

WOMEN'S SERVICE  
FILE COPY  
TAKEN AWAY

# 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. XXV, No. 2.

15th FEBRUARY, 1939.

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.

## The Indians of Brazil\*

It was a woman, Queen Isabella of Castille, who first concerned herself with the unfortunate condition of the conquered natives of the New World. "When the fleet arrived in Seville, orders were sent from the 'Cortes' to sell the Indians as slaves but Isabella's pious heart caused this order to be revoked and the Indians to be sent back to San Domingos. Further instructions were sent that they should be treated lovingly and not enslaved."

—*Review of the Historical Institute of Brazil.*

At the beginning of the Portuguese Colonial domination in Brazil, the Jesuit Missionaries, such men as Anchieta and Nobrega, succeeded in their friendly advances towards the Indians, and by gentle persuasion tried to put an end to the barbarous practice of human sacrifice. It was the custom to sacrifice the warrior conquered in battle. The victim submitted to his fate without protest, but the practice was in any case dying out and the European invasion proved its final end.

In the settlements started by these Missionaries, Indians were employed in the construction of churches and other beautiful buildings, and these remain to-day in the inland towns of Brazil.

Unfortunately the colonists were to a large extent composed of the refuse of Portuguese subjects and the gentle methods of Anchieta and his followers were not generally followed. So the conflict of race with race began. The Indians were attacked on the ground of being treacherous and dangerous and were cruelly pursued like wild animals. Naturally this pro-

voked revenge which did not improve the situation. Ultimately these unfortunate peoples were driven towards the inland and north where they sought refuge in the deep forests and mountains. With the introduction of black slaves into Brazil they were totally neglected.

However, at last in 1823 José Bonifacio, the Patriarch of Brazilian Independence called the attention of the new Government to the unhappy condition of the Indians. He proposed that their right to the land on which they had settled should be recognised; that trade should be extended to them even at some disadvantage to the white people; that marriages between Indians and white people or "mulattos" should be encouraged; and that patience, perseverance and peaceable methods should be employed by white people in their dealings with the Indians.

In 1831 a law was passed declaring the Indians to be a free people. But in spite of these isolated efforts, up to the end of the Imperial Régime (1889) and during the first three decades of the Republic, the native tribes still suffered considerable persecution.

During this time the Missionaries continued their teaching and civilising work, but no sooner did the poor Indians mix with so-called civilised people than they were readily exploited. The men were induced to work for shamefully low wages, which by a system of "advancement" kept them in continual debt and reduced them to a state of slavery. Prostitution of the women was thought nothing of and children were brought up as the slaves of the white people.

At the beginning of the twentieth century things began to change. Under the leadership

\* Compiled from information obtained from reliable sources by M. H. Lisboa, Hon. Secretary of Aliança Santa Joanna D'Arc, 69, Praça Pasteur, Petropolis, Estado do Rio, Brazil.



of Major Candido Rondon a group of people conducted a nation-wide campaign which aroused popular sympathy in favour of the Indians. In 1910 a statute for the protection of the Indians was promulgated, and a special State "Service for the Protection of Indians" was created. The aim of this department as promulgated in the statute is: "To protect the Indians of Brazil, their lives, their liberty and their property, to defend them against extermination, oppression and exploitation, to assist them in their needs . . ." And a whole series of articles supporting this aim form the rest of the statute. One article provides for education which "will aim at (the Indian's) incorporation in the Brazilian nation as citizens."

In the course of its work during the last thirty years the S.P.I. has found that the Indians wish to trade with civilised peoples in order to provide themselves with various implements, cutlery, matches, beads and other things which cannot be produced by means of primitive industry. The Indians are not treacherous, as was supposed, only extremely suspicious and this is hardly to be wondered at considering that in the past they have been shown more hatred than love by the white peoples.

In their native state the Indians hold all property as tribal property. They are courteous to those outside the tribe. It is the custom for the men of the tribe to give something in exchange for whatever is received, and if a boy does not willingly comply with such a course his mother will force him to do so. Polygamy is sometimes practiced by a chief but there are strict matrimonial laws which forbid marriage within certain degrees of consanguinity, and stealing of their women or girls by outsiders is deeply resented. The Indians are devoted to their children. They live in groups of about 50 or 60 individuals under a chief who takes the name of an animal. These groups will sometimes fight one another on account of small grievances or jealousies common among primitive folk. Occasionally they will exchange a number of women for an equal number from another tribe in order to obtain fresh blood. All hostilities are then set aside and ceremonies of rejoicing take place. In some tribes the older men will claim all the young women as their wives leaving the old women to the young men, and any infidelity on the part of the young people will not be very severely repressed.

