

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

The Status of Women Commission

By F. McGillicuddy

The Sixteenth Session of the Status of Women Commission met at United Nations Headquarters from March 19th to April 6th. The following officers were elected: chairman, Mrs. Zofia Dembinska (Poland); vice-chairmen, Miss Lavallo-Urbina (Mexico), and Miss Helen Benitez (Philippines); rapporteur, Miss Joan Vickers (United Kingdom).

Consideration of the item *Age of retirement and right to pension*, on which St. Joan's had submitted a written statement, was deferred until next year's session; the Commission decided that the importance of the subject warranted more time than was available at this session. The ILO representative stated that an amplified report would be submitted to the Seventeenth Session; Mrs. Nikoi (Ghana) had asked for the inclusion of data relating to a greater number of African countries, including countries south of the Sahara.

Two other items of deep interest to St. Joan's were not on the agenda: *The Draft Convention and Draft Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age of Marriage and Registration of Marriages, and Operations based on Custom*. It will be recalled that the General Assembly decided to assign priority to the two *Drafts* at its 1962 session in September. As for the *Operations* item, the World Health Organisation continues to maintain that the question is social not medical and that W.H.O. is prepared to co-operate provided the study requested is undertaken by another group. In the course of discussion of another item, Madame Lefauchaux (France) asked the representative of W.H.O. to draw the attention of her organisation to paragraphs 60, 61, and 62 of the report of the Addis Ababa seminar, and expressed the hope that W.H.O. "would one day give consideration to a request which the Commission on the Status of Women had persistently been making over a long period of time and one which had been echoed by the women of Africa meeting at Addis Ababa." The intervention of St. Joan's representative included a paragraph in the same vein. Madame Lefauchaux reported that the Constitution of the Central African Republic guarantees the "right of bodily integrity."

Political Rights of Women. The Commission noted with satisfaction the further progress achieved during the past year, and expressed the hope that political rights would be granted in the shortest possible time in those countries where women do not yet enjoy them. With the granting of political rights to women, Paraguay has "raised the women of the twenty-one American Republics to the dignity of citizens." (Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women.) Mrs. Tanino (Japan) stated that the 2,600 women's clubs and study groups in Japan were playing increasingly active rôles in the political education of women. In the past, she explained, Japanese women had been too self-effacing but they had now firmly established their status by reason of their big potential power as voters.

Periodic Report on Human Rights. Progress in this area was termed "small but by no means negligible." The following examples were cited: Morocco, where a marriage was not valid without consent; India, where dowries had been prohibited; Iraq, where steps had been taken against the system of polygamy; and above all, Tunisia, where the Burguiba Code prohibited polygamy. Miss de Vink (Netherlands) commented that the prohibition of forced marriages constituted an anti-slavery measure. Madame Lefauchaux had represented the Commission at the recent session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. She reported that she had urged the Sub-Commission to include "marital status" in its enumeration of grounds of discrimination. The Sub-Commission had not considered this specific inclusion necessary nor had that body incorporated in its report to the Commission on Human Rights the views she had expressed. Madame Lefauchaux advised her colleagues on the Status of Women Commission to concentrate on the greatest discrimination against women at the present time, namely their exclusion from public service and from appointment to public office upon marriage. The Commission adopted a text to be transmitted to the Commission on Human Rights suggesting changes in the "General Principles on Freedom and Non-Discrimination in the matter of

Political Rights" which had been adopted by the Sub-Commission. Incidentally, the Human Rights Commission was meeting concurrently in an adjacent conference. Only one of the twenty-one Member Countries was represented by a woman (U.S.A.).

Advisory Services Programme and U.N. Assistance for the Advancement of Women in Developing Countries. The regional seminar on the status of women in family law which was held in Bucharest was universally praised. One representative stated that the influence of the Bucharest seminar was already being felt in her country. Much good is anticipated from the May 1962 seminar in Tokyo and the Bogatá, Colombia, seminar to be held in 1963.

Inheritance Laws. The Commission considered the Report of the Bucharest seminar noting inequalities in certain states regarding the widow's interest in the estate as opposed to the widower's, the preference accorded in some systems to the male heir, and other disadvantages for women. Mrs. Tillett (U.S.A.) observed that statistics show that very often the surviving spouse was the woman and that there was probably no period in a woman's life when legal rights assumed greater importance than at the termination of her marriage; during it they were not usually a major consideration. The Commission's resolution cites existing inequalities and recommends specific changes. A second resolution requests the Secretary-General to prepare a new edition of the monograph on the "Legal Status of Married Women."

