

THE
Catholic Citizen

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

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15th OCTOBER, 1926.

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.

Girls and Their Prospects.

By NANCY STEWART PARNELL, B.A.

When one reads in the newspapers of the success of the Atalanta Engineering Company, a venture financed and staffed by women, or of the aerial exploits of Mrs. Elliott Lynn or of Miss Gertrude Bell's part in the creation of the modern state of Iraq, one is perhaps tempted to think that the whole field of human enterprise lies open to girls on the same terms as to boys. Unfortunately, this is not so, and feminists will have to continue their efforts for a long time before this desirable state of affairs is brought to pass. Women are still excluded, for example, from positions of responsibility in the diplomatic service, though a long line of Englishwomen from Lady Mary Wortley Montague to Miss Bell attest their ability in this direction. They are still denied admittance to the Stock Exchange, though an increasing number of women are qualified brokers and already do outside work. Banks no longer, as during the war, offer to girls a congenial and remunerative career. In a few instances the Trade Unions stand in the way of the training and employment of women, while in many technical schools the conditions generally and the accommodation for women in particular, as described in a recent report of the Board of Education, must deter a certain number of girls from attending the courses there. Everyone must

be familiar also with the repeated attempts to exclude girl students from the larger hospitals, both in London and the provinces. Lastly, one cannot help hoping fervently that funds will be forthcoming to maintain some women-students at the Catholic Labour College, so that Catholic women as well as men may have the opportunities and advantages that such a training affords.

One could quote many more examples to show that the "open road for women," as Lord Stewart once called it, is still an ideal for which we must strive. But a far greater grievance than direct exclusion is the poverty of the pay, conditions and prospects confronting women, especially in the essentially feminine occupations. The enthusiasm for social welfare engendered by the war has largely died away, and women trained in social work not only find it difficult to obtain posts, but are often offered salaries that can only be described as paltry. Similarly, the salaries for Health Visitors, once so alluring, have dropped alarmingly, though the training remains as long and arduous as ever. Probably the worst conditions of all are still to be found in the most lauded of all womanly professions, namely, nursing. Too much of its semi-military origin still hangs about it, and one can only sigh for the day when feminists will sit on all Hospital Boards and

will humanise the conditions under which the young nurse, and more especially the probationer, works. Unduly long hours, unhygienic uniforms, barracks-like atmosphere, petty tyranny and a series of ailments ranging from swollen ankles to diphtheric throats, and even to fingers so poisoned that amputation is necessary, too often characterise the first years of a nurse's career, especially in the smaller hospitals and convalescent homes. Difficulties of quite another order face the shorthand-typist-secretary. If she is clever and ambitious she generally discovers when it is too late that she has been engaged in a kind of blind alley occupation where increasing experience and dexterity are not rewarded by a commensurate increase in salary and where her sex is an almost insuperable bar to promotion. Even under the best conditions women still have their own battles to fight and still need the help of women's organisations. At their recent annual conference at Hull, for example, the members of the Schoolmasters' Association declared that they would not serve under a headmistress were one appointed over a co-educational school, and they re-affirmed their opposition to the principle of equal pay for equal work. One cannot help noticing also how few women ever attain to a chair in a university, though they become junior and even senior lecturers and fulfil their duties as thoroughly and successfully as their male colleagues. Women civil servants, also, have their grievances in the form of closed doors and narrow promotion ladders, not to mention inequality of pay.

Quite apart from actual cases of injustice, women also suffer more than men from being in colloquial speech, "square pegs in round holes." This is largely because so little interest is taken in their choice of a career. One hears of flourishing clubs for boys where endless pains are taken by the club leaders to find out exactly what form of employment will best suit the boy, to secure such employment for him, to make him feel that he will prevent other boys from his club being employed if he fails through his own fault to make good, to assist him in every way to gain greater proficiency at his job, and so on. Such a spirit is rare in clubs for girls, and there are few agencies for women like the Catenians and the Rotary Club that assist men to find and keep their level. In consequence, there is undoubtedly

a great waste of talent among girls, and especially Catholic girls. Time after time, brilliant products of our secondary schools and universities drift into teaching for which they have no aptitude, simply because they do not know of the possibilities that the modern world holds for them, or are daunted by the prejudices of those around them. There is, for instance, a prejudice among Catholics against girls adopting physical training as a career, though for a certain type of girl it is the ideal profession. The pioneer girl still has a difficult task before her, for people have not yet conceded woman's claim to take all labour for her province, as Olive Shreiner once expressed it, and many avenues still remain unexplored.