Some interesting facts have been recorded

which throw light on the Indian woman's social influence in tribal life. A scientific commission once wished to make astronomical observations in the neighbourhood of a "maloca." When he understood what was desired the chief summoned all the women of the tribe who held a sort of council among themselves. This ended, the chief came forward and announced that the observations could proceed. Another time it was observed that certain men having transgressed in some way the traditions of the tribe, their wives, sitting on mats lamented in song and with tears their misconduct and the curse that might fall on the tribe. The ceremony was attended by the male folk old and young.

The statute of the "Service for the Protection of Indians" contains the following article: "No sort of violence will be allowed even when hostilities start from the Indian side. The motto of the Service: 'To die if necessary, to kill, never' must be religiously observed." And then a note is added: "Indians should always be shown that Brazilian civilisation is generous, efficient and aims at a high standard, that science and modern industry are not destined to be used against undefended peoples still at a primitive stage, but for their benefit, that their desire to partake in the general progress of the country may be awakened."

Many Indians have been incorporated satisfactorily into the national life, working with the white people and benefiting equally with them in any progressive legislation. Marriages of these Indians are registered just like other marriages. Whites, blacks, and Indians are in fact equal before the law of Brazil, and have been so since the abolition of slavery in 1888.

#### LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Miss Bowden, 22 Fern Grove, Liverpool, 8.

The Annual Meeting of the Branch will be held on February 20th, 8-45 p.m., by kind permission of Mrs. McCann at 20 Croxteth Road.

At two meetings of the new Local Government Association (to secure the return of a larger number of women to the Liverpool City Council and other public bodies) a good number of St. Joan's members were present and contributed to the discussion of the various points raised. A public meeting of the Association is to be held at the end of February at Blue Coat Chambers, when many distinguished persons will speak.

Prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Mrs. McNeish, mother of our member Miss McNeish, who died recently. R.I.P.

## Notes and Comments

The death of the Holy Father Pope Pius XIth has caused universal grief. His motto the Peace of Christ in the Reign of Christ was truly realised in his life and his unceasing efforts for the peace of the world and the fact that he offered his life for that peace will be increasingly remembered and appreciated. He was rightly known as the Pope of the Missions since during his reign the Missions have made phenomenal progress and since he gave immense impetus to the principle of a native priesthood and sisterhood for every mission country. He will be remembered by Catholic feminists who have cause to remember with special gratitude the instruction from the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda (1936) urging that nuns should be trained as doctors and maternity nurses in new religious institutes for maternity and health services in mission countries and elsewhere, and that existing orders of nuns should establish special branches for these medical services. His mobilisation of Catholic men and women of all countries in Catholic Action (i.e., the participation of the laity in the Hierarchical Apostolate of the Church) was an outstanding feature of his reign and a landmark in the life of the Church.—R.I.P.

We remind members that the 28th Annual Meeting of St. Joan's S.P.A. will take place on Saturday, March 25th, at 3-30 p.m. at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square. We hope to have special contingents from the Liverpool and Oldham Branches and we trust that every member in London, in the suburbs, and even further afield will make a special effort to attend. Mrs. Laughton Mathews, M.B.E., will preside and speakers will include Miss Dorothea Borton, Miss Annie Christitch, Miss Katharine Davis, Miss Agatha Green, Miss Mannion and Miss Sylvia Terry, also Mrs. Benjamin and Miss Foley.

Tea will be obtainable during the meeting.

We rejoice to learn from the Annual Report (1938) of the Oxford and Cambridge Catholic Education Board that Catholic women students have at last gained a firm footing in the considerations of that body. This year, for the first time, lists of the Catholic women

undergraduates are included in the Report. It is true that in parts of the Report (e.g. p. 11) it is still as though Catholic women students were not—but given time we feel sure that this position will be rectified. The following encouraging paragraph shows that a beginning is being made to provide for their spiritual needs.

*The Women Students.* The Board has given much time and consideration during the past year to the difficult question of the spiritual provision for the Catholic women students at Oxford and Cambridge. We are happy to be able to announce a temporary solution of the problem at both Universities. At Oxford, where the Board has received valuable assistance from a committee of senior Catholic women, Monsignor Knox and Father M. C. D'Arcy, S.J., have been appointed spiritual advisers to the women students and conferences are to be given regularly at Cherwell Edge. At Cambridge, Father Adrian English, O.P., and the Canonesses of St. Augustine are co-operating in promoting the spiritual welfare of the few Catholic members of Girton and Newnham Colleges. (Since this was written we have learnt with great regret of the death of Father English. R.I.P.)

We feel confident that in the near future satisfactory and permanent provision will be made for the spiritual needs of the Catholic women undergraduates.

\* \* \* \*

In the Approved Schools every activity both of work and leisure has for its purpose to fit boys for living . . . Under the direction of a dormitory maid they learn to make their own beds in the morning and clean the house, guided by a sempstress they learn to darn their own stockings, sew on their own buttons and mend their clothes . . . Under qualified cooks, boys learn to prepare and cook simple meals, to understand the working of kitchen ovens and boilers; under a dining-room attendant to lay tables and clear up competently after meals. Practical training of this sort is desirable for every youth, but it is fundamental for Approved School boys . . . *Brother Finn Barr on Catholic Delinquent Boys in the Sower.*

It is refreshing to find Brother Finn Barr taking for granted that, to be fit for living, boys should be able to do household tasks and that "practical training" in these "is desirable for every youth." If everyone assumed this there would be fewer over-worked housewives!

