

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

Organ of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, 55, Berners Street, London, W.1.

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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 LEAGUE AND THE TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

By HELEN C. HUGHES.

The League of Nations has been finely pictured as "an incorruptible and disinterested Watcher to prevent international wrong." There is no field in which such a watcher is more sorely needed than in the work of protecting women and girls from the traffic for immoral purposes which is commonly called the "White Slave Traffic." In fact, it is the League itself which has pointed out that the traffic is not confined to white women and girls, and has undertaken the protection of coloured women, no less than whites. The two greatest difficulties in dealing with this traffic have always been the lack of reliable and definite information, and the difficulty of obtaining effective co-operation between different countries. In what is essentially an international question, these two conditions are absolutely necessary for any practical reforms; and it is precisely these things which the prestige and equipment of the League of Nations are able to supply.

This is well illustrated in the history of the struggle to prevent the traffic in women and girls. The first efforts to stop it were made in 1871, in Switzerland; about the same time, voluntary societies in various countries took the matter up, and by 1889 treaties had been signed by Holland, Belgium, Austria, and Hungary, which limited the traffic to some extent. But it was not till 1904 that the chief European Governments took up the question officially, and fifteen countries signed a Convention which established a certain amount of supervision at sea ports and

railway stations, and set up "Central Authorities" in each country (usually the Chief of Police in the capital), who were to deal with the suppression of the traffic and exchange information with each other.

In 1910, a second Convention was drawn up, which bound its signatories to make it a criminal offence to procure a woman under age, and the use of fraud, violence, or deception in procuring women over age was also made a criminal offence. Even after these Conventions were signed, however, their provisions were only partially carried out, and the force of the comparatively small section of public opinion in each country was not sufficient to secure any effective reform.

When the war ended, and the League of Nations was established, the question of the traffic in women immediately came under its notice. The first requisite was fuller information, and a questionnaire was sent in 1920 to all members of the League asking exactly what measures they were taking to suppress the traffic. Before the League existed there was no conceivable authority who could address such a questionnaire to sovereign Governments and expect to receive a reply. Within a year many answers to the questionnaire had come in, and it was possible to call together a Conference of thirty-four States at Geneva, in June, 1921, to which several countries sent women delegates. The Vice-President was Froken Forchhammer, of Denmark, and the Secretary, Dame Rachel Crowdy (then head of the Health Section of the League of Nations at Geneva). It was

at this Conference that it was decided to describe the trade more accurately as "The Traffic in Women and Children," rather than as "The White Slave Trade." Resolutions were also passed, widening the scope of criminal prosecutions, and recommending that the age of consent for a woman to leave her own country should be raised from 20 to 21, and the conclusions of the Conference were embodied in a "Final Act."

The Second Assembly of the League of Nations in September, 1921, carried on this work by passing the "Final Act" of the Conference, and it added also some suggestions as to the extension of supervision at ports and railway stations, and further legislation which might prove useful. Previous to the meeting of the Assembly, a "Draft International Convention" was drawn up by the Secretariat of the League, and circulated to all the members of the League, and when the Assembly itself reached its final decisions on the subject, it was possible for twenty-three of the States present to sign (through their delegates to the Assembly), then and there, so that much time was saved. During the following year ten more States also signed the Convention of 1921.

In this same year the Council of the League decided to appoint an Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Women and Children, and so to combine the authority and specialised knowledge of Government representatives with the experience and detailed information which could only be provided by the great voluntary societies which had long been striving to check the traffic.

During 1922 this Advisory Committee has already been able to do very useful work. It met for the first time at Geneva on June 28th, and its members included representatives from the Governments of the British Empire, Denmark, France, Italy, Japan, Poland, Roumania and Spain, and "assessors" from each of the following voluntary societies: the International Bureau for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children, the International Women's Organisation, the International Catholic Association for the Protection of Women and Girls, the Federation of National Associations for the Protection of Girls, and the Jewish Association for the Protection of Girls and Women.

The Committee was welcomed at its first Session by the Secretary-General of the League, and at the end of its work, it drew up a report which it presented to the Fifth Committee of the Assembly of the League of Nations. The Fifth Committee which handles all questions of social welfare reports to the Assembly. In this way, the work of a comparatively small committee of experts is co-ordinated with the Assembly of all the members of the League of Nations.

The chief points in the report of the Advisory Committee of 1922 were as follows:—

(1). A recommendation was made to all members of the League (eighteen in number) who had not yet signed the 1921 Convention, to do so as soon as possible.

