

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.*

Vol. L. No. 6

15th JUNE, 1964

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

International Labour Conference

*Statement submitted by the Status of Women Committee to the government and to the U.K. delegates
to the International Labour Conference, Geneva, 1964*

The Status of Women Committee, having considered the International Labour Office Report VI (2) on 'Women Workers in a Changing World (Employment of Women with Family Responsibilities)' wishes to place before the United Kingdom Government the following points relating to the 'Proposed Conclusions'.

In the first place, the Status of Women Committee is concerned to secure that a married woman worker shall be accepted as an individual with the same rights and responsibilities as other workers and with the same right to choose when and where she will work, and subject to the same conditions and regulations as other workers, men and women. The Committee therefore welcomes the inclusion in the 'Proposed Conclusions' of recognition that problems that may arise from the family responsibilities of workers are not peculiar to women, but are the joint responsibility both of men and women in the family. This is emphasised in paragraph 4 by reference to the varying needs of children 'and of their working parents', and again in paragraph 6. The Committee hopes that, in any amendments put forward at the conference, the United Kingdom delegates will support the retention of the words 'working parents' in place of 'working mothers'.

Further, the Committee welcomes acceptance (in the General Principle) of the fact that married women have the right to choose to work outside the home; but the Committee asks for the deletion of the phrases after the words 'and at work' in the sixth line of Section I since the proposal that their right of choice should be limited by special consideration of the extent to which they can work harmoniously and without detriment to themselves or their children, suggests the discrimination against married women condemned earlier in the paragraph. The stipulations, as far as they are valid at all, should apply to all workers.

The Committee also welcomes the British Government's undertaking that it would 'of course, re-examine the terms of its legislation in the light of the provisions of any instrument which it felt able to accept.' It is hoped that this presages a review of the Factories Acts under which special restrictions are placed upon women workers (particularly in respect of hours of work) solely on the grounds of their sex.

On Section II, Public Information and Education, the Status of Women Committee considers that details are inappropriate in an international recommendation though helpful for national work and suggests the deletion of this Section; and of paragraph 13 (2) of Section VI, for the same reason.

The Committee also advocates the deletion of paragraph 3(a) since it believes that needs will be met by the operation of the normal law of supply and demand better than by statistical information which, in this case, must always be out of date before it can be used. It is, however, considered that efforts should be made to ascertain the parents' preferences for child-care arrangements, as suggested in paragraph 3(b).*

With regard to Section IV, Part-time Employment, the Status of Women Committee submits that, although systematic surveys may be useful, as proposed in paragraphs 7(a) and 7(b), the employers' concern is with the availability of sufficient workers competent to undertake the work to be performed, and not with their marital and family status, or other personal affairs. The Committee therefore requests that paragraph 7(c) be opposed.

It is deplored that no reference is made to equal remuneration in paragraph 8 (1), and it is particularly regretted that the United Kingdom Government's reply to Question 11(a) may be held partly

* The N.C.W. still feels that there may be value in these statistics.

responsible for this. In the light of the statement on page 64 of Report VI (1) that—

'In so far as governments have control, whether direct or indirect, over rates of remuneration, they must ensure application of the equal pay principle and only in so far as they do not possess the requisite control are their obligations confined to the promotion of the principle'

(which clearly sets out that the responsibility of governments to establish equal pay is limited to the areas in which they have control) there seems no good reason for the omission of equal pay in this Section, and the Committee strongly urges that the United Kingdom delegate be instructed to press for the amendment of paragraph 8(a) so that it reads '... with full regard to the basic principle of equality of opportunity, pay and treatment in employment and occupation for all workers.'

The Committee also asks for the deletion of paragraph 10, which proposes special measures for maternity leave. These would certainly militate against the employment of married women and would be likely to prejudice the employment of any women of child-bearing age. Only by accepting married women workers on the same terms as other workers can their claim for equality of opportunity in employment be sustained. Consequently, incapacity for work on account of maternity should be dealt with under the same regulations as apply to absences owing to illness, injury or other disability.

