

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

Organ of St. Joan's Alliance (formerly The 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

Fifty-first Annual Meeting

By P. D. Cummins

On Saturday, March 24th, the Fifty-First Annual Meeting was held at 27 Wilfred Street. It was a particularly moving occasion since it coincided with Miss Florence Barry's Golden Jubilee and the prelude to her official retirement after fifty years of devoted service. She was very much in the hearts of the large assembly, as was Mrs. Shattock, the outgoing Chairman, whose unique qualities have given this office a particular distinction and whose loss will be felt most keenly.

Miss Barry performed her duties as Honorary Secretary for the last time when she read the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1961. Dr. Shattock then called upon Mrs. P. D. Cummins, the new editor of *The Catholic Citizen*, to say a few words. Mrs. Cummins was happy to report that the financial position had shown a marked improvement. She spoke of how much *The Catholic Citizen* owed to Miss Spender and promised to do her utmost to ensure that the paper's high standard, set by Leonora de Alberti and Helen Douglas Irvine would be maintained.

The Annual Report, which was published in full in *The Catholic Citizen*, was presented by the Honorary Secretary and taken as read. The adoption of the Report was proposed by Dr. Marita Harper who paid tribute to Miss Barry and linked her Golden Jubilee with the Golden Jubilee of St. Joan's Alliance, on which never-to-be-forgotten occasion a telegram was received from His Holiness, the Pope, conferring His blessing on its work. This half-century of work has, as she reminded us, been enshrined in Miss Nancy Parnell's beautifully-written "A Venture in Faith." Dr. Harper went on to say that younger women tend to take the dignity of their present status too much for granted, thus endangering the freedom so hardily fought for and won. She stressed that it was essential for the Alliance to continue the battle for full equality for married women, the most vulnerable section of the community. Dr. Harper concluded by saying that she found *The Catholic Citizen* invaluable.

Mrs. Shirley Williams, seconding the motion,

said that 1961 had been a year of great fulfilment, crowning Miss Barry's fifty years of devoted service. She drew attention to the fact that a large number of women in industry have not received equal pay, and spoke of the regrettable position of countless women in Catholic countries, in particular, Spain, Portugal and Southern Italy. She looked on St. Joan's Alliance as a leavening force and emphasized that it had valuable work to do within the framework of the Church, as well as on behalf of women in all parts of the world.

Miss N. K. Carr, the Honorary Treasurer, then presented the Financial Statement. Words, she said were totally inadequate for the expression of the affection and gratitude she and all the members of the Alliance felt for Miss Barry.

Miss Inez Sexton, the Honorary Secretary of St. Joan's Alliance in Victoria, brought greetings from Australia and reminded members that as a result of a visit paid by Miss Margaret Flynn to this country she had been inspired by Miss Barry to found the Alliance in Australia on March 25th, 1936. She said that *The Catholic Citizen* was informative, accurate and always on time, and gave high praise to Miss Nancy Parnell's "A Venture in Faith." Miss Sexton was followed by Miss Agnes Osei, of Ghana, who began by saying that it was a pleasure and a privilege to address an audience of such distinguished and courageous women and that her heart was in her mouth. She went on to make a most witty speech, and provoked general laughter when she remarked how perplexed she had been when she came across a chapter in a legal text-book entitled "Infants, Lunatics and Married Women." In Ghana, women receive equal pay for equal work, and sex discrimination does not operate. Polygamy still exists, and though it is dying out, there is much work to be done in this field. Miss Osei thanked Miss Barry wholeheartedly for her friendship, and said she had found the interchange of ideas invaluable. She was now looking forward to the day when her country would have its own St. Joan's Alliance.

Miss Osei was followed by Miss Carr who appealed for funds for the rent of the new office. First, however, she turned to Miss Barry whom she addressed as the "Mother of the Alliance." Miss Carr then urged members on the occasion of Miss Barry's final appearance in an official capacity to make this a bumper collection, adding that she had said a prayer that they would double the amount they had intended to give. Her prayer was surely answered for the collection resulted in the gratifying sum of £104 0s. 6d.

Miss Margaret Clarke proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring members of the Committee who had done such invaluable work; this was seconded by Miss Joan Morris. The election of the Executive Committee followed, after which the Chairman spoke of future arrangements, the new premises of the Alliance, and the work to be done in the future.

