

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

Organ of St. Joan's Alliance (formerly The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society).
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"Beloved By God"

Only a month has passed since St. Joan's Alliance addressed a letter to His Holiness, Pope John XXIII, to express its personal gratitude for the passage in his Easter Encyclical which gladdened the hearts of women throughout the world. The final paragraph of this letter read: "Our minds go back to Holy Saturday, 1935, at Istanbul when Your Holiness graciously received the Catholic delegates to the Congress of the International Alliance of Women, when seven delegates of St. Joan's Alliance were present. The words Your Holiness uttered during the Mass on Easter Monday in the Church of San Antonio: 'It is a great and lovely work you are doing, a work of charity, of redemption, a work for civilisation and internationalism, a work which leads to justice and right understanding. Do not be afraid. Go forward with courage . . . have sustained us through all the difficult years.'"

Today, June 4th, 1963, when all men of goodwill to whom he addressed *Pacem in Terris* are mourning for him, we have received a communication from the Apostolic Delegate which runs: "In accordance with instructions from His Excellency, Archbishop Angelo Dell'Acqua, of the Secretariat of State of His Holiness, I have the honour of informing you that your filial message was brought to the personal attention of His Holiness who directed that you should be informed of his profound satisfaction at the loyal adhesion to the Supreme Teaching Authority of the Church manifested by the Catholic women of Great Britain who are members of St. Joan's Alliance." That this great and good man, despite the unremitting pressure of work, despite the fact that he must have been suffering fearful pain as the disease progressed, should yet have sent this message to the Alliance will provide a lasting source of inspiration and encouragement to its members whose sorrow for his loss is too deep to express in words.

From the first, Pope John XXIII manifested a wonderful spirit of progress which made it clear that he was no caretaker pope. From

the first, his simplicity, warmth, sense of humour and humility endeared him to all. "Don't expect to find me a very important person," he said, "I am only a parish priest," and it was as a parish priest that he went to those of his children who could not come to him: the sick in hospital, the prisoners in *Regina Coeli*. But what made him so beloved was the fact that he himself loved so greatly, because he looked beyond the ideologies and isms that divide, and saw the innate goodness in human beings.

Throughout his short pontificate he devoted himself to the immense task of "restoring the relations of the human family in truth, justice, love and freedom," and it was because of his awareness of present-day needs that he convoked the Second Vatican Oecumenical Council. As Pope John's Easter Encyclical rang round the world, no one outside the Vatican was aware that his life was swiftly drawing to a close. For as long as his strength held out, he gave of himself unstintingly in his efforts to bring the human family together, and almost his last words were: "*Ut unum sint*".

The tributes that have poured in from people of all denominations and none, are eloquent of how much Pope John achieved. Among the most moving are those from the Jewish people who have suffered so greatly from man's inhumanity to man. The Chief Rabbi, Dr. Brodie, pays homage in these words: "The Jewish community of Great Britain joins in the general grief and mourning at the passing of Pope John. Beloved of God and his fellow men, his life was distinguished by his humility, wisdom and compassion, and he will be remembered for his work for peace and humanity."

That work will be carried on. The new Pope will be able "to draw on the tremendous treasury of progress, love and goodwill accumulated by his predecessor." Even as we sorrow, let us find comfort in the certainty that the light of love with which Pope John XXIII irradiated the Vatican will continue to shine on undimmed.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Australia. A unique monument in honour of a white man has been raised by aboriginals on Melville Island, not far from Darwin. It perpetuates the memory of Bishop Gzell, the "Bishop with a hundred and fifty wives." For fifty years, this remarkable man worked amongst the aboriginals of the Northern Territory. He quitted his native Alsace-Lorraine for Australia when Queen Victoria was on the throne, and on Bathurst Island, the young missionary acquired his "spouses" by going through the tribal marriage ceremony with very young girls in order to save them from the slavery of marriage to the tribal elders. Later, these girls wedded the men of their choice in his mission church. Bishop Gzell who was named first Bishop of Darwin in 1938 died in 1960 at the age of eighty-seven.