Equal Pay for Equal Work. Three resolutions on this item were adopted. The first calls upon Governments to ratify and implement the principle of the I.L.O.'s Convention relating to equal pay, and to adopt relevant legislative and practical measures in all economic fields, and to apply and promote consistently the principle of equal pay. The second requests the widest possible distribution of the pamphlet on equal pay, including reduced price on quantity orders from non-governmental organisations. The third resolution expresses satisfaction with progress in this area, hope for further progress, appreciation of I.L.O.'s reports and anticipation of further biennial reports. The discussion which culminated in these resolutions was interesting. In Japan the Women's and Minors' Bureau of the Ministry of Labour had staged a national campaign to publicise the Convention on equal pay. Miss Vickers (U.K.) suggested that non-governmental organisations might investigate the position of men and women workers, continue to press Governments to accede to the I.L.O. Convention and to enforce the principle that collective agreements should include classification of functions as well as specific equal pay provisions. Organisations should combat ignorance among women workers with respect to their rights to equal pay. Mrs. Tillett (U.S.A.) re-

ported that twenty-two states had passed equal pay laws, while at present equal pay bills strongly supported by the Administration were pending in both Houses of Congress. Madame Lefauchaux (France) cited the three most usual pretexts for denying women equal pay: the greater proportion of skilled workers among men, the younger age of women workers, and absenteeism. Mrs. de Vilchez (Argentina) called the absenteeism charge "part reality and part myth." Absenteeism, she stated, exists, but almost exclusively among mothers of families. The community did not offer the working mother the help and services she needs to enable her to fulfil her dual rôle.

Vocational guidance and training of girls and women. How can women rise from the unskilled or less skilled categories to the level of skilled workers? The Commission adopted an "internal" resolution (pending further I.L.O. reports in this area) expressing the hope that competent authorities would consider how to improve vocational and technical training of women and girls, ensure to men and women equal access to existing facilities, establish new centres for training, and encourage on-the-job vocational training of women in industrial and other establishments.

Access of girls and women to Elementary Education. The examination of a UNESCO report on this item stressed the need to expand elementary education, making it universal, compulsory, and free for both boys and girls, to provide education for adult women who had not received elementary education, to secure the collaboration of women's non-governmental organisations to this purpose. The resolution adopted by the Commission reflected and summarised the discussion.

Mrs. Tillett (U.S.A.) proposed the inclusion in the programme of future work of the Commission, an item dealing with the equal rights of the mother to the guardianship of her minor children. In the course of discussion of each agenda item the value of non-governmental organisations' co-operation was stressed; most resolutions adopted appeal to women's organisations to continue and intensify their collaboration with the Commission in the attainment of their common goals.

CONGRATULATIONS

The new chairman of the London County Council, Mrs. Olive G. Deer, is the sixth woman to hold that office. Mrs. Deer has been a member of the L.C.C. since 1952 and chairman of the Welfare Committee since 1955.

We also congratulate Mrs. Eileen Hoare, a member of St. Joan's Executive Committee on being elected deputy-chairman of the London County Council, a position she holds for a year. She has been a member of the Council for thirteen years and has served on the Children's Committee and the Education Committee.

Notes and Comments

The celebrations after the annual meeting on March 24th were arranged and presided over by Dr. Shattock, chairman of the Executive Committee. Her appreciation of the retiring hon. secretary was so beautifully expressed and so self-effacing that the announcement of her own retirement from the office of chairman passed almost unnoticed.

Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell briefly voiced the feelings of all members in thanking Dr. Shattock, but it is only right that her invaluable services should have a special word from the new chairman.

Dr. Shattock's enthusiasm and keen intellect have been at the service of the committee for the past eight years. We are unfeignedly glad that the preoccupations which have caused her to resign from the chairmanship will not deprive the Committee of her wisdom and experience in the days that lie ahead.

