage by The Washington Post) his enquiries of the American Authorities led him to put the figure at 1,200 overall, of which 300 later married the Service men in question, 100 were still outstanding and 800 had either been disposed of by a maintenance settlement, or the enquiries had been dropped altogether by the mothers. He added however: "The figures I have given represent those cases which have been the subject of enquiries through the American authorities in this country. There may well be other cases unknown to the American authorities or the British authorities." Mr.

Nutting further commented that the U.S. inability, "to make deductions from pay conforms fully and entirely to the practice of our Service authorities as regards British troops serving in foreign countries." He said that if the House agrees the Visiting Forces Act: "The position will then be that an affiliation order made by a British court against a member of a visiting force will be enforceable by committal to prison, in the last resort, by the ordinary processes of the law." Outside this country, however: "The provision relating to their enforcement overseas is unaltered and unalterable—because we are dealing with other people's territory." On the question of some kind of reciprocal agreement or convention suggested by Mr. Sorensen to cover this difficulty, Mr. Nutting said: "The objection to a multi-lateral convention is that we should have to accept in our courts orders made for enforcement by the courts of the member states which are signatories to the convention. That is a position which I do not think this Parliament could accept and, at the moment, the position is that no affiliation orders are accepted in British courts against any British Service man . . ." At this point time ran out and no more was said.

B. M. Halpern

## RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE 43rd ANNUAL MEETING—MARCH 20th, 1954

## I. Equal Pay

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer to make provision in his Budget for the immediate establishment of Equal Pay for Equal Work throughout the Government services, in accordance with the principle accepted by the House of Commons in 1920, 1936, 1944 and 1952.

It deplores the equivocal position in which United Kingdom delegates to international conferences are placed by their inability to vote in favour of Equal Pay, while declaring their Government's adherence to the principle.

## II. Equal Political Rights

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance demands that Peers in their own right shall have a seat and vote in the House of Lords. Further, that in any measure designed to reform the Second Chamber, men and women shall be equally eligible.

## III. Slavery

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls upon the Government to instruct its delegates to the United Nations Economic and Social Council to support the proposal of the Council to draw up a supplementary Convention to the International Slavery Convention of 1926—such a Convention to take into consideration the points contained in the Recommendation B (E.1988) of the Committee of Experts, particularly (d) and (e), i.e.

(d) the practice whereby a woman is given in marriage, without the right to refuse, at a price and under conditions which give to the husband, to his clan or the family, a right to disposition over herself and over her children and permit her exploitation for the advantage of others;

(e) the practice whereby a child is transferred by its parents or guardians to a third party on payment or under conditions permitting the exploitation of the child regardless of its welfare.

The Alliance further asks that the preliminary draft of such a Convention be prepared by a Committee of Experts on Slavery.

## IV. Marriage

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls upon the Government to introduce legislation in all territories under British jurisdiction to provide that—

- (i) the free and full consent of both spouses shall be indispensable to the validity of the marriage;
- (ii) no marriage contract shall be made for any girl under the age of 14.

## V. Domicile

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls upon the Government to introduce legislation to entitle a married woman to acquire a domicile of her own, in the same way as a man or single woman.

## VI. Taxation

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance demands the removal of all sex discrimination in taxation.

## VII. National Insurance

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls for the abolition of discrimination, based on sex or marriage, under National Insurance. In particular, there should be equality of contributions for men and women; the retirement age should be the same for men and women, and married women, insured in their own right, should be entitled to the full rate of unemployment and sickness benefit.

## VIII. Solicitation Laws

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls for the repeal of the present unjust Solicitation Laws and the substitution of a measure dealing with street solicitation by general legislation against annoyance or molestation, and under which the evidence of the person annoyed or molested would be necessary in order to obtain a conviction.

## IX. Education

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance reiterates its demand for full financial equality for Catholic schools in the National Scheme for Education. It further urges that in all schemes of education equal opportunity be made available for boys and girls, both in this country and in all territories under British administration.