The Committee believes that questions of re-entry into employment should be dealt with in respect of workers generally, and that the services specified in paragraph 11 should be available to men and women alike. In its view, the word 'women' should be replaced by 'workers' in 11 (1) and 11 (2); and 11 (3) should be deleted as unnecessary. Paragraph 12 is, however, useful in emphasising that girls need vocational guidance and training for work-life that is now often only available for boys.

With regard to the Miscellaneous Provisions, the Committee reiterates that family responsibilities are not limited to women and any assistance necessary as described in 13 (1) should be available to all workers. The word 'women' should be deleted.

The development of home-aid services is not, in the opinion of the Status of Women Committee, a matter appropriate for inclusion in recommendations about women workers. As in other subjects included in these 'Conclusions', it is one applicable to men and women, married and single, both workers in the home and outside; and the Committee recommends its deletion.

Believing as we do that it is in the true interests of men and women alike that they should have equality of opportunity within the labour market, and that this cannot be achieved as long as there are artificial restrictions placed upon women by reason of their sex or marital status, this Committee earnestly requests the government to instruct their delegate to the International Labour Conference to initiate or support the proposals made in this statement.

EQUAL PAY IN AUSTRALIA

The campaign for equal pay in Australia is unabated—and each year National Equal Pay Week gives fresh impetus to the campaign. It is the divergencies in the states that prevent the ratification of the I.L.O. Convention No. 100 and Recommendation No. 90 and the fight will continue until conformity is achieved.

The position in the various states is as follows: in New South Wales many thousands of women, following legislation passed in 1958 giving yearly increments, now enjoy full parity of pay; Tasmania has twice presented legislation, and looks like being the second state to make equal pay the law. The Bill, narrowly defeated in the Upper House three years ago, was again introduced in 1963, went to the Council and was referred to a Select Committee. A Petition and Model Bill has been presented to the Victorian State Government, and notice has been given of an Equal Pay Bill in the Legislative Council. In South Australia a deputation was being taken to the Premier this National Equal Pay Week, prepared and submitted by the Combined Committee there which is organised on much the same lines, with similar affiliations, to ours in Western Australia. Queensland has made representations to the State Government and an active Equal Pay Committee keeps the matter before the authorities and general public. A second deputation is being arranged to the Premier of Western Australia with joint representations by all the bodies engaged in the campaign, including the Civil Service and Teachers' Union.

The West Australian Council for Equal Pay and Opportunities has also circulated some 3,000 Open Letters to young women entering upon their careers, and has continued its efforts to have apprenticeships opened to girls and young women.—(*The Dawn*, *Western Australia*).

We understand that a national conference was to be held at Canberra in April with representatives of trade unions and women's organisations, to be followed by a further deputation to the Prime Minister and approaches to Federal Parliamentarians for support.

ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Arrangements for the Council Meeting to be held in Antwerp from 28th—31st August are well in hand, and the agenda will shortly be sent to delegates. All members will be welcomed at the meetings (note that only delegates are entitled to vote), and those who wish to attend should notify the office without delay. There will be a conference fee of thirty shillings. As stated in the last issue, applications for accommodation at the Maria Mediatrix House should be sent as soon as possible to Mrs van Gorp, 27 Avenue Prince Albert, Berchem, Antwerp, Belgium.

Notes and Comments

On the eve of St. Joan's Day, members of the committee attended evening Mass at Westminster Cathedral and on her feast day, 30th May, the Reverend Denis O'Sullivan kindly offered Mass for the intentions of the Alliance. In accordance with tradition, a laurel wreath tied in our colours, blue, white, and gold, was placed on St. Joan's candle-lit shrine in the Cathedral.

* * *

Mrs. Alice Cullen, our one and only Catholic woman Member of Parliament, kindly entertained St. Joan's Alliance at a tea party in the House of Commons on Friday, 5th June. The guest of honour was His Excellency, Monsignor George Hakim, Greek Catholic Archbishop of Galilee.

* * *

St. Joan's Alliance mourns the loss to India—and to the world—of a great man, in the death of Mr. Nehru.