P. C. Challoner

On April 18th, the Law Reform (Husband and Wife) Bill, a Private Member's measure presented by Mr. Peter Rawlinson, M.P., Conservative Member for Epsom, was approved by a standing committee. The Bill gives effect to the recommendations of the ninth report of the Law Reform Committee; the new general rights of action conferred would supersede the present limited right of a wife to sue her husband for the protection of her property. It should be noted that the Bill makes limited corresponding provision under the law of Scotland.

The Bill was warmly welcomed by Sir John Hobson, the Solicitor-General, who fully agreed with the Law Reform Committee that the rule of English common law which precludes spouses from suing each other in tort is both anomalous and unjust. Here is one instance. A wife is a passenger in the car driven by her husband; an accident occurs, and she is injured. As she cannot sue her husband, she cannot recover against his insurance company. The Bill would reverse this rule, and would enable the wife to obtain the compensation to which she is entitled.

We are glad to include in this issue of *The Catholic Citizen* Professor Ruth Bowden's valuable article: "The Professions Supplementary to Medicine." These are the Cinderella professions as regards salary and career prospects, and we would once more like to draw the attention of members to the fact that the majority of those employed in the ancillary medical services are women.

Members are asked to pray for two members of the Alliance who have recently died in Australia; Miss Edith Minchin, an enthusiastic long-standing member of St. Joan's in Melbourne and Miss Lena Flynn, a keen supporter of our work. R.I.P.

With sorrow we record the death on Maundy Thursday of Sir John McEwen whose beautiful ballad of Joan the Maid we reprint by kind permission of *The Tablet* in whose pages it appeared on June 23rd, 1956.

Although Sir John's own land, Scotland, had no need to make reparation since the Scots had championed the Maid, he was a member of the delegation from this country which went to Rouen in 1956 to mark the Quincentenary of St. Joan's Rehabilitation. During the course of the celebrations, Sir John laid a sheaf of lilies from *ses fidèles Ecossais* at the foot of the Statue of Saint Joan in the market-place, next to the laurel wreath of St. Joan's Alliance.

* * *
Kenya. The only African woman to be present at the recent Kenya Constitutional Conference in London was Mrs. Priscilla Abwao, a member of Kenya's Legislative Assembly, who persuaded the Governor to take her to the Conference as "adviser for African affairs." The value of her presence at the Conference was vouched for by more than one member of the Conference.

Mrs. Abwao and her associates, who include Mr. Kenyatta's sister Margaret, have called a seminar at Limuru from May 5th-10th of women from all Kenya. The letter calls on women from Masai and Kisumu, the coast women and those from Nairobi to talk together, and invites speakers from Tanganyika and Uganda and women leaders of all races and groups in Kenya to attend as observers. "We hope," the letter concludes, "that you will feel, with us, that it is time we women of Kenya came together and accepted our tasks of women."

* * *
We ask the prayers of our readers for Miss M.M.A. Ward who died on Good Friday. When she was a young girl, alone and earning her living in London, she was painfully impressed by the difficulties by which working women were beset, the wretched, often degrading conditions that were imposed on them. As a result, she studied industrial history and worked with the Co-operative Movement. At the Trade Union Congress in 1904 she encountered Miss Margaret Bondfield for the first time; it was the meeting of two kindred spirits, and these two devoted women made a home together, worked together for many years. When the Insurance Department was formed in the Ministry of Health, Miss Ward was one of the first inspectors to be appointed. She was promoted to the post of chief woman inspector, and remained in office until her retirement in 1930, at which date the male and female staff were amalgamated. In the same year, she was awarded the O.B.E. Miss Ward was received into the Church during the first World War, and she then joined St. Joan's Alliance—she was a loyal and faithful member to the end. R.I.P.

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

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

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The Professions Supplementary to Medicine

Reports of Parliamentary proceedings and correspondence in the press have revealed grave shortages of nurses and of professions supplementary to medicine. These are jeopardising the National Health Service by diminishing its effectiveness, precluding expansion and enforcing closure of wards and clinics in spite of long waiting lists. The work of nurses is well known and appreciated but less is known about the medical auxiliaries. Eight relatively small professions playing a fundamental part in the Health Service are included under the cumbersome title 'Professions supplementary to medicine.' The plight of all is serious and similar, but this article deals with dietitians, occupational therapists, orthoptists, physiotherapists and remedial gymnasts. In 1961 estimated shortages based on the existing inadequate establishments, ranged from 42.3 per cent for dietitians to 20.1 per cent for orthoptists. Grave as these figures are, the most serious long-term danger lies in the scarcity of teachers upon whom the future of these professions depends. The problems are urgent and call for solution.