The resolutions were then put to the vote and carried unanimously. The text of these appears in the adjacent column—they are re-affirmations of policy except for the last three. The resolution on private agencies was moved by Miss Retchford who pointed out the dangers to young women under the present happy-go-lucky system—i.e., while in some parts of the country, agencies require a licence, an agency which is refused a new licence because it has shown itself undesirable can immediately establish itself in a locality where none is needed. The resolution on slavery was moved by Miss Challoner who forcibly brought home to those present the horror of this iniquitous and flourishing trade in human beings. The third resolution, that Miss Barry be asked to accept the Honorary Life Membership of the Executive Committee was allowed to speak for itself.

Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell expressed the affection and gratitude of members to Dr. Shattock for her eight years of notable chairmanship.

There was loud applause for Miss Barry when she rose. She thanked members for the honour they had done her in asking her to become a Life Member of the committee—an honour which she accepted with heartfelt gratitude. It was no surprise to the assembled when Miss Barry raised her battle standard like the true daughter of St. Joan, that she is, and called upon members to write to their M.P.s to enlist their support for Miss Joan Vickers' Guardianship and Custody of Infants Bill. In a fine glow of just indignation, she spoke of the incredibly crude attack made by Mr. Ronald Bell, M.P. for Buckingham South, on Josephine Butler whom he contemptuously dismissed as a "silly old woman"—the Alliance must go into action, she said, and make Mr. Bell eat his words. It was indeed fitting that the Fifty-First General Meeting which will go down in the history of the Alliance as Miss Barry's Golden Jubilee Meeting should close in

this warrior spirit, the spirit in which desperate battles are fought and ultimately won.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 24th, 1962

House of Lords

St. Joan's Alliance regrets that hereditary peeresses are still debarred from the House of Lords and calls upon the Government to pass legislation to enable these peeresses to sit and vote therein.

Street Offences Act, 1959

St. Joan's Alliance reaffirming its belief in the principle that the equality of all citizens before the law, whether for punishment or reward, is fundamental to justice, demands that the Government delete from Clause I(1) of the Street Offences Act, 1959, the term "common prostitute" which discriminates against one class of citizen, and so amend the Act to make it an offence for "any person" to loiter for the purposes of prostitution to the annoyance of any inhabitant, occupier of non-residential premises, or passenger.

The Alliance further demands that the burden of proof of this offence should not rest solely upon the evidence of the police.

Domicile

St. Joan's Alliance calls upon the Government to introduce and pass into law a Bill giving a married woman the right to her own domicile.

Equal Guardianship of Infants

St. Joan's Alliance calls upon the Government to adopt and pass into law, the Guardianship of Infants Bill introduced by Miss Joan Vickers on March 7th.

Equal Pay

St. Joan's Alliance urges the extension of equal pay to women employed in the industrial grades of the civil service and in commerce and industry generally.

Taxation

St. Joan's Alliance calls for the separate taxation of married persons and the removal of all sex discrimination in taxation.

Education

St. Joan's Alliance demands full equality for Catholic schools in the national scheme of education. The Alliance believes that education should be directed towards the full development of the individual as a human being and urges that in all schemes of education and in the allocation of scholarships, equal opportunity be made available to boys and girls, both in this country and in all territories under British administration.

Slavery

St. Joan's Alliance, aware of the Government's concern at the continuance of the Slave Trade, urges that instructions be given to the United Kingdom delegate to ECOSOC, to press for the setting-up of a committee of experts to investigate and to advise on the best means of implementing the 1956 Convention.

Private Employment Agencies

St. Joan's Alliance views with concern the potential dangers to young women, foreign as well as British, seeking employment through agencies which in many areas are subject to no control, except registration of name and address. It urges the Government to introduce legislation to provide for a system of licensing and supervision of private employment agencies.

Honorary Life Membership

The members of St. Joan's Alliance join in offering Miss Barry their warmest congratulations on her Golden Jubilee. They recall with affectionate gratitude her service to the Alliance over the past fifty years, and ask her as she wishes to retire from the office of Honorary Secretary, to accept the Honorary Life Membership of the Executive Committee of the Alliance.

Notes and Comments

At the Annual General Meeting, the Committee was re-elected with the exception of Miss Clarke, Miss Guessard and Miss Price, who were obliged to resign owing to pressure of work. We thank them for their services and know we can count on their continuing interest. Miss Blackburn, Mrs. P. D. Cummins, Miss Mann, and Miss May were elected to the Committee. We regret that Dr. Shattock felt obliged to relinquish the Chairmanship and we welcome back Miss P. C. Challoner in her place.

