

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

WOMEN'S SERVICE
LIBRARY.

Organ of St. Joan's Alliance (formerly The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society).
36A, Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford Street, London W.1.

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10s. per annum

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

Requiem for Florence Barry

At the Requiem Mass for Miss Barry, celebrated by Father Christopher Laughton Mathews in Westminster Cathedral on the evening of February 17th, there was a very large gathering including the International President of the Alliance, Madame Leroy-Boy, and representatives of the French and German Sections, women Members of Parliament and of many women's organizations. After the Mass Father Christopher gave a brief talk about Miss Barry's life and work. 'It is not our custom', he said, 'to indulge in panegyrics—indeed she herself would be the last person to want this. All she would wish for would be our prayers.'

He spoke of Miss Barry's indomitable courage and her great faith. 'All her convictions, in which she had absolute confidence, arose not from any emotion or eccentricity but from a logically worked out mental process. She had no fear: she was afraid of no one at all!'

He went on to say that the Alliance largely through her work had grown from small beginnings when it was the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, to an international Alliance influencing other

world organizations—even the United Nations.

'Anyone seeing her at work, as it was my privilege to do, could not but love her. She had remarkable prevision and she achieved wonders. Changes unthinkable fifty years ago are now being seriously considered. Perhaps in another fifty years those other things she hoped for, which today might be thought impossible, will come to be accepted. We must not grieve at her departure but thank God for her valiant spirit and pray that He will soon send another like her.'

After the Mass a reception was held in the Library of the Cathedral when members and representatives of the women's organizations were presented to Madame Leroy.

Though the occasion was sad, there was comfort and stimulation from these contacts and during the earlier part of the day until late at night useful discussions took place.

Though our dear friend was never far from our thoughts the meeting was a fruitful and consoling one.

TRIBUTES TO FLORENCE BARRY. R.I.P.

We have had most moving expressions of sorrow and sympathy from Sections and individual members overseas. We cannot quote them all—these give their essence:

From the United States of America: 'I can imagine her now, pleased no doubt but a little impatient with our eulogies: "Let us get on with the work!"'

* * *

Another, quoting Florence Barry's own words, 'I have done my work' and now it is up to others to take it up without delay.

* * *

A good friend, in promising a most generous gift says: 'The work will be her memorial.'

It was with very deep regret that our members heard of the sudden death of Miss F. Barry on January 27th. She was a member of a very old Birkenhead family and founded the Merseyside Branch of St. Joan's. Meetings of St. Joan's held at her Park Road home, were a source of great pleasure and profit to all who enjoyed her hospitality. We came away full of her enthusiasm, and amazed at her wide knowledge. Even after she went to reside in London, she still retained her interest in the Merseyside Branch and visited us from time to time. Recognition of her work, for women, by the Holy Father with the medal Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, gave us great joy. Holy Mass was offered for the repose of her soul. R.I.P.

THE FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

The fifty-fourth Annual Meeting on March 20th will differ from any held for more than fifty years in that it will be without the familiar figure that has welcomed old friends and new members with the warm-hearted energy we all remember, and directed the proceedings.

It must be a meeting perhaps less formal than usual, though the usual business must of course be done.

Florence Barry's work has brought St. Joan's almost within sight of the achievement of its aims; never has it been so well and so widely known, never before has it received such approval. Turn back the pages of *The Catholic Citizen* and see how far we have travelled.

Our International President on her recent sad visit asked for our support: new Sections are in the making and our Petition for the Revision of Canon Law has gone to the Commission set up by Pope John XXIII—we have just heard that it has been received and translated into many languages but not as yet considered. This was indeed a work directed by Florence Barry.

We would ask our members whether able to come to the Annual Meeting or not to consider very seriously what practical steps they are prepared to take or recommend for filling the gaps which are now only too obvious and which at present seriously hinder the work of the Alliance at its administrative centre.

We feel sure our members will be sorry to hear that our Editor, Mrs Cummins, who was obliged to give up the Editorship temporarily, is unable to rejoin us. The present and the last issue of *The Catholic Citizen* have been 'edited' by your editorial board with the generous help of the printer.

The Societies on whose committees Florence Barry did such valuable work are asking for replacements.

We would remind members that only those who have paid their subscriptions are entitled to vote.

The twenty-second Council Meeting of St Joan's International Alliance will be held in Rome on September 18th—19th under the Presidency of Mme Leroy.

