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

Vol. XV, No. 6

15th JUNE, 1929.

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

### Octavia Hill.\*

HER HOUSING IDEALS AND REFORMS.

By PATRICIA HALL.

The nineteenth century produced many famous woman pioneers in all walks of life, but none more striking than Octavia Hill, whose name is known all over the world for securing better homes for the poor and open spaces for their recreation, and for stressing unceasingly the need of true appreciation for the heroism and virtue hidden in the squalid streets of our slums.

She was one of a large family—not too well blessed by wealthy possessions, but each endowed with strong loving happy natures; their straightened financial circumstances forced her and her sisters to earn their living by keeping a school for girls at 14, Nottingham Place; despite the strain of teaching, she found time to act as Secretary to the Working Women's Colleges, to superintend the Toy-Making for the employment of poor children, to organise clubs for factory girls and to draw and paint for John Ruskin, whose great friendship and love for her stand out as a valued gift in her life.

Her years of work among the poor of the East End convinced her that all efforts for helping the poor to improved wages were rendered futile by the disgusting and appalling conditions under which they were forced to exist; their filthy environments devitalised their bodies, maddened their

\* "Octavia Hill. By Emily Southwood Maurice. Published by George Allen & Unwin. Price 10s. 6d.

minds and reduced them to a most brutal There arose in her an intense longing to create homes of happiness for these unfortunate creatures, to bring to reality "her vision of what all might bethe perfect order and the glory." Ruskin came to her aid here by buying for her a typical slum, Paradise Place—a beautifully ironic name for some degrading little cottages near her home; a vear later he bought Freshwater Place to which she had added one storey and decent staircases; a few months afterwards he bought her tenements in St. Marylebone. Her plans were the same in each case. The waste spaces were planted with trees and shrubs and made into playing grounds for the children, each tenement was completely repaired and redecorated; one room was set aside as a lecture room and then the tenants were installed. Now began her work. She took a deep personal interest in their troubles, in their suggestions and in their hopes; her encouragement and their joy at their clean homes helped to create in them a self-respect which enabled them to struggle against the unsanitary habits taught by their former surroundings. Her tenants were the dirtiest, wildest people imaginable—full of bitter passions, jealousies and squabbles, yet they improved so marvellously that within a few years she wrote "I am almost overcome with a sense of thankfulness for the work in Paradise Place, and feel quite young when I am planning what we shall make of it in the years to come."

Months of patient observation of the reactions of these people to her efforts indicated to her the principles on which success depended-that "of living side by side with people, till all that one believes, becomes singly clear to them," and her success attracted to her young women eager to be trained on her lines-to study with her the best architecture for working-class housestheir best lay-out and above all, the correct attitude for placating difficult tenants, scolding the careless and encouraging the despairing. After her death, they formed in 1912, the Women's House Property Management Society to provide those managers whose services are being anxiously sought by all municipalities and public utility societies to look after their property. Social reformers from all countries came to be trained by them-indeed Amsterdam has fifteen inspectresses all trained on the "Octavia Hill" System. House Property Management offers now a well-paid, very interesting career to a girl who is keen, original and fond of her fellow-beings.

In "Octavia Hill" by Emily Maurice, her sister, we get an intimate revelation of that wonderful character who found "something delightful in the sight of human joy, in the quiet indestructible joy of trust in God," who stands there as a model for those of us setting out on life's pathway, who did mighty deeds, but believed that "Little out-of-sight deeds, mere silences, slight touches of right feeling really weigh more with God than the greatest acts as measured by good people."

"Her spirit, more effectual and free, calls us to fill the unwearied worker's place.'

### St. Joan's S.P.A.

There will be a Public Meeeting of St. Joan's S.P.A. at St. Patrick's Club, Soho Square, on Monday, July 8, at 6 p.m. Subject: "Feminism the World Over." Speakers: Mrs. V. M. Crawford, Mrs. Laughton-Mathews, Delegates to the Berlin Congress. Chair: Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A. Admission is free. Tea may be had at 5-30 p.m.