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We learn with pleasure from the April issue of *Dawn* that during the Fourth National Pay Week a victory was hailed in New South Wales when the women who came under the Female Rates Act (1958) were given parity with men and were accorded the full 100 per cent of the male basic wages on January 1st of this year. The outlook for women in Tasmania has also assumed a far more hopeful aspect, and Tasmania may well be the second Equal Pay State in Australia. Small gains are also reported from other States, mainly in increased margins for women workers.

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Ceylon. Mrs. Lorance Sendratne has been appointed Ambassador to Ghana. Mrs. Sendratne was president of the Arts Council of Ceylon and founder of the Institute of Singhalese Culture; she also did pioneer work in agriculture.

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Egypt. The dancing girls of Egypt staged a revolt in March. "We are artists expounding an ancient art," they told the Inspector General. "We wish to be decently clothed, for we are not shameless women hired to awaken the beast in men. Unless you give us an official air of respectability, we shall strike on June 1st." The authorities let night club patrons, including British and American tourists hold a plebiscite on March 21st; 92 per cent of the "locals" and 97 per cent of the tourists voted for uncovered legs, but the girls refused to accept the verdict, and finding that they were adamant, the Inspector General was forced to agree to their demands. The exponents of the *danse du ventre* have indeed stressed the degradation of the strippers of Soho.

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Finland. In the absence of the holder of the portfolio and of the Prime Minister, the President appointed Miss Kylliki Pohjala, Minister of Social Affairs, to act as Foreign Minister.

France. In the Organ of the *Conseil National des Femmes Françaises*, Mme. Lefaucheux, president of the Council records "two little satisfactions" she obtained from the subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination which she attended in January on behalf of the Status of Women Commission:

"With regard to a text on 'the right of every person to leave a country and to return to it,' I succeeded in adding *marital status* to the existing causes for discrimination which must be eliminated; this will tend to suppress the necessity of the joint conjugal authority for the issue of a passport. The experts recognised that each of the two parents should have equal rights to permit their children to cross frontiers.

Another report dealt with 'the position of persons born out of wedlock'; this study is only in its preliminary stage, and I asked that the questionnaires addressed to Governments should draw attention to the legal effects of the recognition of a child, either by the father, or by the mother."

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Israel. The discovery by Professor Yadin of the Hebrew University of twenty-one skeletons in the Judean Desert Caves is the subject of a most interesting article in the *Israel Digest*, (Volume VI, No. 4). These men, women and children died of starvation while resisting the Romans during the period when the Mishna (on which the Talmud is based) was being compiled. Professor Yadin's find has shed a fascinating light on these early times. The jewellery that adorned the female skeletons proved that during their lifetime the women had been wealthy, and balls of wool and weaving equipment puzzled the Professor until he recalled that the Mishna enjoins that "even if a woman has a hundred servant-maids, she must weave wool since idleness leads to immorality." The clothing, in a good state of preservation because of the dry climate, showed on analysis that the injunction against mixing wool with flax had been strictly observed. It was similar in style for both men and women, but whereas the garments of the former were yellow or white, those of the latter were of various colours. This again was in accordance with the biblical law which differentiated the sexes by laying down that "a woman shall not wear white clothing, neither shall a man wear coloured clothing."

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Mrs. Agda Rössel has been appointed Ambassador to the Federal German Republic. Mrs. Rössel has been a member of the Status of Women Commission and, more recently, representative of the Swedish Permanent Delegation to the United Nations.

Notes and Comments

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

On May 30th, the feast day of our Patron, St. Joan, I want all our members and friends to know that I am thinking of them and wishing them every success in their work.