\* \* \* \*

We congratulate our members Mr. and Mrs. Kettle of Uganda on the birth of a daughter, Margaret Marise, on January 6th.

Congratulations to our member Miss Sylvia Terry who is the first Copying Typist in the Law Courts to be promoted to Third Class Clerk. She is a Vice President of the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries.

(Continued on page 17)



## 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.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

MRS. LAUGHTON MATHEWS, M.B.E., *Chairman.*

MISS BARRY, *Hon. Secretary.*

MISS PAULINE M. BRANDT.

MISS BARCLAY CARTER, Lic.-ès. L.

MISS P. C. CHALLONER, M.A.

MRS. GARRARD, *Hon. Treasurer.*

MISS GRAHAM.

MRS. HAND.

MISS JEFFERY.

MISS MONICA O'CONNOR

MISS J. ORGAN.

MISS NANCY STEWART PARNELI, B.A.

MRS. SHATTOCK, M.B., B.S.

MISS CHRISTINE SPENDER, *Hon. Editor.*

## Nurses in Demand

The interim Report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Nursing Services\* is just out and, unless it is pigeon-holed, will probably be looked back on as a land-mark in the much needed re-organisation of the nursing profession. Owing to the great development of the hospitals and national health services in recent years, the shortage of nursing recruits has been making itself felt acutely, and it seems that some pretty far-reaching reforms must be made to increase these recruits.

The Report recommends the raising of nurses' salaries by means of Salaries Committees analogous to the Burnham Committees in the teaching profession. To meet the added cost of this and of shortened hours (a 96 hour fortnight is recommended) "there should be established a system of grants from public funds to the voluntary hospitals." It is recommended that "pensions for nurses should as far as is possible be universal" and "that the salaries and pensions of nurses should be dealt with on a national basis."

The division of the Preliminary State Examination, so that girls from elementary and secondary schools may get the first instalment over before entering the nursing profession at the minimum age of 18 is a reform which would do much both to encourage the school-girl and to lighten the burden of the probationer in her first year of training. That this recommendation has not been put into practice years ago is an unsolved puzzle to the ordinary "woman in the street." The Test Examination introduced by the General Nursing Council seems to have defeated its own ends which makes the further recommendation eventually to substitute the first part of the Preliminary State Examination all the more valuable.

The 96 hour fortnight would probably

\* H.M.S. Stationery Office, 1s. 6d.

revolutionise conditions in some nursing institutions. The Report does not, however, recommend that the hours should be regulated by statute but states: "It is hardly necessary to say that the profession itself is resolutely opposed to having its hours of work regulated by statute." But five members of the Commission make a reservation on this statement and "are of opinion that only by legislation will it be possible to ensure that a 96 hour working fortnight becomes a reality in all hospitals at a reasonably early date." The Report finds that legislation would not allow for that elasticity which is essential in a profession which should put the needs of sufferers foremost and which has to allow for all kinds of emergency. But surely the law could provide for real needs as distinct from mere exploitation of the nurse?

Unfortunately most hospitals are distinguished by rigidity of regulation rather than any human elasticity. The Report has something to say on niggling rules and restrictions "affecting the nurse's life both in duty hours and when off duty" and their bad psychological effect and recommends that rules should be revised "in the light of modern conditions and the best psychological knowledge" and that a Nurses' Council should be established in every hospital in order "to promote the removal of grievances and causes of friction in an amicable manner and to give the nursing staff some voice in the administration of the hospital."

There are recommendations as to the increase in the numbers of orderlies and ward maids; the improvement of accommodation and catering and the provision of recreational facilities for the nursing staff; and two valuable recommendations, one as to the extension of the practice of employing married nurses ("Local authorities should be prepared to modify their rules regarding the employment

of married women accordingly") and the other as to the extension of the system of living out. There really has seemed no reason why nurses with comfortable homes of their own should not make use of these homes, where this is convenient, nor why married women should throw away all their valuable training so badly needed in the service of humanity.

There are various recommendations as to the place and status of the "Assistant Nurse" which, if put into practise should do much to help her and her clients.

"British nursing at its best is the admiration of the world," ends the Report, "and it is our sincere hope that the recommendations we have made will play their part in re-establishing in the eyes of the public the dignity of a noble profession, and in assisting nurses themselves to obtain those material rewards without which happiness, contentment and *esprit de corps* cannot truly exist."

CHRISTINE SPENDER.

## St. Joan's Alliance in Australia

*Hon. Secretary:* Miss Margaret Flynn, The Catholic Central Library, Collins Street, Melbourne.