### Dinner to Miss H. Douglas Irvine.

A large number of members and friends gathered at the Forum Club on May 7, to honour Miss H. D. Irvine, late chairman of the Alliance and for three years our Hon. Press Secretary. Miss C. M. Gordon, in the chair, proposed the health of Miss Irvine, and spoke of the commen sense and sanity which always characterised Miss Irvine's writing and conduct, most valuable qualities in any leader. Mrs. Abbot, in supporting Miss Gordon, spoke of Miss Irvine's services to feminism both in this and other countries.

The audiences rose, and in toasting our late chairman, sang "For she's a jolly good follow." Miss Douglas Irvine, in thanking the audience, said how much she had enjoyed working for so brave and determined a society as St. Joan's S.P.A.

Lady Rhondda, in proposing the toast, 'St. Joan's S.P.A." said that St. Joan's S.P.A. could always be trusted to take the right view of equality, and the best way of getting it: She had found it a great pleasure to work with the Alliance.

Miss Alison Neilans, in seconding, paid a fine tribute to the Alliance, which she said could always be trusted to give support when any principle was at stake. Alliance had the gift of attracting youth, and making use of its young members. St. Joan's S.P.A. was making history, and its patron would be proud of her modern followers. Miss Neilans mentioned in particular "the fearless and tireless Miss Barry," our founder Miss Jeffery, and our editor. She had always found it a pleasure to work in close co-operation with the Alliance. Miss Eleanor FitzGerald replied for St. Joan's S.P.A. in a witty and sincere speech.

Sir Henry and Lady Wood being among the guests, the chairman asked Sir Henry Wood for a speech. As is well known women musicians owe much to Sir Henry Wood, and the audience shewed their appreciation by singing, "For he's a jolly good fellow." He declared his belief that a mixed orchestra is better than any other, and gave a short and interesting account of the position of music in England at the present

The proceedings closed with "God Save the King. OBITUARY.

We ask the prayers of our readers for Mr. Brady and Mr. Bodenham, lately dead.-R.I.P. We offer our sincere sympathy to Mrs. and the Misses Brady and Miss Bodenham. We also ask the prayers of our readers for our associate, Mr. Paulit, who died recently.

### Notes and Comments.

#### General Election.

Fourteen women have been elected to the new Parliament, several were defeated by a very small majority, Mrs. Aryton Gould by four votes only. We much regret the defeat of Mrs. Wintringham, and of our own member, Miss Monica Whately. We have no doubt that we shall ultimately see Miss Whately in Parliament. St. Alban's is Conservative, but Miss Whately, who is a Labour candidate, polled 11,699 votes. We hope her Party will give her a more hopeful constituency next time.

As a non-party paper, we can make no comment on the new Parliament, but we may say that we are very glad to know that we have good friends in all parties. Lady Astor, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, Sir Robert Newman, Miss Wilkinson, to name a few only.

We offer our cordial congratulations to all the women M.P's. They are:

Former Members Returned.-1, Duchess of Atholl (U.), Kinrose and West Perthshire -Maj. 3,117. 2, Viscoutess Astor (U.), Sutton, Plymouth—Maj. 211. 3, Lady Iveagh (U.), Southend—Maj. 5,721. 4, Miss Ellen Wilkinson (Lab.), Middlesbrough E.--Maj. 3,199. 5, Miss Margaret Bondfield (Lab.), Wallsend-Maj. 7,105. 6, Miss Susan Lawrence (Lab.), East Ham North-Maj. 2,164.

New Members.—7, Miss Megan Lloyd George (L.), Anglesey—Maj. 5,618. 8, Mrs. Mary Hamilton (Lab.), Blackburn— Maj. 2,007. 9, Dr. Ethel Bentham (Lab.), Islington, E.—Maj. 1,558. 10, Miss E. Picton-Turbervill (Lab.), Wrekin, Salop— Maj. 2,862. 11, Lady Cynthia Mosley (Lab.), Stoke-on-Trent—Maj. 7,850. 12, Dr. Marion Phillips (Lab.), Sunderland-Maj. 2,614. 13, Miss Jenny Lee (Lab.) N. Lanark-Maj. 4,204. 14, Miss Eleanor Rathbone (Indep.), Combined English Universities—Maj. 1,113.