We look forward to hearing the arrangements Miss Joan Morris has been able to make for delegates. We hope many will attend from the British section.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The Alliance sent congratulations to His Eminence Cardinal Heenan on the occasion of his nomination to the Cardinalate.

We are also grateful to His Eminence for his sincere sympathy in our recent sad loss.

* * *

We wish Madame Leroy and her husband every blessing in their sphere of work at New Delhi which, though further away than Israel may be easier of access, and Denis the youngest of their four sons will learn geography the easy way!

* * *

On Saturday, February 6th the annual ceremony, organized by the Fawcett Society, was held at Westminster Abbey to commemorate the granting of the first instalment of Woman Suffrage in 1918. It was very well attended. A wreath was laid in St. George's Chapel in tribute to Mrs Fawcett. The ceremony was conducted by the Dean and an address given by Miss H. V. Stuart, formerly Headmistress of Sherborne Girls' School.

On the same day a meeting of the Suffragette Fellowship was held at Crosby Hall. Miss Stella Newsome was in the chair and Mrs Lena Jeger, M.P., spoke on the Social Services, Equal Pay and the Administration of Justice Bill. The meeting stood in silence in tribute to Miss Barry and the chairman spoke of the loss, the woman's movement has sustained in her death.

* * *

Congratulations to our member the Countess of Longford on the award of the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for the best biography of 1964. The widow of James Tait Black, a member of the publishing firm of A. C. Black and Company, had set aside a sum of money the interest from which was to be devoted to prizes for (a) the best biography and (b) the best novel of the year. The award is made on the advice of the Professor of Literature of the University of Edinburgh.

* * *

We are glad to hear from Miss Joan Morris, who has recently returned from Rome, that our petition posted on the day Miss Barry came into the office for the last time, has been received by the Commission on the Revision of Canon Law and translated into several languages.

* * *

A brief note on the copy of an article by a member in the United States, Professor Rosemary Lauer says: 'Dear Miss Barry, you will be interested to hear that I am to speak to seminarians at Hartford College on February 21st!'

(Continued at foot of opposite page)

THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

Street Offences

Dame Joan Vickers asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he would seek to amend the Act of 1959 so that the offence of soliciting would apply to any person and not to one particular group; but Miss Alice Bacon, Minister of State, said that the effect of section 1 of the 1959 Act and of section 32 of that of 1956 make it an offence in the case of both **prostitutes and men**, and that the Minister had no proposals for amending legislation on this subject. (Feb. 4th).

Offensive Postal Matter

The Postmaster-General was asked by Mrs Butler if he would introduce legislation to make it an offence for firms to send unsolicited pornographic material through the post. Mr Slater pointed out that it is already an offence under the Post Office Act of 1953 to send indecent or obscene matter through the post and that in his opinion further legislation would not help. Material sent to the Home Office by the member for Wood Green, and referred to by Mrs Butler, was now, he added, the subject of a police enquiry. (Feb. 4th).

Domestic Help

Some local health authorities demand payment in all cases where they supply domestic help. Mr Rees wanted to know what action the Minister of Health proposed to take in this matter. Mr Robinson said that he was collecting up-to-date information about the varying practice of local authorities and that as soon as this is available he proposes to consider, with the interest of the authorities, the possibility of discouraging all of them from making a charge when they provide home help for any person who is in receipt of an allowance from the National Assistance Board. (Feb. 4th).

Part-Time Teaching in Scotland

At present part-time teaching service in Scotland is pensionable only when it consists of whole days. Mr Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland, told Mr Harrison, who questioned him about this, that he was issuing draft regulations to allow half days to be counted as pensionable service. (Feb. 11th).

Pensions

Mr Onslow pointed out that the widows of M.P.s are treated much more generously in the matter of pensions than those of Service men, and asked the Minister for Defence if he would raise the entitlement of Service widows from a third to a half of the husbands' pensions. Mr Mayhew said that there are differences, one being that the Members' scheme was a contributory one: but he added that the matter is under review and that a full statement will be made to the House as soon as possible. (Feb. 15th).

Human Rights

Mr Hale asked the Prime Minister whether Her Majesty's Government would, on behalf of the United Kingdom and Colonies, fully ratify the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights. Mr Wilson replied that the United Kingdom had ratified this Convention in 1951, and that the application of the convention was extended to 42 dependent territories in 1953. (Feb. 16th).

