

THE

Catholic Citizen

Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society),
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Signed Articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

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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.

In Service of Brotherhood

By EVELYN BILLING.

In days to come, when the revolutions of this century are reviewed, students who value principle and character as highly as political achievement, will place Mr. and Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence amongst the noblest of pioneers and leaders. "Fate has been kind" is complementary to Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence's autobiography, "My Part in a Changing World" (reviewed by us in May, 1938); together, without any trace of self-consciousness or self-interest, these books unfold the story of two lives dedicated unreservedly to the service of humanity.

Mr. Pethick-Lawrence has written an engrossing account of his progress from Mansfield House to Whitehall, and of the personalities and events that were the setting of each stage of the journey. The final impression one gets of the whole journey is that, from his Cambridge days, he travelled and toured in service of brotherhood as truly as did Arthurian knights of old.

First, he discovered brotherhood with London's working-man and served him wholeheartedly at Mansfield House Settlement, Canning Town. Then, impelled by a sense of brotherhood with the politically and spiritually shackled women of England, he became a leader of the W.S.P.U. To-day—Vice-Chairman of the Labour Party and Secretary to the Treasury—he is vividly aware of his brotherhood with all the peoples of the world, particularly those now reaching out towards self-government and self-expression. Who can tell whither that force of kinship of heart and mind will lead him in the post-war world?

Mr. Lawrence must have inherited much of the enterprise and public spirit of his grandfather, a Cornish carpenter, whose career closely resembled that of Dick Whittington and whose sons had large interests in the City of London. We have an interesting psychological study of "little Freddie," and then of the boy at Eton, rather conscious of being a misfit there. At Cambridge F. W. Lawrence achieved a double first; then, turning his attention to economics, he came under the influence of Professor Marshall; soon afterwards, he met Percy Alden. These two men directed the course of his life: the Professor directed F. W. Lawrence towards investigation of grave social and economic problems, and Alden challenged him to find solutions for them.

* "Fate Has Been Kind." By the Rt. Hon. F. W. Pethick-Lawrence, P.C., M.P. (Hutchinson, 15/-).

It was while F. W. Lawrence was working at the Settlement that he met Emmeline Pethick, who was herself tackling social problems of London's working girls. He fell in love at first sight. He has constantly affirmed that his wife's inspiration and comradeship have been a major factor in his life and work.

After an altruistic venture in journalism, Mr. and Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence plunged into the Woman Suffrage Campaign. His contribution to the counsels and the work of Mrs. Pankhurst's militant society was greatly enhanced by his starting and publishing the famous paper, *Votes for Women*. Indefatigably he bailed out over a thousand suffragettes after the various "raids" in London; and finally, after the conspiracy trial, it was with a sense of adventure that he set out for prison, where he made the hunger-strike protest and endured forcible feeding. Moreover, he was sentenced to pay the costs of that trial of the leaders of the W.S.P.U., but he forced the Government to extract the money by selling up his goods at Holmwood and by declaring him (technically and temporarily) bankrupt.

It is still a debated question amongst suffragettes whether or not Christabel Pankhurst made her one tactical error at this time. Instead of facing her trial and imprisonment, she fled to Paris in order to continue to conduct the militant campaign. Thus she lost touch with the W.S.P.U. and the country to a large extent. Consequently, when the Pankhursts and the Pethick-Lawrences met later in France to discuss future moves, a sudden crisis arose, stunning in its magnitude and its results. Christabel Pankhurst and her mother were for an intensification of militancy. The Pethick-Lawrences felt that a national propaganda campaign was needed to explain and justify the use of the recent more violent form of militancy. The Pankhursts would brook no parley. Their rule had always been autocratic. They dismissed the Pethick-Lawrences from the W.S.P.U.

Mr. and Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence accepted the dismissal, wishing not to create factions in the movement, and no reproaches have ever passed their lips.

Feeling ran high at the time between the "Peths and Panks" in the Union. Had the facts been known then as they are to-day, perhaps a democratic coalition party of women voters would have been ready to take the field

(continued on back page)

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

In accordance with our tradition, Mass was offered for the Alliance on May 30th, St. Joan's Day, this year by the kindness of the Rev. Leslie Wood, and a laurel wreath tied with our colours was placed on St. Joan's shrine in Westminster Cathedral.