We offer our congratulations to Miss Bondfield on her appointment as Minister of Labour.

St. Joan's Alliance gave help to eight of the women candidates for Parliament, and to that staunch feminist, Mr. Frank Briant, had representatives on the deputations work of equal value.

organised by the General Election Equal Pay Committee in London, and organized deputations in the St. Marylebone constituency.

We are proud of the part played by some of our younger members in the Election campaign for fair play to Catholic Schools, particularly our Liverpool Branch, where Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell has spoken frequently with His Grace the Archbishop of Liverpool. She was ably helped by Miss Patricia Hall, Miss Noonan, and others. We are specially proud of Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, who spoke eloquently at the mass meeting at the Albert Hall, at which H. E. Cardinal Bourne presided.

Our delegates to the Berlin Congress will be Miss Barry and Mrs. Laughton-Mathews, alternate delegates, Miss Butler-Bowdon and Mrs. Crawford. The International Woman Suffrage News for April prints the text of the resolutions for the preliminary agenda of the Congress. Several important resolutions are to be moved by the British Auxiliaries: the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the Women's Freedom League, and St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. The three societies put forward resolutions dealing with an equal moral standard, and the abolition of State Regulation of Vice, equal pay for work of equal value, in which the International Labour Office is called upon to promote a Convention to give effect to this principle with respect to men and women employed by the Governments of Nations within the League, etc. St. Joan's S.P.A. and the Women's Freedom League go further by asking the I.L.O. to adopt an Equal Pay Convention, and in another resolution those two societies ask the Congress to urge its auxiliaries to impress upon their respective Governments the desirability of asking for an advisory opinion of the Permanent Court of International Justice to determine whether legislation adopted pursuant to the Minimum Wage Fixing Convention must be such as to provide that the minimum rates shall be the same for women as for men. Whether the International Labour Organisation is competent to draw up and propose legislation for the fixing of minimum wages not based on this seventh principle of the Labour General Principles laid down within the constitution of the I.L.O., namely, the principle that men and whose defeat we much regret. The Alliance women should receive equal remuneration for

### ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

55 Berners Street, London, W.I. Tel. Museum 4181

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

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A., Chairman, Hon. Press Sec. MISS LEONORA DE ALBERTI, Editor, Catholic Citizen, MISS BARCLAY-CARTER, Lic.-ès. L.

MISS BARRY, Hon. Sec. MISS PAULINE M. BRANDT.

MISS BUTLER-BOWDON. MISS DOUGLAS IRVINE, M.A. MISS ELEANOR FITZGERALD. MISS FEDDEN, Hon. Treasurer, Catholic Citizen. MISS SHEILA HYNES MISS GABRIELLE JEFFERY.

Mrs. Laughton Mathews, M.B.E., Hon. Treasurer. MRS. O'CONNOR

MISS MONICA O'CONNOR.

## The Rights of Women in Industry.

Since the attainment of equal franchise in Great Britain the feminists of this country are concentrating more and more on obtaining freedom for the woman wage-earner to earn her livelihood unhampered by artificial handicaps, including special protection which, under the name of protection, tends to oust her out of well-paid jobs, and put her at a disadvantage with men.

The Open Door Council, to which St. Joan's S.P.A. is affiliated, was founded three vears ago to combat restriction on the freedom of the women wage-earners. Realising that this question is one of the most urgent problems which confront feminists, the O.D.C. is helding a conference in Berlin on the 15th and 16th of June, with a view to forming an international organization to secure economic freedom for women. The O.D.C. wishes to make it clear --as we have often done-that it is not opposed to the regulation of the conditions of work, the safeguarding of health, or the forbidding of certain processes to the workers, provided such regulations are applied to all adults, male as well as female. It holds that there should be special restrictions on the work of children and young persons, but is definitely opposed to women being classed with them.