(2). It was recommended that Germany and the U.S.A. should be invited to send representatives to the Advisory Committee.

(3). It was suggested that Governments in all countries should issue a warning to all girls and women against accepting theatrical engagements abroad without due safeguards.

(4). An agreement was made with the Emigration Commission for co-operation in the arrangements suggested for supervising emigration conditions for men, women and children.

Other resolutions were passed providing for co-operation with the International Labour Office of the League, as well as the Emigration Commission, and suggesting definite action which individual Governments might take in suppressing the traffic, e.g., co-operation with shipping companies, legislation as to terms of contracts, emigration of minors, etc. This report was accepted with very slight modification by the Assembly of the League.

This summary of the work of the League illustrates very well its value as a sleepless watcher, and shows how it can use the experience of voluntary societies, and combine it with the authority and impartiality of a body which is not subject to any Government. The League is, therefore, able to bring constant pressure to bear upon forgetful or obstinate Governments, and there is a better prospect than ever before that the work of voluntary societies may be fulfilled, and the traffic finally suppressed.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

We hope all our members within reach of London will make every effort to attend the Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 17th, at Caxton Hall, at 2-30, to discuss the important matters on the Agenda.

* * * *

Our Edinburgh Branch, re-established this year, prefers to hold over their report till next year.

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It is announced that the few women patrols remaining in the Metropolitan District are to be sworn in as constables, and will be known in future as women constables. This is a step in the right direction, but we want more than the 20 to which the number is at present limited.

* * * *

After a lengthy debate the Education Committee of the L.C.C. decided at a recent meeting "that all women appointed hereafter in the service of the Council, except those specially excepted by the Council from the operation of this standing order, shall be required to resign their appointments on marriage, provided that this standing order shall not apply to married women whose husbands are totally or permanently incapacitated from supporting them, or, when such a course appears desirable, to married women who are deserted by their husbands, or to married women at present holding sessional or part-time appointments." The women's organizations are pressing the L.C.C. to reconsider their decision.

* * * *

Signor Mussolini, Italy's Prime Minister, has just agreed to be Honorary President of the International Woman Suffrage Congress in Rome next May, and will be present and speak at the opening session.

Correspondence.

FAMILY ENDOWMENT.

To the Editor of the *Catholic Citizen*.
Madam,

The writer of International Notes in the *Catholic Citizen* of February 15th states that the scheme of "allocations familiales" was,

on its first inception, hurriedly turned down by the C.S.G. as contrary to the Catholic interests of the family.

I know nothing of any incident which the writer may have in mind, but I can honestly assert that the C.S.G. has done more to make the scheme known in England than the C.W.S.S. Your readers will find information on this and kindred topics in the *Christian Democrat* for August, September, October and November of last year and in the forthcoming number for March. These articles and lectures delivered under C.S.G. auspices on the same topic by Mr. Somerville have aroused much interest among Catholics and non-Catholics.

Yours faithfully,
L. O'HEA, S.J.

Catholic Social Guild,
Oxford.

February 16th, 1923.

From the writer of the "Note."

In reply to the protest from Fr. O'Hea, which you have courteously allowed me to see, I beg to refer him to pp. 58 and 59 of Miss Fletcher's "The Christian Family." As this book was written for C.S.G. as one of its official text-books for study circles, responsibility for views expressed in it can scarcely be evaded. The sentence on p. 59 specifically condemning the handing over of any responsibility for a child's maintenance "either to the State or a Corporation," would appear to refer directly to the French scheme of payments regulated by the number of worker's children, of which the writer can scarcely have been ignorant. Moreover, not a little correspondence ensued on this very point in the *Catholic Times*, and no repudiation of Miss Fletcher's attitude was forthcoming from C.S.G. I gladly admit that the Guild has since then adopted a friendly attitude towards "allocations familiales," but the original blunder can hardly be denied.

[It may be as well to remind our readers that the C.W.S.S., though pledged to Widows' Pensions, has taken no side officially with respect to Family Endowment. The Society merely provides a platform for sane discussion of this complex and controversial question.—EDITOR.]

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS,
GENERAL FUND.

1st February—28th February.