National Health Service

During the debate on the National Health Service the Minister of Health, Mr Robinson, said that he wished to speak about a profession 'no less essential' than that of medicine—the nursing profession. He expressed the hope that the new pay settlement for student nurses, by which increases ranging from six to twelve per cent, become effective from March 1st, would help to increase recruitment. The new rates, he said, include pupil nurses. Mr Lubbock wondered whether the figures would look 'quite so rosy' if considered in connection with the question of working hours.

Mr Lubbock also thought that the scheme for making payments for ancillary work should be made to cover part-time workers and also the doctors' wives where they undertook this help. (Feb. 17th).

C.M.C.

NOTES AND COMMENTS (Continued)

One of our members, Dr Marita Harper, was active in pressing for a new Obscene Publications Act, enlisting the support of churchmen of different denominations, M.P.'s of all parties, addressing meetings of men's and women's organizations and being interviewed on radio and television. The passing of the new Act is only a partial solution to the problem since by means of it such cases can be brought before a jury and in the final analysis the public itself will decide what is and what is not obscene. St Joan's has also pressed for action when contravention of the Post Office Act occurs by the sending of indecent matter through the mail.

* * *

With more part-time employment women will find it easier to secure entry into professional training as there will be a diminished risk of loss by marriage. *Schweizer Frauenblatt*—Dec. 1964.

* * *

In an advertisement in the London Evening Standard of February 24th: 'Telephonist for evening work, hours 5.30 to 10.30 p.m. Sunday 8.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Salary: Men £9. 3s. 5d., Women £7. 6s. 3d. per week: Whitley Council Conditions—apply the Secretary, Hampstead General Hospital. . . . What price Equal Pay!'

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

founded 1911

BRITISH SECTION OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "The Catholic Citizen"

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ex-officio MME MAGDELEINE LEROY BOY, Dr. Jur. President St. Joan's International Alliance.

MISS P. C. CHALLONER, M.A., Chairman

MISS F. A. BARRY, Honorary life member, R.I.P.

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MISS CHRISTINE SPENDER

FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ending 31st December, 1964

The outstanding event of the year at home was the preparation for the Golden Jubilee of *The Catholic Citizen*, 15th January, 1965. This entailed the collection and arrangement of tributes from all parts of the world, for the Jubilee number of *The Catholic Citizen* itself, the sending of invitations to speakers and the arrangements for the Jubilee Dinner on January 21st.

In the detailed arrangements, and in the sale of tickets for the Dinner, we had the valuable and expert aid of Councillor Miss Barbara Hulme; we put on record our gratitude and appreciation to her.

All this was well in hand before Christmas but the strain was undoubtedly heavy as there was no editorial aid available for the last months of the year.

The second outstanding event of the year was the assembling of the documents on the Revision of Canon Law sent in by the members of the Committee appointed for this purpose by the Council of the International Alliance in Freiburg in 1963 and the preparation of the petition to the Commission on the Revision of Canon Law, in accordance with the Resolution passed at Antwerp in 1964.

Three more women were created life peers. Lady Davidson and Mrs. Gaitskill, and later Mrs. Morgan Phillips became Baroness Phillips; the last is a Catholic and has joined the Alliance.

Dame Joan Vickers' Employment of Young Persons Bill and Baroness Summerskill's "Wives Bill"—the latest Married Women's Property Bill, were passed.

The Guardianship of Infants Bill on which Dame Joan Vickers worked so hard still hangs fire. Mrs. Shirley Williams awaits an opportunity to introduce a bill.

As regards Equal Pay and opportunities, women in the industrial grades of the Civil Service are still deprived of the just reward of their services, as indeed they are throughout industry, and in the Banks.

The Oxford and Cambridge race continues, New College, Oxford, has proposed to admit women, and Clare College, Cambridge, to set up a post-graduate centre open to Fellows of both sexes. Cambridge women undergraduates are still excluded from the Catholic Chaplaincy.

Meetings and other Activities

The 53rd Annual Meeting was held at 27 Wilfred Street, on 21st March, Miss P. C. Challoner presiding. The Annual Report was adopted after speeches by Mrs. Shirley Williams, Mrs. Parry-Hausenstein, Miss Christine Spender and Miss Margaret Clarke. The Financial Report was the last given by Miss Noreen Carr as Hon. Treasurer, and she also made the Annual Appeal. In calling on her, the Chairman thanked her once more for her

long and devoted service. The collection yielded £93.