It would seem that at long last, the hereditary peeresses may be given the right to sit in either House of Parliament. Here are the terms of the Motion concerning the House of Lords Reform, which was passed by the House of Commons on March 28th and sent to the Lords for their concurrence:

That it is expedient that a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament be appointed to consider whether any, and if so what, changes should be made in the rights of Peers of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain or of the United Kingdom, and of Peeresses in their own right, to sit in either House of Parliament, or to vote at Parliamentary elections, and whether, and if so under what conditions, a Peer should be enabled to surrender a peerage permanently or for his lifetime or for any less period having regard to effects and consequences thereof.

Long experience has taught us to take no measure for granted until it is on the Statute Book and we note the statement of the Leader of the House "I cannot be taking as binding the Government to introduce legislation to implement any recommendation that the Committee may make."

Congratulations to Miss Elaine Burton who has been created a life peer. Miss Burton was Labour M.P. for Coventry South from 1950 to 1959 but lost her seat at the last election. She specialised in consumer research and marketing legislation, and was one of the delegates to the Council of Europe. She was equally successful in the athletic field and was the women's world sprint champion in 1920.

The President of the Cambridge Union, John Selwyn Gummer, has stated categorically that no women have joined as full members. After a surprise vote at a private members' meeting, it was claimed that several women had joined. The vice-president said: "I took the chair as the president was ill, and certain motions were passed. I have no idea how long they will remain unchallenged."

We send our deep sympathy to our colleague, Mrs. Clement Davies on the death of her husband. Mr. Clement Davies could always be relied

on to champion the rights of women during his long and distinguished political career.

Because of difficulties with the National Union of Public Employees, Lewisham Borough Council has suspended its scheme to employ the first women road sweepers in London. Mr. R. Keating, London district organiser of the Union objected to the scheme because, he said, recruiting women and old age pensioners would permanently lower the wages of local government workers. Discussions between the Council and the Union will take place, but Lewisham Borough Council has only itself to blame for the present deadlock. Prospective women sweepers were offered 3s. 7d. an hour compared with the rate of 4s. 9d. for men—why, one would like to know. The male road sweeper at work can hardly be said to be distinguished for his energy. Women would sweep with far more of a will, and should, therefore, if the rates are not to be the same for both sexes, be paid, not less than men but more.

We ask your prayers for Miss Belinda Poolman, a member of the executive committee of the Victoria section of St. Joan's Alliance who died on March 1st, and for Gertrude Bodenham who died on March 18th in her 86th year. In the old days, Gertrude Bodenham—"the office boy," as she humorously called herself—came in with unfailing regularity to tidy up and dust and make herself generally useful. We shall not forget her. R.I.P.

May we remind members that the address of our new office is 36A Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford Street, W.1—the office is on the third floor of Block B. The telephone number, fortunately, remains unchanged.

Readers may be interested to know that a new version of Molière's *Le Misanthrope*, English title *All for Truth*, by our Editor, P. D. Cummins, is to be staged at the Lyric, Hammersmith, from May 2nd for one month.

HON. TREASURER'S NOTE

Congratulations. We have received the sum of £104 0s. 6d. in response to the appeal made at the Annual General Meeting. This is a record and we say "thank you" most warmly. If anyone would still like to join in this year's Jubilee appeal, the fund is open until the end of the month.

If your annual subscription is still outstanding, will you please help our book-keeping by sending it as soon as possible.

Noreen K. Carr

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

BRITISH SECTION OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

AND

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ex-officio MADAME MAGDELEINE LEROY BOY, Dr-en-droit, President St. Joan's International Alliance.
 MISS P. C. CHALLONER, M.A., Chairman
 MISS F. A. BARRY, Hon. Secretary
 MRS. M. W. BENTLEY, M.A.
 MISS M. BLACKBURN
 MISS PAULINE M. BRANDT
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 MISS CHRISTINE SPENDER

