

THE  
CATHOLIC CITIZEN

VOLUME V. 1919.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY,  
55, BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W, 1.

CATHOLIC CITIZEN



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY  
21, BARRINGTON STREET, LONDON, W.1.

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# THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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

VOL V., No. 1.

January 15th, 1919.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

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 SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

FRANCE.—Two Hospitals, 800 Beds.

SALONIKA.—One Hospital, 500 Beds.

SERBIA.—Two Hospitals, 300 Beds.

CORSICA.—One Hospital, 60 Beds and out-  
stations.

We are constantly reminded of the fact that a large number of men regard the work of women at the present day as an outcome of the War. When men wish to be particularly complimentary to us they ejaculate:—"See what women have done in the War!" and go on to enumerate the various professions, businesses and trades where women are to be found working shoulder to shoulder with men or, in many cases, altogether in the place of men whom they have liberated for active service. If we reply:—"See what wonderful courage, endurance and nobility the War has brought out in our men!" they get no more real satisfaction than we. The reason is not far to find. Women had the ability and, for the most part, the will to work always; in fact in many cases their work has seemed never ending, when as mothers with small means and large families they have had to work throughout the day and tend their babes and young children by night as well as day. Men have not only had the instincts of courage, endurance and nobility all along, but in innumerable cases of professional, business and domestic struggles, have exercised these qualities fully as much as they have done on the battlefield.

Rather the War has given both other opportunities for self-expression and development and men and women alike, in the enthusiasm and warmth of concerted action in the defence of the honour of their Nation and protection of smaller Nations, have risen to the occasion and deemed that this is indeed the time when

every individual should contribute his or her best to overcome despotism in its worst form and to make self-expression and development equally possible for individuals as well as for Nations—for small Nations as well as for Empires.

The Scottish Women's Hospitals for Home and Foreign Service is an Organisation which owes its inception to the sympathetic foresight of a Scottish professional woman, Dr. Elsie Inglis, and a few of her intimate professional friends, who saw terrible possibilities in suffering and sickness for the men who were prepared to stand or fall in this War. Keen Suffragists themselves, they appealed to the Scottish Federation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies to help them equip a Hospital for the treatment of our wounded. The Scottish Suffrage Societies and, indeed, all the national Suffrage Societies promptly responded to a call from those who were so obviously well qualified to carry out the best traditions of womanhood in the world of suffering. Not only money began to pour in, but requests also from capable women everywhere in Great Britain and her Colonies to be allowed to assist in what promised to afford them an unique opportunity for usefulness, and doubly so in the case of surgeons, physicians, bacteriologists, radiographers, chauffeurs, and so on, each of whom would liberate a man in a similar profession for work elsewhere and thereby increase the medical sphere of action.

The Scottish Women are not necessarily Scottish by birth, though in the first instance they were. From a single Hospital entirely staffed by women of Scotch nationality to an Organisation proudly supporting, as it does at present, six units, including six Hospitals and everything which goes to the com-

plete equipment and upkeep of those Hospitals, is a big development. Early seeing the possibilities of such development, Headquarters' Committee gladly accepted the services of British and Colonial women generally.

The variety of political and religious views held by the Scottish women are no deterrent to the most perfect carrying out of the ideal which the Organisation holds out to them,—that of working shoulder to shoulder with our men, sharing as far as possible in what they have to go through and in innumerable ways giving that encouragement to men which it has always been the privilege of women to give. Thus one finds Conservatives, Liberals and supporters of the Labour Party, united by a common bond. And indeed when common experiences bring women to the bed-rock of things, it is impossible any longer to allow mere differences of opinion, whims, fancies and passing fashions, to interfere with the graver issues of existence. Such indeed have been the experiences of many of these women. Their units have visited the Serbian, Russian and Roumanian Fronts amongst others, and it has been the sad experience of the Personnel to know what imprisonment or retreats mean for those who have to take part in them. Again and again they have had to witness vast suffering which they could not hope to be able to assuage: the sadness of the breaking up, desertion and often times demolition of homes; the starvation, privation and exposure of thousands of men, women and children, the torture of little ones lost or abandoned by their parents and all the horrors which are summed up in the word Retreat.