Dr. Edith Summerskill, by a Parliamentary question to the Minister of Health, elicited the information that up to May 13th one man and 27 women had, under Regulation 33B, been reported as sources of infection of V.D. These figures by themselves surely justify her further question, surprisingly answered in the affirmative, whether the Minister was satisfied that the regulation was contributing substantially to the reduction of the disease, and whether it operated unfavourably against women. Another question put by Dr. Summerskill was whether, since a woman informed against under the regulation had been imprisoned for not completing the treatment prescribed for her, he would consider penalising the informers concerned, who were necessarily infected persons, and men, if they too failed to undergo complete treatment. The Minister answered that the Regulation gave no power to deal with such informers.

Members of the Alliance have probably noticed the judgment at Oxford County Court by which Judge J. H. D. Hurst directed £103, standing to the credit of Mrs. Blackwell in the books of the local co-operative society, to be paid to her husband. The money had in part been saved by her out of her housekeeping allowance, and we know already that the law regards a wife's housekeeping money—however used, misused or saved—as belonging forever to her husband. The novelty in the present case is that this £103 is partly made up of Mrs. Blackwell's profit on taking lodgers into the home she has shared with her husband and to the original cost of which she contributed. Mrs. Blackwell is appealing against the judgment.

We welcome Sir Stafford Cripps' statement, in answer to a parliamentary question by Miss Ward, that from June 1st women pilots of the Air Transport Auxiliary who are engaged on full flying duties will receive the same rates of pay, rank for rank, as men similarly employed.

A member reports of a Juvenile Court in London that it is normally administered by three magistrates, of whom one acts as chairman, but that if only two magistrates are available they may not act unless at least one of them is a man.

We congratulate two women on important public appointments: Miss Evelyn A. Sharp as principal assistant secretary at the Treasury, and Miss Pauline Gower, who is a Catholic, as a member of the British Airways Overseas Corporation.

We ask the prayers of our readers for Miss Mary Brettingham, who has been a faithful member since 1913. R.I.P. We are very grateful to her for her legacy of £5.

To our friend from the earliest days of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Mr. Wilfrid Meynell, we offer our warmest congratulations on the honour—C.B.E.—accorded to him in the King's Birthday list.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

Canada. We learn from *The Universe* that Miss Agnes McGlosky, who has been on the administrative staff of the Canadian Department of External Affairs for 33 years, is to be congratulated on her appointment as a senior member of the staff of the Consul-General of Canada in New York. Miss McGlosky, who is a Catholic, ranks as a consul and is the first woman to hold a senior post in Canada's foreign service.

Ceylon. We regret to learn that the "dearness allowance" (the equivalent of our cost of living bonus) granted to estate labourers in Ceylon, which was previously on the same basis for men and women, with a two-fifths reduction for children, has now been altered, the women's share being lowered by one-fifth and that of the children raised to the new women's level.

Jamaica. We are pleased that the new Constitution accepted by Jamaica gives adult suffrage for women and men, and it is interesting that the acceptance of the constitution by the colony is largely due to women. "Matters stood," according to *The League of Coloured Peoples*, "more or less at a deadlock" until a committee of women succeeded in getting the three bodies interested to work together, and to sacrifice party considerations to the consideration of the matter.

Nigeria. *The Anti-Slavery and Aborigines' Friend* quotes the *West African Pilot's* report on the amendment of the Native Authority Ordinance of Nigeria. The Attorney-General said, when introducing this amendment, that he feared it would prove ineffective to prevent what "may frankly be termed child stealing for the purposes of practical servitude which is being practised among certain native communities under the guise of child betrothal or marriage by virtue of Native law or custom"; and that "the best solution was to enable native authorities, by means of special rules, to look after the interests of the children within the areas of their jurisdiction."

South Africa. Our Vice-President, Miss A. L. P. Dorman, sends a cutting from a South African paper dealing with the work of the five women M.P.s. Foremost among grievances are the want of equal guardianship of children, which is especially serious when so many men are away from home, and the loss of their own nationality by married women. "Nowhere is there a large number of women M.P.s; this is owing, no doubt, in part to the fact that party agents object to them. As one of them expressed it, 'even where women are definitely elected by a party, when any law of interest to women comes up, they vote as one!'"

U.S.A. A few members were privileged to meet Father R. Gannon, S.J., President of Fordham University, at an informal gathering, who gave them the interesting information that Miss Anna King, M.S.S., Dean of the School of Social Service at Fordham, is the first woman to be appointed dean of a Jesuit College.—E.F.G.

We offer our congratulations to Miss G. Hope-Jones on her marriage to Mr. Byrne on December 19th at Pretoria and wish them many years of happiness. In Johannesburg, Mrs. Byrne had the pleasant surprise of meeting another member, Mrs. McGrath, who was giving to the C.W.L. a talk on St. Joan's Alliance, with extracts from *The Catholic Citizen*.

A Plea for the Young Mother.

