

THE Catholic Citizen

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

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DECEMBER 15th, 1924.

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 Work of the Fifth Assembly.

BY LESLIE R. ALDOUS.

Though one Assembly of the League of Nations is very much like another, as far as the routine work of hearing reports and appointing committee goes, the Fifth Assembly had a character all of its own. In the first place there was no international crisis like the Corfu dispute of last year hanging darkly over its proceedings. But more important still, the visits of the Prime Ministers, creating an atmosphere of expectation and confidence, were in themselves sufficient to make the Fifth Assembly outstanding beyond its predecessors. Not only did Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and M. Herriot deliver their eagerly anticipated speeches, but during their stay in Geneva they made themselves part of the Assembly, actually taking their seats with the British and French delegations. Their presence, together with that of the Prime Ministers of Denmark, Austria and Hungary, and an embarrassing number of Foreign Ministers who headed delegations, furnished conclusive evidence that States Members are taking the League more seriously than ever before, and think it fitting to be represented by delegates who really have the full authority of their Governments behind them.

Undoubtedly the most important work done in the Assembly was in connection with the Protocol for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes. Before the Assembly opened, it was realised that a substitute would have to be found for the rejected Draft Treaty of Mutual Assistance, and the difficulties in the way to a solution were

known to be great. Such, however, was the healthy spirit of co-operation shown among the nations, that the Protocol was drawn up and unanimously approved by the delegates in the remarkably short time of five weeks. This would, of course, have been impossible but for the excellent ground-work already done by the League's Disarmament Commission.

The Protocol, it must be emphasised, does not involve any radical change in the Covenant; it supplements the Covenant. One of the most striking features of the Fifth Assembly was the prominent part occupied by the Covenant in all the discussions, which proved unmistakably that this is still regarded as the rule of life for nations. But it was realised that even the Covenant has its loopholes, one of the largest being that a State, after six months of arbitration and three more of waiting without commencing hostilities, could go to war at the end of nine months. It would be impossible to give here all the terms of the Protocol, linking as it does in a very definite manner arbitration, security and disarmament. But one of its effects is that States who sign it give up their right to go to war in any circumstances except in defence of the Covenant. Surely it is the most hopeful sign of the times that the representatives of forty-seven nations have voted unanimously for what is in effect a clear-cut agreement upon a definite plan to outlaw war.

A new and important departure was made in the handling of minority problems. The

League has done valuable work in preserving the peace of Europe in this direction, but the situation on the Greek-Bulgarian frontier has long been so intolerable that it was felt impossible for Greece to conclude a treaty directly with Bulgaria. Largely through the good offices of Professor Gilbert Murray, one of the British delegates and an expert on minority problems, each country was induced to sign a treaty with the Council of the League, undertaking to protect the interests of the unfortunate minority of the other in its territory, and a League Commission was appointed to assist them to carry out their obligations. It is hoped that this will prove a valuable precedent in the case of Roumania and Jugo-Slavia.

Turkey, it is interesting to notice, for the first time sent representatives to take part in the discussion on the Mosul frontier problem, though she is not yet a member of the League. Matters in that part of the world give little cause for satisfaction, but progress is likely to be made towards settling the dispute now that both Great Britain and Turkey have agreed to submit the matter to the Council of the League and abide by its decision.

As a direct result of the Fifth Assembly's efforts at conciliation, there is every likelihood that Germany will soon apply for League membership. Indeed, it is more than probable that a special session of the Assembly will be summoned early next year for the purpose of admitting her. But for France's changed attitude, which has been so marked at the Fifth Assembly, there would still have been little prospect of Germany's speedy entry.

Though to some extent overshadowed by the political sphere, the League's humanitarian activities played a prominent part in the Assembly's deliberations. In regard to the opium question, some time was spent in preparing for the two League opium conferences fixed for the first and third Mondays in November respectively. A certain amount of difficulty was experienced in agreeing upon a programme for the conferences, but the Standing Opium Advisory Committee had sufficient to go upon to be able to work out an Agenda which should "furnish a satisfactory basis for the work of the conference, and may prepare the way for a final agreement."