Resolutions were re-affirmed concerning the Peerage Bill, Jury Service, Private Employment Agencies, the I.L.O., the General Election Questionnaire to the three political parties, Fuller Participation of Women in the Service of the Church and *The Catholic Citizen*. On the invitation of the Chairman, Dr. Fleming of the O.D.C. spoke to the I.L.O. Resolution, and Miss Pierotti, Vice-Chairman of the Status of Women Committee suggested some verbal amendments. Miss N. S. Parnell urged members to use the Resolutions with their candidates in the forthcoming election. After Dr. Shattock had introduced the Resolution on the Fuller Participation of Women in the Service of the Church, Miss Joan Morris said that recommendations regarding the revision of Canon Law were no longer merely welcomed, they were invited. Miss Morris' valuable comment on this question was warmly applauded. Dr. Marita Harper gave *The Catholic Citizen* the highest praise, she filed it whole!

The Executive Committee was re-elected with the exception of Miss Carr, and Dr. Marita Harper was elected in her place.

Miss E. D. Price, International Hon. Secretary, made a plea for members to attend the International Council to be held in Antwerp, August 28th-31st.

On St. Joan's Day, May 30th, Father Denis O'Sullivan kindly offered Mass for the Alliance. Members attended the 6 o'clock Mass on the Eve of her Feast at Westminster Cathedral. They laid the traditional wreath on the shrine of St. Joan, where Mgr. Tomlinson allowed the candles to be lighted for the occasion. Members paid a visit to the Memorial to Dame Vera Loughton Mathews.

Members also attended the Annual Mass at St. Patrick's, Soho, on the first Sunday in November for all deceased members, benefactors and friends of the Alliance.

In June Mrs. Cullen, our Catholic woman M.P., kindly gave a tea-party at the House of Commons for His Excellency Monsignor George Hakim, Greek Catholic Archbishop of Galilee.

The Alliance thanked him for his championship of women at the Vatican Council. His Excellency spoke warmly of Mme. Leroy and her work and influence in the Holy Land, and invited members to plan a pilgrimage there.

In August fourteen members from this country attended the 21st Council Meeting of St. Joan's International Alliance at Antwerp: three Vice-Presidents, the International Secretary, three voting delegates, three alternate delegates, and four individual members. Dr. Marita Harper led the delegation with her usual distinction.

Co-operation with other Societies

The Alliance is represented on the following Committees: Commonwealth Countries' League; the British Vigilance and National Committee for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons; the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child; the Status of Women Committee; and the Women's Advisory Council of the United Nations Association. The Alliance attends (as observer) meetings of the Women's Council co-operating with the women of India, Pakistan, Ceylon and other countries of the Far East.

Members attended the annual gathering at Westminster Abbey when tribute was paid to Dame Millicent Fawcett on 6th February, and the Annual Meeting of the Suffragette Fellowship the same evening, the anniversary of the first instalment of votes for women. They also laid flowers at Mrs. Pankhurst's statue on 14th July, her birthday.

Representatives attended the Annual Meetings of the Josephine Butler Society and the Anti-Slavery Society; various functions of the Commonwealth Countries' League including its Annual Conference on "Design for Living within the Commonwealth"; and several gatherings arranged by the W.A.C. including some to discuss arrangements for celebrating International Co-operation Year.

Dr. Shattock was asked to speak on the work of the Alliance to the C.W.L. at Henley-on-Thames, and attracted six new members.

The Chairman addressed the Economic Committee of the N.C.W. on the work of the Committee on Women Workers with Family Responsibilities. She took part in a Conference arranged by the Sword of the Spirit on population problems.

The Chairman and Miss Barry were invited to meet Mr. Mohammed Awad, the Rapporteur appointed by ECOSOC to bring the Engen Report on Slavery, the Slave Trade and Customs and Institutions similar to Slavery up to date and report. They stressed the importance of customs affecting women.

The Status of Women Committee which represents sixteen national organisations under the Chairmanship of Dame Joan Vickers, M.P., appointed a sub-committee to study the I.L.O. reports on Women Workers in a Changing World, and a Memorandum was sent to the Minister of Labour and to the British delegates to the I.L. Conference. The Alliance took part in a deputation to Ministry of Labour officials attending the I.L. Conference.

The Election Manifesto was brought up to date and members of the Committee combined to send out copies to all candidates.