This article is an attempt to set down the point of view of women who would like families of at least four children, but whose hearts sink when they think of the years of slavery and financial stringency ahead of them, and of the effect of this on their health, happiness and husbands.

We do not think the best way to lighten the burden is to dump our babies in day nurseries; we want to rear our children ourselves, and we firmly believe that the ordinary "good home" provides the best environment for a small child. On the other hand, we do not think that both the drudgery problem and the financial problem may be solved simultaneously by the payment of family allowances to the mother. Family allowances will help us to buy the nappies, but not to wash them; they will mean better meals and better clothes, but the cooking and washing-up and darning will remain.

We want:—

1. Cheap laundries run by local authorities, who should also provide a baby napkin service on the lines of those now common in America, and just beginning in London before the war.
2. Government assistance and control in the tinning and bottling of food on a large scale, so that the canning factory becomes the communal kitchen of the overworked mother who cannot take her babies out to meals.
3. Subsidies for the manufacture of cups, saucers, plates, etc., from material similar to pre-war cream cartons, which can be destroyed after use; very attractive ones were being made in Central Europe before the war.
4. Immediate research into the manufacture of cloth from nylon, in order that garments may be bought so cheaply that they may be thrown away as soon as they need mending.

The woman who enjoys making pretty clothes would still do so, but her work-basket would be as much a hobby as her husband's fret-saw. All that we are asking is

CONFERENCES.

At the annual conference of the National Union of Women Teachers, Miss Caroline Hazlitt, C.B.E., Director of the Electrical Association for Women, cited three recent improvements in the prospects of girls who wish to be engineers: the Amalgamated Engineering Union has opened its doors to women; Faraday House has decided that girls may train for electrical engineering as boys do, by spending two years at the works and two in a university; and the government will henceforth grant bursaries for engineering courses to girls on the same terms as to boys. The conference accepted a Charter of Principles which lays down that "women's full equality with men in all spheres of national life" is "the only foundation for a sound democracy."

The Women's Freedom League was addressed at its thirty-sixth annual conference by its president, Mrs. Tate, who begged her audience to dispel some popular misconceptions about feminists and their principles. A feminist is neither a man hater, nor a frustrate woman, nor a despiser of the home; and it is not the employment of married women but the underpayment of women, whether married or single, which throws men out of employment. Deserving a danger that dictatorships may once again become attractive, Mrs. Tate appealed to members of the League to support democracy by attaching vital importance to the vote. The general resolution passed by the conference included a demand for the abolition in all insurance

schemes of payments based on sex, while a special resolution asked for the abolition of Regulation 33B.

that the benefits of large-scale organisation and mass production should be extended to the work of women in the home, so that most domestic chores are done communally while the children are cared for individually.

How are we to agitate for this sort of thing? We whom the shoe pinches have neither the time nor the energy to state our case in public: we grimace when we think of the slogans of our spinsterhood, "equal pay" and "holidays with pay"—now we have no pay and no holidays, not even Sunday, and we are blamed for taking no interest in public affairs.

On the basis of the number of workers engaged in it, motherhood must be easily our largest single industry. Since our redoubtable grandmothers and aunts have won us the vote, our numbers should be our strength—but, alas! unorganised numbers are useless. Feminists should remember that there were very few Labour Members of Parliament until the "new" Trade Unions of semi-skilled labourers (with political funds) were able to organise the votes of the recently enfranchised workmen. Without using their vote young mothers will never be able to win for themselves the right to a little leisure, both for recreation and for more active and enlightened citizenship; and yet without this very leisure it will take them untold years of hard work to organise their votes to any purpose. Women whose children have grown up often have time to spare, but they have their own worries, and the difficulties of the young mother are forgotten.

If the population problem is as serious as the experts say it is, mothers must be helped quickly, and the young mother must have priority. The mother of babies and toddlers is the potential mother of more babies, the middle-aged woman with all her children at school is not. Is it possible for the established associations of professional women, who are the aristocracy of our movement, to help in the founding of a feminist "new Unionism" which will embrace the millions of housewives and mothers?

PATRICIA JAMES.

NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

On May 27th, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any opportunity has yet arisen of implementing the pledge made in March last respecting further consultation with the Dominions with a view to seeking a way round the difficulties regarding a revision of the law relating to the nationality of married women.

Mr. Herbert Morrison: No suitable opportunity of consultation with the Dominions has yet occurred. The matter will not be lost sight of.

Dr. Edith Summerskill: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether this is another half promise which has been given to women and which the Government have no desire to implement?

Mr. Morrison: The Government have not decided whether to implement it or not. The Government said they would take the opportunity, when it arose, of consultation with the Dominions, who are involved.