There is no doubt that the granting of the vote to women on the same terms as men would greatly assist the woman worker to secure fairer conditions for herself, and would also be of great use in breaking down the remaining barriers. In cases where the Government would have to take the first step the advantage of possessing a vote is obvious, but even where Government action is not necessary, the rise in status as a result of enfranchisement would be a material aid, particularly to the young woman. The wide spread of the feminist standpoint would also work wonders. It would largely solve the problem of the "dearth of nurses," to quote "The Nursing Mirror," and the scarcity of domestic servants, besides giving every woman who works under another a fairer chance and a happier time than at present. Not everyone can imitate the action of Miss Faithfull in retiring from her high and honourable position of Principal of the Ladies' College, Cheltenham, for the sake of younger women, but everyone could adopt her spirit. In her autobiography she explains her point of view in words that are worth remembering. "We have no right, I think, to hold posts which are prizes in the profession for more than a certain period. The number of working women has increased apace and interesting posts are not superabundant. Each age should have its opportunities and the joy of a great enterprise, and not have the passage to such barred by one who has had the venture and used her chances for better or worse." Lastly, especial pains must be taken to hand on our faith to the rising generation of women that they

(Continued on page 75.)

Notes and Comments.

For the future St. Joan's S.P.A. will have an Annual Mass offered for the repose of the souls of deceased members, associates and benefactors of the Society. The first Mass will be offered at St. Patrick's, Soho, on Sunday, November 7, at 10-30, when we hope to see a large number of our members.

* * * *

Parliament re-assembles in November, and the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee is organising a strenuous campaign for Equal Franchise. If the Prime Minister intends to keep his word, the time is very short if women are to vote on equal terms at the next General Election. We imagine that a responsible Government will hardly desire to face the women electors, having so palpably deceived them.

We were very glad to see in the *Universe* that Sir Gerald Strickland, K.C.M.G., in introducing Lady Strickland to his constituents at Lancaster recently, made a speech advocating equal voting rights for men and women.

* * * *

We are glad to note that our member, Mrs. Margrieta Beer, has been appointed to the Committee of three set up by the Government under the Safeguarding of Industries' Act for the Light Leather goods and Metal fittings trades, to consider and report on their applications for an import duty.

* * * *

Again this year no country sent a fully accredited woman delegate to the Assembly of the League. The countries sending women every year as alternate delegates, that is, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Roumania, Great Britain and Australia, were this year reinforced by Germany, who included Dr. Bäumer in the delegation. Dr. Bäumer is a member of the Reichstag, and adviser to the German Government on matters relating to child labour, young delinquents, and infant welfare. She was one of the delegates to the I.W.S.A. Congress in Paris, and her able speeches greatly impressed the Congress.

* * * *

After much pressure on the part of the Council for the Representation of Women in

the League of Nations, and International Societies, one woman, Mrs. Dreyfus-Barney, has been appointed to the Sub-Committee of the International Committee for Intellectual Co-operation, which is to consider the question of inculcating into the minds of the youths of all nations the ideals of the League. This is surely a subject upon which women can be called experts, and yet only one woman finds a place in the Committee. Sex prejudice is still strong in the League, as elsewhere.

* * * *

Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, has been adopted as prospective liberal candidate for Hendon, in place of Mr. A. J. Blue, who has retired owing to pressure of business. Mrs. Ashby has bravely fought various more or less forlorn constituencies; we hope that there is good prospect of success at Hendon. We can imagine few women more fitted for Parliament than Mrs. Ashby.

* * * *

At the Congratulatory Dinner, given by the Women's Freedom League to celebrate the Silver Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, held at the Holborn Restaurant on October 8, Miss Fedden, on behalf of St. Joan's Alliance paid a tribute to and thanked Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence for all their magnificent work in the cause of women's enfranchisement.

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In future the Office, 55 Berners Street, will close at 5 p.m. instead of 5-30, with the exception of Thursday, when it will remain open till 5-30.

