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THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society).
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Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give;
Who knows the gifts which *you* shall give,
Daughter of the Newer Eve?

Francis Thompson

Musings on the Future

By I. Archinard

"Now that women have obtained the vote in practically every country, what on earth is left for you to do?" someone asked lately, almost expecting that the Alliance might convene a happy break-up party with the satisfaction of having achieved complete victory.

That might indeed be, or shortly become, the situation, if the founders of St. Joan's Alliance had not from its early stages foreseen, beyond the claim of the recognition of equality, an ever-improved participation of women in the responsibilities and tasks of the community.

The first question that occurs in self-examination is, of course, the following one: "What have women achieved by their votes? What instances are there of countries where the general way of life has been improved by women's suffrage? As a subsidiary remark: "An overwhelming majority of women are indifferent to the common weal. Why? What is our responsibility in that indifference? What is to be done about it?"

It is all the more important to answer these questions and to answer them correctly and promptly, because women still have a unique chance which they might lose in not many years. In almost all countries, women are more numerous than men, especially in the age categories above twenty. In some countries the relation may be as high as three against two. But according to demographs, the relation may change or even be reversed, the transformation beginning in about ten years time.

Let the forecast be as uncertain as a weather announcement, let the causes be modified in the course of years, there is nevertheless a great probability that the present situation will be altered. It may mean a reduced possibility for women to make their influence felt in the community, and perhaps even a loss of hard-earned rights, unless women intervene with generous participation in public life, so that their specific action will be permanently wanted.

It is in the field of sex morality that women ought to launch the most vigorous attacks, *if*, as is often alleged, the present state of society is due

to the men's indifference or immorality. The Church's doctrine on purity remains unchanged, but people's notion of sin is blurred as much by the more educated forms of radio-television and theatres (often State-controlled and inspired) as by the lowest films and night clubs. The Report of the United Nations Social Commission states that prostitution is on the decline, but only because an increasing number of women offer themselves gratis.

Alongside the primary work undertaken against immorality, is there not a field open for the Alliance's sociologists and political women—an enquiry into the benefits realised by the exploiters of human immorality the influence of alcoholism on industry, etc? A good deal has already been published on the expenditure of countries on drink, cosmetics, tobacco and other luxuries linked with debauch and which separately drain away more money than bread or other necessities do.

Another approach to the question might be attempted by our philosophers—with apologies for the level of arguments they would have to oppose. A current is noticeable in the publications of certain really top-level men in medical and psychological circles of which the crudest form may be summarised as follows:

"Mankind will survive only if further destructive wars are prevented. To suppress war, suppress aggressivity.

"To suppress aggressivity, suppress the feeling of guilt.

"To suppress the feeling of guilt, suppress the notion of good and evil which originated in the 'legend' of Adam and Eve. Avoid instilling into your helpless children's minds your own notions and philosophy which will prevent them from facing an absolutely new (scientific) world."

Talking about "notions and philosophy," which really means religion, brings us to recent discussions of the Minorities and Discrimination Commission and of the Human Rights Commission of United Nations, which are culminating in

the Krishnaswami Report (E/CN.4/Sub:2/200 and Conference Room Papers No. 1-86.)

The young Indian author presented it at the Human Rights session which took place in Geneva last February-March. With many compliments it was referred to the Governments for comment, no examination of substance taking place. But Non-Governmental Organisations took the floor and offered praise and criticism. Protestants and Catholics alike thought it contained many excellent points but no sufficient guarantees, in particular concerning the community life of churches. During his drafting work in New York, the poor writer had been abundantly advised by believers and unbelievers of all kinds, and it was impossible, despite his efforts, to please everybody. Now, the report exists, and such as it is it deserves our closest attention. After all, if not *de jure*, there is at least a *de facto* religious inequality between men and women, the latter being by far the most assiduous church-goers, and in that light also to defend the Church's rights is to defend women's rights. That extremely conscientious document deserves our most careful attention, especially from those of us who may have influence on the drafting of governmental answers.