The Alliance likes to recall that it was Mr. Nehru who gave great opportunities to women—as ambassadors and ministers of state no less than as governors of provinces—and ordinary members of parliament. May he rest in peace.

* * *

St. Joan's Alliance and other representatives of the Status of Women Committee joined in a deputation which was received at the Ministry of Labour on 2nd June to put forward the views of women's organisations on Report VI (2)—the replies of the U.K. Government to the Questionnaire on 'Married Women with Family Responsibilities', Item 6 on the agenda of the I.L. conference which meets in Geneva on 17th June.

Miss Joan Vickers, M.P., led the deputation, which was organized by the N.C.W.

* * *

After more than twenty years as parish priest in London's East End, Canon Thomas FitzGerald has been forced to retire through illness. At his express wish, no presentation was made to him, and yet most surely there was a presentation: that of the love, the esteem, the respect of all his parishioners and countless friends.

Father Fitz, as he is affectionately known, is now living in a home for priests run by Franciscan Sisters. For many years he has been a deeply-valued and most generous member of the Alliance, and it is a joy and an inspiration to learn from his letter to St. Joan's that already he has discovered that there will be work for him to do on the feminist front: "I have never made feminist speeches—I much prefer feminist action. Although I am nearly seventy, I am just as keen a feminist as I was when, approaching the age of seventeen, I helped Sylvia Pankhurst to pull a policeman off a horse in Whitehall!"

At the conference of the National Union of Townswomen's Guilds held in the Albert Hall on 27th May, Baroness Burton of Coventry said she looked forward to "the last stage before complete victory" in the assault by women on all-male strongholds. "I have often wondered whether the Church or the London Stock Exchange will be the last bastion to fall," she told her audience. "It may well be the Church, because I think the Stock Exchange will not be able to brush aside for much longer the question of admitting women to membership." Certainly, now that women have been appointed to the management of a Union Trust, one feels more strongly than ever that the Stock Exchange should, to the profit of the public, open its doors to them at last.

* * *

Twenty-one members from Merseyside including members of St. Joan's Alliance attended the meeting held on 5th May at the Birmingham Town Hall organised by Mrs Buckland, wife of the Rector of Longton, and Mrs Whitehouse, to protest against B.B.C. and T.V. programmes which gave an immoral and perverted view of life. The Town Hall, which can seat 2,000, was crowded to capacity, and coachloads of supporters arrived, not only from every part of the Midlands, but from London, Devon, Sheffield, North Wales, Manchester and Liverpool.

Unfortunately, Mrs Patricia McLoughlin, M.P., who had been billed to speak, was unable to be present as she was ill, but the two organisers gave a history of the campaign from its inception. The Birmingham meeting was in effect a protest against the T.V. programmes and representatives of each district voiced their support for the campaign. Miss Williamson, who spoke for the Merseyside party, said that while they were primarily concerned with the suppression of obscene literature, they were eager to support any movement that aimed at stemming the alarming decline in moral standards.

The crusading spirit of Merseyside is indeed high; in order to attend the meeting, members left Liverpool at 4.30 p.m. and did not reach home until 1.15 a.m.

* * *

By kind invitation of Miss May, a Bring and Buy Sale will be held at 22 Hamilton Close, St. John's Wood, London, N.W.8, on Saturday, 4th July, 3 to 6 p.m. Buses 16, 60, or 59, to St. John's Wood Road or Grove End Road.

We hope there will be a large gathering of members and friends, for this occasion will enable us to express our affectionate thanks to Miss Noreen K. Carr, our honorary treasurer for so many years, a treasurer whose appeals on behalf of the Alliance have always proved irresistible.

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

founded 1911

BRITISH SECTION OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "The Catholic Citizen"

36^A DRYDEN CHAMBERS, 119 OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.1. Tel. Gerrard 4564

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*

Mrs. F. A. BARRY, *Honorary life member*

Mrs. M. W. BENTLEY, M.A.

MISS M. BLACKBURN

MISS PAULINE M. BRANDT

MISS GABRIELLE DAYE, *Secretary*

MISS VERA DOUIE

Mrs. MARITA S. HARPER, M.A., B.M., B.Ch.