(Continued from page 74.)

may be even more ambitious than we have been, that they may remove the last vestiges of inequality, and above all, that they may inherit and hand on the most precious treasure of the woman's movement, namely, its spirit—a spirit compounded of earnestness of life, loyalty to women and sympathy with the suffering and oppressed.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

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

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

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Social Theories of the Middle Ages.*

This is a fascinating book, not only fascinating in its presentment, but because it deals with a period which has a strange glamour; although no doubt the enchantment of the Middle Ages is best realised in perspective. Yet it was a wonderful age, and gave rise to some wonderful thinkers. The philosophy of the thirteenth century, it is said, crowns the Catholic Church. The mediævalist saw all things in the light of eternity, weighed and judged all theories by the light of Christian principles.

Father Bede Jarrett has some interesting chapters on law, and education, slavery, peace and war, art, property and money-making. From the point of view of our readers, the third chapter on women will be of particular interest. The most obvious thing to be said of the position of women in that age, the writer tells us, was that it was one of subjection to man. Indeed we are grateful to Fr. Bede Jarrett for his plain speaking in this chapter. The great St. Thomas, for instance, was no feminist, and it is a mistaken policy to endeavour to read into his writings a meaning that is not there. Indeed we may say quite frankly that the Angelic Doctor was sometimes slightly obsessed by the inferiority of women, though perhaps more concerned on this point with theory than reality. How, otherwise, could

he solemnly tell us that, strictly speaking, the father is more to be loved by his child than the mother. Any child knows better. St. Thomas was, of course, speaking of the father physiologically, though the theory then held has been exploded by modern science. "The type of argument," writes Father Bede Jarrett, "is profoundly illustrative of the curiously scientific nature of speculation common then, and becoming later repulsive and unhelpful."

For the rest, there is an amusing resemblance in Father Jarrett's quotations from ancient preachers and writers, with some of the diatribes we read in the press and elsewhere to-day. Surely woman claims more, or is given more, than her share of attention by writers and preachers. Then, as now, one gets the impression in reading what men, men of high degree and of low degree, have written about women, that sub-consciously they are combating a latent fear of women's power and ability; that the green-eyed monster is gnawing their vitals; and in reading some of their censures we may remember a contemporary protest that: "The aphorisms of philosophers are not articles of faith, but simply the mists of error and self-deception." Yet all the while the leaven of

* Social Theories of the Middle Ages. 1200-1500. By Bede Jarrett, O. P. Ernest Benn, 16s. net.

Christianity was at work, and just as slavery ultimately became abhorrent to Christendom, so the enslavement of women has become so.

This, however, is scarcely a fair review of Father Bede Jarrett's book, in which the position of women plays, after all, but a small part. Enough has been said though to move our readers to get the book and read it for themselves, for indeed it is written with charm, and is quite enthralling.

L. DE ALBERTI.

International Notes.

Our Indian sisters have won two important victories this summer. The Legislative Councils for both Bombay and Madras have unanimously passed Resolutions in favour of admitting women to the Councils by nomination and election. This Resolution at once becomes law, and Indian women in the two Presidencies are now entitled to vote at the next election on precisely the same terms as men. *Stri Dharma* is naturally very jubilant at this splendid result of much previous propaganda.

At the last General Election in Lithuania four women were elected to the Chamber, three belonging to the Christian-Democratic party, and the fourth to the Socialist party. It will be remembered that Lithuania boasts a very numerous Catholic Women's Society with woman suffrage as one of its aims.

It seems our Swiss Suffrage friends have held this summer a most successful Suffrage Summer School at Ermatingen, near Lake Constance. Over thirty women, some of them quite young, followed the whole school, and large audiences were attracted to the meetings that were thrown open to the public.

We learn from *La Française* that a party of ardent French suffragists is spending the holiday season touring the centre of France in a motor caravan and holding suffrage meetings, not only in all the towns they pass through, but also in numberless villages

where they hope to win the support of the peasant women.

Die Christliche Frau publishes a German translation of a very thoughtful article by Miss Margaret Fletcher on "The Moral Law and the Double Standard," urging on Catholic women to make the age-long teaching of the Church concerning the equal standard as between men and women a practical reality, and emphasising the importance of the Resolution on the subject adopted at the last International Congress of Catholic Women's Leagues.

The National Women's Party, announces *Equal Rights*, has now enrolled 44 eminent feminists, representing in all 19 different countries, in its International Advisory Council.

The *N.C.W.C. Bulletin* announces the formation in the United States of a Catholic Dramatic Guild to promote the organisation of Catholic Dramatic Clubs pledged to stage only good plays. There are also in connection with it a Catholic Dramatic Company which publishes suitable Catholic plays and a dramatic monthly, *Practical Stage Work*, which gives invaluable help to amateur groups.