The General Election

The Alliance issued a questionnaire for the use of members with their own candidates, stressing the injustice of Clause 1 of the Street Offences Act.

There were 90 women candidates and 29 were elected including our member Mrs. Shirley Williams. We sent congratulations to her and to the other women members who were re-elected. Seven women were given ministerial posts under the new Government, including Mrs. Harriet Slater as Government Whip.

Visitors from Abroad

The President paid us a brief visit in April when much work was done; we also welcomed Mrs. Hylton-Scott and Senorita Saragossa from Argentine, Miss McGillicuddy from U.S.A., and Mrs. Kinsella and the Australian delegates on their way to Antwerp.

Obituary

We record with sorrow the death of Miss Margaret Lawson and Miss Kathleen Moclair; of Miss Jeanne Way and Mrs. Lalor, of the Victoria Section, all valued friends; of Miss Watts and Mrs. Earengy, co-workers in the Women's movement. Miss Barry attended the Memorial Service for Lady Astor at Westminster Abbey and the funeral of Dame Rachel Crowley.

ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

The International President used to advantage her journeys between Israel and Europe in making new contacts for the Alliance and attracting new members. She and Miss McGillicuddy (U.S.A.) attended the Conference of International Catholic Organisations at Barcelona in April; she joined the British Chairman at Geneva in June for meetings of the Committee on Working Women with Family Responsibilities, and persuaded its Chairman, Madame Dackey of Togo to join the Alliance.

Mme. Leroy presided over the 21st International Council Meeting in Antwerp where delightful arrangements were made by Mme. van Gorp. The meetings were held at the Maria-Mediatrix Home where 44 delegates were accommodated. The President opened proceedings with a prayer to the Holy Ghost and in her Presidential address described her many contacts on her travels and her opportunities of speech with Council dignitaries during their pilgrimages to the Holy Land, and that of the Holy Father himself. She spoke of her hope of new Sections. The Hon. Treasurer, Mme. Gouffé, presented the financial report with her usual verve; Miss Price presented the report on the year's work, particularly with the United Nations, and Miss Challoner reported on the work of the Committee of the I.L.O. Conference on Women Workers with Family Responsibilities. There was discussion on relations with UNESCO initiated by Dr. Bardenhewer. National Sections presented their Reports and the President thanked them for their fine work.

Former Resolutions concerning equal status were re-affirmed and brought up to date; that on Marriage recalled the words of Pope John XXIII on the right of human beings to set up a family with "equal rights and duties for men and women."

After re-affirming Resolutions on the Fuller Participation of Women in the Service of the Church and on the Liturgy, there was a full discussion on a new Resolution on the revision of Canon Law (see below).

The Council then re-elected Mme. Leroy President with acclamation, and Mme. Gouffé Hon. Treasurer. The serious problem of the International Secretariat was discussed and suggestions invited.

Delegates were delighted with the arrangements made by Mme. van Gorp: the reception at the Town Hall; the evening party at the charming house of Mme. Martin; and the cocktail party given by Mme. de Fontaines at the Club Féminin de Bruxelles, where delegates met some of Belgium's leading women, and hopes of a Belgian Section were fostered.

Suggestions were made for the next meeting of the Council to be held in September, 1965.

The Alliance was represented by Miss Massingberd-Ford at the Seminar organised by the International Federation of University Women at Makerere University College on "Africa Today—Challenge and Responsibility"; and by Soeur Marie-André du Sacré Coeur and Mme. Dackey of Togo at the Seminar held at Lomé in August on the Status of Women in Family Law, where Mme. Dackey made an intervention on Ritual Mutilations. This and Soeur Marie-André's report were given in *The Catholic Citizen* of October.

Status of Women

There was no meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women in 1964 but the President and Miss Challoner had the opportunity of meeting Mrs. Bruce, Chief of the Section on the Status of Women, at a lunch kindly given by Miss Gertrude Baer at Geneva during their stay there for the I.L.O. Conference on "Women Workers in a Changing World."

Slavery

Mlle. Archinard, our consultant in Geneva, attended a meeting at which Mr. Mohammed Awad discussed his work as Rapporteur. The Alliance is still anxious that he shall be assisted by a body of experts on the ques-

tions connected with the abolition of "slavery, the slave trade, and customs and institutions similar to slavery," the last of which particularly affect women. The Alliance welcomes the interventions of the African Bishops at the Vatican Council, on polygamy, the dowry and forced marriage.