Fifty Happy Years

At the conclusion of the Fifty-First Annual Meeting, the presentation to Miss Barry took place. The hearts of those who had gathered together to honour her were very full, and the atmosphere might easily have become over-charged with emotion but for Mrs. Shattock's exquisite tact and delicacy. "A tea-party would seem a modest way of celebrating this great occasion," she said, "and at one time we had far more ambitious plans in mind, but you yourself, Miss Barry, asked for a tea-party to be held in Wilfred Street if possible, you asked that only members and friends of the societies with which you have worked through the years in closest harmony should be invited. We recognised that this request was in complete keeping with the selfless, unobtrusive way in which you have worked for the Alliance for fifty years, always choosing to stay in the background, always leaving the limelight to others, stressing the importance of their contributing and minimising the vast value of your own. Many have written to congratulate you on your wonderful achievement—I have their letters here. What they have sent is but a tittle of the gratitude they feel they owe you—a debt of gratitude it is impossible to repay. Numbers of members who would have wished to be present today are absent through distance, infirmity, old age; we have old and faithful members up and down the country who look to those who have succeeded them to carry on the work of the Alliance, for the work is not finished yet. We feel orphaned, Miss Barry, now that we shall not find you invariably in the office, but we are truly glad that another year of unremitting toil does not lie ahead of you, that you will not be hard at it in the office, in crowded trains, at home in bed! We know, too, that we can continue to rely on your experience and wisdom in the days to come.

"The successes of the past years are history and this is not the time to dwell on them in detail, but we must express our particular gratitude to you who, by your unremitting work,

your faith in the rightness of our aims, and your wisdom in the direction of our affairs made the Catholic contribution to these historic changes a worthy one which has gained the highest award: the presentation to you of a Papal medal."

Mrs. Shattock then spoke of the telegrams of congratulations and thanks sent to Miss Barry by eminent people, amongst them, Lady Astor, Madame Leroy-Boy and Mrs. Corbett-Ashby who could not be present as she was in hospital—all present would join in wishing her a speedy recovery. Mrs. Shattock then turned to Miss Christine Spender and expressed the gratitude and appreciation of the Alliance for her invaluable work as editor for so many years of *The Catholic Citizen*. At her own wish, they were presenting her with the enamelled badge of the Alliance, but for the time being, she would have to be content with a replica—no craftsman could be found in this country to carry out the work, and the badge was being made for her abroad.

Now came the big moment. "Miss Barry," said Mrs. Shattock, "I have the greatest pleasure in presenting you with this sheaf of letters, this cheque—I shan't disclose the amount, but my husband, after lengthy calculations, says it should bring you in £6 a year for fifty years"—laughter—"and this book, prepared by Mrs. Hastings-Gray and illuminated by a Princeshoppe nun in which the names of all who associated themselves with this presentation are recorded."

Before Miss Barry rose to return thanks, Miss Beatrice Gadsby, in a delightful little speech, took the audience back to February 17th, 1912, when at a meeting of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, she said that money and members were important, but that an organising secretary was essential. A small voice from the back of the hall piped up: "I'll try!" and that was how Miss Barry started her glorious innings. "She has battled for fifty years, and she's still not out!"

In his short and most endearing speech, Father Laughton Mathews spoke of his lifelong association with Miss Barry whom he affectionately referred to as Auntie Barry. He recalled an incident which had occurred at a garden party when he was a small boy: Auntie Barry would remember his horror when he learnt that he was to be awarded as the prize to the lucky competitor who had guessed his weight! All present shared Miss Barry's joy when Father Christopher presented her with a replica of the Papal medal which had been stolen from her home. Miss Barry took it out of its scarlet box, pinned it on her dress and rose to express her thanks.

"Dear Members and Friends," she began, "Your kindness and generosity take my breath away and render me speechless. I should like to make the nicest speech in the world to thank you for this truly staggering gift, but you know that speaking is not in my line. I must, however, tell you how proud and happy I am to have been allowed to take a share with all our members in helping to make a glorious chapter of history. It so happened that I was free when Miss Gadsby and her sister (now the Reverend Mother Provincial of the Cenacle nuns here) rooted me out. I took up the work first on Merseyside, though I was completely ignorant of what it entailed. Well, I have enjoyed every minute of it, and would do it all over again if I had the chance.