	£	s.	d.
Allen, Miss	1	1	0
Barry, Mrs.	0	2	0
Bearman, Miss	0	2	0
Bevan, Miss	5	0	0
Coignou, Miss	0	2	6
Collier, Dr. D. J.	0	7	6
Filmer, Rev. J. H.	0	7	6
Gordon, Mrs. and Miss C. M.	0	5	0
Grant, Miss	0	2	6
Hanlon, Misses F. and M.	0	5	0
Head Mrs.	0	2	6
Hely-Safe, Miss	0	1	6
Hughes, Mrs. and the Misses	0	5	0
Hurst, Dr. and Mrs. H. E.	0	7	6
Hutton, Mrs.	0	2	6
Jeffery, Miss	5	10	0
McCormick, Miss	0	2	0
Magill, Dr. E. M.	0	17	6
Marston, Mrs.	0	1	6
Morrison, Mrs.	0	5	0
O'Connor, Mrs. and Miss	0	2	6
O'Connor, Miss C.	0	5	0
Quinlan, Miss M.	0	2	6
Roberts, Miss	0	2	6
Scott Hill, Mrs.	0	6	6
Sevenoaks, Miss	0	1	6
Toner, Mrs.	0	2	6
Wall, Miss M.	0	4	6
Ward, Miss M., M.A.	0	2	0
Whelan, Miss	0	2	6
Minimum Annual Subscriptions	1	0	0
Total	£18	2	0

TREASURER'S NOTE.

On March 25th our rent will be raised another £10 to £50 per annum. The Committee have seriously considered the question of trying to find a cheaper office, but the fact that our address is so well-known both by our members and Societies at home and abroad, was thought to outweigh the advantage of any small economy we might possibly have been able to effect. Last quarter's rent was paid by two donations. I should be deeply grateful if two or three members between them could guarantee next quarter's. About £14 will now be needed to cover rent, light and heating.

G. JEFFERY.

REVIEW.

"CAN THESE THINGS BE?" By Cecilia Hill. 7/6 (Hutchinson).

"How can these things be done?" asked

Nicodemus of Christ when he came to Him for instruction by night, and he awaited the answer in perfect confidence, for had he not already acclaimed Our Lord as a Teacher from God? "For no man can do these signs which Thou dost, unless God be with him."

And the same question, "Can these things be?" is asked by thousands who hear of the miracles of Lourdes afar off, and is replied to according to the mentality of him who answers.

But pilgrims to Lourdes do not ask the question; they know.

The author of this book is obviously well acquainted with Lourdes and its environment; there can hardly be a peak, road, coppice, valley or stream in the neighbourhood with which she is not familiar, and she describes all the physical beauties of the country and the quaint characteristics of the town most enchantingly.

Not only does she know the town and its surroundings, but is past mistress of the aspects of Lourdes as a place of spiritual significance, is at home with the wonders which have taken place there, and has absorbed the atmosphere of peace and prayer which permeates this spot of heavenly visitation. Most charmingly does she weave a romance around the visit of a particular set of people to Lourdes, and we learn of their aspirations, loves, workings of conscience and spiritual difficulties, and the solutions found at the Grotto of Massabielle.

Once the book is begun it is with difficulty put down, and if perforce professional engagement or household task makes one lay it aside, one's mind will be steeped in its quite modern but deliciously fresh and simple incidents until one can resume its perusal.

The interest which starts on the first page remains to the end.

Those who are looking for a suitable present to give for birthday or feast will do well to purchase the volume, and those who are not, should put it on the list for the circulating library or buy it for themselves. The book would make a suitable prize in the top classes of schools. Reverend Mothers please note!

M.F.

International Notes.

It having been asserted that the new Suffrage Bill, to be introduced in the French Chamber by M. Justin Godard, would not permit women to be elected in Parliament, the Deputy has written to say emphatically that by his Bill women will become both *électeurs* and *éligibles*.

We read in *La Française* that 2,500 people thronged the Salle Wagram for the great Suffrage demonstration organised last month by the National Council of French Women. The meeting proved a brilliant success.

The *Femme Belge* continues to bear witness to the very high standard of social work of all kinds carried on by Catholic women in Belgium. We can only envy the amount of organisation and methodical training to which the success of their efforts is so largely due. Thus in the January number there is a particularly instructive account by Mele Quanonne of her observations as a welfare supervisor among the women workers at the pit mouth in the Hainault coal-fields, and another by Melle de Cro's describing the work carried on by a municipal day nursery at Mons. What strikes one forcibly is the power of careful observation that has been developed by their previous training at the Catholic Social School of which both were pupils.