V. M. C.

Local Government Elections.

We remind our readers of the importance of using their vote for the elections for provincial Borough Councils, which will take place on Monday, November 1, and of the great importance in getting women elected to these Councils, which deal with health, housing, education, and kindred subjects. There is a crying need for more women Councillors, and we hope that many suitable candidates will come forward, and be successful.

An Open Letter to Readers of "The Catholic Citizen."

Dear Fellow Members and Readers,

I have come back from South Africa to find with dismay what financial straits *The Catholic Citizen* is in. From a country where I spent most of my time being fêted and motored about by hospitable suffragists I return to depression and despondency. I arrive to find our Hon. Secretary, who acted on my behalf during my absence, with lines of anxiety on her face as she wearily scans the accounts of the paper and tries to face the problem of debts and ways and means. Our expenses are cut down to a minimum, but the paper does not pay its way; no propaganda paper ever does. Therefore I beg all who read this to get us one new subscriber, or send us a donation of at least 2s. As Hon. Treasurer of *The Catholic Citizen*, I feel very unhappy; please take all weight off my mind on this side of Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

M. FEDDEN,

Hon. Treasurer *Catholic Citizen*.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CATHOLIC CITIZEN"
(August 1926).

We are now (August 22) in the throes of a Federal Election, and as the women of Quebec, like their sisters in the other Canadian Provinces, have a vote in such elections, the word "throes" is used advisedly. A curious situation results from the fact that, unlike other Canadian women, we in Quebec, although electors federally, are not so provincially, and as the Federal Voters' Lists are based on the provincial lists—upon which no woman's name is inscribed—it follows that every woman who wishes to exercise her franchise in a Federal election must register. The registration booths are quite often at a considerable distance from one's domicile, and are only open during certain hours, so are somewhat congested at times, obliging women to stand in line for hours waiting for their turn. These conditions tend to make registration the unmitigated nuisance it is, especially when, as in the present instance, two Federal elections are held within the year.

Would that the system of imposing a stiff fine on the indifferent citizens, who, for no good reason, fail to vote at an election (as is the law in one of the Australian States) were in force here. Why should "A" have to go down

on her knees, figuratively speaking, to induce "B" to exercise a privilege which is all in "B's" own interest?

If there were no other reason for working for the provincial vote, surely the removal of this burdensome registration ought to be incentive enough. The trouble, however, is that the women who have to be coaxed and urged first to register, then to vote, are the very women who care little or nothing about anything so serious as the provincial vote.

But a ray of hope breaks through the gloom. At an official meeting of Liberal women held recently in this city to organise for the election, Dr. Grace Ritchie England, Vice-President of the National Council of Women and a Past-President of the Montreal Liberal Women's Club, a convinced and consistent Liberal, thus delivered herself: "Say to your members, if you don't help me to get my provincial vote, I won't vote for you in the next election. Make up your minds to approach your candidates and see that you get the provincial vote. I will never again work for the Liberal Party unless I am treated as the political equal of the man who works alongside me." A very noble and gallant gesture, to which the writer, albeit differing politically from the speaker, gladly pays tribute.

The most reactionary and stubborn Government cannot long afford to treat with contempt this attitude of the leading women of its own party.

(Mrs. John) ISABELLA SCOTT.

Montreal.

A most successful Dinner was held at the Rendezvous Restaurant on September 28, to welcome Miss Marguerite Fedden on her return from South Africa, where, during a stay of four months she has done some fine work for the cause of Women's Franchise and in making St. Joan's Alliance more widely known. Miss Fedden, in a most interesting speech, outlined the present political position in South Africa, and urged the need for a strong Women's Franchise Campaign in that country. Although on a private visit, Miss Fedden found time to address many meetings, which were enthusiastic and well attended; these included one which was given in the Convent Hall at La Rochelle at the invitation of Father Peron, the parish priest, who has since become an Associate Member of the Alliance. A vote of thanks to Miss Fedden was moved by Mrs. C. J. Mathew, L.C.C., J.P., and seconded by Miss Moclair.

British Commonwealth League.

The following are some of the resolutions passed at the Conference on September 30:

1. Franchise.

This Conference respectfully calls the attention of the Imperial Conference to the loss of status imposed on enfranchised women when settling in those parts of the Empire where women are unenfranchised, as in South Africa, or where they are only partially enfranchised, as in Great Britain, and begs them to confer as to the best method of remedying this injustice.