The work of these professions is skilled, responsible and absorbingly interesting. They help patients to take advantage of medical treatment and to return to work with minimum delay. Those to whom complete recovery is denied are enabled to lead lives which are as full, useful and independent as possible, despite permanent or progressive disabilities. The value of such work is inestimable in terms of human happiness, other aspects can be appreciated readily: e.g. a shortened stay in hospital allows more people to benefit from treatment; the sight may be saved in a squinting eye provided the child receives early and regular orthoptic treatment; a carefully planned and appetising diet may keep a diabetic well and out of hospital.

The reason for shortages is easy to find, the career prospects are deplorable and salaries inadequate. In the professions students enter at the age of eighteen and must give evidence of a satisfactory and specific educational standard. For the physiotherapists this means a General Certificate of Edu-

cation or an equivalent of five subjects which must include English Language and a specified science subject. No students can qualify before the age of twenty-one. All must pass demanding examinations. During the period of training the student is not earning and no part of this time counts towards superannuation. The basic grade salaries range from £525 per annum to maxima ranging between £630 and £700, reached in six annual increments. Despite ability, a considerable number must remain in the basic grade for their working lives and reach their maxima at the age of twenty-six. The blind physiotherapist is in a particularly difficult position; in units such as those treating spinal injuries, skilled and experienced physiotherapists remain in this grade because there is no increment for special skills and fixed establishments debar promotion. Salaries in the senior grade range from £610 to £745 for physiotherapists and the other professions are remunerated at about the same level. The maximum salary which any practising physiotherapist in the Health Service can earn is £1,060 per annum, and this is restricted to superintendents in charge of the few departments employing twenty or more physiotherapists. Married women who could be engaged usefully on a part-time basis cannot be attracted back to the professions because the rates of pay and taxation are such that they are frequently out of pocket by returning to work. Where untrained personnel are employed to carry out certain duties unrelated to the treatment of patients, skilled staff are released for the latter but may receive a lower weekly wage than the untrained people.

Those training to be teachers have a further period of training after clinical experience. The Minister is anxious to explore the possibility of reducing the two-year course to one year, a suggestion which requires careful thought, since the whole form of the course would be altered and intensive training of clinical teachers is educationally undesirable. The conditions for qualified teachers do not compare favourably either in respect of holidays or

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salaries with those of non-graduate teachers in training colleges and technical schools.

Clearly those with family responsibilities are compelled to leave the Health Service. It is hardly surprising that many, unwilling to give up their profession, emigrate to Canada, Australia, New Zealand, America—and higher salaries. Others may be forced to seek skilled, or even unskilled work, outside the professions.

The salaries offered by the Ministry of Health are not commensurate with the educational demands or professional responsibilities imposed upon these loyal workers. The professions named at the head of the article have sought for an independent review committee to deal with the terms and conditions of service. They are well aware that financial awards must be related to national needs and economy. They are not seeking an unfair advantage or an unfair share of the national income. They have worked steadfastly with the Whitley Council machinery, which plays an essential part in day-to-day negotiations. Of its nature this body is incapable of making an impartial assessment because the same individuals appear on the same, or different occasions, as witness, judge, jury and executioner, and all proceedings are dominated by the invisible and all-powerful Treasury. Recently farcical meetings between the management and staff sides of Whitley Council have demonstrated that negotiation is free only in name.

The independent review was first rejected because "it would weaken the established negotiating machinery". This argument was indefensible on grounds of logic and justice. Royal Commissions were set up to consider remuneration in the large and powerful medical and dental professions, the police force and the Civil Service without imperilling the Whitley machinery. The grounds for refusal have now shifted. It is deemed improper for the Government to delegate responsibility to an outside body without executive power. Taken to its logical conclusion this view condemns the seeking of a second opinion as wholly irresponsible, a grim outlook for patients in the Health Service.

Few, if any, enter these professions for financial reasons, the nature of the work ensures the preservation of the vocational aspect. But a sense of vocation must not be abused by the State, for "a labourer is worthy of his hire." The public as the ultimate employers in the National Health Service are morally obliged to guard the interest of these devoted and grossly underpaid people who have not brought, and will not bring pressure to bear by strike action.