In October a public meeting was held under the auspices of the Alliance and addressed by Father Lockington, S.J., who gave a lecture entitled "Mammon and the Multitude" to an appreciative audience. Miss Anna Brennan moved the vote of thanks.

At the November meeting regulations before the Western Australian Parliament with regard to the control of the Aborigines and the Missions were discussed, and the following resolutions were passed and sent to the Western Australian and Federal Governments.

(1) Believing that Christian Missionaries of all denominations have contributed largely to the welfare of Aborigines in this country, and believing also that the government of primitive peoples cannot be carried on successfully without the aid of Missions, St. Joan's Alliance supports the demand for a full enquiry into the charges brought against Missions in the Parliament of Western Australia recently, by the Chief Secretary, Mr. Kitson.

(2) St. Joan's Alliance begs the withdrawal of the newly framed regulations (134-139) which limit the activities of the Missions among the natives; and urges the recasting of all aboriginal regulations on lines compatible with the Aboriginal New Deal Policy of the Federal Government, as outlined by the Minister for the Interior, Mr. McEwen, M.H.R., in his recent statement to the press.

The regulations were, in substance, as follows:

No Mission for the evangelisation of the natives or for other kindred purpose shall be established with-

out the authority of the Minister. All Missionaries are to be licensed by the Minister upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Native Affairs. Licences may be revoked. No person is allowed to preach the Gospel to the natives without a licence. No person is allowed to educate the natives without a licence. For those who commit the offence the penalty is for the first offence, a fine up to £20, or imprisonment up to three months, or both; for the second offence, up to £50 or six months or both; for the third offence, up to £100 or 12 months or both. —*Government Gazette, April 29th.*

As far back as July the Alliance having examined the regulations wrote in protest to Mr. Kitson, Chief Secretary for Western Australia and Minister for Native Affairs.

When the regulations came before Parliament early in December four motions for disallowance of 54 of them were tabled, and one for complete withdrawal, although the regulations had been superficially amended in an attempt to conform with objections. In the course of the Debate for endorsement Mr. Kitson made a vitriolic attack on Missions and Missionaries whom he alleged were ill-treating the Aborigines. The motion for endorsement was defeated by a very large majority and a motion for the appointment of a Royal Commission to enquire into the charges made by Mr. Kitson was tabled.

In juxtaposition to this state of affairs in Western Australia, the Federal Minister for the Interior, Mr. McEwen has announced the establishment of a Native Affairs Branch of the Department of the Interior, headed by a Director of Native Affairs. The new aboriginal policy will embody most of the requests made from time to time by the Alliance. "One of the principal points of the new deal," says Mr. McEwen, "is the recognition by the authorities of the need for spiritual education . . . To this end the aid of Missions will be sought. Missions will be given a more definite status." There is no doubt that there can be no satisfactory solution of the problem of the aboriginal population until the whole question becomes a national one and the states are forced to co-operate in a national policy.

The November meeting of the Alliance was also noteworthy for the Travel Talk given by Mr. Tas Pickett who has recently returned from an extensive tour abroad. The Talk was illustrated by moving pictures taken during his tour. Mr. Pickett was present at the Budapest Eucharistic Congress and gave members a vivid account, including many delightful pictures of all the functions.

On November 26th a Bridge Party was held at Mrs. J. Horan's home, at which eighty members were present, and a very enjoyable evening was spent by all.



## Reviews

**A Life of Our Lord.** By Vincent McNabb, O.P. (Sheed & Ward, 6s.)

Father Vincent once showed us a "Path of Prayer," he now shows us a path through the Gospels. Nothing can touch the Gospel narrative and Fr. Vincent seems to say: "If you want to know the Life of Our Lord—read the Gospels—I can only show you *how* to read them, or rather one way of reading them." Therefore one has to know the Gospels fairly well before reading this book—it would not be of much use to give it to someone who had never read them or who had forgotten them. To one reader at least Father Vincent's study written with so great a love, reverence and humility has been a re-illumination of the Way just as years ago his "Path of Prayer" was a first revelation of the Light.

C. S.

**Irish Homespun: The Making of a Feminist—**

**The Farm by Lough Gur.** By Mary Carbery. (Catholic Book Club, 2s. 6d.)

In this true story of Irish farm life in the middle of the last century, the reader is transported to a world of legend, of faery, of the beauty of the Irish countryside, of the joys and sorrows of this family who lived on the shores of the Enchanted Lake.

Here is the common warp of life crossed by the weft of the golden thread of the Faith. The Church's festivals, the visits of piper and fiddler, the return of the wandering son from America, the departure of the third daughter for France and later for far-off Poland—these events made the weft which brought colour to the drab warp of country life in Co. Limerick.