## X. Juvenile Courts

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance welcomes the announcement of the Lord Chancellor that the new statutory rules governing the constitution of Juvenile Courts outside the Metropolitan area will remove the humiliating limitation on the powers of women magistrates.

## BOOKS RECEIVED

## A Directory of Catholic Schools and Colleges. (Paternoster Publications, 3s.).

The 1954 edition gives a useful summary of schools and colleges with notes for the guidance of parents and others. There is also a section on Scholastic Requisites. It is good to see each year more Catholic schools "recognised by the Ministry."

The Ear of God. By Father Peyton. Father Peyton's own story of the Rosary Crusade. (Burns Oates, 5s.).



The Hon. Treasurer thanks everyone who gave so generously at the Annual Meeting. The final amount is £45. Will all those who have not paid their subscriptions for 1954 be kind enough to do so as soon as possible so that we can keep our accounts up to date.

### INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC GIRLS' SOCIETY

(Association Catholique Internationale des Oeuvres de Protection de la Jeune Fille)

*Have many requests from girls abroad to come as mothers' helps or paying guests to Catholic families in Great Britain.*

12 Cottesmore Gardens, London W.8. WES 4244  
(Employment Department Licensed)

### DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN

#### WESTLAKE'S

#### "SEA LEVEL" PRIVATE HOTEL

Accommodation 200. H. & C. Water all Bedrooms.  
Unrivalled Cuisine. Separate Tables.  
Magnificent New Ballroom. Lift.  
Attractive Terms. Apply Manager.

**Isle of Wight.** Accommodation for one or two with full board in modernised country cottage. Beautiful village on main bus route within easy reach of sea. Owners offer every consideration for restful holiday. Brimacombe, The Bats Wing, Godshill, Nr. Ventnor.

**For Sale.** Dolls' clothes, hand knitted. Also soft toys, dogs, horses, etc. All profits given to the Alliance. Box 14 St. Joan's Alliance.

### Shrine of Our Lady of the Brown Scapular,

#### AYLESFORD

A 12th Century Friary recently restored.

Pilgrims welcomed daily  
Enclosed Retreats arranged  
Guest-house attached

Mgr. Fulton Sheen preaches on May 2nd.

Children's Day, May 16th.

Ordinations will be held in the grounds, July 18th.

*The Holy Father has granted special privileges and Indulgences to Pilgrims.*

Apply:—

REV. SECRETARY O. CARM,  
THE FRIARS, AYLESFORD,  
Nr. MAIDSTONE, KENT

Tel. Maidstone 7272.

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

NON-PARTY

Office—55, Berners Street, Oxford Street, London, W.1.  
Patron: Saint Joan of Arc. Colours: Blue, White and Gold  
Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 4d. monthly.

### OBJECT

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

### MEMBERSHIP

All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of 10s. which includes *The Catholic Citizen*. Men are invited to join as Associates, on the same conditions, with the exception that they may not elect or be elected to the Executive.

### THE WORLD'S GREATEST BOOKSHOP

# FOYLES

"FOR BOOKS"

### FAMED CENTRE FOR CATHOLIC BOOKS

All new Books available on day of publication. Secondhand and rare Books on every subject. Three million volumes.

Subscriptions taken for British, American and continental magazines and we have a first class Postal Library.

Foyles have depts. for Gramophone Records, Stationery, Handicrafts Materials, Music.

We BUY Books, Stamps and Coins.

119-125 CHARING CROSS ROAD, W.C.2  
Gerrard 5660 (16 lines) \* Open 9-6 (inc. Sat.)

Nearest Station: Tottenham Court Road

### Catholic Funeral Upholders

## JOHN HUSSEY Ltd.

2 Berkeley Gardens  
(Adjoining 104) Kensington Church St., W.8

Valuers for Probate

### A SUITABLE MORTUARY CHAPEL

can be placed at the disposal of families

Tel. BAYswater 3046.

Telegrams: Requiem, Kens., London.