The report on the work of the League's Permanent Health Committee, which had come into existence since the Fourth Assembly, showed that this newly-formed branch of the League's activities was working very satisfactorily on the lines laid down by the old Temporary Committee. One of the most interesting proposals is a scheme to establish a bureau for the epidemiological information in the Far East, probably at Singapore. Those who remember the disturbing waves of "influenza" which sweep over Europe from the East, will welcome this attempt to attack epidemics at their source. A special sub-committee is dealing with the question of cancer.

At the Fifth Assembly, it was reported that a Slavery Committee had been appointed and had actually got to work on its urgent task of checking the recrudescence of slavery. After a great deal of discussion, a programme was drafted ensuring a more thorough and comprehensive enquiry than any that has yet been undertaken.

From the Economic Committee's report, it appeared that the little difficulties which had arisen in connection with the administration of the Austrian reconstruction scheme, had now finally been cleared up. The Hungarian scheme, too, was reported to be proceeding favourably under the expert control of Mr. Jeremiah Smith, the League High Commissioner.

No account of the Fifth Assembly would be complete without some reference to the flood of Americans who crowded Geneva. The concensus of opinion among these visitors from across the Atlantic seemed to be that the entry of the United States into the League would be but a question of time.

We are glad to learn that the distinguished Sicilian priest, Don Sturzo, is on a visit to London. The Executive Committee of St. Joan's S.P.A. is giving a dinner in his honour. Don Sturzo, our readers will remember, is a keen supporter of woman suffrage.

We offer our readers our best wishes for a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Notes and Comments.

We congratulate the Government on following the precedent set by their predecessors in appointing a woman to the Ministry. The Duchess of Atholl is specially qualified for the office of Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education. For several years she was member of the Perthshire Education Authority, and was Vice-President of the Association of Educational Authorities in Scotland. We offer her our cordial congratulations.

We should have liked to see Lady Astor Minister of Health, but perhaps she is right in saying that she is of even greater use in gingering up the Government.

Eight women have been elected Mayors: Miss Smee, J.P., Acton; Mrs. Mercer, Birkhead; Mrs. Hartree, Cambridge; Dame Catherine Hunt, J.P., Colchester; Miss Wix, J.P., St. Albans; Miss N. Short, Eye; Miss Eve, Stoke Newington; and Mrs. Leach, J.P., Yarmouth.

St. Joan's S.P.A. addressed a letter to the Prime Minister urging the Government to include in the King's Speech, Equal Franchise, Equal Guardianship of Infants, and Widows' Pensions. It being understood that the Unionist Party is in favour of these three measures, it was hoped that they would be included in the speech.

In thanking the Alliance for our letter of congratulation, Miss E. C. Wilkinson says: "The loss of so many women members takes most of the pleasure out of my victory, but I can assure you that I have at heart the welfare of women especially, and I am always glad to assist any organisation that is concerned with the same objects."

Mrs. Wintringham writes to Miss Barry: "Thank you and your organisation very much for your kind words of appreciation. Naturally the result was disappointing, but letters like yours sweeten reverses of this sort. I was most grateful for the help of Miss Wall, she did excellent work."

From Lady Astor:

"So many thanks for your kind telegram of congratulations. I am glad to carry on, but the loss of Mrs. Wintringham is such a blow that I can hardly imagine what the House will be like without her. We have clearly a lot to do before we can be assured of enough of the right women in Parliament."

Following the granting of the municipal vote to Spanish women, the good news comes that three women have been elected to the Municipality of Madrid. The *Acción Católica de la Mujer* rejoices that all three are members of that union. Other women have been elected to provincial councils, and one woman has been elected Mayor. We offer them all our hearty congratulations.

Mrs. V. M. Crawford represented St. Joan's S.P.A. at the dinner given by the Women's Freedom League to welcome our new woman M.P., Miss Ellen Wilkinson.