Dr. Summerskill: In view of the fact that the debate took place two months ago, could the right hon. Gentleman say when an opportunity will arise?

Mr. Morrison: I cannot say. . . . It is a question of the right sort of consultation, and it is very difficult to do, in the midst of war, by telegraphic communication. I am afraid it may have to be personal consultation when opportunity arises.

LORD DICKINSON.

The work of Lord Dickinson, who died on June 2nd, was among the determining causes of the enfranchisement of British women, for he had a large responsibility for the inclusion, in the report to the House of Commons on the Speaker's Conference of January 1917, of a definite scheme for women's suffrage. "It is now ten years since I introduced my Suffrage Bill," he wrote in his diary after the victory of 1918, "and now at last I see something done. I feel that I have not lived in vain." In his letter read at the Jubilee luncheon last February, this veteran feminist pointed to the necessity that civilised nations should "treat their women as equals." "If not, you may make your new world order; but its foundations will be rotten."

NINA BOYLE

The Nina Boyle Memorial Meeting, held at Alliance Hall on May 24th under the chairmanship of Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, was a moving and happy as well as an interesting event. Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Miss Cicely Hamilton, in particular, made their hearers feel, as they themselves plainly did, that Nina Boyle was not only an able and a passionately honest, fearless and disinterested worker for public causes, but also a friend of high value, excellent company, warm-hearted and original in all she said and did. Mr. Edgar Fuller, representing the Save the Children Fund, for which Nina Boyle worked untiringly, quoted her own description of herself as a "bred-in-the-bone, dyed-in-the-wool feminist."

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

V.C.T. in the "Catholic Citizen," June 15th, 1918.

"Mrs. Meynell's own style, with its delicate severity, its costly simplicity, its grace, its purity and its unfailing lucidity, mirrors one of the most sane, sincere and penetrating forces of latter-day criticism."—Mrs. Meynell's Essays.

IN SERVICE OF BROTHERHOOD

(continued from front page)

when enfranchisement was won, and justice for women might have progressed further in the first quarter-century than it has done. Still, Mr. Pethick-Lawrence looks back with nostalgic happiness to those dramatic years and retains an abiding sense of unity with the "battle-comrades" of those stirring days.

Mr. Pethick-Lawrence's political career, in which he chose to specialise in finance, is interestingly recorded in what he says and in what he omits. And not unimportant are the all too brief descriptions of his extensive travels in search of recreation and political information. India—beloved of all of us who know her—appears to be the over-riding influence of his later life; his political and religious beliefs seem to owe much to his Indian contacts. Though naturally we cannot agree with him on all points, we can be thankful that, in this vice-chairman, the Labour Party has a man of rare singleness of heart and a leader who dares to base his decisions on objective facts and not on party shibboleths.

Long may Mr. and Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence be spared to rekindle at suffrage gatherings something of that love of liberty and that joy in the dignity of womanhood which—to the bewilderment of our enemies—set our souls free as the winds of God upon sunlit hill-tops, while yet womanhood walked in chains in the valley of the shadow of slavery and contempt!

Liverpool and District Branch.

Hon. Secretary, Miss A. McNeish, 61 Rosedale Avenue, Great Crosby.

Mass was offered for the Alliance on St. Joan's Day, and for Miss Elizabeth Bowden, our late hon. secretary, on the anniversary of the day she was killed by enemy action.—R.I.P.

The meetings of the Women's Organisations Committee of the Liverpool Council of Social Service are regularly attended by our chairman, Mrs. McCann. At the last meeting, members were addressed on the medical aspects of v.d., by Dr. Stallybrass, deputy M.O.H., who emphasized, however, the vital importance of approaching this question from the moral point of view. Various points were raised by the committee and Regulation 33B was shown to be inoperable in a large seaport like Liverpool.

Oxford Branch.

Mass was offered for the Alliance in the University Chapel on St. Joan's Day, May 30th. A meeting held on the same day in St. Michael's Workshop was intensely interested by Miss Jeeves' original and penetrating address on the life of St. Joan.

RENT COLLECTING.

Thanks to all those who brought and bought at the St. Joan's Eve Party at Hampstead. The amount raised was £23 3s. 2d., the party was thoroughly enjoyable, and the quarter's office rent has been covered.

We appeal to all those who have not yet paid their annual subscriptions to do so without delay and thus save the extra work and expense of constant reminders. We ask for a minimum of 5s. to include the *Catholic Citizen*. J. M. ORGAN, Hon. Treasurer.

We ask our readers' indulgence for the small type which must, owing to the restricted supply of paper, be used henceforth in *The Catholic Citizen*.

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