The Scottish women who have seen and suffered most are amongst the first to wish to renew their efforts to succour the sick and wounded in the War. On one occasion in Braila, Roumania, the women surgeons came to the rescue of seven native doctors (only one of whom was a surgeon) who had to treat 8,000 wounded and sick persons. Dr. Inglis herself beat the record for continuous surgery, treating patients for 59 hours, with only a rare rest of a few minutes on a chair. Many a time the surgeons have operated for 18 and 19 hours at a stretch, and occasionally for 36 hours and more. During fierce en-

agements the work in the theatres and wards has been of a truly harrowing nature; still the Officers have never flinched and the ward and Hospital staffs have proved themselves equal to every emergency as it arose.

Many are the memories some of the Scottish women would like to blot out of their minds: yet they tell one they would not be without their experience for anything. In an atmosphere of death, some realise for the first time in their lives what it is to live. A pre-war life of ease and comfort was not "life" compared with their war experience. Several have made the supreme sacrifice in their devotion to the cause which they made their own.

#### AN APPEAL.

There are many still enjoying lives of comparative ease and comfort. Very few, indeed, have an opportunity for sharing in experiences such as those described, gladly though they might welcome them in the relief of suffering humanity. It is still possible for many such to do just a little more than they are doing already in the cause of Hospitals like these. It may not be heroic help, but it is *absolutely necessary* help. The supply of clothing, dressings, splints, bedding and so on, for 1,500 beds is no small matter, and so one appeals most earnestly for the formation of fresh working parties or strengthening of existing one, the members of which would give that generous co-operation which makes it possible to continue the wonderful work which is being done by the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Since the Armistice has been signed, the work for the French has been gradually drawing to a close, but that for the Serbs cannot possibly cease for a long time yet. The people are pouring back into their country to find it devastated. There are only too few hospitals to deal with long neglected wounds and general sickness and disease, resulting from exposure, privation and starvation. Not only military, but civilians are in terrible straits.

In summing up this Appeal, one would emphasise the special need for women's and children's garments, as, in the interests of war,

(Continued on page 3).

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

To Ireland goes the honour of electing the first woman M.P. for the United Kingdom by a majority of 4083. The Countess Markiewicz, M.P. for Dublin, will not, however, take her seat at Westminster, it being the Sinn Fein policy not to sit in the English Parliament. Of the two women candidates in Ireland one has been elected, of the fourteen who stood for election in Great Britain not one was successful. That is not altogether surprising for we are a notoriously conservative race, and the difficulties in the path of the women candidates were very great. As we said last month the time between the passing of the Bill making women eligible for Parliament and the General Election was so limited that there was very little opportunity for electioneering. Most of the women were unknown in the constituencies they contested, and it was altogether too much of a rush for the stolid Britisher. The women put up a plucky fight and some of them polled heavily; they are not likely to be discouraged and no doubt will be better equipped for the next General Election which may come sooner than some people expect.

\* \* \* \*

We hear from our Branches and from private members that the list of questions which we drew up, and which was published last month in the CATHOLIC CITIZEN was presented to numerous candidates. For the most part favourable replies were received. We urged our members wherever possible to work for any woman candidate whose replies were satisfactory, and whose views did not otherwise clash with theirs. Many of our members did useful work for some of the women candidates in various constituencies.

\* \* \* \*

We call the attention of members to the notice of our Annual Meeting, and the elec-

tion of new members of Committee. Also to the reminder that annual subscriptions to the Society are now due. Prompt payment of subscriptions to the Society and to the CATHOLIC CITIZEN saves much trouble at the Office.

We offer our congratulations to our member, Miss D. J. Collier, on her recent success in one of the medical examinations. Miss Collier is the first woman to enter and pass the first B.M. examination of the University of Oxford, an examination which was opened to women last year.

\* \* \* \*

The Premier's reply to the memorial presented to him by Lady Rhondda, on behalf of the Women's Industrial League, may justly be called sympathetic. The Premier promised that no restriction against the employment of women should be allowed in any of the new industries. He declared himself to be a supporter of the principle of equal pay for equal output—which as the memorial stated is what women mean when they demand equal pay for equal work. The Premier's letter ends with these words: "Your memorial raises the question of training and educational facilities, and to this I can unhesitatingly reply that steps shall be taken to ensure for women the opportunities that they seek in our schools and universities to fit them for the trades and professions in which they can suitably engage." Mr. Lloyd George has been returned to power, we look to him to keep his word.