The International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations vastly increases the danger to women of being hampered in the struggle to earn a living. To quote from the O.D.C's. official invitation to the Berlin Conference. "The I.L.O., while it has done

good work in proposing conventions which apply to men and women alike, becomes an international danger when it proposes special restrictions on the work of women. It may be likened to a factory where proposals for limiting the freedom of women as a worker are turned out by mass production methods. Not only so, but its international machinery is used to propagate the doctrine that it is desirable to place these restrictions on women which are not applied to men, Its Director, M. Thomas, indeed, in an official report refers to the psychological difficulties he met in the Scandinavian women who are opposed to such restrictions and to his effort "to dissipate the prejudice based on "equality first.'

It is clear that if women are to be protected in industry the claim for equal pay for work of equal value may as well be dropped in every case when they are so protected. Some people think that it is in reality a protection of men workers against the competition of women.

The O.D.C. Conference is held two days before the Congress in Berlin of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, which was founded in that city twenty-five years ago to concentrate on the one object of woman suffrage, as the wide programme of the International Council of Women did not admit of concentrated work for suffrage. So to-day it is no less essential to focus the attention of the world on the urgency of economic equality, and to be prepared to fight for it.

L. de Alberti.

## St. Joan's Celebrations.

It was a great privilege to represent the Alliance at the celebrations in Orleans on May 8, in connection with the deliverance of that city 500 years ago by St. Joan of

Orleans was so thronged with pilgrims that on arrival at the station I was told that it was useless to try and find accommodation. Hospitality, however had been arranged for me by our member, Mademoiselle Lenoël, Hon. Secretary of the Orleans branch of the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes, whose unfailing kir.dness and thoughtfulness made my visit a complete success.

Most impressive was the High Mass which l attended on behalf of the Alliance amid a setting of glowing spelndour in the beautiful Cathedral of Sainte-Croix.

In the afternoon I placed a wreath at the statue of St. Joan, tied with our colours and bearing the inscription: "Homage to St. Joan, our Patron, who helped British women to gain enfranchisement.'

I had an excellent view of the traditional procession, and although rain fell all the time, it did not spoil the beauty and significance of this picturesque spectacle. This vear it included Cardinal Lepicier, the Papal Legate, Cardinal Bourne from England, the French, President and the British Ambassador in Paris, and passed through streets ablaze with colour, blue and white, and orange and red, the colours of St. Joan and Orleans.

The day did not pass without a touch of publicity on the part of the French suffragists, for the townsfolk awoke to find posted on their doors, leaflets with the following words: "A Jeanne d'Arc qui a sauvé la France il y a 500 ans et qui, cette année ne pourait pas élire un Conseiller municipal.'

At the national celebrations in honour of St. Joan in Paris, on Sunday morning, May 12, I again represented the Alliance, walking from the Church of St. Augustine in the national procession with the French suffragists in their group of over 500. Besides banners on which the names of their societies were inscribed, they carried flowers which they threw at the foot of the statue of St. Joan in the rue Rivoli, whilst I had

the honour of placing a beautiful bouquet of white and blue flowers on the steps of the statue as a token of gratitude to our Patron Saint.

The Alliance was represented by Miss Barry and myself at the laying of the foundation stone of the church of St. Joan at Farnham, on May 23, by the Bishop of Southwark. Thus was crowned the labour and enthusiasm of Father Robo, who came to this country from Brittany many years ago, and is now the parish priest of the church of St. Polycarp.

Mlle. Chantal de la Fléchère, a collateral descendant of St. Joan represented the Maid, and the Bishop of Beauvais assisted at the ceremony with the Bishops of Southwark and Portsmouth. In glorious weather the ceremony of dedication was conducted on the site opposite the ancient castle of Cardinal Beaufort. In the procession of Bishops, priests and choir of Benedictine monks, we, the representatives of the Alliance, walked immediately behind Mlle. de la Fléchère, who was attended by four small boys and girls dressed in white.