This work is vital. Our generous and hospitable German friends have arranged a very attractive programme for our twentieth Council Meeting to be held in September in Freiburg, but we must bear in mind first and foremost certain extremely important items on the agenda. Despite notable victories that have been won, it would be unwise to draw the conclusion that all is right throughout the world for women. Our Alliance has not yet fully accomplished its mission. Not only is it incumbent on us to give the maximum help to women in new independent States, we must also make every effort to ensure that we keep those positions which we have attained. Furthermore, can any of us sincerely affirm that in the particular country of our origin the ideal of equality has truly been reached?

I believe that for many years to come we must do all in our power to further the excellent work of the Status of Women Commission. Moreover, as Catholic women, we have, in addition to these general problems, a specific task, one that circumstances have already put clearly before us. The Oecumenical Council affords all Christians a wonderful opportunity to express their views; we find ourselves confronted with a question of the utmost gravity which has recently come to the fore, and we must pray that St. Joan's Alliance may find the right answer.

I look forward to meeting large delegations from the various countries at the Council Meeting in Freiburg.

Magdeleine Leroy-Boy.

On St. Joan's Day, May 30th, the Reverend Philip Mclair, C.P., kindly offered Mass for the intentions of the Alliance.

Members attended the six o'clock evening Mass at Westminster Cathedral, after which in accordance with tradition, a laurel wreath, tied in our colours of blue, white and gold, was laid on St. Joan's shrine.

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U.S.A. The United States Fifth Army decided not to allow members of the Women's Army Corps to compete in the physical fitness competition held at Kansas. The reason? "It would be most embarrassing for the men if the women were to beat them!"

On May 25th, a party was held at 22 Aubrey Walk, W.8, to enable our member, Miss Hester Hoad, of Perth, Western Australia, who was on a brief visit to this country, to meet members of the Alliance. Miss Challoner welcomed Miss Hoad and paid tribute to the work of St. Joan's in Australia, and in reply, Miss Hoad said how delighted she was to have had the opportunity of making the acquaintance of so many members of the Alliance. The editor of *The Catholic Citizen* in whose house the party was held sincerely hoped that all who came enjoyed the evening as much as she did, and takes this opportunity of assuring Miss Hoad that she will always be warmly remembered by the Alliance.

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We offer a warm welcome to the *Quarterly Newsletter* produced by the British Commonwealth League with whose activities St. Joan's Alliance has long been happy to co-operate. The B.C.L. is always to the fore in promoting the status of women, and its hospitality to men and women from all parts of the Commonwealth serves as a strong link between members, the family of nations that forms the Commonwealth.

The annual conference of the B.C.L. will take place this year on Wednesday and Thursday, July 3rd and 4th, at Marlborough House (formerly the residence of Queen Mary) which the *Newsletter* describes as now a "Home for Commonwealth Affairs". The B.C.L. is honoured to be "the first outside body to hold a conference there." The subject will be Public Relations within the Commonwealth; how to achieve mutual understanding.

Miss Challoner and Miss Brandt will represent the Alliance at the Conference.

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At the recent dinner of the Fisher Society in Cambridge, a speaker said that Fisher House "fulfills all the requirements of a Catholic University chaplaincy admirably."

There is, however, a glaring exception; while the University is open to Catholic men and women the latter are excluded from the Catholic chaplaincy.

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We ask for the prayers of our readers for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Gertrude Donovan of whose death in Cardiff on December 27th we have only just learned.

Ill as she was last year, she sent us, as was her unflinching custom, a beautiful box of goods for our annual sale. R.I.P.

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

BRITISH SECTION OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

AND

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

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African Women and Employment

The First African Regional Conference of the International Labour Organisation met in Lagos in December, 1960, and set up an African Advisory Committee to deal with the problems encountered by a largely independent and fast-developing Africa. The Committee consisted of representatives from twenty governments in Africa, ten representatives from employers and ten from workers. Observers were sent from the United Nations and the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa. The Conference adopted a resolution on the subject of "Living and Working Conditions of Women and Young Workers in Africa", and the Governing Body was invited to bring the problems raised to the particular notice of the panels of consultants specialising in this field.