2. Affiliation Orders.

That this Conference (of Societies participating) desires to call the attention of the Imperial Conference to the need for reciprocal legislation in regard to the enforcement of affiliation orders, so that an order made in one part of His Majesty's Dominions may be enforced in any other part, etc.

3. Nationality.

This Conference (of the Societies participating) welcomes the actions of the Imperial Parliament on February 18, 1925, and of the Australian Commonwealth Parliament on February 25, 1926, in adopting in both cases without a division the following resolution:

"That in the opinion of this House a British woman shall not lose or be deemed to lose her nationality by the mere act of marriage with an alien, but that it shall be open to her to make a declaration of alienage."

It further welcomes the statement of the Prime Minister of Australia that he will bring the above resolution to the notice of the Imperial Conference, and urges the representatives from the different parts of the Empire assembled at that Conference to recommend legislation giving effect to this resolution.

Other resolutions dealt with women in the League of Nations, Voluntary Treatment of Venereal Disease, etc.

Equal Political Rights Campaign.

The first public meeting in London in connection with the Equal Political Rights Campaign will be organised by the Women's

Freedom League, and will be held in Caxton Hall on Friday, October 22, at 7-30 p.m.

Miss Monica O'Connor will be the speaker from St. Joan's Alliance.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

August 15—September 30.

	£	s.	d.
*Barry, Miss F.	5	0	0
Burman, Miss	2	6	
Butler-Bowdon, Miss	2	6	
Butler-Bowdon, Miss E.	1	5	0
Donovan, Misses B. and K.	5	0	
Douglas Irvine, Miss	1	5	0
Havers, per Miss	1	5	0
Heath, Dr. Isabel	2	0	
*Raleigh, Miss K.	5	0	
Raynes, Miss M. V.	1	6	
Rooney, Very Rev. Canon	2	6	
Minimum Annual Subscriptions	3	0	
	£9	19	0

* "Catholic Citizen."

TREASURER'S NOTE.

The office rent due on September 9 has not yet been paid. We had in hand up to Sept. 30 only £4 14s. for that purpose, and we still need £8 9s. 4d. to make up the quarter's rent. I shall be grateful if members will think of this matter as a first necessity. Will they also begin from this date to interest themselves in our Christmas Sale on November 23 and 24 at the Caxton Hall, Westminster. From now onwards Miss Barry will be glad to receive gifts at the Office. Anything and everything will be welcome.

G. JEFFERY.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

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

It is hoped to hold a Jumble Sale on November 13, and members are asked to begin at once collecting suitable articles for this event.

Miss McCurdy and Miss Parnell went at the request of the Branch to the Catholic Congress at Manchester to sell our paper. Miss Hall, another member of the Branch, kindly volunteered to assist them in their work.

A resolution has been sent on behalf of the Branch to the Chairman of the Liverpool Watch Committee urging "the appointment of an adequate number of fully attested Women Police" or "the extension of the numbers of the Women Patrols" if this is not considered practicable. A resolution was also sent to the Chairman of the Parks and Gardens Committee urging "the appointment of trained, uniformed Women Park Keepers" in the interests of women and children in the parks."

**ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND
POLITICAL ALLIANCE.**

NON-PARTY.

Office—55, Berners St., Oxford St., London. W.
Patron : Saint Joan of Arc. Colours : Blue, White & Gold
Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 2d. 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 1s. 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 International Woman Suffrage News

The Monthly Organ of

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE,

Subscription : 6s. per annum post free.

At the present time "Jus Suffragii" forms a unique link between the women of all nations. It contains articles, reports and letters from all countries and constitutes a valuable record of woman's activities. Sample copies may be had free of charge on application to the Office—11 Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C.

"The Converts' Aid Society

exists for the purpose of assisting convert clergymen of the Church of England and ministers of other denominations who, by entering the Catholic Church, . . . are reduced to a condition bordering on destitution. The need for funds is so urgent that we are compelled to appeal publicly for help."

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Equal Political Rights Campaign.

A PUBLIC MEETING

(Organized by the Women's Freedom League)

CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER,

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22nd, at 7-30 p.m.

To demand an equal franchise measure granting Votes to Women at the same age and on the same terms as men.

Speakers :

Miss FROUD

Miss MONICA O'CONNOR

(St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance),

FRANK BRIANT, Esq., M.P., L.C.C., and others.

Chairman : **Miss ANNA MUNRO.**

Admission Free.

Reserved Seats 1/-.