It is fitting that our country should this year dedicate a church to St. Joan near the ancient castle of Cardinal Beaufort and that in the words of his Lordship the Bishop of Southwark, "We should do so in a spirit of reparation for the awful crime committed 500 years ago." E. Butler-Bowdon.

The peculiarities of male legislators in matters affecting women are never ending. The latest example comes from Montreal. The Legislature which passed the Bill which gave the municipal vote to women propertyearners of Quebec, has refused the same right to the women of Montreal. Mrs. John Scott, of Montreal, sends us the speech of the Hon. Henry Miles in the Legislative Council, in presenting the Bill to amend the Charter of the City of Montreal. It was defeated. The women of Quebec may vote at municipal elections, the women of Montreal may not. Prejudice conquers reason

Mrs. Scott sends us letters which appeared in the Press from herself and Miss Idola Saint Jean, President of the Canadian Alliance for Women's Vote in Quebec-the latter gives an admirable outline of feminist activities, while Mrs. Scott trounces an anonymous "anti" with fine suffrage spirit.

#### Police Powers and Procedure.

The Report of the Royal Commission. appointed last August, to enquire into the powers and procedure of the police, is reassuring. The Commissioners find that many of the complaints made against the police should be directed against the laws they are called upon to enforce. Corruption is not unknown among the police, but its extent has been greatly exaggerated, and is mainly associated with the enforcement of laws which are out of harmony with public opinion, or in enforcing which the police are compelled by lack of adequate powers to have recourse to unsatisfactory methods of detection. The blame for such corruption as occasionally occurs cannot be concentrated entirely on the police, the public must also bear its share. There is no evidence that the police profit by the number of convictions which they obtain, or that there is any disposition to trump up charges, or to press for the conviction of anyone whom they believe to be innocent.

The Commissioners emphasize the existence of laws out of harmony with public opinion.

We think at once of the Solicitation Laws, the repeal of which our women societies have so often demanded. Under these laws many thousands of women are arrested, and the enforcement of them is, in fact, a stumbling block to the Police. Indeed the Commissioners agree in principle with the Streets Offences Committee in asking for a reform of these laws. The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene and other socities, including St. Joan's S.P.A., ask for the abolition of these Solicitation Laws, and the substitution of the Public Places Order Bill, first introduced by Lady Astor in 1925.

The sections of the report dealing with women police are of peculiar interest to us. The findings of the Report fully justify our demand for a larger number of qualified policewomen. The Commissioners consider that there should be an adequate number of special trained women (which at present does not exist in the Metropolitian Police) available for taking statements from all young girls and children in sexual cases. We do not agree with the Commissioners that they need not be attested policewomen.

The Commissioners recommend that policewomen in uniform should be employed in considerably greater numbers than at present, in dealing with offences against public decency; they should be employed in escorting, searching and supervising women prisoners, they should be afforded adequate opportunities of doing general, as well as special detective work. Many of the miscellaneous and extraneous duties performed by the police—including the making of special inquiries under various Acts and regulations, could be performed more appropriately by women police.

The Commissioners find that the time is ripe for a substantial increase in the numbers of police women, more particularly in cities for patrol work in uniform. They ask that the Home Secretary will take steps to call the attention of Chief Constables and police authorities to the marked success with which women police have been employed in various parts of the country, and to the good results which they are convinced would follow from an increase in their present numbers.

Lord Lee of Fareham was chairman of the Commission, and among the members were Dame Meriel Talbot and Miss Margaret Bevan.

I have naturally dwelt in this brief review on the points of particular interest to the readers of this paper, but the whole report is of interest, and can be obtained from the Stationery Office, price 3s.