In April, 1962, the Committee met at Tananarive, and considered the living and working conditions of women in Africa. Very properly, the Governing Body at its meeting in June, 1961 had narrowed the subject down, since the needs of women workers are not in the same category as those of young people. As a basis for discussion, the I.L.O. had prepared a comprehensive study of the social and economic background of African women which varies according to the country, and within each country is markedly divergent in rural and urban areas. The three main factors which affect the work of the African women are as follows:

(a) All African women expect and are expected to marry and have children. Even the most sophisticated women still tend to marry young while those who are less so, marry in their early teens. Thus the majority of African women workers are wives and mothers, and suitable conditions must therefore be arranged for them.

(b) With a few rare exceptions, African women wish to work; again, they expect and are expected to do so. The modernisation of Africa calls for new

skills which they do not possess and which they have little or no chance of acquiring.

(c) It is traditional in Africa for a wife to obtain the money needed to feed and educate her children by cultivating the family plot. The growth of urbanisation, however, has led to the disappearance of many of these plots, and this results in women losing their hitherto high status as independent breadwinners. The idea of women working for wages under the orders of an employer (frequently a man) is still repugnant to large sectors of public opinion which holds fast to the tradition that they should remain definitely under the control of their menfolk—i.e., usually their husbands.

The general conclusions reached by the Committee can be summarised as follows:

(1) There should be a sustained campaign to persuade employers to engage women workers, and a planned development of further opportunities for women to work on their own account—i.e., cottage and handicraft industries.

(2) Educational facilities should be expanded to give girls a better schooling in order to give them equal opportunities with boys. The parents of a girl, as well as the girl herself, should be made to realise the part that education and work can play in her future life.

(3) An employment information service and vocational guidance centres should be set up for women and girls.

(4) Vocational training for girls should be expanded—from training in domestic service, cottage industries, etc., for those with the least schooling to the highest technical and professional training.

(5) Protective legislation for the safety, health and welfare of women workers should be made without endangering their opportunities of employment, e.g., by imposing appreciable welfare charges on the employers. Employers should be prohibited

ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL

The Twentieth Council Meeting of St. Joan's International Alliance will be held, by kind invitation of the German Section, at Freiburg from September 5th-8th. The Council Meeting is open to all members of the Alliance.

Our German hostesses have arranged accommodation at the Albertus-Magnus-Burse at a cost of twelve marks per day for board and lodging. The conference fee will be £1. Members must make their own travel arrangements and from England, they can either go by boat and train via the Hook of Holland or Ostend, or by air—the nearest airports are Frankfurt and Basle.

A most attractive programme has been arranged for us. On Friday, September 5th, we shall be taken to the Schauinsland for lunch where we shall have a magnificent view of the Rhine Valley and the Black Forest. In the afternoon, a reception is being held for us at the foremost Catholic publishing house in Germany, the house of Herder. Saturday and Sunday will be working days, but it is hoped that there will be time for a conducted visit to the Cathedral, said to have the finest tower in Christendom, also for some recreation in the evenings.

Will those members who wish to attend the Council Meeting please notify the honorary secretary, St. Joan's International Alliance, 36^A Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford Street, London, W.1, at the earliest possible date.

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It was a very great pleasure to see our International President Mme. Leroy last month during her brief visit to this country. Work with her in the office was stimulating and inspiring and the committee members who entertained her at dinner at the Service Women's Club enjoyed a very happy evening.

We hope many members will meet the President again as well as other international members at Freiburg in September. Our best wishes go with her in her many activities, from all of which women in general, and St. Joan's in particular benefit.

GARDEN PARTY

A Bring and Buy Sale for *The Catholic Citizen* will be held by kind permission of Mrs. Bentley, at 18 Ashley Drive, Walton-on-Thames, on Saturday, June 29th, from 3-6 p.m. Mrs. Bentley has a most delightful garden, so let us hope the sun will decide to shine, and that we shall be able to enjoy an open-air tea in that charming setting.