This third daughter, Bessie—later, Mrs. Christitch, who became one of the pioneer members of St. Joan's Alliance—is one of the dominating personalities in the book. Her interest in politics started when she was quite a child. She was a true Irish rebel and made a hero of Charles Stewart Parnell. When the chance came for her to meet him in the flesh she "secretly agreed" with her sister "to genuflect as we do in Chapel." Needless to say, this intention was never carried out.

It was Bessie who was always filled with the spirit of adventure—"I wish I had been Christopher Columbus's daughter sailing with him in his old ship and striding on the deck with our swords rattling, and blunderbusses in our hands to shoot the crew—if necessary."

Bessie's rebel heart always ached for Ireland and she declared herself to be ready to die for it. Her impetuous soul was guided into the right channels by Uncle Richard who was a priest and who said on his deathbed: ". . . the glory and grandeur she covets for our dear country, the ease and pampering she desires for those who to-day are honest working men and women, would kill the soul of the nation . . . Who could bear to leave Ireland and go to Heaven? Who would quit her fine broad roads to take the narrow way of the Cross? Would not the Cross be forgotten and the words of Him Who died on it?"

Here breathes the true spirit of Ireland, valiant, single-hearted but withal rebellious. Here is a picture of a place where the prosaic facts of every day existence are shrouded in an Irish mist of enchantment.

KATHARINE DAVIS.

**What a Bride Should Know.** By Margaret Csaba. (Coldwell, 4s. 6d.)

Some of the medical information given in this volume is inaccurate all of it is heavily overladen with sentimentality and presented in a form unsuited for the instruction of a bride or any other rational human being. No sane person, for instance, believes that a first-born daughter is a sign of a lack of conjugal devotion on the part of the mother, or that a first-born son is a token of parental virtue. To devote pages to the study of sex-determination and chromosome division in order to refute this error, is an affront to biology and to common-sense. Dr. Csaba's goodwill and excellent intention is apparent but the method adopted precludes any intelligent participation on the part of the reader.

We doubt the wisdom of supplying the bride with a detailed if not always very accurate catalogue of venereal diseases and their chemical manifestations and we strongly deprecate a discussion on the probable nature of her friends' ailments. We also consider it unwise to study the reactions observed when a preserved human embryo of eight weeks is displayed to a number of young women, notwithstanding the fact that the guilty may reveal their bad conscience and the blameless express their concern in an adequate manner. A truly repugnant method of psychological investigation. It may be doubted whether the author interprets the mind of the Church when she extols the discovery of the "safe period," not merely as a permissible and tolerated method of spacing births (provided such a period of

## Books Received

**The State.** By Lewis Watt, S.J., B.Sc. (Econ.) (Catholic Social Guild, Oxford, 3d.)

**The Life and Martyrdom of Father Michael Pro, S.J.** By Mrs. George Norman (Catholic Book Club, 121 Charing Cross Road, 2s. 6d.)

**President's Memorandum: Regarding the Council Meeting of the International Council of Women.** Held at Edinburgh (Scotland), July 11th-21st, 1938.

This volume contains Addresses of Lady Aberdeen and Baroness Boël and the report of the activities of the I.C.W. since their Dubrovnik Council Meeting; the summarised reports of the Conveners of Standing Committees, as well as the names and addresses of the Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers of affiliated Councils of Women.

**The Foundations of International Order.** (Catholic Social Guild, 1s.)

Papers presented and conclusions adopted at the Catholic International Peace Conference at the Hague, August, 1938.

**The Spanish Arena.** By William Fosse & Cecil Gerahty (Catholic Book Club, 2s. 6d.)

**The Meaning of Lourdes.** By Dom Francis Izard, O.S.B., (Sands 5s.)

**Ireland's Loyalty to the Mass.** By Fr. Augustine, O.M. Cap. (Sands, 3s. 6d.)

**The Rich and the Poor.** A Biblical Anthology. (Coldwell, 1s.)

### OLDHAM BRANCH

*Hon. Secretary:* Miss Agnes Walshe, 33 Hillside Avenue, Clarksfield, Oldham.

We are very sorry to part with Miss Stella Mannion, founder and Hon. Secretary of the Branch who has left to take up a new appointment in Nottingham. Our best wishes go to her in her new post. Miss Agnes Walshe has kindly undertaken to be our Hon. Secretary.

A successful meeting was held on January 27th when members were urged to attend the 28th Annual Meeting of the Alliance in London on March 25th.

**Subscriptions to the Alliance and to the "Catholic Citizen" are now due. We beg all our members to send their subscriptions without delay, and thus save extra work and expense at the Office. Subscription to the "Catholic Citizen" 2s. 6d., minimum annual subscription to the Alliance 1s. At the same time we remind members that 1s. does not cover even the expense of sending notices, and we ask them to increase their subscriptions if possible.**

sterility can be recognised), but as a discovery allowing both parents "to prepare themselves body and soul for the great moment of creation."