The *Bollettino* of the Italian Catholic Women's Union gives some details concerning the recent restoration, by order of Signor Mussolini, of religious teaching in the elementary schools throughout Italy. Whereas of recent years religious teaching was only given if a sufficient number of parents insisted on it, in future the opposite will hold good, and all children will receive Catholic teaching unless their parents explicitly demand exemption.

The *Action Sociale de la Femme* (Jan.) prints the preliminary programme of a three days' Conference to be held in Paris the last week in April, and organised by the Commission D'Education Sociale Civique de la

Femme. The principal subjects for debate appear to be the laxity of morals and its moral and intellectual causes, and the need for re-organising family life in view of existing dangers. It is specially hoped that foreigners will attend and join in the discussions.

The *Cape Argus* (Jan. 17th) takes a decidedly encouraging view of the prospects of the Women's Suffrage Bill in the new session of the South African Parliament. After all, the measure was only defeated last year by 4 votes, and there were nearly 30 abstentions, so a little propaganda work among the latter might make all the difference. Any legislator, says the *Argus*, "who cannot make up his mind on this question, is distinctly unworthy a seat in Parliament," and we fully agree with it.

V.M.C.

Since the above notes were written the Woman Suffrage Bill has been unfortunately defeated in the South African Parliament, but by one vote only.

EDINBURGH BRANCH. Hon. Sec., Miss Casey, 3, Cambridge Street.

The monthly meeting was held on February 20th, in St. Anne's R.C. School (Parish of St. Patrick). It was well attended, and the speaker, Miss Nannie Brown, of the Edinburgh N.U.S.E.M.C., who gave a most interesting lecture on the Passion Play at Oberammergau, was warmly applauded.

At the business meeting which preceded the lecture, two delegates were appointed to the Conference on V.D., to be held in Edinburgh under the auspices of the N.U.S.E.C., on February 24th. Mrs. Hamilton More Nisbett (Chairman) was asked to represent the Branch at the Annual Meeting in London and also Mrs. Finlayson Gauld, if she were able to be in London at that time. As no member was going to Rome in May, it was not possible to appoint delegates to the International Woman's Suffrage Congress there. The next meeting was fixed for April, and it was suggested that the Five Edinburgh M.P.s be asked to speak at it, also Mrs. Hamilton More Nisbett, who addressed her first meeting in South Edinburgh, as an Independent candidate for the next election on the 16th instant.

Owing to the infancy of the branch, it was decided to postpone the drawing up of the annual report until next year.

It was decided to ask the co-operation of the local Catholic Women's League in organising a sale of work in the autumn, in aid of the Good Shepherd Convent's Rescue Home for Girls at Colinton.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

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

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LOSS AND GAIN.

Our Annual Report shows unmistakably that the C.W.S.S. makes steady progress, but I have been asked to say a few words of a more general nature upon the gains and losses of the feminist movement in this country during 1922.

The outstanding feature of last year is that for the first time in history English women were called to the Bar, and they have now pleaded in our Courts. In this we are many years behind other countries, but for so conservative a nation as England it is something of a revolution. A revolution which will have an effect upon the whole status of women.

We have also four women solicitors; a woman veterinary surgeon; and a woman chartered accountant.

The President of the Law Society announced recently that the Council intended to admit women solicitors as members of the Society on the same terms as men.

Among the outstanding events of 1922 we must also place the appointment of Mrs. Coombe Tennant as Alternate Delegate to the Third Assembly of the League of Nations. Mrs. Coombe Tennant was the only British representative on the Fifth Commission (Humanitarian) on which forty-eight nations were represented.

To turn to Parliament, the great success there has been the passing of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, which, though it does not go as far as the women's societies desired, does give a more effective measure of protection to young girls than has yet obtained. Those who have fought so long

for this Bill have at last succeeded in their efforts to abolish the reasonable cause to believe (that a girl had reached the age of sixteen), and that is matter for congratulation.

Another gain is the passing of the Infanticide Act, which makes it no longer necessary for a Judge to go through the tragic farce of condemning to death a woman who has murdered her infant while still suffering from the effects of childbirth. The Jury may now bring in a charge of manslaughter.

The Maintenance and Separation Orders Bill, the Guardianship of Infants Bill, the Children of Unmarried Parents' Bill, the Nationality of Married Women Bill, Equal Franchise, these remain to be wrung from the new Government.