MRS. ISABEL POWELL HEATH, M.B., Ch.B.

MRS. JACKSON, B.A.

MISS W. MANN, *Hon. Treasurer*

MISS P. MAY

MISS MARY PARNELL

MISS E. D. PRICE, M.B.E.

MRS. SHATTOCK, M.D., D.P.M.

MISS CHRISTINE SPENDER

Mrs Blackwell and Mrs 1964

"If a wife has a right to the money she can save from her housekeeping allowance, she might let her husband go short of food while she builds up a banking account. She might serve him up corned beef instead of roast beef for dinner." No, this is not Lord Boothby speaking, though he used much the same words when Baroness Summerskill introduced the Married Women's Property Act into the House of Lords last year; these are the words spoken by Lord Justice Goddard in 1943 when Mrs Dorothy Ursula Blackwell's appeal for the reversal of the decision of the Oxford County Court which had ruled that the sum of one hundred pounds ten shillings standing to her credit with the Oxford and District Co-operative Society was not her property but that of her husband from whom she had been separated for two years, was dismissed.

The Blackwell appeal was reported in full in *The Catholic Citizen* of November, 1943. Mrs Blackwell's statement that the money represented her savings out of her housekeeping allowance and out of the profit she made in taking in lodgers was never in dispute, but this did not help her; Lord Justice Luxmoore, when Mrs Blackwell's counsel said that she was worse off than a paid housekeeper, remarked severely that a wife had a status which a paid housekeeper had not, though he did not see fit to question the desirability of a "status" that would not provide a means of subsistence for a separated wife and her child, while Lord Justice Scott, dismissing the appeal, said: "There is no justification at all for the contention that where a husband hands his wife an allowance for housekeeping purposes, the husband is to be taken, as a matter of law, as presenting the savings out of that money to the wife for her sole use." One might say that through this verdict the husband's roast beef was doubly safeguarded! One woman M.P., however, was determined to fight for the economic rights of married women. Her name? Dr Edith Summerskill. Supported by forty-three others M.P.'s, she tabled a

motion calling for the amendment of the Married Women's Property Act, 1882, to secure to married women a legal right to reasonable savings from their housekeeping allowance.

It seems incredible that it should have taken twenty years to obtain this legal right for them, and that when Baroness Summerskill first introduced her Act into the House of Lords, the same hoary arguments, the same facetious comments were made by the opposition. Lord Boothby, for instance, echoed Lord Justice Goddard when he prophesied woe for husbands in the shape of cheap and nasty meals out of tins. It is a matter for rejoicing that the Act is now law; it was given the Queen's Assent on March 25th.

The Married Women's Property Act, 1964 (it does not apply to Northern Ireland) is a definite step forward on a particularly thorny path. It provides that "If any question arises as to the right of a husband or wife to money derived from any allowance made by the husband for the expenses of the matrimonial home or for similar purposes, or to any property acquired out of such money, the money or property shall, in the absence of any agreement between them to the contrary, be treated as belonging to the husband and the wife in equal shares." True, this is only a small advance towards establishing the economic rights of married women, but the Act will at least put an end to the ugly wrangling, the litigation regarding such savings which have arisen in the past between separated and divorced couples. In nine cases out of ten, moreover, the law has favoured the husband.

The great virtue of the Married Women's Property Act, 1964, is that it gives the *partnership* of marriage a practical connotation. It ensures that the status of wives is not a hollow mockery as it was in the days of the unfortunate Mrs Blackwell who, for all her "status", proved to be far worse off than if she had been a paid housekeeper.

P. D. Cummins

REPORT ON AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES

Received from the Queensland Section of St. Joan's Alliance

In Queensland the population of controlled and non-controlled Aborigines, half-bloods and Torres Strait Islanders is assessed at 50,000, and of these approximately 21,000 have full citizen rights, all Torres Strait Islanders possessing self-government in accordance with Acts 1939-1946.