(Continued from page 2).

the making of these had to give place to the making of men's clothing only. The women and children have played an heroic part in helping to regain their country and none know this better than those, who, like Mrs. Christitch (whose article appeared in the last issue of the CATHOLIC CITIZEN), the Scottish Women and others, have served them and shared in their sufferings.

IRENE CURWEN.

## THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

Office: 55, BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W., 1.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

MISS LEONORA de ALBERTI.  
MISS BARRY, Hon. Sec.  
MISS BRADY.  
COUNCILLOR ELLEN CHAPMAN.  
MISS KATHLEEN FITZGERALD, B.A.  
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MISS WHATELY.  
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## THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN.

Monthly, post free, 1s. 6d. per annum.

Hon. Editor . . . . . MISS LEONORA de ALBERTI.  
Hon. Treasurer . . . . . MISS BRADY.  
Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

## OUR FIRST ELECTION.

The execrable weather in some parts of the country on Saturday, December 14th, might have provided an excuse for staying indoors to mind the baby or to perform any other of the domestic duties which occupy so much of a woman's time; but in spite of pessimistic prophecies women crowded to the polling booths. If there was an age limit at one end of the ladder of life, there was none at the other, and we hear of very aged women, women of eighty, ninety and one of 102, who managed to record their votes. I have made diligent enquiry, and I cannot learn that any babies fell into the fire during their mothers' absence. I cannot learn that any husbands have sought divorce for their wives' neglect of the home through their right to vote; I cannot learn that there was any manifestation of divine anger such as our opponents anticipated if women were to defy the immutable law, by which, we were told, they are chained to the domestic hearth and must take no interest in questions outside the home. It is true that where a woman candidate was seeking election arrangements were made for minding babies, and gallant women paraded with posters in the pouring rain to inform the women electors of the fact. I cannot say what emotions shake the feeble feminine frame when a woman records her vote, for, alas!

the member for the constituency where I am entitled to a vote was returned unopposed. But I know that if you are a potential voter you are a person of importance at the time of an election. I know that at no period in our history has a Prime Minister ever before found it advisable to address a meeting for women only on the eve of a general election. It has been said that women did not support their own sex, which was the reason why no woman candidate in Great Britain was elected. But we should not expect, and we should not desire, women electors to vote for a woman candidate merely because of her sex, and we know that even those who are most anxious to see women in Parliament, would have found it impossible, if they had had the opportunity, to support all the women who were standing. For after all women, like men, have decided views and prejudices, and definite principles. It must be remembered, too, that young and progressive women are still excluded from the Franchise, and that a large number of the women who voted have never before taken any interest in politics. We are glad indeed that they availed themselves of the freedom won for them, but one can well imagine that many of these women, to whom a few years ago it seemed a holy and a righteous thing to be an anti-suffragist,

were unprepared to vote for a woman candidate. But we may feel confident that they as well as men electors will become used to the idea. The position of women is changing so rapidly that the future is full of promise.

The King's inclusion of women in his thanks to the Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force is a significant tribute to this changed position. The fact that women of the Services helped to line the route when the illustrious democrat, whom the world has come to regard as the embodiment of the new ideals of democracy, passed through London, is again a significant token of this changed position.

Queen Mary has sent a message to the women of the Empire, a message expressing her admiration of their work during the war, and appealing to them to continue to work in the same spirit in the days to come. To the women of India she sent a special message, assuring them that she watches with deepest interest and sympathy every step that it taken to bring the means of education and knowledge within their reach, to provide medical relief to them, to widen their interests and activity and to secure for them the adequate protection of the law. The Queen, too, sees a new era dawning upon the world, bringing many difficulties, fresh responsibilities and serious problems. To-day, more than ever, Queen Mary tells us the Empire needs her daughters. Women we know will not fail the Empire.

L. DE ALBERTI.

## LONDON AND BRANCH NEWS.

Office: 55, Berners Street, London, W.1.  
Tel.: Museum, 4181. Hours: 3-30—5-30.  
Saturdays, 10-30—1-30. Other times by appointment.