On the first three of these Bills at least there was a great measure of agreement in the last Parliament, and there was every hope of their reaching the Statute Book. This Government does not appear to be anxious to sponsor them, but pressure of public opinion may alter their attitude.

We have not added to the numbers of our women Members of Parliament, but an analysis of the votes won by the women candidates gives fair promise for the future.

The House of Lords still stubbornly refuses to allow women to enter its sacred precincts, but it will yield as the House of Commons has yielded.

1922 on the whole has treated us well, may its failures be the successes of 1923.

L. DE ALBERTI.

CATHOLIC WOMENS' SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

Annual Report, 1922.

It is a source of comfort to the prophets amongst us who foresaw on the passing of the Representation of the People Bill, that a big work still lay in front of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, to find their prophecy amply fulfilled. So far from there being any question of looking for work the difficulty is to find time and funds to cope with the increasing activities and the increasing calls upon the Society.

This year our Edinburgh Branch has been re-established and a new Branch founded at York, and 135 new members have joined the C.W.S.S.

This year, too, we had the happiness to receive a direct telegram from the Holy Father in reply to our telegram of homage on his elevation to the Holy See.

Mrs. Meynell. The C.W.S.S. has suffered a bitter loss by the death of Mrs. Meynell, who was a member of the Executive from the early days of the Society. Members of the Executive Committee attended the Requiem Mass at Kensal Green, and special honour was paid to the wreath sent by the C.W.S.S. R.I.P.

Meetings. The Annual Meeting of the C.W.S.S. was held at Bedford College by kind permission of Miss Tuke and the Council, on Saturday, March 11th, Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, B.A., presiding. The adoption of the report was moved by Miss Mary Wall, who spoke in high praise of the work done during the year. In the absence of Mrs. Scott Hill the adoption of the report was seconded by Miss Lenn.

The adoption of the financial statement was moved by Mrs. Robert Cust, and seconded by Miss N. F. Atkinson, M.A. Then followed the election of the new Committee.

A resolution protesting against the compulsory examination for Venereal Disease of the natives of Uganda was put from the Chair and carried unanimously, as was also the following resolution:—"That the

C.W.S.S. realising the urgent need for women in Parliament, pledges itself to support as far as possible women candidates of any party: further, the C.W.S.S. urges its members to ascertain from prospective candidates, men or women, in their own constituencies, their views on the following points:—

1. Equal Franchise.
2. Equal moral standard.
3. Equal pay and opportunities.
4. Equal guardianship of infants.
5. Criminal Law Amendment.
6. Pensions for widows with dependent children.
7. Divorce.
8. Catholic Education.

The Chairman, calling upon Mrs. V. M. Crawford to make an appeal for funds, announced that Mrs. Crawford had again generously promised to guarantee the rent of the office. Mrs. Crawford spoke of her deep conviction of the need of a society such as the C.W.S.S., which could always be relied upon to show courage, and was ever ready and anxious to co-operate, when possible, with non-Catholics, as well as with Catholic Societies in the work of social reform. The appeal for funds met with a very generous response.

After an interval for tea a public meeting was held for the purpose of hearing the views of prospective women candidates for Parliament. Commandant Mary Allen, O.B.E., and Mrs. Corbett Ashby, spoke in the interests of Liberalism. Dr. Ethel Bentham and Mrs. Ayrton Gould for Labour. Conservatives were not represented as no Conservative woman at that time was standing for a London constituency, and only prospective candidates for London and Greater London had been invited to speak.

At the close of the meeting the candidates answered questions, and members of the audience gave in their names to help in the constituencies.

On January 18th a meeting of the C.W.S.S. was held at St. Saviour's School, Lewisham, the speakers being Mrs. H. More Nisbett and Mrs. Scott Hill. The subject

was "A Call to Catholic Womanhood." The Chair was taken by Mrs. V. M. Crawford. As a result of the meeting the C.W.S.S. gained some new members and friends.

On March 27th another meeting was held at Lewisham, the speaker being Mrs. V. M. Crawford, and the subject "Citizenship." The Chair was taken by Miss Mary Wall.

On April 25th members and friends of the C.W.S.S. met at the Minerva Café to hear a lecture from Miss Annie Christitch, B.A., on her impressions of America. Miss Christitch spoke in glowing terms of American women, and especially of American nuns, whom she had found very progressive and alive to the need of training girls to be good citizens. Great interest was shown in the work of the C.W.S.S. and its paper the *Catholic Citizen*. Miss V. S. Laughton, M.B.E., presided at the meeting.