In Queensland there are six Government Settlements, eleven Church Missions and three Government Hostels coping with a population of 27,000. Country reserves represent small areas reserved for living purposes adjacent to country towns, but only a small proportion of country people live on these reserves, the majority living in cattle stations or in private homes where they are employed.

The government policy is for the ultimate assimilation of all coloured people into the community, but the fact is not lost sight of that a proportion of the native people will always require direction and assistance and with this outlook the policy is to help families towards assimilation where practicable and assist and protect others who desire and need aid.

The following points are important:

- Preparation of the native people for assimilation through education in all its aspects, academic, industrial, health and hygiene.
- Building up in the native people a feeling of pride of race and self-reliance.
- Fostering within the white community an awareness of the difficult situations which confront coloured people battling the hard road towards independent outlook and self-support.

Much is heard of coloured people who are fringe dwellers living on the outskirts of cities and towns with their sub-standard dwellings and conditions but on the other side there is to be presented the picture of the vast majority of the many hundreds of coloured families living as accepted and well respected ordinary community members with housing equal to accepted standards. In most cases housing is provided by the government on a rental and/or long term purchase basis. The majority of the older members of these accepted families are people who have received their training and education in Government Settlements and Church Missions. It is evident that there is a growing feeling of responsibility within the community towards helping families who have not quite made the grade.

OPAL (One People of Australia League), established in 1961, is of great assistance to this group. This organisation was fostered by the Department of Native Affairs and is composed of Church representatives of all denominations and members of responsible bodies within the community including St. Joan's Alliance, who have two delegates on the Committee.

It is the aim of OPAL to establish branches in all centres where coloured people reside and need assistance and already branches have been established in twelve country centres. OPAL has organised seaside holiday camps where children from settlements spend happy holidays with white children, and they also sponsor holidays for coloured children with selected families, both of which projects are of great assistance in furthering assimilation.

Aboriginal Franchise

By an amendment to the Commonwealth Electoral Act last year aboriginal natives of Australia are eligible for enrolment on the *Commonwealth* Electoral Rolls and are entitled to vote at Commonwealth Elections and Referendums. The matter of enrolment is purely voluntary for aboriginal natives of Australia but if enrolment is effected then the recording of a vote is compulsory.

The Committee functioning in Queensland which is appointed to examine all phases of native welfare and administration is examining the matter of aboriginal franchise within the state.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Kenya. The inequality of women in the matter of inheritance rights was the subject of keen discussion at the second Congress of African Women of Kenya, at Limuru, in October 1963. At present a widow can be deprived of her lands in favour of a son or cousin even if—as is often the case in Africa—it is the woman who has cultivated the land. The Congress adopted a resolution demanding that women be capable of inheriting from their husbands. The application of such a reform would mean a real social revolution.—(*Bulletin C.N.F. Belges*).

* * *

Nigeria. Mrs Judith S. Randal, Chairman of the National Council of Women's Eleanor Roosevelt Scholarship Committee, recently visited Queen's College in Lagos where eight scholarships are awarded annually. She reported that the scholarship girls come from the three regions of Nigeria, including the Northern Region, where only a select few are permitted to be educated. One is head girl and all are qualified.

In Ibadan she met three Mohammedan market women who had put aside money every Friday for ten years until they were able to build a girls' secondary school. "These illiterate women are determined to educate their daughters."—(*I.C.W. Newsletter*).

As we go to press we are shocked to learn of the sudden death of Mme. Grinberg-Vinaver who was known to many N.G.O's. as the brilliant and helpful Chief of Section of the Status of Women Commission. May she rest in peace.

The Month in Parliament

National Insurance Home Confinements

All mothers get the maternity grant of £16 but those whose babies are born at home are entitled to a home confinement grant of £6 towards the extra expense involved. Mrs Castle pointed out that this was allowed partly to reconcile women to the fact that there are not enough beds available for all those who would prefer a hospital confinement; yet in those cases where doctors consider it essential that the mother should go into hospital for any period from 24 hours to three days the extra grant is refused unless the arrangement to enter the hospital was made not more than two days before the bed was occupied and the stay was no longer than 24 hours. She thought it unfair that the payment was made according to the mother's intention instead of to the expense involved. Mrs Thatcher, Joint Parliamentary Secretary, said that the £16 allowed in every case includes £4 for domestic expenses and that each mother receives £3. 7s. 6d. weekly for 18 weeks bringing the payment up to £82. She admitted that the emergency case sometimes does not qualify for the extra £6 because the doctor does not give the discharge in time or an ambulance is not available. She added, "The problems now emerging are under most careful consideration in the light of all the factors." She promised, "We will consider and evaluate the points raised and the representations we have received from many quarters." (1st May).