In spite of the inclement weather and professional work, a good number of our members attended the High Mass at Westminster Cathedral, on Saturday, 14th December, which was offered at the request of the C.W.S.S. to beg Divine Guidance on the men and women electors.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 15th.

## WIMBLEDON BRANCH.

Hon. Sec., Lady Laughton, 11, Stanton Road, S.W.19. The C.W.S.S. at Wimbledon took an active part in the educational propaganda among and for women voters at the recent election. ment, approached the several candidates and obtained from them written assurances on the various points that touch the interests of women according to the questions drawn up by the C.W.S.S. The C.W.S.S. has two members on the Executive Committee of the newly formed Wimbledon Citizen Association, Lady Laughton (Vice-President) and Miss Fennell. The latter took several local meetings held to instruct women as to the power and use of the vote and was the woman speaker at a Mass Meeting on December 6th, when the rival candidates came by invitation to address the women electors.

STIRLING.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Bentley Murray. The C.W.S.S. questions were sent to the members for this constituency, and favourable answers received. Boy scouts made a house distribution of the pamphlet "Why I should Vote" (C.W.S.S.). His Lordship, Bishop Graham, kindly promised to offer Mass to beg God's blessing, not only for women voters, but for all voters.

## ANNUAL MEETING.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 15th; nominations for Committee and Resolutions for Agenda should reach the Secretary not later than January 27th. Will members please take this as the official notice to save postage.

## NOTICE.

It would save much labour at the Office if all whose subscriptions to the "Catholic Citizen" are due would send them without delay. This notice likewise applies to the annual subscriptions to the Society, which fall due in January.

## THE STATE AND THE AGED POOR.

In what way should the State provide for the aged poor? The practice of different countries answers that question in ways that we may study with interest. The State should assuredly care for the old when sickness, accident, or unforeseen calamity have reduced the worker to want; but ought we to tolerate a system of low wages which make it impossible for the worker to provide for himself. There will always be the improvident and the unfortunate for whom help will be needed; but at present foresight, industry and self-denial have little chance of achieving a better end than the careless and the idle. We try to relieve misery, but it is better to prevent it. A living wage should allow the worker to provide for his old age through Insurance Societies; helped it may be by State contribution. Belgium tried the system with marked success and its example has been followed in Spain and Portugal and the Canton de Vaud.

Our aged poor in Ireland are far out of proportion to the population. The great clearances after the Famine when Repeal of the Corn Laws made it more profitable to turn tillage farms into grazing land, and drove to America the strong and active of the generation from 1848 to 1868. The State-assisted emigration of the Eighties drained away those who should have been the pride and mainstay of Ireland and left us the ill-paid, ill-housed workers, unable to bring up their children to brighter prospects and unable to provide for their own old age. To them the Old Age Pension has been a real boon. But for those too feeble to live alone some other help is needed. Let us turn from these islands to see what the State, not private charity, does for them in other countries.

France has the Old Age Pension since 1907, and grants the same allowance to all incurable invalids. Local authorities contribute to the cost. Paris has a scale of its own. The money is provided by the Assistance Publique with contributions from the local rates; in some cases one-third of the cost; in very poor communes only one-nineteenth. The Pension is consequently far more often given in the poorer communes,

where practically the whole cost is borne by the Treasury, and if a municipality neglects to strike a rate, no pressure is put upon it to do so, and no pensions are given. The varying scale of pensions is explained by private subscriptions and bequests; for France is still the France of St. Vincent de Paul and even now when all charities must be State-controlled, lavish gifts are made to the Assistance Publique which controls them.

The City of Paris pays an Old Age Pension and has tried most successfully the experiment of boarding pensioners out in country villages, where they are eagerly welcomed; for an old man or woman can often be useful in a cottage minding children or hens or doing little household jobs. But the Assistance makes better provision for the children than for the old.

Germany has the Old Age Pension and also grants Outrelief, but provides no State homes for the aged poor. Its children are better cared for than those of any other country, but the old are of less account. Contributory and compulsory insurance is supposed to provide for them.