On May 3th the C.W.S.S. held a meeting at the Minerva Café in support of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, the speaker being Miss Alison Neilans, secretary of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene. The Chair was taken by Miss Lenn. At the close of the meeting the following resolution was put from the chair and carried unanimously: "That this meeting of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society urges the Government to proceed with the Criminal Law Amendment Bill without delay in order that it may become law this Session."

On June 12th a meeting of the C.W.S.S. was held at Lewisham, when Miss Fedden spoke on the History of the C.W.S.S. The chair was taken by Miss N. F. Atkinson, M.A.

On June 28th members and friends of the C.W.S.S. met at the Minerva Café to hear an address from Mrs. Trounson, secretary of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, upon her tour in America. Mrs. Trounson brought us a message of greeting from the Catholic women of Montreal, and from our corresponding secretary, Mrs. Hutton, of Newfoundland. The chair was taken by Miss L. de Alberti.

In July the C.W.S.S. took advantage of the presence in London of the distinguished Catholic prelate Monsignor Giesswein, member of the Hungarian Parliament, to give a

dinner and reception in his honour at the International Women's Franchise Club. Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, who presided, paid a tribute to the work done by Monsignor Giesswein for woman suffrage. Mgr. Giesswein, who was received with enthusiasm, said it gave him great pleasure to meet English suffragists, as it was American and Anglo-Saxon suffragists who were the first champion of women's rights in the civilised world. Dr. Metzger, another friend of woman suffrage, addressing the meeting in French, said that he associated himself wholeheartedly with what Monsignor Giesswein had said touching the need for men and women at work together in the political field in order to establish peace in the world.

Mr. Joseph Clayton spoke on behalf of England, and Miss Chrystal Macmillan on behalf of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance.

On October 21st Mrs. V. M. Crawford spoke at Bethanie Convent, Highgate, on "Citizenship."

On December 15th a meeting was held by kind permission of Miss Gorry, at 37, Woburn Square, when Miss Donoghue, secretary of the C.W.S.S. York Branch, gave an interesting address on "Women and Trade Unions," emphasising the importance of the Trade Union movement to women.

Co-operation with other Societies. The C.W.S.S. co-operated with the Association for the Propagation of the Faith on the occasion of the Centenary celebrations at Westminster. An article by Father H. Hall on the founder of the A.P.F., Pauline M. Jaricot, was published in the *Catholic Citizen* in connection with the Centenary.

In November the C.W.S.S. and the British Dominions Women's Citizens Union gave a reception at Bedford College in honour of our member, Miss A. L. P. Dorman, of South Africa, who gave an account of the women's movement in that country.

Later in the same month the C.W.S.S. joined with the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship in a reception at the Lyceum Club in honour of the Board of Officers of the International Women's Suffrage

franchise Alliance and the International Council of Women, and women members and Candidates for Parliament. The function was in every way successful and enjoyable.

We have also taken part during the year in meetings of protest against the disbanding of the Women Police; in the joint demonstration organised by the Women's International League to urge the Government to give a grant to Dr. Nansen for the relief of Russia; in the meeting to demand the abolition of child slavery in Hong Kong; in the meeting held to commemorate the first Act passed for the protection of animals, etc.

Letters and Resolutions. Letters and Resolutions have been sent to the Government and Catholic M.P.'s on the Equal Franchise Bill, the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, the Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill, the Equal Guardianship Bill, and on the proposed disbanding of the Women Police.

General Election. In preparation for the General Election the C.W.S.S. drew up a list of questions for members to put to candidates. These questions were sent to the leaders of the political parties. The answers received from Mr. Asquith and Mr. Henderson were published in the December issue of the *Catholic Citizen*. Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Lloyd George did not reply.

The C.W.S.S. had hoped that Mrs. H. More Nisbett would have contested the constituency of West Edinburgh, and had guaranteed £100 towards her election expenses. Unfortunately Mrs. More Nisbett found it necessary to postpone her candidature in November but will nurse her constituency for the next election.

On the day of the General Election Holy Mass was offered at Westminster Cathedral at the request of the C.W.S.S., to beg Divine Guidance on the men and women electors.