Another excellent United Nations document is the Ammoun Report on Discrimination in Education (E/CN. 4/Sub/2/181/Rev. 1). It should afford suggestions for ample discussion at all levels of educational circles.

Finally, the decline of colonialism may invite us to a re-examination of our methods with a view to completing them and adapting them to new circumstances. If legal decisions are still desirable in such problems as bride-price, ritual mutilations, etc., they will certainly not suffice, as the secret life of tribes will long persist. On the other hand, when those practices, which are closely knit into a sociological-religious pattern, will be opposed by the new "enlightened" governments, it will very probably be with a bias against religion as well, and simultaneously with the introduction of divorce, birth control, and maybe other signs of "civilisation." There again, thoughtful study is required, preliminary to the contacting of more influential women in the territories concerned.

In the ten delegations attending the Disarmament Conference in Geneva there are twenty-nine men and one woman, Miss Barbara Salt, deputy to Sir Michael Wright in the British delegation. She has been at the Foreign Office for the past eighteen years. In 1942 she was vice-consul in Tangier, and later, Counsellor to the British Embassy in Washington; in 1957 Miss Salt was transferred to Tel-Aviv as deputy to the British Minister.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Congo. Though men and women will, in principle, have the vote at twenty-one years of age, only men will be able to vote in the elections this year. Both men and women will be eligible to stand as candidates at twenty-five years of age.

* * *

India. Details are given in *Women on the March*, organ of the Women's Department of the All-India Congress Committee, of the heroic part taken by the women in Kerala during the recent elections. Open revolt broke out against the Communist Government on June 12th, but it was not until things seemed to be going from bad to worse that the women took independent action. On July 4th, a mammoth gathering of women went in peaceful procession, picketing and courting arrest, and they continued this "fully non-violent and disciplined picketing" every Saturday—though several were beaten and one even shot.

Srimathi Sucheta Kripalani, M.P. spoke to "an ocean of human faces" at Kottayam in pouring rain after the police had dragged women on the ground and drenched them with filthy water—treatment which only brought more women to join the ranks. So many women were arrested that there was no space in the jails.

By the kindness of Mrs. Chitty, chairman of the Women's Council, a representative of the Alliance had the pleasure of meeting Srimathi Sucheta Kripalani when in London. She paid tribute to the women of Kerala who took their full share in the elections which resulted in the defeat of the Communists by an overwhelming majority.

* * *

Sri. V. K. Krishna Menon, Union Defence Minister, announced that the Government of India was preparing a scheme under which Girls' Auxiliary Units would be entrusted with all types of work in defence forces except the use of arms.

This, he said, should not be interpreted as "any kind of militarism"—the aim of the scheme is that girls should not feel left behind in defending the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country.

* * *

Ireland. Congratulations to Miss Harriet Cohen, a good friend of the woman's movement, who is being made an honorary Doctor of Music of the National University of Ireland. She will receive her doctorate in Dublin on June 23rd.

* * *

Sweden. The first three women candidates for the Lutheran Ministry were ordained in Sweden on April 10th.

Notes and Comments

The following resolution has been sent to the Rt. Hon. R. A. Butler, Secretary of State for the Home Department:

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls upon the Government to delete that portion of Clause I of the Offices Bill by which "the Secretary of State may provide by regulations for restricting the employment of women in offices after childbirth."

The Alliance opposes any suggestion that employers should be made responsible for carrying out such regulations, as detrimental to the employment of women and an interference with their personal liberty.

* * *

At the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, in October, 1905, on the eve of a General Election, Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney, at a Liberal Election meeting, asked Sir Edward Grey: "Will the Liberal Government give votes to women?" No reply was given and the question was repeated. Amid great uproar the two women were dragged from the Hall and flung into the streets. Outside they began to hold a meeting and were promptly arrested on the charge of obstruction. They were sentenced to three days in prison or a fine of five shillings—they chose imprisonment.