L. de Alberti.

# "Woman, the Vote, and the British Commonwealth."

On Monday, April 22, at St. Patrick's, Soho, Miss Chave Collisson gave a comprehensive and lucid address on the responsibilities of British women towards the numerous inarticulate groups of women scattered over the British Empire. She dwelt on the many racial problems which confront the conscientious citizen, anxious to help to raise the status of the natives in various parts of the Empire, and to understand their needs. What was being done to educate these peoples and to prepare them for the rights of self-government? Once the situation was grasped, there remained

the question of how help could be given and reforms set afoot. In the first place there was the Imperial Conference. It was through the Imperial Conference that these problems could be ventilated. Miss Collisson spoke, also, of the difficulties which beset Australian women, who desire to take up public work, difficulties due to the great distances to be travelled and the impossibility of getting domestic help.

Mrs. MacMahon, who took the chair in Miss de Alberti's absence, expressed the thanks of the audience for a most able speech. The meeting was under the auspices of St. Joan's S.P.A.

Miss Fedden represented St. Joan's Alliance on the Deputation to the L.C.C. Committee of Parks and Open Spaces, to ask for more women police on Hampstead Heath to protect the children. The deputation, organised by the Hampstead Branch of the Women's Freedom League, was introduced by Dr. Knight. The Chairman of the Committee received the views of the Deputation sympathetically.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS. May 1 to 31.

		t	5.	u.
Alberti, Miss L. de		1	0	0
Augustine, Sister Mary			2	6
Barry, Miss		1	0	0
Barry, Miss F		4	0	0
Bate, Miss			5	0
Bearman, Miss			2	6
Bennett, Mrs. Kempthorne		1	12	6
Bennett, Dr. Victoria			10	0
Berry Mrs			6	3
Butler-Bowdon, Miss E		6	0	0
Campion, Miss F			9	4
Carter, Miss Z. D. M			1	6
Dobbins, Mrs			7	6
Donovan, Miss B		2	11	0
Duffy, Mrs. and Miss			2	6
Filmer, Revd. J. H			7	6
Grant, The Hon. Mrs			5	0
Groves, Mrs. Hey			2	6
Higgins, Revd. Gilbert, C.R.L.			2	6
Huggett, Mrs			5	0
Liverpool and District Branch		10	0	0
Parnell, Miss Nancy Stewart			10	0
Wall, Miss			3	0
Whately, Mrs			2	6
Minimum Annual Subscriptions			19	0
	f	31	7	7

TREASURER'S NOTE.

Many thanks to all subscribers and particularly to the Liverpool Branch, for their generous donation of £10. Two more members, Lady Currie and Dr. D. J. Collier, have very kindly promised £5 per annum towards the rent. We still want one more, please!

VERA LAUGHTON MATHEWS,

Hon. Treasurer.

#### LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

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

On April 30 the Branch co-operated in the Catholic Women's Rally, held at St. George's Hall, under the presidency of His Grace the Archbishop. Indeed, three of the speakers were members of St. Joan's, namely, Miss Hall, Miss Noonan and Miss Parnell. The Organising Committee (on which the Branch is represented by Mrs. Johnstone, Miss McArdle and Miss Crawford), is to remain in existence in case further action becomes necessary.

By drawing slightly on the general account the Branch was at last enabled to send the longpromised donation of £10 to Headquarters.

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July 29th to August 2nd, inclusive :- A Course of Lectures on "The Principles of the Encyclical 'Rerum Lectures on "The Principles of the Encyclical 'Rerum Novarum' and their Applic tion to Present-Day Problems," by Rev. Lewis Watt, S.J., Professor of Moral Philosophy at Heythrop College. A Course of Lectures on "Blessed Thomas More's 'Utopia' and His Social Teaching," by Mr. W. E. Campbell. Lectures and Discussions:—"Legal Aid for the Poor," by Mr. S. Seuffert. "Some Social Aspects of the New Local Government Act," by Mrs. V. M. Crawford and Miss E. M. Fortey, J.P. "The Care of the Catholic Mentally Defective Child," by Dr. Letitia Fairfield. "The Use of Public Libraries," by Mr. L. A. Toke.

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