The Alliance prepared a brief memorandum on the subject in answer to a Questionnaire from Mr. Humphreys.

I.L.O.

Mme. Leroy and Miss Challoner attended the meetings of the Committee on Working Women with Family Responsibilities. The Memorandum they had prepared in April was distributed by the Non-Governmental Organisations Bureau, but no interventions were permitted. At a special meeting with N.G.O.s arranged by the Bureau Miss Challoner suggested that representatives of new member states should be apprised of the role of the N.G.O.s so that the co-operation so often asked for by the U.N. should be facilitated.

United Nations

St. Joan's International Alliance has Consultative Status with ECOSOC and is on the I.L.O. special list of N.G.O.s and also on the register of organisations with which the Director-General of UNESCO has "informal relations". Miss McGillicuddy sent a valuable report on the 18th General Assembly, "the amiable eighteenth," and Mlle. Archinard reports on meetings she is able to attend in Geneva. We are greatly indebted to our consultants at New York and Geneva.

This brief account does not include the important work of National Sections on whom St. Joan's International depends for a response to any call for action.

There was no meeting of the Status of Women Commission during 1964 but the Chief of the Section, Mrs. Bruce, met the International President and the British Chairman at lunch in Geneva by the kind invitation of Mrs. Gertrude Baer during the I.L.O. discussions on Women Workers with Family Responsibilities.

Fuller Participation of Women in the Service of the Church

In accordance with the resolution on the Fuller Participation of women in the service of the Church adopted at the fifty-third Annual Meeting, a letter was sent asking the (then) Archbishop of Westminster and the Hierarchy of England and Wales to request the Vatican Council to invite competent women to attend meetings of the Council as "auditores". We further asked for the support of the Hierarchy for the Resolutions which were passed by St. Joan's International Council at Freiburg, in September 1963 on the Fuller Participation of Women in the Service of the Church and the amendment of those Canons which assign to women a position of inferiority. His Grace replied that he would bring our communication to the notice of the Hierarchy and that he saw no objection to the appointment of women as auditores. The news of His Holiness Pope Paul's invitation to women auditors was made known on September 8th and though not as comprehensive as we could wish, it was welcome news and our President was able to thank His Holiness when she and her husband were received at the Vatican.

The members of the sub-committee charged with this task of preparing a document for presentation to the Commission for the Revision of Canon Law met repeatedly. Valuable contributions were received from overseas members, in particular from Frau Münch, Germany. In this country the contribution of Miss Joan Morris was invaluable as she undertook the task of consulting and translating the official documents. The major task of assembling the contributions into one document fell mainly on the office.

During the year we received encouragement from various quarters, notably from America. Professor

Lauer's article in "Commonweal" gave us wide publicity, enriching the Alliance by many new members who will, we hope, form a new Section there. We were also encouraged by the article in *The Catholic Citizen* by Madeleine Capelle (Docteur en Droit Canonique). She based her reasoning on St. Thomas for the revision of Canon 968 (1)—(the exclusion of women from ordination) and Canon 813 (2)—(Service at the Altar).

The Alliance has been greatly encouraged by the changes in the Constitution of the Liturgy promulgated by the Vatican Council. These include an amendment in the prayer for the bride in the Nuptial Mass reminding now both spouses of their equal obligation of fidelity.

Many interventions by Conciliar Fathers drew attention to the absence of women from the Council and their general undervaluation by the Church in our day. These interventions have been gratefully noted (see *The Catholic Citizen* Golden Jubilee number), and our thanks have been conveyed to the prelates concerned.

A great number of articles and some books dealing with the present position of women in the Church have been received and as far as possible reviewed in *The Catholic Citizen*. Letters written on the subject to our Catholic periodicals have usually been accepted and it has been both surprising and gratifying that there has been no violent outcry nor serious vindication of hostile views.

The Treasurer's Report

At the Annual Meeting we sadly said farewell to Miss Carr, who presented her report and made her always original appeal for the last time.

By kind invitation of Miss May and Miss Lion, a Bring and Buy Sale was held in the garden of their charming house in St. John's Wood on July 4th. After a sumptuous tea Miss Carr was presented with a leather brief-case by the Chairman, who thanked her in the name of the Alliance for her devoted service for the past fifteen years. £30 was gratefully received for *The Catholic Citizen* by the new Hon. Treasurer.