"You know that a secretary is there to carry out the wishes of the members through instructions from the executive committee. The position the Alliance has won for itself nationally and internationally is due to all our members, and here I should like to recite a long litany of the saints and sinners who contributed to its history." She began her litany with Gabrielle Jeffery, to whose vision and courage the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society owed its foundation. and whose choice of patron saint had been St. Joan, and went on to give names of those who had served the Alliance in various capacities—as chairmen, press secretaries, editors, writers, the first of whom was "our incomparable Leonora de Alberti," speakers, paper-sellers, treasurers and office workers: "I would love to give you all the names, but if I did, you would be here all night!" She expressed thanks to the Priest Associates, to the Bishop of Pella, Mgr. T. J. Walshe of Liverpool, Mgr. Duchemin, Fr. Bede Jarrett, O.P., and Fr. Vincent McNabb, O.P., Fr. Keating, S.J., Fr. Herbert Vaughan, Canon Reardon of St. Patrick's, Soho, Canon T. J. FitzGerald, and lastly to "our beloved Father Christopher." Miss Barry added how glad she was that Miss Brady who keeps the flag of the Alliance flying on Merseyside was present, and paid tribute to all those organisations with which she has worked so harmoniously since the

inception of the Alliance: the Fawcett Society, the Suffragette Fellowship, the recently disbanded Women's Freedom League and National Union of Women Teachers, the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, the British Commonwealth League, the Open Door Council, the International Alliance of Women, to whose President of Honour, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, she sent her thanks and affectionate greetings. She then spoke of the joy she experienced when the Alliance became International, and of how proud she was of the International Presidents: first, Dame Vera Laughton Mathews and now Madame Leroy-Boy. Of Dr. Shattock and Miss Challoner who for the last twenty years and more have never spared themselves in the service of Alliance she said, "It would be an impertinence for me to add more."

Miss Barry then turned to the future. "I pray that the Alliance will continue to work under the protection of Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, will continue to be inspired by St. Joan, the Warrior Maid, until we have carried out the task our founder set us: full equality for men and women. She thanked the members once more for their "overwhelming" gift, and concluded with these typical words: "I hope you will allow me to give a tithe to the Alliance."

The inimitable Miss Carr and her helpers had provided a gala tea, the centre-piece of which was the birthday cake iced with the Alliance colours and flanked by candles. Miss Barry, who had received many individual gifts, and scores of letters and telegrams in addition to the sheaf handed to her by Mrs. Shattock, was soon hidden from view by the members who flocked around her. The guests chatted and laughed and reminisced. I am sure one and all, with the first bite of birthday cake, made a wish for her—a heartfelt wish that all the days of her life will be as bright for her as the day of her Golden Jubilee.

P. D. Cummins

We have received the following letter from Miss Barry:

"Dear Members of St. Joan's,

"I want to thank you all for your truly magnificent gift, a cheque for the staggering sum of £300. I need not tell you how I shall treasure the beautifully illuminated book in which you have signed your names. My surprise and joy when Father Christopher presented me with a replica of the Cross *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* knew no bounds.

"Nothing could have given me more pleasure than the party at Wilfred Street surrounded by so many friends. Your kindness, generosity and affection made it a golden day for me. Thank you all again. Yours very gratefully,

Florence Barry."

The Month in Parliament

Guardianship of Infants

Miss Joan Vickers asked leave to bring in a Bill to amend the law with regard to the guardianship and custody of infants. At present a married woman, unless she is widowed, may obtain guardianship of her child only by applying to the courts. The father may appoint any person as his child's guardian, to the exclusion of the mother. Miss Vickers quoted from Article 55(c) of the Charter of the United Nations which demands "the observance of human rights without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion." The Bill was supported by Mrs. Braddock, Mr. J. Parker, Sir George Benson, Mrs. E. Emmet, Mr. G. Johnson Smith, Mr. Jasper More. The Bill is down for Second Reading on May 18th. (March 7th).

Illegitimate Persons

Mr. John Parker, who by a Private Member's Bill succeeded in getting the Legitimacy Act, 1959, upon the Statute Book, wanted to introduce a motion that a committee should be set up to enquire into the legal and social disabilities of illegitimate persons, with power to make ameliorative recommendations. During the debate, Mr. Pannell said he was of the opinion that the imposition of the disabilities upon the illegitimate were connected with the Victorian idea of a "dual morality" which Josephine Butler sought to destroy. He hoped that Mr. Butler would be inspired by the example of his great kinswoman. Mr. Ronald Bell (Bucks South) in a course of a speech which the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, Mr. Fletcher-Cooke, regarded as a "mine of information and of good sense" spoke of Josephine Butler as a "silly old woman who never said one good thing in her life. I regard everything she wrote as thoroughly uninformed and misdirected." This would not be worth recording were it not for the remark of Mr. Fletcher-Cooke "If I did not altogether agree with his (Mr. Bell's) strictures on Josephine Butler he must put that down to my pious duty in my present position." Mr. Fletcher-Cooke on behalf of the Government advised the House against acceptance of the motion.