It was with great regret that we learnt of the death of Mrs. Duval, a keen champion of votes for women in the stormy days before the war stopped militancy—that is to say, stopped the women's bloodless fight. Mrs. Duval was a member of the Women's Freedom League, and was arrested in connection with the famous Grille Protest in the Commons. Later on she was again arrested, and endured the hunger strike and the horrors of forcible feeding. Such heroic courage wins the admiration of friend and foe alike.—R.I.P.

We are asked to say that there are still some articles left after the Christmas Sale, and if members and readers will call at the Office, 55 Berners Street, before buying their Christmas presents, the Hon. Secretary will be glad to show them the varied and attractive selection.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

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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Memories of a Militant.*

Both those who approved of the militant movement and those who disapproved, will be grateful to Annie Kenney for this record of a campaign in which she played so heroic a part. The story is told with a charming simplicity and a directness of style, which is peculiarly effective, because it never aims at effect.

The militant movement did what years of patient and grinding toil failed to achieve: it brought the cry of "Votes for Women" not only to the ears of sheltered women in British homes, women who knew nothing of politics and cared less, but to the ears of women throughout the civilised world.

It was an amazing achievement. The campaign thenceforth became a sort of crusade. High and low, rich and poor, women of the professional class, factory hands, heard the call and responded to it.

One never knew at what moment news would come that some friend or relation was rejoicing at having succeeded in getting into prison. The thrill of those early days is recaptured in Annie Kenney's book. At that time the tragedy of the later phase—the hunger strike, forcible feeding, the campaign of violence, was unforeseen.

Miss Kenney makes no secret of the fact that to her Christabel Pankhurst was the genius of the militant movement, the leader whose policy must never be questioned. None the less, she is fair to the other leaders, notably to Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence. "Our success as an organisation," she writes,

* *Memories of a Militant.*—By ANNIE KENNEY (Edward Arnold & Co. 16/-).

"commenced when Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence joined our small band of workers in the Spring of 1906. They brought to the Movement qualities that are the basis of a firm and lasting foundation." Or again: "Apart from policy, which was always decided upon by Christabel, Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence accepted practically all final responsibility for the success of the Movement."

Miss Kenney feels that when these two left the union, the Movement suffered. And, of course, she pays full tribute to that great leader, Mrs. Pankhurst: "Ever ready to do herself anything she had inflamed her devoted band to do, dramatic, dignified, loving, human, cultured, pretty, versatile, this was the Mrs. Pankhurst we knew in the fight." She pays tribute, too, to the rank and file.

And in spite of herself, for Annie Kenney is not vain-glorious, her own selfless devotion to the cause and to her leaders, stands out from every page. Her capacity for work, her superhuman courage, leaves the reader spellbound. Her experiences might well have embittered her, but there is no trace of bitterness; truly she has the merry heart that goes all the way. She writes: "I left the Movement, financially, as I joined it, penniless. Though I had no money I had reaped a rich harvest of joy, laughter, romance, companionship and experience, that no money can ever buy."

No one will grudge Miss Kenney her retirement and peaceful existence near the Sussex wolds, but does no echo of the life she has left reach her? She tells us that:

"The granting of the Parliamentary vote to women and the passing into law of Bills allowing them to sit in the House of Commons, has given them absolute equality of political rights."

How we wish her words were true!

L. DE ALBERTI.

Reviews.

Ninth Report of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, 1923-24. (To be obtained from the A.M.S., Orchard House, Great Smith Street, S.W. 1. Price 6d.) All who are interested in the campaign for the Abolition of State Regulation of Vice, should get this report, and read for themselves the unceasing activities of the A.M.S.H. in this great cause. The section dealing with the work of the Association in the British Crown Colonies, is of special interest. We rejoice to learn that in Gibraltar "the Lane" (the brothel quarter), was closed in 1922, and that the results in health and morals have been most satisfactory, venereal disease in the Atlantic Fleet having been greatly reduced.

The Catholic Social Year Book. (The Catholic Social Guild, Oxford; 1s. net.) This the fifteenth issue of the Year Book, takes the form of "Letters on Social History." These letters appeared in the *Christian Democrat* as Letters to a Catholic Evidence Lecturer, and were written by invitation from Evidence Lecturers. They deal with the social claims of the Catholic Church, slavery, the guilds, and kindred subjects, and must be of considerable service to lecturers and writers.