Education

Sir Charles Taylor moved a resolution that the costs of the educational service should be more widely spread, that cadet corps should be encouraged in public grammar and secondary modern schools, and that a modern approach is needed to various other aspects of education. Mrs Eirene White thought that talk of progress in modern methods was nonsensical so long as teachers had classes of forty to fifty. She said that the reference to cadet corps showed that the motion was concerned only with boys' schools. She reminded members of the decision of the Labour Party to transfer educational costs to the Treasury. Mrs White objected to the implication that cadet corps provided a form of youthful activity greater in importance than many others. She complained of the compulsion that is brought to bear on boys, in many schools, to join. (1st May).

Nationality

A Bill to facilitate the resumption or renunciation of citizenship of the United Kingdom and the Colonies was given its second reading and sent to committee. (1st May).

Venereal Disease

In reply to a question from Miss Quennell the Minister of Health said that in 1963 thirty-nine cases of syphilis in persons under 18 (including two under

16), 1,319 cases of gonorrhoea in persons under 18 (including 232 under 16) were reported. There were also 37 cases of congenital syphilis in persons under 15. Commenting on these figures he maintained that the responsibility rested with the parents. Mr Ruskin thought that the government should take further steps in addition to the issuing of a letter to local authorities giving details of available films, posters, and leaflets. The Minister said he would be most grateful for suggestions. (2nd May).

Compensation for Victims of Violence

The House agreed to take note of the government's White Paper on a scheme to pay money in compensation to victims of criminal assault. Miss Pike called the scheme "one of the most worthwhile experiments in social responsibility." The White Paper lays down that compensation should be assessed on the earnings of the victim with an upper limit, but that no award should be made where it would have been under £50 or where the loss of time from work is less than three weeks. Mr Prentice criticised this ruling on the grounds that it would exclude many old-age pensioners and housewives where the damage would not involve loss of employment but would be confined to pain, suffering, and shock. He also thought that the government should consider the question of the maintenance of a child born as a consequence of sexual assault. Miss Pike pointed out that the scheme was experimental and full of difficulties. "Future discussion", she promised, "will be concerned to an increasing degree with practical assessments of its progress and the pitfalls and obstacles to be overcome." (2nd May).

Civil Defence

The committee dealing with the report on Home Office expenditure called attention to what its members considered a waste of money, such as the publication of the Civil Defence Handbook No. 10, which had been described as a "training manual" and "a fairly clear indication to the householder of what he could do to help himself in an emergency." In such an "emergency", explained Sir Eric Errington, one bomb could destroy everything within a hundred mile radius and cause the air to become poisonous and unbreathable. Twenty-eight bombs would destroy the whole country. Mr J. Rankin also ridiculed the handbook for its lack of realism. He is the member for Govan where numerous families live in one room, and whole tenement blocks are without a single bath. He quoted: "Fill the bath with clean cold water for drinking purposes; keep in a 'fall-out room', or within easy reach outside the door, large receptacles with covers and improvised seats for excreta; ashes, dry earth, disinfectant, toilet paper, clean newspapers, brown paper, or strong bags to wrap up food remains and empty tins; dust bin with well-fitting lid for pets, and a box of earth and ashes." (6th May).

Household Amenities in the Atomic Age

Mr Frank Allaun obtained from the Minister of Health some figures arrived at in the post-enumeration survey of the 1961 census. These revealed that 3,956,420 households were without baths, about the same number without hot water tap, and roughly half that number without a water closet on the building or attached to it. (12th May).