Jury Service

Miss Judith Hart asked that leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend the law relating to jurors and juries, its purpose being to remove the property qualification which has remained since 1885. She advocated a simple Bill with two clauses: one would make inclusion on the electoral register a qualification for jury service, whilst the other would permit mothers of young children to claim exemption if they wished. She quoted

Lord Justice Devlin on the present position: "British juries tend to be predominantly male, middle-aged, middle-class and middle minded." Mr. Charles Doughty was the only other Member to speak on this occasion, and opposed what he called: "sweeping change in the law." Yet he promised to help Miss Hart should she be lucky in the Ballot and table a motion. Nevertheless he suggested that the House should not give permission to introduce the Bill. The Government supporters defeated the Motion by eleven votes. (March 20th).

National Health Service Bill

During the Third Reading of this Bill, Mr. Robinson described the critical situation in the nursing service. Among other things, he mentioned the 25,000 vacancies, and the wastage among student nurses and psychiatric nurses, 30 per cent and 50 per cent, respectively. He dealt at length with the history of the claim for a general increase in pay of about ten per cent, rising in cases where the shortage was dangerously acute, to 30 per cent. The claim was submitted on August 11th, 1961. On August 10th a letter had been sent on behalf of the Minister, to all chairmen of Whitley Councils about the pay pause, which included the words "Claims will be considered on their merits but during the period of the pause, any offer of increased pay which it may be thought reasonable to make, will generally be for future implementation when circumstances permit." On February 13th, a meeting of the Whitley Council was held at which the management side, "having received advice from the Minister concerned" said that they were prepared to consider a two and half increase as from April 1st, 1962. If it were true, said Mr. Robinson, that the Minister of Health went in person to a meeting of the Management side on January 9th and told them that the nurses must not be offered more than a two and a half increase, then the myth that the Whitley Council is an independent negotiating body has been finally destroyed. Mr. Eric Lubbock in his maiden speech as the new Member for Orpington, supported the nurses' claims. He displayed an informed and lively interest in the work of hospital staffs. There are, he said, nearly as many trained nurses in Orpington's factories as there are in Orpington's hospitals. He presented an unanswerable case. (March 27th).

Later, on the Third Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill, when this matter was raised again, the nurses' supporters, for more than twelve hours kept the House sitting all night till 7.20 in the morning.

House of Lords Reform

On March 28th the Government announced the terms of reference of the Committee to consider reform of the House of Lords, including the rights of hereditary peeresses to sit in either of the Houses of Parliament. Mr. Gaitskell said that in spite of the express prohibition in the grant they should be permitted to sit in the House of Commons or to surrender their peerages. He also thought that it would be reasonable to consider whether baronesses by right or peeresses by grant should be entitled to sit in "another place".

C. M. Cheke

B.A.C.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

St. Joan's in Orleans.

The nineteenth Council Meeting of St. Joan's International Alliance to be held in Orleans, May 5th-8th, promises to be both fruitful and enjoyable. L'Alliance Jeanne d'Arc has spared no effort to make our visit a memorable one. Members who wish to attend and have not already notified the Secretary should do so without delay. Those who want accommodation should write direct to Madame Archambault, 45 rue Perronet, Neuilly-sur-Seine, Paris, without delay.

France. Only a comparatively short time has elapsed since women were given an opportunity in the world of science—in that world so long closed to them, they have won brilliant distinctions. Now, for the first time in the two hundred years and more of its existence, the French Academy of Sciences has elected a woman—she is Mlle. Marguerite Perey, Director of the Strasbourg Centre of Nuclear Studies. We send Mlle. Perey our warmest congratulations on this historic occasion.

Ireland. Mr. MacEntee, Minister for Health, is expected to introduce legislation in the Dail to raise the present minimum marriage age: from twelve to fourteen in the case of girls, and from fourteen to sixteen in that of boys.