The Christmas Sale at St. Patrick's Schools, Soho, on November 14th, was a great success, bringing in close on £120 to pay *The Catholic Citizen* bills by the end of the year.

Miss Dickson kindly acted as Sales Secretary, and Miss Price again undertook the refreshments and, with her team of experts, produced the most delightful lunches and teas and added considerably to the pleasure and profits of the Sale. To them and all our voluntary helpers we give warm thanks, without them the Alliance would be poor indeed. Our thanks once more to Mrs. Fleming for so kindly auditing the accounts.

"The Catholic Citizen"

Tributes were received from all parts of the world before the end of the year for the approaching Golden Jubilee of *The Catholic Citizen*. It was decided to omit the December number and to issue a double number in January 1965 for this occasion.

Mrs. Cummins continued her valuable services, in spite of increased ill-health, for the first half of the year, contributing many articles and reviews. The Editorial Board thanks her for her distinguished work and regrets her inability to continue it.

We are indebted to Miss Frances McGillicuddy, St. Joan's representative at the United Nations in New York, for a detailed report on the 18th session of the General Assembly, to Mme. de Martinez for her report on the Seminar on "The Status of Women in Family Law" at Bogota; and to Secur Marie-André for an account of the Seminar held at Lomé in August, and for Mme. Dackey's intervention on ritual mutilations.

We welcomed the *Bulletin Ste Jeanne d'Arc*, produced by the French section of the Alliance, which, as the President said in its first editorial, is rather a resurrection than a beginning, reminding her of Marie Lenoël's *La Revue Jeanne d'Arc*.

We recorded deep sympathy to Mrs. Kennedy on the shocking death of President Kennedy, a true Christian statesman: We have had a sad number of obituaries, among others for Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur, Mme Lefaucheux, Mrs. Grinberg-Vinaver, Lady Astor and Dame Rachel Crowdy.

We published the Status of Women Committee's Statement for the I.L.O. Conference, and our own as well as Miss Challoner's articles; Dr. Shattock and Miss Joan Morris supplied articles and reviews in connection with women and the Vatican Council; from Australia we received articles on the Aborigines and on the campaign for equal pay; from U.S.A. on the Equal Rights Amendment.

The October issue was largely devoted to St. Joan's International Council Meeting; the President's address, the Resolutions, and Dr. Strecker's delightful "St. Joan's at Antwerp."

It also contained a notice of the meeting in London which received accounts of the Council Meeting; a notice of the Pope's invitation to women auditors, and of the audience of the President and her husband with Pope Paul, when she thanked him on our behalf.

It also recorded the canonisation of the Uganda Martyrs, a happy occasion for Soeur Marie-André, who was present, and for all who love Africa.

International Notes gives news of the Woman's Movement in many lands.

Miss C. M. Cheke continued "The Month in Parliament." Our thanks to her and to all who have generously contributed articles, reviews, news, and donations for copies to be sent to friends, bishops, missionaries, etc.

Finally, we thank Mrs. Coast and Miss E. C. Challoner who address the wrappers, and Miss Graham and Miss Hope Robson who help to send out each issue of the paper.

Merseyside Branch

Hon. Secretary: Miss M. C. Brady, 10 Fairfield Street, Liverpool 7

During the past year delegates attended the monthly meetings of the Liverpool Standing Conference of Women's Organisations. Our delegate, Miss Duff, Chairman of the Moral Standards Sub-Committee, has done useful work in connection with the Obscene Publications Act, 1964. Action has been taken in connection with the posting of indecent and obscene matter, also in the increase in juvenile delinquency.

Members attended the meeting organised at the Birmingham Town Hall to protest against B.B.C. and Television programmes which gave an immoral and perverted view of life. They left Liverpool at 4.30 p.m. and only reached home at 1.15 a.m. the following morning.

Copies of the General Election Questionnaire and the Manifesto of the Status of Women Committee were sent to all Merseyside candidates.

The Honorary Secretary, Miss Brady, was entertained to lunch by Miss Barry and members of the Executive Committee in London early in the year.

Obituary

We very much regret to report the death of the Chairman of our Merseyside Branch, Miss F. A. Keeley, B.A., after a long illness, on February 8th. Miss Keeley had been Chairman since 1958.

Mass was offered for her on behalf of the Merseyside Branch and a letter of sympathy sent to her family. May she rest in peace.