Uganda. Early in 1922 the C.W.S.S. received from Dr. Lamont, a member of the Society, grave news from Uganda relative to compulsory examination of the natives for venereal disease. Having procured from the Colonial Office a copy of the laws dealing with the

matter the C.W.S.S. published the allegations in the *Catholic Citizen* and instituted a campaign to have the laws repealed, and at our request Mr. Hailwood asked a question on the subject in Parliament. The Colonial Office met our representations with courtesy and at the request of various societies called an informal conference at which we were represented. The points raised at the conference were referred out to the authorities in Uganda, and by recent information received from the Colonial Office it would appear that matters have improved there.

International Congresses. Miss J. Holmes and Melle Chamel represented the C.W.S.S. at the Journées Sociales de la Femme held in Paris in May. Miss Holmes read a paper on the subject of equality between the sexes.

Mrs. V. M. Crawford represented the C.W.S.S. at the International Catholic Congress convened by the International Catholic Action at Luxemburg in August. Mrs. Crawford spoke on the work of the C.W.S.S.

Miss A. L. P. Dorman represented the C.W.S.S. as fraternal delegate at the International Catholic Women's Congress at Rome in May.

The C.W.S.S. is affiliated to the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, the National Council of Women, the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, and the Women's Advisory Committee of the League of Nations' Union.

Representatives of the Society serve on the Headquarters Committee of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, the British Overseas Committee, the British Rome Congress Committee, the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations: the following sectional committees of the National Council of Women: Industrial, Parliamentary and Legislation, Rescue and Preventive; the Equal Franchise Committee of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the Kensington Women's Citizens' Association.

Conferences. Delegates from the C.W.S.S. attended the Conference on Unemployment convened by the Consultative Committee; on the Summary Jurisdiction

Married Persons' Bill, convened by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship; on Venereal Disease, convened by the N.U.S.E.C.; the Conference of the National Council of Women at Cambridge.

Deputations. The C.W.S.S. was represented on the following deputations: to Lord Lytton, on Votes for Indian Women; to the Home Secretary, on Women Police (under the auspices of the National Council of Women); to the Board of Education, on Continuation Schools (under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League). The C.W.S.S. also took part in various deputations to prospective candidates (under the auspices of the London Society for Women's Service).

Foreign Visitors. We have had the pleasure of welcoming at the Office the following visitors from other lands: Our member, Miss Dorman, South Africa; Miss Joseph, India; Miss Jessie Mackay, New Zealand; Miss Mateu Pla, Barcelona; Madame de Palencia, Madrid; Miss Schlacta, Hungary.

We offer our hearty thanks to our paper sellers and to the following members who have given invaluable help in the Office: Miss Brandt, Miss Gorry, Miss Sharples, Mrs. Shoto, Miss Wall.

Catholic Citizen. Our paper entered on its ninth year in January last. We have never yet appealed in vain to our professional writers, and their generous help enables us to keep up the standard of the *Catholic Citizen*. However technical the subject we are always able to find experts willing to give us the benefit of their special knowledge. We thank them one and all.

Obituary. We ask the prayers of our readers for the repose of the souls of our members and associates Mrs. Meynell, Mrs. Blackledge, Mr. Raikes Bromage, Miss Margaret Brady, Mrs. Macdonald, Miss C. M. Nichols, R.E., the Rev. Canon O'Loughlin, the Hon. Rosina O'Callaghan Sharp. R.I.P.

HON. PRESS SECRETARY'S REPORT.

During the past year the work of our Society has been carried on in the Press by means of articles and letters on various subjects of importance and interest to both Catholics and Suffragists. To the *Catholic Times* especially we are indebted for the publication of many of these. The list of subjects contributed to that paper includes articles on Trade Boards, How Women are Handicapped, Lord Lytton and India, The Woman's Movement at Home and Abroad, the Italian Popular Party, a New Magna Charta, the Criminal Law Amendment Act, Family Endowment, Women Parliamentary Candidates (with special reference to Mrs. More Nisbett), the Solicitation Laws, Women Police and the Maintenance and Separation Orders Bill.

Other articles or letters have appeared in the *Tablet*, *Universe*, *Christian Democrat*, and *Messenger* dealing with the Women's Movement (with special reference to Spain and South America), Women Guardians, Work done by C.W.S.S. for Catholic Education, Feminism (in reply to a reviewer of a book in *Tablet*), and several letters in the course of a correspondence in the *Universe* on Birth Control and Domestic Help.