The Catholic Reading Guild, 17 Red Lion Passage, Holborn, W.C. 1. The report of the Catholic Reading Guild shows a steady increase in the number of books lent, and the number of readers attending the Central Library.

More books are needed, and persons having any suitable books to spare are asked to send them to the Library.

The International Council of Women. Third and Fourth Annual Report of the Seventh Quinquennial Period. Compiled by Madame Anna Backer. This interesting report gives a comprehensive view of the work of the I.C.W. during the last few years, including lists of resolutions adopted by the I.C.W. at different times. In the report of the President, Lady Aberdeen, we note that six new National Councils of Women have applied for affiliation. They are: Cuba, Latvia, Czecho-Slovakia, Guatemala, Poland, and Ireland.

The outstanding event of the year, the President says, is the holding of the Conferences on the Prevention of the Causes of War. Similar conferences were held in various parts of the globe simultaneously.

The numerous reports from affiliated Councils provide a history of women's work in practically every civilised land.

The next Quinquennial Congress will be held in the U.S.A. in 1925.

Communicating with the Dead

In spite of a night of London's best fog, a large audience assembled to hear Father Thurston, S.J., lecture on "Communicating with the Dead." A number of non-Catholics were among the audience, but the lecturer handled his subject with a fairness to all sides that disarmed criticism. In fact, from conversations held after the lecture, one gathered that Anglicans and theosophists present were largely in sympathy with the views of the lecturer. Father Thurston, while admitting that he was not convinced of the impossibility of getting into touch with the dead, emphasised the danger of the practice, which is, of course, forbidden by the Catholic Church. Father Thurston has made a deep study of the subject, and there could be no better exponent of this most controversial question.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance wish to offer Father Thurston their cordial thanks.

Councillor Mrs. Crawford presided at the meeting, and expressed her pleasure that the Marylebone Hall was being used for a serious lecture: she and others were anxious that the hall should be used for educational purposes, and not merely for dances.

International Notes.

The fight for women in Congress is clearly going to be as arduous in the United States as the fight in England to get women into the House of Commons. Only one woman, Mrs. Norton, has been elected (Jersey City), and none of the five Equal Rights candidates in Pennsylvania was successful. On the other hand, for the first time two women Governors have been elected: Mrs. Ferguson for Texas, and Mrs. Ross for Wyoming. As regards the former, an attempt was made to have her declared ineligible for office on the ground of sex, but happily the Court gave judgment in her favour.

* * * *

The Swiss Association for Woman Suffrage had the excellent idea of sending a representative over to England for our General Election to watch the work of the women candidates and report generally on the feminine aspects of the contest. St. Joan's was one of the Associations that piloted our Swiss visitor round, and her experiences are given in two brightly written articles in the *Mouvement Féministe* (Geneva).

* * * *

The grouping of university women in associations is proceeding in most countries with excellent results. We note (*Mouvement Féministe*) that the Swiss University women have just held their first annual meeting, and can already boast a membership of 220: no bad record for six months' work. Their president is Mme. Schreiber-Favre, a member of the Swiss Bar.

* * * *

Several of our foreign contemporaries publish long obituary notices of Mme. de Witt-Schlumberger, who died in October last. She had been for many years one of the leading figures in the French Suffrage movement, and as first Vice-President of the I.W.S.A., was well known far beyond the French frontier for her enthusiasm for the cause and her great organising ability. Surrounded by a large family and with many social duties, she yet found time to render long and conspicuous service to the Suffrage cause.

We learn from the "occasional paper" of the S. African W.E.A.U., that there is no hope of the present Cape ministry introducing any Suffrage Bill, and therefore it has been decided to promote a private members' Bill. A majority of the House is held to be in favour of the Suffrage, but the question is greatly complicated by the question of the coloured vote. Meanwhile it is encouraging to read that Natal has granted the municipal vote to women on the same terms as to men, and that in the recent elections women voted enthusiastically, and two women councillors were elected in Durban.