In spite of the educational advantages enjoyed by Dr. Csaba she states she would prefer to see a girl marry rather than go in for higher education. Surely not incompatible avocations? Paid work undertaken by married women is similarly disparaged, although the evils of wasting time, day-dreaming and morbid speculations are duly pointed out and suitably castigated.

We expect something better from a medical woman who undertakes to instruct her sisters in the responsibilities of married life, especially when the instructor is able to draw strength from the great storehouse of wisdom and charity, from Catholic doctrine itself.

F. M. SHATTOCK, M.B., B.S.

**Catholics and the German Law of Sterilisation.**

By Letitia Fairfield, C.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law. Reprinted from **The Catholic Medical Guardian**. (C/o Burns, Oates & Washbourne, 1d.)

The information on which this report is based has been derived from published statements in the German press and from German documents placed at the disposal of the Catholic Medical Guild of St. Luke by the late Cardinal Bourne. The full implication of the German law, its inhumanity, and the brutality inherent in its execution are apparent. This is not a matter concerning experts only. Some of our fellow-citizens have striven to introduce laws legalising abortion, and the matter may be brought to our notice in the future. It is therefore necessary that Catholics should be fully aware of the plight of their co-religionists in countries where abortion has been legalised owing either to insufficient opposition or to overriding of all oppositions by autocratic governments.

F. M. SHATTOCK, M.B., B.S.

The 20th Annual Report of the **National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child** not only deals with the immense volume of work undertaken by the Council during the past year but is also a mine of information on every aspect of the problem of the unmarried mother and the illegitimate child. Mrs. Hand represents the Alliance on this Council. The Report may be obtained from Carnegie House, 117, Piccadilly, W.1.; price 4d.



### International Notes

**China.** A society for young women catechists has just been established in Chefoo. Candidates for admission must be aged between 15 and 25, and after passing an entrance examination, go through a period of probation lasting for at least three years before being definitely admitted. Once accepted, the mission undertakes to furnish them with the necessities of life till their death.

In town centres the Tertiary Oblates of St. Francis, a community of Chinese nuns affiliated with the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, have met with great success in catechetical work. In the villages, however, it is felt that young women catechists who are not bound by a religious rule will be better able to penetrate among the people.

**Hong Kong. Mui Tsai.** The new law embodying the recommendations of the Minority Report of the Mui Tsai Commission is now in force. All transferred girls must be registered and any persons having in their custody or control any girl whose legal guardianship is vested in the Secretariat for Chinese Affairs must register the girl in the manner prescribed by the regulations. Three additional Chinese women inspectors of Mui Tsai have been appointed and a European Woman Protector, Miss Harrop. The working of the new Ordinance is revealing an extensive trade in young girls for the purposes of prostitution. In one place alone, 17 girls who had been transferred from their parents' home were discovered by Miss Harrop and it was found that the girls were about to be shipped abroad, though this has been for a long time illegal. Under the new law the Protector was able to move and protect these girls because they had been transferred without registration.

The original four inspectors have paid a total of 1,808 visits to registered Mui Tsai and to those who used to be registered, and have in addition, regularly visited other girls under bond, and adopted daughters registered at the Secretariat for Chinese Affairs.

"A farmer who has already pledged his farm and has no other security to offer, may obtain a loan by entrusting a young daughter or a niece to the lender to act as his servant until the debt has been paid. Although this method of financing is illegal, one farmer volunteered to us the remark that he could always hand over four or five of his nieces when he needed capital. If a girl reaches marriageable age while in the lender's keeping and becomes his wife, or if he gives her in marriage to a relative, the loan is thereby extinguished.—From the Report

of the Commission on the Marketing of West African Cocoa (1938).

If "this method of financing" is illegal why are offenders not prosecuted? One infers from the Report that they are not.

**Marianhill, South Africa.** When a group of native women belonging to a new Congregation of Native Sisters, founded by Bishop A. Fleischer, Vicar Apostolic of Marianhill, took their first vows, the event drew a tribute from a non-Catholic British Government official.

Dr. C. T. Loran, member of the Native Affairs Commission and formerly chief inspector of native education in Natal, wrote to the bishop to express his personal appreciation of this step.

"Many of us know," he stated, "that there is no calling for which some Africans at least are not fit, but it is good to have this fact demonstrated to the world again and again. It is said that our South African natives are not fit for such callings as the Sisterhood which demand such a high degree of self-denial and discipline. I do not share that view at all, but am convinced that these black Sisters will show the same ability and devotion as those white Sisters with whom it was, and is my privilege to be associated in the great God-given task of native uplift."—*Interracial Review*.

At the fourteenth general congress of the Catholic African Union recently held at Mariannhill Mission, Durban, there were 109 native delegates, of whom 38 were women.

**Norway.** Miss Ellen Gleditsch has been appointed by the Council of the League of Nations one of the members of the International Committee on intellectual co-operation. Miss Gleditsch is the only woman on the Committee and has a distinguished record in her own country. She is Professor of Chemistry in the University of Oslo, a Nansen Prizewinner, the author of numerous scientific works and has been for some years President of the International Association of Women Graduates.