This event, the first act of "the militants," is to be commemorated by a memorial tablet to be erected in the foyer of the Free Trade Hall beside the Peterloo Memorial. The tablet will be unveiled by the Lord Mayor of Manchester on May 19th, when Lord Pethick-Lawrence will also speak. St. Joan's Alliance will be represented at the ceremony by Miss Branston.

* * *

The National Union of Women Teachers announced at its Conference at Buxton that it will disband next year when equal pay will come into force. Miss Pierotti said that, "we are all very sad to have to disband our Union, but we have now achieved our aims and we have got to recognise that this is the psychological moment for us to take this step."

Members were urged to celebrate their victory "by helping others to achieve a similar victory," and a motion was carried urging that steps be taken to obtain equal pay for equal work in all occupations.

* * *

It was a great pleasure to welcome Dr. Maria Schlüter-Hermkes, member of the executive board of UNESCO and vice-president of St. Joan's International Alliance at a party given by the Alliance at the Minerva Club on May 2nd. Representatives of women's organisations, national and international, were invited to meet Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes and hear her speak on the work of UNESCO. A report of her talk will be published in the next issue of *The Catholic Citizen*.

Under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League, a Commemorative Meeting in honour of Mrs. Despard and all women and men, known or unknown, who fought for the vote, will be held at Overseas House, Park Place, S.W.1, on Monday, June 13th, at 6.30 p.m. Admission will be free and there will be a collection. The speakers will be Naomi Jacob and Muriel Matters.

Regretfully, officers of the Alliance will be absent owing to their attendance at St. Joan's International Council Meeting in Treves. We trust that many members of the Alliance will be present at this Commemorative meeting.

* * *

At the T.U.C. Conference of Unions catering for women's work, Miss B. A. Godwin, General Secretary of the Clerical and Administrative Workers' Union, said that even where equal pay had been won, efforts were being made by employers to channel women's work into separate grades, where the question of equal pay could be avoided, or where equal opportunity for promotion would not arise. A resolution reaffirming the necessity of intensifying the campaign for equal pay for equal work was carried.

* * *

At the Fourth Latin American Regional Congress of the Young Christian Workers held at Lima last October, various conclusions were reached. From the first conclusion, underlining the necessity for vocational guidance and training of young workers, we quote the following:

"Women have now definitely won for themselves a place in every branch of life. Both unmarried and married women have had to go out to work in order to help to solve the difficult problems which the economic situation of the family gives rise to; it is therefore essential that special consideration be given to the situation of women workers with a view to providing increased vocational guidance and training facilities for them, without, however, neglecting their natural vocation as women."

We are glad to note that the Y.C.W. recognises that women workers should be provided with increased vocational guidance and training facilities—but why drag in their natural vocation? No one asks men to remember their natural vocation as husbands when discussing facilities for further training in efficiency as workers.

* * *

We send our congratulations to Dr. Francis and Mrs. Shattock on the birth of their second son, Christopher Michael Anthony on May 7th and wish him all blessings.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

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Women's Wages

Women's Wages is a paper, submitted to the I.L.O. Panel of Consultants on the Problems of Women Workers, which met in Geneva last October. It was published in the February issue of *The International Labour Review*, and deals with the concept of equal pay for equal work and the factors which promote or hinder the application of this principle.

There is, of course, no scientific way of comparing the requirements of one job in terms of some one factor, e.g. skill, with those of another job in terms of another factor, e.g. endurance of adverse working conditions. This is an important point for several members of the Panel of Consultants stated that "in their opinion, job analysis and job evaluation had proved to be the only satisfactory starting points for applying the equal pay principle." We fail to see why job evaluation should be stressed so strongly as a means of assessing the value of *women's* work and we agree with the writer of the paper, who says "the selection of factors and the weight assigned to each are arbitrary in the sense that there are no objective tests for settling differences of opinion as to what the factors and weights ought to be."