'Au Pair' Girls

Mrs Joyce Butler and Miss Joan Vickers jointly raised the subject of 'au pair' girls. They wanted the age limit raised from 15 to 16 at the lowest.

Mrs Butler asked for greater ministerial responsibility and wanted all the organisations and people concerned to have a round table conference to sort out what are the most urgent problems and how the government might tackle them. At present there arise misunderstandings on both sides as to what may be expected of an 'au pair' girl. Miss Vickers suggested some form of written contract and told how some girls are badly exploited and how others merely expect to have a good time. For the Home Office Miss Pike welcomed the debate and promised that everything mentioned would be carefully noted and that the problem would be carefully watched. (15th May).

C. M. Cheke

REVIEWS

Vatican II. The Liturgy Constitution. Edited by Austin Flannery, O.P. Translation by Right Rev. Dr Joseph Rodgers, Bishop of Kildare (Scepter, Dublin. 9s. 6d.).

In his introductory remarks the editor tells us that the "Constitution of the Liturgy" was the outcome of 40 years study and that it came into force on 16th February, 1964, that it was on the whole a long-term programme and that Pope Paul had insisted that it be left to the judgment of those who had competence and authority for its implementation. The editor has called on six specialists to present and to comment on the various sections of the Constitution. By supplying the relevant theological and liturgical contexts they have produced an exposition which is clear, learned, and not difficult to follow by the non-specialist. Many of the proposed changes in the liturgy are not of immediate practical importance, but others are, and among these is the immediate implementation of the studies of seminarists and of theological institutes, which must precede the liturgical developments.

Commenting on the general principles which underlie the Constitution, the Rev. Colmar O'Neill, O.P., says it has laid bare the central reality of the liturgy, separating what is essential from what is the product of 2,000 years of history, and the Rev. Liam Walsh, O.P., when discussing the programme of practical reform, as exemplified in the section on the sacraments and sacramentals, indicates their doctrinal derivation, the transition from theoretical to practical.

The Constitution shows very clearly that the Eucharist, the Mass, is to be regarded as the centre of the whole sacramental system, that it is itself a sacrament, holding all the other sacraments together. While the Council of Trent analysed and enumerated, Vatican II is engaged in a constructive unification. The text of the Constitution stresses this unity and summarises the purpose of the sacraments in three sentences: to sanctify men, to build up the body of Christ, and to give worship to God. With Mass as the centre, the "other sacraments" are treated individually and related to it. A special Mass for the conferring of Baptism is to be inserted in the Roman missal; Confirmation is to be administered and marriage celebrated, normally, during the Mass.

The changes introduced in the ritual of marriage are of particular interest to the Alliance for they include a change for which St. Joan's International Alliance had petitioned the Sacred Congregation of Rites in 1958 and had again requested the Preparatory Commission of the Vatican Council in 1961 and 1962, viz.: "That the prayer in the Nuptial Mass said over the bride and bridegroom be so amended as to apply to both spouses."

While our early petition was not granted, it is most gratifying to be assured in the publication of the Liturgy Constitution that the prayer for the bride is to be "duly amended to remind both spouses of their equal obligation of mutual fidelity." (III, 78).

F.M.S.

The Emancipation of the Turkish Woman. By Professor Dr A. Afetinan (UNESCO, obtainable at H.M. Stationery Office).

Mrs Afetinan's account of the emancipation of Turkish women is concise and comprehensive. It traces the position of Turkish women in Anatolia and Mesopotamia from the matriarchal Hittite State, through the Christian and Islamic period on to the present time, showing the fluctuation of the power and privileges held by women.

The later chapters make easier reading than the earlier ones because they contain accounts of personal experience and are, therefore, of greater human interest.

P. May

The *Revue Abolitionniste* of January-February, 1964, is devoted to an extremely interesting world survey of the Abolitionist position. We note in particular the changes in the following two countries:

Spain. The penal code has been brought into harmony with the International Convention of 1950 to which this country recently adhered. Certain entirely new offences—brothel-keeping, for example—have been created, and the penalties for misdemeanours already in existence have been increased. In the case of still other misdemeanours, a conviction can now be secured in the absence of certain circumstances which were previously required—i.e. if persons are proved to have promoted prostitution, it is no longer necessary to prove in addition that they have drawn profit from so doing.