**Poland.** *La Polonaise* records the triumph of the Feminist Societies of Silesia in getting two laws militating against the equality of women finally abrogated. One law forbade married women to be employed in schools, the other dismissed women on marriage from State employment. To the new Polish "Diet" one woman (out of nine candidates) has been elected and to the Senate, three.

### NOTES AND COMMENTS—(Continued from page 11)

On her way back from Geneva to the U.S.A. Miss Dorothy Kenyon, Doctor of Law, member of the New York Bar and a member of the League of Nations Status of Women Committee was entertained to a public luncheon at St. Ermins Hotel on January 13th. The luncheon was arranged by the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations and Miss Saunders of the Worlds Y.W.C.A. presided. She delighted her audience by announcing that Miss Kenyon had just been appointed a Judge for one year. In a witty and concise speech Miss Kenyon gave an account of the work of the Status of Women Committee which had just finished one of its sessions in Geneva.

A reception is being arranged by women's organisations having headquarters in London in honour of Mrs. E. M. Lowe, J.P., who is to be the first chairman of the London County Council, and will take office from the beginning of March this year. The reception is arranged for Monday, April 17th, 8-30 p.m. to 10-30 at the Chiltern Court Restaurant, Baker Street, N.W.1. Mrs. Corbett Ashby is to preside. Presidents of all co-operating societies are asked to act as hostesses. Twenty-six societies, including St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance are supporting this reception. Tickets can be procured from the office, 3/6.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

December 1st to February 1st, but not including annual subscriptions to the *Catholic Citizen*.

|  | £  | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|----|
| Anton, Mrs. . . . . .                  | 2  | 6  |    |
| Atkinson, the Misses . . . . .         | 3  | 10 |    |
| Bacon, Mrs. . . . . .                  | 1  | 6  |    |
| Bain, Miss . . . . .                   | 5  | 0  | 0  |
| Barry, Miss M. . . . .                 | 2  | 6  | 0  |
| Beer, Mrs. . . . . .                   | 17 | 6  |    |
| Benjamin, Mrs. . . . . .               | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| Challoner, Miss . . . . .              | 2  | 6  |    |
| Christitch, Miss . . . . .             | 9  | 6  |    |
| Crosse, Miss . . . . .                 | 2  | 6  |    |
| Currie, Lady . . . . .                 | 2  | 6  |    |
| Dixon-Davies, Mrs. . . . . .           | 2  | 6  |    |
| Donnelly, Miss . . . . .               | 2  | 6  |    |
| Dorman, Miss A. L. P. . . . .          | 5  | 0  |    |
| Douglas Irvine, Miss H. . . . .        | 7  | 6  |    |
| Drummond, Mrs. . . . . .               | 1  | 6  |    |
| FitzGerald, Miss E. . . . .            | 1  | 15 | 0  |
| Fleming, Miss I. E. . . . .            | 5  | 0  |    |
| Gordon, Mrs. and Miss C. M. . . . .    | 10 | 0  |    |
| Graham, Miss . . . . .                 | 7  | 6  |    |
| Grant, Miss C. E. L. . . . .           | 2  | 6  |    |
| Hall, Very Rev. Mgr. Canon . . . . .   | 2  | 6  |    |
| Hamilton, Dr. A. . . . .               | 1  | 6  |    |
| Havers, Miss . . . . .                 | 2  | 6  |    |
| Hayden, Professor Mary . . . . .       | 2  | 0  |    |
| Hayes, Miss E. . . . .                 | 5  | 0  |    |
| Heath, Dr. Isabel . . . . .            | 2  | 6  |    |
| Hopkins, Miss . . . . .                | 2  | 6  |    |
| Hugo, Miss . . . . .                   | 2  | 0  |    |
| Jabloner, Miss . . . . .               | 1  | 6  |    |
| Jeffery, Miss . . . . .                | 10 | 0  |    |
| Kettle, Mr. and Mrs. . . . . .         | 3  | 0  |    |
| Lettley, Mrs. . . . . .                | 2  | 6  |    |
| Lynn, Miss . . . . .                   | 10 | 0  |    |
| Mardon, Miss . . . . .                 | 2  | 6  |    |
| Marston, Mrs. . . . . .                | 2  | 6  |    |
| Mathews, Mrs. Laughton . . . . .       | 10 | 0  |    |
| Musson, Miss A. J. . . . .             | 2  | 6  |    |
| O'Connor, Miss M. . . . .              | 2  | 6  |    |
| Passos, Miss de . . . . .              | 15 | 0  |    |
| Pearce, Miss . . . . .                 | 2  | 6  |    |
| Raynes, Miss V. . . . .                | 2  | 0  |    |
| Retchford, Miss . . . . .              | 5  | 0  |    |
| Robson, Mrs. and Miss Hope . . . . .   | 3  | 6  |    |
| Scott Hill, Mrs. . . . . .             | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| Shattock, Dr. . . . . .                | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| Somers, Miss . . . . .                 | 2  | 6  |    |
| Spender, Miss . . . . .                | 5  | 6  |    |
| Veale, Miss . . . . .                  | 7  | 6  |    |
| Wall, Miss . . . . .                   | 13 | 9  |    |
| Walshe, Miss . . . . .                 | 2  | 0  |    |
| Zaro, Mrs. de . . . . .                | 7  | 6  |    |
| Minimum Annual Subscriptions . . . . . | 18 | 0  |    |