The train fare from Waterloo is 6s. 8d. return. Those who prefer to go by bus can travel by Green Line Chertsey or Guildford coach 716 or 717, which stops at Golders Green, Baker Street, Hyde Park Corner and Kensington High Street—alight at The Crown, Church Street, Walton-on-Thames.

B.C.

from dismissing women workers for pregnancy, nursing breaks, etc. Such laws should be strictly enforced.

(6) Governments should be urged to encourage the application of "equal pay for equal work".

(7) Women workers should be allowed to join the trade unions and to hold the highest posts in these unions if they have the necessary qualifications.

(8) Special measures should be taken to help self-employed women by forming co-operatives and expanding community services. Many more day nurseries, hostels, etc., should be provided to enable women to devote their energies to a fuller participation in the developing cultural life of their country.

(9) The I.L.O. should help by organising inter-regional seminars and workshops for women, by making surveys of their changing needs and problems, by encouraging governments to include qualified women amongst the candidates they put forward for study abroad and fellowships of other kinds, by devising projects to improve their lot, and by co-operating with other international agencies for the general advancement of the women of Africa.

Finally the Committee recommended that the question of the Employment and Conditions of Work of African Women should be put on the agenda of the Second Africa Regional Conference which should be convened as early as possible in 1964.

Mun Wah Bentley.

French Government officials are pressing for the elimination of certain events for women in the Olympic Games, and their objections will be discussed next year by a special committee organised by the Eighteen Nation Sports Committee of the Council of Europe. The French contend that certain events, amongst them canoeing and fencing, which call for "inappropriate exercises during puberty and maternity" could lead to grave disorders. They also object to sports which, in their opinion, are "ungraceful and likely to lead to deformity", and for aesthetic reasons, consider that bicycle races and weight-lifting should not take place in public! *The Times* athletic correspondent points out, there has never been any mass of evidence of sport affecting women adversely—indeed, one woman medallist competed in the Olympic Games in the sixth month of her pregnancy, and neither she nor her child suffered the slightest harm. The writer goes on to make the point that instead of taking this retrogressive step, French Government officials should try to raise the present low standard of women's sport in their country.

The Month in Parliament

Matrimonial Causes and Reconciliation

Mr. Abse, reluctantly and "with a heavy heart", withdrew from his Bill the clause by which a couple who had been separated for at least seven years would have been able, with certain safeguards, to obtain a divorce by consent. Mr. Abse referred to the statement in *The Times* that for the first time in history all denominations had come together on a doctrinal pronouncement in opposition to this one clause of an otherwise highly commended Bill.

Miss Vickers complimented Mr. Abse on his courage and expressed the opinion that later on with a changing public opinion he would be able to obtain all that he had asked for.

Both supporters and opposers of the clause seemed to be falling over each other in their protestations of admiration for the sincerity and good intentions of their opponents, with the exception of Mr. Michael Foot who made remarks about "hypocrisy", aimed at those who opposed the clause.

Mr. Abse received many congratulations on the very skilful presentation of his case. The Solicitor-General, in summing up said, "The Bill amends the law on condonation, deals with relief notwithstanding temporary cohabitation with a view to reconciliation, and amends the law on collusion. There is a clause dealing with maintenance and alimony and with attempts to defeat claims for financial relief. Any honorary Member who has piloted such a measure through the House must be grateful for that fact. I add my congratulations to those extended to the hon. gentleman." (May 3rd).

Turnstiles

A resolution that Parliament should provide money for the repayment of Local Authorities incurring expenses through removal of turnstiles in public lavatories as now required by law, was considered in Committee and the Queen's recommendation was signified. (May 6th).

Harmful Drugs and N.H.S. Staff and Student Shortages

The Cohen Report on the control of dangerous drugs recommends the setting up of an expert body to which drug manufacturers may, but will not be required by law, to submit new drugs for assessment of tests for safety. The Minority Report prepared by two members, one of whom was Sir Hugh Linstead, the secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society, objected that a voluntary scheme would not prevent the more unscrupulous firms from making profits on the sale of drugs while the more responsible were awaiting the results of tests.