The usual arguments to support the difference in the wages of men and women are given and the answers to some extent suggested. Women are excluded from many well-paid jobs by the assumption of the smaller physical strength of many (*sic*), but "technological progress including automation is tending steadily to diminish the relative importance of physical strength in many occupations." If women are "less adaptable and versatile than men" or "less resourceful in emergencies" it may be because of their "inferior education and vocational training;" if women have less "work experience" than men, it may be because they regard their work as temporary. Absenteeism, which is stated to be more frequent among women, "makes the overhead costs of employing them greater;" if this is so (and it is open

to question in some professions at least) it is not only the women who add to the overhead costs for the employer, for protective legislation places restrictions on Sunday work and night work, etc., for women when pay is substantially higher. Finally, women in most countries are less well organised than men.

Some useful points are made. "Higher wages do sometimes induce higher productivity, in which case no harmful effects need arise." They may, for instance, says the writer, enable workers to feed themselves better or lead them to value their jobs more highly. Women whose absenteeism has been caused by the strain involved in running a household "may be able to buy more labour-saving appliances." On the other hand, higher wages for women, if not accompanied by increased production will have to be "at the expense of other sections of the community"—either the profit-owner, the consumer, the male worker or the taxpayer. It may well be asked why these four categories should gain at the expense of a fifth—the woman-worker?

On the question of dependants, the writer says that if it is felt that there is, after all, a certain rough justice in the traditional system, the emphasis should perhaps be on "rough" rather than on "justice." There seems to be a general agreement that the traditional system is very hard on women with dependants and some people feel that it treats bachelors with needless generosity.

We are glad to quote and endorse the final paragraph: "Experience to date in countries, industries and firms in which the equal pay principle has been applied suggests that the problems that arise can be met without undue difficulty. On the positive side, equal pay is no doubt good for the morale and productivity of women and by relieving men of the fear of being undercut by women, may make for greater job satisfaction all round."

In this connection it may be of interest to give an extract from the Trade Union paper *The New*

Dawn reporting the Conference of the Engineering Industry in 1958: "The president of the A.E.U., Mr. W. J. Carron, said he felt he could expound a case based on natural justice, on the principle that all individuals were entitled to equal consideration and rights without distinction as to sex."

On the other hand, Mr. Macarty, director of the Engineering Employers Federation, said: "The Employers Federation believe that the claim should be settled on a basis of justice to the industry on which all were dependent, and which was, through its exports, responsible in such high degree, for the prosperity of the country."

It would be gratifying to feel that the motives of all Trade Unions advocating equal pay were as pure as the above suggests but there are still some which, unlike the A.E.U., refuse to admit women to skilled work. We may be forgiven if we suspect that the demand for equal pay for those who do penetrate the fastness arises at least partially from the desire of men not to risk their jobs by competition with cheap labour.

P. C. Challoner

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Joseph Clayton in "The Catholic Citizen,"
15th May, 1935

We know the pains that St. Thomas took that his daughters might enjoy a generous scholarship; and this at a time in England when opportunities for women to achieve learning were not plentiful. No sex barrier was recognised in that home at Chelsea, that "school for the knowledge and practice of the Christian faith" as Erasmus styled the household presided over by Sir Thomas More. The high enterprise of learning, the exercise of the intellectual life in the study of Greek and Latin—of Latin in especial—was for son and daughter alike. Neither was marriage in the eyes of Sir Thomas More a reason for the neglect of study and the surrender of intellectual interests. The dearest of his children, Margaret, was already the wife of William Roper when her father advised her to take up medicine as well as divinity. He gives her his reasons in a familiar passage: "though I earnestly hope that you will devote the rest of your life to medical science and sacred literature, so that you may be well furnished for the whole scope of human life, which is to have a healthy soul in a healthy body, and I know that you have already laid the foundations of these studies and there will always be opportunity to continue the building; yet I am of opinion that you may with great advantage give some years of your yet flourishing youth to humane letters and liberal studies."