Total £24 4 7

Be sure to read  
**MRS. BELLOC LOWNDES'**  
*great new novel*  
**THE INJURED LOVER**

Daily Mail says:  
 "Mrs. Lowndes has never in all her long experience shown greater skill."

**HUTCHINSON'S**

### BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE

**AN HOUR OF MUSIC** (Arranged by Miss M. Eveline Fincken, A.R.A.M.) will be given by JENNY SONENBERG (Contralto), ADOLPH HALLIS (Pianist), CHRISTINE BLACKADDER (Mezzo-Soprano)

On Thursday, February 23rd, at 3 p.m.

In the Small Porchester Hall, Porchester Rd., W 2  
 Tickets 3/6 each from the B. C. L., 17 Buckingham St., W. C. 2



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

NON-PARTY

Office—55, Berners St., Oxford St., London. W.1.  
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 WOMEN'S NEWS

The Monthly Organ of  
THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN  
FOR SUFFRAGE AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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 women's activities. Sample copies may be had free of charge on application to the Offices, 90 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.1.

## The Catholic Book Club

Members Buy Books Published at  
5/-, 7/6, 10/6 & 12/6 for only 2/6

Each month the club brings to its members books on religious thought by prominent Catholic writers, building up a library that will distinguish their book shelves.

Write NOW for PROSPECTUS  
NO MEMBERSHIP FEES

119 CHARING CROSS RD., LONDON, W.C.2

Telephone: GERRARD 5660 (14 lines)

**PAYING GUESTS, W.14** Good food. Every comfort Constant hot water. Breakfast and dinner. All meals Sundays. Temporary 2 gns, permanent 35/-. No extras. Apply Miss G., c/o St. Joan's Alliance.

**KNITTING** of all kinds done to order, jumpers socks, children's wear, etc. Parcel sent on approval Apply Miss R, c/o St. Joan's Alliance.

**HAIRDRESSER, Lady.** Also Beauty Culture. Visits Clients. Charges moderate. Highly recommended. Pad. 4101.

## THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE CLUB.

42 Emperor's Gate, S.W.7.

A Residential Club for Professional Women and Students  
Visitors taken for short periods.

Terms from £2 to £2 9s. partial board.

For further particulars apply—**The Secretary.**  
Telephone: Western 3738.

## THE FLORAL HOUSE

Floral Decorations of all descriptions carried out with efficiency, expediency and taste. Fresh cut flowers, wreaths and crosses at reasonable prices. Contracts arranged.

Floral Decorators to Frascati's Restaurant, Oxford St., W.1

24 HANWAY STREET, OXFORD STREET, W.1  
MUSEUM 8111 (BACK OF FRASCATI'S)  
Proprietor - - JEAN SCHEUERMEIER, (Swiss) F.R.H.S.

### VISITORS TO LONDON

Stay at the

**WILTON HOTEL, Victoria, S.W.1.**

(opposite Victoria Station and Imperial Airways)

Central. Convenient. Comfortable. Cathedral four minutes. Moderate tariff on application. Phone: Victoria 2026-7-8. Specially suitable for Ladies. Mention "Catholic Citizen."

Also Royal Park Hotel, Knightsbridge. S.W.7.



## RHEUMATISM

£5,000

### URGENTLY NEEDED

to complete the Ward, Treatment Rooms, and Research Laboratory of the first research department established by the Empire Rheumatism Council (President: H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, K.G., P.C., G.C.V.O.) at

## THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN & ST. ELIZABETH

St. John's Wood, N.W.8

Send your donation NOW to the Secretary

DHB

## CONVENT OF THE CENACLE

West Heath Road, Hampstead, N.W.3.

### Study Week-ends

March

Sat. 18—Sun. 19 "War" Fr. Gerald Vann, O.P.

May

Sat. 6—Sun. 7 "Logic" Fr. Thomas Gilby, O.P.

June

Sat. 3—Sun. 4 "Education" Fr. Gerald Vann, O.P.

All particulars from REV. MOTHER.

**TO LET FURNISHED.** Bed sitting room, concealed sink and cooker, electric and coal fire; also unfurnished 3 roomed flat. Phone: Hampstead 6498.