This matter was debated in the Supply Committee for the National Health Service. In the

same debate Mr. Wilkins referred to a very recent report on the acute shortage of nursing staff in the maternity service. He had, on making enquiries, found nurses at the point of exhaustion due to the intake of emergency cases and the freezing of staff appointments because of limited financial allocation. Mr. J. Boyden complained of the shortage of accommodation and of places in the medical schools. "It takes a superwoman to get into medical school," he said. (May 8th).

Finance Bill

The Opposition tried unsuccessfully to add amendments to the Finance Bill, raising the amount of Income Tax relief in respect of a housekeeper to a widow or widower, claimants depending on the services of a daughter, and widows and others in respect of children. Dame Irene Ward, who, in the words of Mr. du Cane, "wanted to recast the whole structure in relation to certain of these allowances," renewed her plea, made last year, to take the money now used to help people rich enough to employ a housekeeper, and give it to widowed mothers who not only have to play the part of both father and mother but are subject to the earnings rule as well. (May 15th).

Teachers' Pay

The Remuneration of Teachers Bill was recommended to consider an amendment by Mr. Willey by which the basic scale would be no less than £650 as recommended by the Burnham Committee. Sir E. Boyle defended the reduction to £630 on the grounds that nine out of ten male entrants were graduates and would receive extra increments for this and that three-quarters of the new teachers were women who would benefit from the introduction of Equal Pay. Mrs. Eirene White said that this was hardly an appropriate argument as the reason given by Mr. R. A. Butler for the Government's rejection of the Equal Pay clause in 1944 was that its acceptance would have interfered unduly in the affairs of the Burnham Committee, and in any case the rate for the job was a matter of simple justice. (May 27th).

Home Department

In answer to an oral question Mr. Brooke told the House that in the Metropolitan district July, 1962, and May, 1963, 154 persons were convicted of living on immoral earnings. Sixty-eight of these came from Commonwealth countries and eighteen from the Irish republic. Of these eighty-six, fifty-eight were not liable for deportation as they had been resident in the United Kingdom for at least five years. Mr. Brooke added later, "These are grave crimes, but the penalty of deportation is not the only one which the courts can consider. It is open to the courts to impose very severe sentences." (May 30th).

Maternal Deaths

There were 928 deaths from childbirth in the years 1958-1960. In giving these figures Mr. Braine said that 315 of these deaths could be regarded as avoidable, and at least eighty, because of unwise arrangements for the confinement. He added that the mortality continues to fall and that there was no evidence to suggest that the avoidable factor was due to a failure to book a hospital place. This arose from a shortage of maternity beds. (May 13th).

House of Lords Reform

The Peerage Bill was given its First Reading on May 30th. Besides permitting hereditary peers to disclaim their titles, it enables peeresses in their own right, for the first time, to sit in the House of Lords. The Bill is sponsored by the Government. Parliament adjourned for the Whitsun recess until June 17th.

C. M. Cheke.

REVIEWS

Uganda, Terre de Martyrs. By Soeur Marie-André du Sacré-Coeur. (Casterman.)

June 3rd is the feast of the Blessed Martyrs of Uganda who gave their lives for their faith in 1886. The final stage of their canonisation is eagerly awaited by all who love Africa.

The story of the first coming of missionaries to Uganda, of the avidity for truth of so many of its people, their steadfastness under the long drawn-out threat of death if they continued "praying", and their joyful acceptance of imprisonment, suffering and death by burning, is given by Soeur Marie-André from precise documentation, illuminated by her skill as a writer and her love for the Africa she knows so well.

As Daniel-Rops writes in the preface to the book, no one is better qualified to write of these martyrs than Soeur Marie-André. History, as she writes it, is truly "the living resurrection of the past." She brings to life the young men and pages of the King's household who, by their refusal to pander to his vices, aroused his fury and signed their own death warrants; all those Christians, Catholic or non-Catholic, who stood steadfast were burnt at the stake. May their ashes co-mingled in common witness to Christian purity be a lasting example to us, and may the prayers of those martyrs help young men and women in the world today.