The contents of the legislation, which will include many other provisions on the marriage law, are not yet known, but with regard to the respective minimum ages for marriage, Mr. MacEntee may be guided by Canon Law which, in 1918, laid down the minimum ages at fourteen and sixteen. (The Enactment, however, states "the pastor of souls should dissuade young people from marriage at an earlier age than is commonly the custom in the respective countries.") He may also allow himself to be influenced by the fact that the Catholic Church

need not recognise a marriage if one or both of the contracting parties be below the minimum age required by Canon Law.

At the International Women's Alliance Conference, the Irish Housewives' Association brought up the problem of minimum age, and their proposal that it be raised was passed unanimously. The Association, together with other bodies, have added their voices to that of many Church societies which have been urging the Minister of Health to raise the legal marriage age. Let us hope that they succeed in bringing about this much-needed reform.

Italy. Women in low-grade employment, particularly those in large department and chain stores, have been greatly heartened by the verdict recently pronounced by the judges in the Rome Law Courts after hearing the case of Signorina Elsa Gentili who has worked in a department store for three years. Their verdict, that there should be no wage discrimination between men and women employed by the same firm, confirms the principle of equal pay and condemns all labour agreements which do not conform with paragraph one, Article 37 of the Constitution. This paragraph reads: "Women workers shall enjoy the same rights as men, and shall be entitled to equal pay for equal work."

The judges' verdict has caused great unease to managements of the giant concerns with a labour force of some 350,000, one-third of whom are women. Even more anxiety, however, has been displayed by the managements of the great stores with their numerous branches, since, out of a total of 50,000 employees, 75% are women. The Trade Federation has stated that it will undertake to adjust the present discrepancy in the wages of the men and women (clerks and salesgirls) employed in these stores; it will effect this in three stages, equal pay to be achieved in two years.

M. Loschi

Status of Women Commission. Miss Frances McGillicuddy has represented St. Joan's International Alliance in New York at the Sixteenth Session of this Commission. She will report on it in the next issue of *The Catholic Citizen*.

Unesco. At a ten-day meeting sponsored by Unesco and held in Bangkok, education experts from sixteen Asian countries adopted a recommendation that women be appointed to senior posts dealing with educational administration in order to strengthen programmes for the education of women and girls in rural areas.

REVIEWS

The Revelations of Divine Love of Julian of Norwich. In a new translation by Father James Walsh, S.J. (Burns, Oates, 18s.)

This new version of "The Revelations of Divine Love" is the first to take into account the twofold manuscript tradition of the so-called "Longer Version" exemplified in three extant manuscripts: a sixteenth century copy in the Bibliothèque Nationale and the two seventeenth century Sloane manuscripts in the British Museum. It is important for this reason, and also for Father Walsh's admirable introduction which is a notable contribution to the study of Julian's writings. Father Walsh is particularly interesting when he deals with the two most controversial chapters of the "Revelations"—chapters which have caused certain theologians to dismiss Julian as unsound. He defends her against this charge, and shows deep penetration with his interpretation of what she had in mind when she wrote of the "variable judgment." Julian's literary gifts have been under-valued by many critics; Father Walsh, however, points out that if her book is closely examined, its exquisite structure becomes plain.

Father Walsh has modernised the Middle English of the "Revelations" with such loving care that they have lost nothing in the process—indeed, they have gained in beauty and freshness. This is a book to be cherished by all those who have come under the spell of Julian of Norwich.

P.D.C.

Catholicism. (Great Religions of Modern Man Series). Edited by G. Brantl. (Prentice-Hall International, 25s.)

By quotations from Scripture, from the Fathers, theologians and encyclicals, the editor endeavours to demonstrate the "Meaning of Catholicism". He succeeds in clarifying many texts, which would otherwise seem obscure to the uninitiated, by their juxtaposition and is particularly helpful in chapters dealing with the proofs of God's existence and His nature.

F.M.S.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From *The Catholic Citizen*, April 15th, 1937

An article in *L'Aube* (Paris) draws attention to the scandal of "au pair" jobs, pointing out that a system which started for mutual linguistic advantages has now deteriorated in the exploitation of unpaid drudges. Girls are offered board and lodging in their own countries and in exchange are expected to do almost anything—very often far more than a paid qualified person would consent to do. The remedy, say *L'Aube*, lies in girls training for a definite job so that they do not drift into the first opening which offers. When she is trained a girl can demand her due. "The labourer is worthy of his hire."—S.A.B.

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