The purpose and end of this higher education was clear to Sir Thomas More. To achieve *ad majorem gloriam Dei* the full development of the intellect given by God. The obligation to keep the intelligence alert was as binding as the obligation to keep the body in health.—"St. John of Rochester and St. Thomas More."

STATUS OF WOMEN COMMISSION

Ritual Mutilations. The following resolution sponsored by France and the United Kingdom was passed by the Status of Women Commission at its fourteenth session, held in Buenos Aires last month:

The Commission on the Status of Women

Noting the resolution of the Twelfth World Health Assembly in which it declared that

"the ritual operations in question are based on social and cultural backgrounds, the study of which is outside the competence of the World Health Organization," requested "the Director-General, if the study envisaged by the Economic and Social Council is to be undertaken by other organizations, to provide any information of a medical character he may have available;" and requested "the Director-General to communicate the present resolution to the Economic and Social Council;"

Noting also that, during the debate on the report of the Economic and Social Council in the Third Committee of the General Assembly at its fourteenth session, the representative of the World Health Organization stated that the WHO was in possession of all the necessary technical information,

Expressing its concern with the fact that ritual operations continue and that no concerted measures known to the Commission are being taken to fight against this harmful practice,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to appoint a representative to the next session of the World Health Assembly who would be fully informed of the position taken by the Commission on the Status of Women with respect to ritual operations, with the mandate to present this position to the World Health Assembly;

2. Requests the Economic and Social Council to adopt the following resolution:

The Economic and Social Council

Noting the concern of the Commission of the Status of Women with the continuance of the practice of ritual operations and sharing this concern,

1. Invites the World Health Organization, UNICEF, UNESCO and the International Labour Organization to bear in mind, in the planning of their programmes and activities, the need for a concerted action against the continuance of the practice of ritual operations;

2. Invites the World Health Organization to communicate such medical information as it has at its disposal to the Secretary-General for submission to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixteenth session.

Marriage. A draft international Convention sponsored by Argentina, France, Greece, and Poland, also a Draft Recommendation, has been adopted by the Commission. The Convention provides that:

Article 1. No marriage of any person under the age of fifteen shall be valid, except where a competent authority has granted a dispensation as to age for serious causes, in the interest of the intending spouses.

Article 2. No marriage shall be valid without the full and free consent of both parties, such consent to be expressed by them in person, orally, publicly, and in the presence of the authority competent to solemnize the marriage.

Article 3. All marriages shall be registered in an appropriate official register by the competent authority.

THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

April 1st opened with a debate on the Offices Bill, as amended in Standing Committee concerning the employment of women after childbirth. Mr. J. Harvey succeeded in getting an amendment by which the word "may" was substituted for "shall" in the sentence: "The Secretary of State shall provide by regulations for restricting the employment of women in offices after childbirth." He pointed out that this altered wording would permit the Minister greater flexibility in framing the regulations.

The possible point of view of women themselves was recognised by Dr. Glyn and Mr. Dudley Williams. Dr. Glyn said: "I am doubtful whether the employment of women after childbirth should really be the subject of legislation . . . particularly in respect of offices where the work is not very arduous and, indeed, where in some cases, it gives genuine pleasure to people when they feel fit to work. This is not so much a question of human rights. It is to a greater extent a matter of choice." Mr. Doughty objected to the framing of the amendment in a way to give the Minister power to make rules, such as one by which an employer might have to ask a prospective employee: "How long is it since you had a child?" Mr. Dudley Williams added: "It is one thing for a doctor to ask such questions but quite foreign to the sort of attitude we have to women for laymen to put questions of that kind."

Mr. Harvey said all the points raised had been considered in Committee. He had been worried by them but had not had sufficient support to carry the day against the original amendment. In consultation with Mr. Vosper, Joint Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, he had agreed that the further amendment consisting in the alteration of one word would be a reasonable compromise.

Mr. Vosper: "I advised the Standing Committee that it would be better to tackle this matter on Public Health legislation, and not to insert provision for it in this Bill. The Committee did not take my advice on that occasion."