P.C.C.

The Curé d'Ars. A Pictorial Biography. (Burns Oates, 15s.)

This exquisite book was published in France in 1939 for the centenary of the Curé d'Ars. The

Archbishop of Lyons has contributed a brief preface, and the text by the Bishop of Belley (admirably translated by Ruth Mary Bethell) which shows us the saint through the eyes of his contemporaries is a miniature literary masterpiece.

There are one hundred and four beautiful photographs and reproductions of engravings, illustrating every stage in the life of Jean-Marie Vianney, from the solidly-built and solidly furnished farmhouse where as a child he knelt on the flagstones to pray, the fields where he guarded the sheep and tended the vines, the tomb of St. Francis Regis in the little town of Louvesc to which, as a seminarian, he made a pilgrimage to pray for "enough Latin to do my theology", to the Ars Basilica where, on April 23rd, 1928, Pope Pius XI proclaimed the Curé of Ars the "celestial patron of all the parish priests of Rome and the Catholic World."

It is impossible in so short a space to give an adequate idea of the quality of this book. Fifteen shillings is little to pay for an oasis of beauty that provides spiritual peace from the relentless pressures of our day.

P.D.C.

Woman—Fancy or Free? By Nan Berger and Joan Maizels. (Mills & Boon, 12s. 6d.)

What is the status of women in Britain today? There seems to be a general assumption, write the co-authors of this book, that they have "never had it so good as they they now have it." The freedom they enjoy, politically, economically and sexually, is thought to make women of other countries, particularly of backward countries, "positively sick with envy." But, as Nan Berger and Joan Maizels proceed to show us, the position is not nearly so impressive as it looks. The figures they give are significant. While eight million women in Britain are now in paid employment and one in three of those who work for a living are women, the proportion of women in employment today is not much higher than it was fifty years ago. The largest single occupational group in which most women work is still that of personal service—there are far less servants than in the past, but far more waitresses, office cleaners, hairdressers and charwomen. Certain professions have expanded rapidly, and in these men are outnumbered—women predominate in the welfare services, for instance, and in the ancillary health services. In the professional and technical occupations, however, the ratio of women to men has decreased; for example, there are only twenty women doctors to every hundred male doctors, only seven women dentists to every hundred men dentists, and only three women lawyers in every hundred male lawyers.

Why are women not taking advantage of all that is offered to them today? It would seem that the image presented to them by women's magazines

is largely to blame, furthermore it may be that women do not take advantage of their full equality because they are deterred by the popular conception of the "masculine" woman who asserts her independence. Moreover being one hundred per cent woman appears to pay off while struggling to be an independent one does not. The problem is how to make girls appreciate the freedoms that the women of the past won for them at so great a cost. Nan Berger put co-education high on the list, while Joan Maizels believes that parity of education is a separate concept from that of co-education. Parity, she says, implies equality of opportunity and is directly relevant to the status of women.

Although this book is written in a rather too bright and chatty journalistic style, it provides a good deal of food for thought, and the fact that its authors advance opposing suggestions for raising the status of women in this country to its true level is a proof of the complexity of the problem.

P.D.C.

THE RED CROSS CENTENARY ALBUM (World Health Organisation)

With this beautifully illustrated album, WHO pays homage to the great institution that sprang from the mind of the young Swiss industrialist, Jean Henri Dunant, horror-stricken by the fearful scenes he witnessed in Castiglione in June, 1859, after the Battle of Solferino. On his return to Geneva, Dunant determined to move heaven and earth in order to create an international society to succour wounded soldiers; on February 17th, 1863, the "Permanent Society for Aid to Wounded Soldiers" was set up, and so the Red Cross came into existence. The Album traces the development of this noble enterprise which has done so much to alleviate untold human suffering.

P.D.C.

DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN

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