We have also contributed to foreign papers, an article on Women as Jurors being published by the *Daily American Tribune*, in reply to one that had appeared in that paper strongly condemning them, and to a French paper on the subject of Injustice to Women.

The October number of the *Dublin Review* contained an article on Prophylaxis and Venereal Disease from the point of view of the C.W.S.S. and the societies that oppose propaganda for prophylaxis.

TREASURER'S NOTE.

The Society is deeply indebted to Mrs. Crawford for her generosity in paying the entire rent of the office again last year. This was done to tide us over a time of great difficulty, but we feel that others should now take up the burden.

Our stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair and Jumbles sold during the year realised the goodly sum of £56 14s. 11d. In thanking friends who contributed to this

success, we remind everyone that jumbles will be most gratefully received at any time during the year, and are one of our most fruitful sources of income.

The *Catholic Citizen* is still not self-supporting, though if members would endeavour to secure a few more advertisements, it might easily become so. We are glad to say that the deficit amounting to about £13 is less than last year, chiefly owing to reductions in the cost of printing and postage.

An account to date of our "Women in Parliament" Fund will be found elsewhere. Subscriptions to this fund are not included in the General Fund list, but have all been previously acknowledged in the *Catholic Citizen*. The balance of £18 10s. 9d. after deducting the expenses of the fund has been placed on deposit, and we hold it in trust for Mrs. H. More Nisbett's future candidature or towards that of any other woman candidate that the Society may elect to support.

We would draw the attention of our members to the fact that the sum of 2/6 only covers the cost of the *Catholic Citizen* and does not include membership of the Society, the minimum subscription to which is 1/-. Some of our members may have been under the impression that the sum of 2/6 covered both.

LIVERPOOL BRANCH.

The Annual Meeting was held on February 20th, 1922, at 6, Lord Street. Dr. Isabel Collier was re-elected Chairman, Mrs. L. Hughes, Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Parnell, Hon. Paper Secretary, and Miss Musson, Hon. Secretary. Mrs. Finn was elected member of the Committee. In June, owing to pressure of work, Mrs. Hughes resigned and Miss Stack kindly consented to take her place.

We much regret that Miss Musson was obliged to send in her resignation in October, and we take this opportunity of thanking her for her valuable work for the Branch during the last four years. We are grateful to Miss Short, M.A., for consenting to act in her place.

During 1922 the Branch was addressed by Miss Annie Holmes on "Trade Boards" and by Miss Christitch on "Woman Suffrage from an International Point of View."

In co-operation with other societies the

branch supported a Public Meeting to protest against the disbandment of the Metropolitan Police Women Patrols, addressed by Inspector Mrs. H. More Nisbett. Mrs. T. M. Smiley, and Miss Knowles attended as delegates of the Branch the Conference on the Higher Education of Working Women, held in Manchester. Mrs. Parnell and Miss Parnell were appointed delegates to the "No More War" demonstration held in August, and Mrs. Parnell and Mrs. Finn to the Liverpool Peace Society. Letters were sent to local M.P.'s asking them to support Lord Robert Cecil's "Equal Franchise" Bill and any motion to protest against the disbandment of Women Police.

Our best thanks are due to those members who have helped at meetings and especially to Mrs. Parnell for the loan of her room for Committee and for her valuable work as Paper Secretary, and also to Dr. Collier for the loan of a gramophone.

Members are requested to pray for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Macdonald, one of the founders of the Branch and one time Chairman. R.I.P.

YORK BRANCH.

This Branch was started in July, 1922. At the Branch meetings the following subjects have been discussed: Citizenship, Education, Feeding of Necessitous Children, York Health Weeks, Juvenile Unemployment, Taxation, etc., and special meetings have been held to discuss methods of obtaining new members.

Some of our members represented the Branch in assisting the local Shelter, and two members have been elected to serve on the York Branch of the N.S.P.C.C.

Arrangements were made for members to attend lectures and visit the Maternity Home at Acomb during the Health Week held at York this year.

The Branch had intended holding a public meeting, but owing to the Municipal and General Election and other unforeseen circumstances, this scheme had to be postponed.

Our thanks are due to the members of the Committee who attended the meetings so regularly in spite of much personal inconvenience.

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LECTURES.

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Speakers: MISS HARLEY BACON
 MISS ELEANOR FITZGERALD
 MRS. H. MORE NISBETT
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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.

METHODS.

1. Strictly non-party.
2. Active propaganda by political and educational means.

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