Pakistan. In West Pakistan (with the exception of Karachi), the West Pakistan Suppression of Prostitution Ordinance, 1961, has been added to the Indian Penal Code of 1860. This Ordinance reflects the International Convention of 1950, but it is to be regretted that it maintains discrimination with regard to sex—"prostitute" designates any woman available for purposes of prostitution. Furthermore, the penalties for solicitation seem to be too heavy when compared with those provided for brothel-keepers, and the punishment for permitting prostitution in places of public amusement appears equally insufficient.

P.D.C.

'**The Tower and the Dove**' film has been produced by a member of St. Joan's Alliance, Joan Morris, Director of Ikonographic Films Ltd (27 Red Lion Street, London, W.C.1). It is a 16mm. film in brilliant colour and accompanied by specially composed music by Sister Margaret of Sion. It runs 40 minutes and is intended for students from 15 years upwards and is available for hire at 5 gns. It is made by a sequence of some 400-500 paintings, which have taken some three-and-a-half years to prepare. It is a new approach of conveying a Christian outlook. It is a meditation in paint.

The film is on the subject of Pentecost and the many nations present then at Jerusalem described in the Acts, has an ecumenical character in keeping with the spirit of the Vatican Council, which this year is opening its doors to world religions.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Barbara Barclay Carter in 'The Catholic Citizen',
15th June, 1939

The Bishop of Pella, an associate of the Alliance, spoke at the dinner, not so much about the lady they were there to honour (Mrs Laughton Mathews), but of the things dear to her heart, for he recalled the century of struggle before women's rights were recognised, from the time of Fanny Burney to the fight in our own century that wrung the vote from a reluctant governing class.

"I joined very early in the movement and I have always been interested in what we call the Woman's Question. Although men got what they wanted and got it by violence, it was a very long time before women settled down to be violent too. I used to watch those meetings in the Albert Hall putting forth all the arguments philosophical and political for the women being given a share in the government of the country. That poor lady who threw herself in front of the king's horse. . . . I thought: 'something will probably happen now because the people who are concerned would realise that something would have to be done.' Of course when it did come to pass that women got the vote it was put down to all their usefulness during the war. Violence has to pave the way not only into the Kingdom of Heaven but also into kingdoms on earth. However, those days seem to have gone by and you have now settled down to citizenship and walking like ordinary people here, there, and everywhere, and no-one is afraid you will do something."

The Bishop also expressed the hope that feminists would help the humblest working-class woman to realise what her rights meant; too many such women were unable to vote because hours of voting coincided with their hours of work.—*Honour to our Chairman.*

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

NON-PARTY

Office—36A Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford Street,
London, W.1.

Patron: *Saint Joan of Arc. Colours: Blue, White and Gold*
Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 10s. per annum.

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 £1 which includes *The Catholic Citizen*. 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.

Life Membership £10.

A Venture in Faith

by

NANCY STEWART PARNELL, B.A.

A HISTORY OF ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

Attractive cover in blue, white and gold. Price 5s.
Order your copy now from St. Joan's Alliance, 36A
Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford Street, London W.1.

DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN

WESTLAKE'S

Accommodation 200. H. & C. Water all Bedrooms.
Unrivalled Cuisine. Separate Tables.
Magnificent New Ballroom. Lift.
Sunday Concerts, Television. Apply Manager

DUPLICATING, verbatim shorthand, typing
(Tapes/Mss), translating.—Mabel Eyles, 10 Beaconsfield
Road, London, N.11. Ent. 3324.

Catholic Funeral Upholders

JOHN HUSSEY Ltd.

2 Berkeley Gardens
(Adjoining 104) Kensington Church St., W.8

A SUITABLE MORTUARY CHAPEL

can be placed at the disposal of families
Habits supplied for Deceased Members
of Confraternities. MASS CARDS
Tel. BAYswater 3046.

Telegrams: Requiem, Kens., London.