In his Budget statement the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed increases in the dependent relative and housekeeper allowance, raising the amount from £69 to £75. In addition he proposed an extra payment of £40 for a widow or widower who has a dependent child or children, but no housekeeper.

During the debate Dame Irene Ward asked the Financial Secretary why, in the matter of the housekeeper allowance, an anomaly to the detriment of spinsters and bachelors has been retained. There was no reply.

Mrs. White, though disclaiming the role of a feminist, pleaded for a change in taxation, or

arrangements whereby a gainfully occupied woman, especially one of professional status, is adversely affected by the system of aggregating the incomes of husband and wife in the assessment of income tax. She referred to a report of a survey, made by the British Institute of University Women, in which it is pointed out that many highly trained and skilful women withhold their services because of the discouraging effect of this system. She called the attention of the House to the very grave shortage of teachers of science and mathematics and of doctors and dentists. She expressed the hope that the Treasury would consider the matter.

Whatever name is given to Mrs. White's type of campaigning for sense and justice, it is the right stuff.

On April 12th the Minister of Health moved a new clause to the Population (Statistics) Bill, the purpose of which is to broaden the basis of statistical information. Dr. Edith Summerskill regretted that a new clause, in her name, had not been selected by the speaker. This was to require a yearly report from the Medical Research Council based on a scientific interpretation of the statistics of births, still-births, and deaths.

Dr. Summerskill thought this desirable and necessary in view of the overhanging fear of the effects of nuclear radiation.

An interesting constitutional point was raised when Mr. Driberg asked that the Royal Assent be withheld from a Bill recently passed by the Tynwald, giving magistrates power to impose corporal punishment on children and young persons.

Mr. Renton, Joint Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, questioned whether the Home Secretary had any "constitutional answerability" to the House in making his recommendations for or against the Royal Assent being given to Bills passed in the Isle of Man.

On April 13th, Mr. Kenneth Robinson sought the annulment of the Nurses (Amendment) Rules Approval Instrument which lays down a necessary minimum educational qualification for trainee nurses. Dame Irene Ward opposed this, saying that the measure was a good one, but that the requirement should also extend to candidates for mental nursing.

Miss Edith Pitt, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, adequately answered all objections to the Instrument and explained that the staffing position in psychiatric hospitals is not sufficiently established to make the requirement compulsory there at present.

On Tuesday, April 12th, a packed House waited to hear how the Speaker would deal with a delicate situation. Lady Hylton-Foster (the Speaker's wife) seemed to have dropped a brick.

According to the *Sunday Express* she had given it as her view that women Members of Parliament were neither sufficiently educated, nor willing to find out things for themselves. The knight-errant of their defence was Mr. Emrys Hughes who raised the matter as a question of privilege. The Speaker's ruling was that the piece in the paper did not amount to a *prima facie* contempt calling for immediate action by him. Later at question time, Mrs. Slater put the incident to good account by asking the Minister of Works to provide filing cabinets for Members, "to keep our filing up to date, if not our education."

The *Guardian's* Parliamentary correspondent in reporting this added that Mrs. Slater's own background includes in the eyes of most politicians "just about as much education as a mortal can bear."

C. M. Cheke

REVIEWS

An Atlas of Christian History. By R. S. Dell. (Philips, 4s. 6d.)

This is a pioneer effort designed to help those teachers in day and Sunday schools who are looking for an atlas, simple and clear, to illustrate the story of Christianity throughout the ages. The maps, planned by the Rev. R. S. Dell of Ridley Hall, Cambridge, and printed with their usual care by George Philip & Son, are fascinating to all readers, though the later maps are necessarily incomplete as regards the expansion of the Catholic Church. It is a pity that the notes to the maps, which are excellent in many ways, record the persecution of Protestants by Queen Mary the Catholic but fail to record the more savage laws against Catholics imposed by her successor, Elizabeth.