* * * *

The Horizon (Melbourne) has some wise words on the subject of Sex problems. As it truly says, if every mother could and would tactfully and fearlessly impart all necessary knowledge to her own children, there would no longer be any problem to discuss. But as it is, enlightened Catholic women must come to the help of their weaker sisters.

* * * *

The American N.C.W.C. *Bulletin* gives some encouraging details of the way in which Spanish women are preparing to use their newly acquired municipal vote. The vote, however, has only been conferred on widows, single women over 23 years of age, and other women heads of families, and married women, are, not unnaturally, protesting vigorously, led by the Duchess of Vistahermosa, who has been making suffrage speeches in Madrid. The *Acción Católica de la Mujer* is also being active in the matter.

* * * *

Polish women have a well-edited organ in *Bluszcz*, which deals with a wide range of topics, but we have failed to discover in it any advocacy of women's rights.

V. M. C.

Christmas Sales.

We gratefully acknowledge gifts for our Christmas Sales from the following members and friends:

Mrs. and Miss Anderson, Mrs. F. Anderson, Lady Clare Annesley, Viscountess Astor, Miss Barry, Miss F. Barry, Miss Brandt, Miss Brindley, Miss de Bulnes, Messrs. Burns, Oates & Washbourne, Ltd., Mrs. Gillies Campbell, Mrs. Clayton, Miss M. Cochrane, Mrs. Crawford, Miss Cruttwell, Mrs. Drysdale, Miss Fedden, Miss K. FitzGerald, Miss Grant, Mrs. Hey Groves, Miss Gorry, Miss Hargrove, Miss Havers, Mrs. J. Hayes, Miss Henderson, Miss C. Hill, Mrs. Hughes, Miss Johnston, Miss Mackintosh, Miss Meredith, Miss Meyer, Mrs. Mills, Mrs. E. Mills, Miss Moclair, Dr. Margaret Morice, Miss Musson, Mrs. Newman, Mrs. O'Connor, Miss O'Farrell, Miss O'Halloran, Miss Padfield, Miss C. Sherwin, Mrs. Shorto, Miss Stack, Francis Tucker & Co., Ltd., Miss Verner, Miss Wahid, Miss Walker, Miss Wall, Miss Ward, Mrs. Whately, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Wintringham, Miss Wynne. Gifts of money are acknowledged in the monthly subscriptions list.

We also thank Miss Fedden and all those who helped us at the stall on the days of the Sales and contributed to its success.

The proceeds from the Green, White and Gold Fair and the sale in the Hyde Park Hotel, amounted to £22. We hope, as usual, to augment this sum by private Sales in the Office before Christmas of the goods remaining. Therefore, the total amount, including the result of a Sale on December 10, will be announced next month.

GABRIELLE JEFFERY.

We much regret the decision to remove Lady Astor's picture from the House of Commons. The picture commemorated a great historical event: the introduction of the first woman M.P. Denmark commemorated in a similar manner the first women to take their seats in the Danish Parliament.

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* Xmas Sale.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

Hon. Secretary—Miss N. S. Parnell, B.A., 91 Bedford Street, Liverpool.

The sixth ordinary meeting of the Branch was held on November 24th at 91 Bedford Street, when our members listened to exceedingly interesting and informative addresses on the League of Nations by Mr. Tom Gillender and Mr. Harry Eden of the League of Nations Union.

The American Tea has been again postponed until the Christmas holidays owing to the difficulty of finding a suitable place in which to hold it. There will be no further meetings of the Branch until the Annual meeting early in January.

Annual Subscriptions.

Annual Subscriptions to St. Joan's S.P.A. and the "Catholic Citizen" fall due on 1st January, 1925. It saves much trouble and expense to the Alliance if Subscriptions are paid promptly, and we shall be especially grateful to all who bear this in mind. The minimum subscription to the Alliance is 1/- and to the "Catholic Citizen" 2/6 post free, or 3/6 in all.

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN.

**ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND
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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.

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.

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