Austria has retained the tradition of the Empress Maria Theresa, whose warm heart insisted that the old should be treated with special care, and never separated from those who love them. There is no Old Age Pension, but in Vienna every old person can claim relief without any pauper stigma. In Vienna any man or woman over 60 who cannot provide for himself, if he has a home and someone to take care of him is granted relief. If he is homeless he goes to a *Versorgungshaus* to which no disgrace is attached, and in which life is made pleasant and cheerful for the inmates. Visitors are allowed and may bring presents; bits of finery, may even stay out for a short visit sometimes. There are separate pavilions for men and women and for old married couples; the rooms are prettily furnished, and have good beds and easy chairs. In pre-war days the food was good and varied; there was a large choice of light wholesome dishes, minute portion of roast meat, liver, sausage, suited to the digestion and teeth of old people than the lumps of hard, ill-cooked meat served

out in our Workhouses. If they choose, they might have 5½d. a day and buy what they like at the restaurant; or they might take the daily ration of three meals a day, served in their own room. Those who are strong enough may earn a little by knitting, sewing, or housework, and any of us who know the work of the Brabazon Society will have learnt how the chance of occupation is welcomed in our Workhouse Infirmaries.

Denmark has the same system. Any man or woman past 60 may apply for Old Age relief if they have never been guilty of vagrancy or of begging nor applied for poor relief. They may even retain their votes and are proud of being old age pensioners, not paupers like the disreputable poor, who go to the Pauperhouse, which is run on stern police lines. In the Poorhouse old men have their pavilion, old women theirs, and married couples their own; but there are large sitting-rooms, smoking rooms, and corridors where all can meet. Those who are feeble are given hot milk before they get up in the morning, and it is brought to them by a servant, for whom they may ring if they want anything; a privilege which fills them with satisfaction. They have coffee for breakfast, three courses for dinner, afternoon coffee, and something light for supper. They may do as they like and go their own way all day long; for any who behave badly would of course forfeit their place and be sent to the Pauperhouse. They have 4d. a week pocket money and may spend it as they choose. And all this is or was, achieved at a cost varying from 1/- to 1/6 per head per day, and is defrayed half by the State out of the beer tax and half by the local rates.

Set against any of these well planned schemes, the Report of a recent Conference to consider the amalgamation of the North and South Dublin Unions. These are supported by a poor rate which has risen from £106,000 in 1912 to £203,000 in 1918, while the number of inmates has decreased by half. But the staff of officials remains and to meet the increased cost of living their salaries must be supplemented by war bonuses. Besides the aged and infirm the Unions shelter children and able-bodied healthy adults, and the average cost of each inmate is 22/6 per head per week; in Dublin where the majority of

the ratepayers have not 22/6 per head to spend on their own families per week. By amalgamating the two Unions the number of officials could be reduced; though against that must be set their pensions to which they are entitled; and the children could all be boarded out, as already many are. But till the Poor Law is replaced by a rational and humane system of relief, these costly and immense buildings are all we provide for the aged poor. Money has not been grudged, but neither commonsense nor Christian charity have planned the expenditure.

Social questions and social reforms can only be solved by Christian principles. We women have at last obtained a share in public life. We aim at removing injustice and misery. For us Catholic women the light of religion shines above the darkness of materialism, and we know that to the Catholic Church alone is reserved the solution of social questions. Charity is not a name to conjure with just now. Men prefer to talk of justice. But it is fraternal charity that sees the distress of a brother and devises means to relieve him. So are the ears of the world opened to the cry of need, and the charity of to-day becomes the justice of to-morrow. M. GWYNN.

Since the above was written many changes have taken place; when democracy comes into its own the care of the aged will be faced in a new spirit.

### THE MOTHERS' DEFENCE LEAGUE.

This League has been recently founded to defend the rights of motherhood, and secure justice for the working mother. To oppose measures which introduce State Control of the Family, and to ascertain and represent the views of working mothers in regard to social measures affecting them. The views of working mothers will be represented upon such questions as Maternity and Child Welfare, Education and Compulsory Continuation Classes, Separation Allowances, Pensions and Housing. Mr. G. K. Chesterton is President of the League, and the Council includes Fr. Vincent McNabb, Monsignor Provost Brown, Father Bernard Vaughan, S.J., Rev. Mother Perpetua, Mrs. Cecil Chesterton, &c.

Annual subscription 1/-. The address of the League is: 3, Fleet Street, E.C.4.

## THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

Office—55, Berners St., Oxford St., London, W.  
Patron: Blessed Joan of Arc. Colours: Blue, White & Gold  
Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 1d. monthly.

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