Widening Horizons, organ of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, reports that in both Austria and Italy women are exercised with the plight of single women who find it impossible to obtain accommodation at prices they can afford. In Italy, a new National Association of Civilian Widows is concerned for the two and a half million widows who have no military pension, and are living at mere subsistence level. Plans have been submitted to the Mayor of Milan for low-cost housing for single women for which it is hoped the city will supply the land.

Employment and Condition of Work of Nurses. (I.L.O. Geneva, 1960, 12s.)

The *Employment and Conditions of Work of Nurses* is No. 55 of a new Series of Studies and Reports undertaken by the I.L.O. The study was prepared on the basis of replies to a questionnaire circulated to organisations of nurses in sixty-seven countries, fifty-six of which sent information. While the information varies in value,

"facts and figures having to be examined and interpreted in their own national context," the study gives as complete a picture as possible of the conditions obtaining in the different countries and of the major problems facing nurses today.

Chapter XII reproduces the Recommendations of the I.L.O. *Ad Hoc* Meeting of Experts on Employment and Conditions of Work of Nurses held in Geneva in October, 1958, which was the subject of an article in *The Catholic Citizen*, February, 1959.

Memoirs of a Renaissance Pope. The Commentaries of Pius II. Translated by Florence A. Cragg. Edited by Leona C. Gabel. (Allen & Unwin, 30s.)

This abridgement of the Commentaries of Pope Pius II will be of much interest to the general reader who has studied the Renaissance and of value to the teacher of this period.

Pius II was a great statesman and a humanist and—what was perhaps less usual—a lover and observer of nature. He travelled widely even though he suffered continually from gout (contracted during an early visit to Scotland as a Bishop's secretary) and was indefatigable in the business of Church and State.

What is of special concern to us is his account in 1461 of "a sixteen-year-old girl named Jeanne" who was inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Pope gives an account of her life and achievements and ends: "Thus died Jeanne, that astonishing and marvellous maid, who restored the Kingdom of France—and kept her purity unstained among companies of soldiers; of whom no breath of scandal was ever heard. Whether her career was a miracle of Heaven or a device of men, I should find it hard to say." P.C.C.

KATHARINE ROOK DAVIS

We ask the prayers of our readers for Katharine Rook Davis, who died suddenly at Minster on Good Friday. Miss Davis joined the Alliance in 1936 and since that time she had given unstinted voluntary help in expert office work and verbatim reporting during a period of years, while she lived in London. As one of our Annual Reports says: "It would be difficult to imagine how we should carry on without the invaluable clerical help of Miss Davis."

When Miss Davis left London she was most generous in giving her services whenever an opportunity occurred. Miss Davis was the author of two lively books for 'teenagers.

The Alliance was represented at her funeral at St. Mildred's, Minster, by Miss Hyatt. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to Miss Billing, who shared her home. R.I.P.

OPEN DOOR COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of the Open Door Council was held at the headquarters of the National Union of Women Teachers on May 3rd, when Miss Hilda Harding, Manager of the Hanover Street Branch of Barclay's Bank, spoke of her experience as the first woman Bank Manager in this country. She said the training had been a hard grind but she was thoroughly enjoying the work.

The following resolutions were passed:

"The Open Door Council, now in Annual Meeting assembled reiterates that the incomes of husband and wife should not be aggregated for purposes of Taxation but should be separately assessed and taxed. There should be equal treatment for men and women with regard to assessment, payment and reliefs in Income Tax matters.

"The Open Door Council in Annual Meeting assembled calls upon Her Majesty's Government to fulfil its obligation under Article 23(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which reads:—

'Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.'

"It calls upon the Government to repeal all laws and regulations which place restrictions on workers on the grounds of sex."

A resolution on the Offices Bill was also passed, similar to that passed by St. Joan's Alliance (see Notes and Comments).

ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE 16TH COUNCIL MEETING TREVES, JUNE 11th and 12th

Members wishing to attend should notify the hon. secretary without delay at 8B Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford Street, London, W.1.

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