THE INTERVAL CLUB

One of the sad results of the rising cost of living is the closure, after nearly forty years, of the Interval Club as we have known it. This Catholic Club in the heart of Soho, was a keep-in-touch

haven for numbers of actors and actresses, searching for work or relaxing between shows.

It was founded by Mrs Mary Balvaird Hewett in 1926 and was run by her daughter Molly, herself an actress and Stage Manager with twenty years' experience in London's West End. Surely the 'Interval' was unique among Clubs—homely, friendly, lively, impecunious, and abounding in the 'characters' and stimulation of the theatrical scene.

All through the war it remained open by day, while by night its Secretary (Molly) watched for incendiary bombs. Her endurance and her courage were acknowledged with the M.B.E. awarded in 1963. Last year, unfortunately, the Club was forced to move from its premises in Dean Street which were due to be 'developed' and the problems of maintaining a new and smaller centre have proved financially disastrous.

It would be too dismal a platitude to say the Club will be missed, but the comment once made by a young actor seems worth repeating: 'Most other Clubs want to make money out of you. Molly would rather give you some.' **Moira Dixon**

Miss Molly Balvaird Hewett, M.B.E., is a member of St. Joan's and we remember with gratitude her hospitality.

REVIEW

The New Matriarchy, by Evelyn Acworth. Gollancz, 21s.

The title of this book will make a nostalgic appeal to older feminists for arguments drawn from the history of matriarchal societies were common during the struggle for the vote. This line of argument was, however, always regarded as extremely controversial by most of our leaders and it was gradually abandoned as likely to alienate supporters, who had no desire to replace a patriarchy for a matriarchy.

The greater part of Miss Acworth's book consists of a brilliant survey of the place of women in civilized states throughout the ages. She shows how dignified and responsible was the share allotted to women in Ancient Egypt and the Anglo-Saxon states and also how much was lost under feudalism when the ownership of land became bound up with military service. Unfortunately, the development of the Common Law (which brought many advantages to the male citizen) increased the subjection of women and the mitigating rules of Equity were not of much help except to women of property. The picture drawn of the lot of women in the Middle Ages, under the Renaissance, amid the frivolities of the eighteenth century, is vivid and heart-stirring. The beginning of the nineteenth century saw the legal and economic position of women at its lowest ebb. Miss Acworth rightly emphasizes, for it is often forgotten, that the Victorian movements for the emancipation of women arose not from 'philosophic theories' on the equality of men and women but from 'a deep

humanitarian desire to alleviate the economic distress of women.' The theory that subjection brought compensation in the shape of security and maintenance, had broken down, as regards married and single women alike.

In gratitude for such a scholarly and well-balanced account of the feminist case in history one would like to say 'Read it and make your sons and daughters read it' and leave it at that; unfortunately, Miss Acworth's approach compels many reservations. She is strangely old-fashioned in dividing human behaviour into masculine and feminine compartments and proclaiming that 'the masculine mind reaches conclusions through logical processes and the feminine mind does so through instinct and intuition.' If that were so women would be justly considered mere 'children of a larger growth'! Although she repeatedly advocates, as we all do, that society should be formed of a synthesis of these male and female principles and points of view, she thinks the results should be called a 'Matriarchy' at which men would, I think, be entitled to protest. Her vision of the future is in fact extremely nebulous and one only grasps that feminine values will somehow prevail.

Even more provocative are the hints that female qualities are superior to male. 'Maternal love' she writes, 'is the deepest and most fundamental of all human emotions—it is the purest form of love—the fount of *all*' (my italics) 'altruistic effort—the humanitarian impulse can be said to be an expression of matriarchal sentiments.' This is surely going much too far. Women have no monopoly of humanitarian feelings and they soon learn that in public life they have to contend with exactly the same handicaps and frustrations as men encounter. It is also erroneous to believe that women in primitive societies could rule by 'sentiments of dependence in the family—they did not rule by dominance as men do.' Rulers must, in fact, 'dominate' whatever their sex or whatever their methods; they will inevitably be swept away if they do not provide adequate physical force for defence against aggression from without and for controlling violence at home. Useless for a 'matriarchy' to provide marvellous welfare services for the aged if a Hitler invades and shovels them wholesale into the gas chambers! Until these simple principles have been assimilated, no writer can be of much help as a guide.

Letitia Fairfield

We thank Dr Fairfield for breaking a resolution to undertake no more reviews, for the sake of an old friendship.

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