Ruth E. M. Bowden

Those interested in having further details of the salaries and duties of these professions should apply to the author at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, 8 Hunter Street, London, W.C.1.

Alert, slim, clear-voiced, Mrs. Corbett Ashby celebrated with just eighty friends (all the seating would allow) her span of eighty years of life. The occasion, dinner at the House of Lords, arranged by the British Commonwealth League and the International Alliance of Women. Baroness Ravensdale was the distinguished hostess, a fitting tribute to Mrs. Ashby's many years of work to secure recognition of the right of women to sit in places of authority as full citizens of Great Britain. Mrs. Hemming, president in succession to Mrs. Ashby, of the British Commonwealth League, took the chair: presentations of a spray of orchids, a Book of Affection containing the names of those present, and a carved casket containing NOT an illuminated address, but *marrons glacés*, were made while guests sang "Happy Birthday to You."

The Loyal Toast drunk, Dame Kathleen Courtney proposed "Mrs. Corbett Ashby" in an able and interesting speech. Lord Layton replied for the company, tracing a political and personal career so diversified and illuminated by magnanimity and charm. Then Dr. Michael Ashby, whose wife, eldest daughter and son were present, followed with a touching and amusing tribute to his mother as "stirring up unrest" where unrest was needed to help the causes of women or of peace; and all speakers concurred in happy memories of the steadfast support and reassurance given by Mrs. Ashby's mother, her family, and not least, her husband, Mr. Ashby, who sat, an honoured guest, beside his wife.

Replying, Mrs. Ashby recalled many stirring incidents in a life devoted to social and political progress, especially for women. Amongst them she mentioned spurring Kemal Ataturk to release women from the bondage of the veil, and to give them the vote; flying during World War II to counteract German propaganda in Sweden, over the cold and deadly North Sea, with the prospect of a possible parachute descent; and her close and affectionate relationship to Mrs. Katherine Bompas sitting near by, whose twenty-one years as secretary of the Alliance can never be forgotten. Mrs. Ashby declared that she could hardly believe her own good fortune, to have lived through two world wars, non-militant work for Suffrage, to see women reaching their rightful citizen position, and to be at eighty surrounded by friends and family. Guests included representatives of many organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance, and individual friends; and the long list of messages read by Teresa Garnett of the I.A.W. came from many parts of the world. Ezlynn Deraniyagala, president of the I.A.W., sent an affectionate and delightful greeting, as from the beloved I.A.W. everywhere. So pioneer and promise for the future were linked in the offerings made to this remarkable woman. Margery Corbett Ashby; truly EIGHTY YEARS YOUNG.

M. Chave Collisson

The Month in Parliament

Tax Concessions

In his Budget Statement the Chancellor said that he was proposing two minor reliefs which were designed, as he explained, "to help those whose cases seem to me to be especially deserving." Dame Irene Ward, who, as we all know, has persistently campaigned for help for people living on small fixed incomes, must have had some satisfaction as he gave the details. The first proposal was to raise the investment income limit of people under 65 from £300 to £400. (The amount for persons over 65 remains at £800.) The Chancellor gave as an example of the effect of this change, "A single woman under 65 with an income of £400, drawn solely from investment, will be £22 better off this year." The second proposal is to raise the Income Tax exemption level for people over 65. The single elderly man or woman will pay no tax if his or her income does not exceed £300, while a married couple, of which either is 65 or over, will be exempt if their joint income does not amount to more than £480. For these concessions Mr. Gaitskill expressed the appreciation of the Opposition, who, he reminded the House, put forward the precise proposals in 1961. "Even if we couldn't get these things in 1961," he said, "it is nice to get them now." (April 9th)

Punishment of Women Offenders

Mr. Fitch asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of girls under 21 years of age received sentences of imprisonment of less than six months, during the year 1961 after being convicted of offences connected with prostitution. Mr. Fletcher-Cooke replied in writing that the statistics for 1961 are not yet available. He added, "In 1960, 66 per cent of the girls under 21 sentenced to imprisonment for terms of six months or less, without the option of a fine, had been convicted of offences concerned with prostitution."

To a written question from Mrs. Hart asking for the number of women first offenders serving sentences of imprisonment of twelve months or more, and the nature of their offences, the Minister said that the information for 1961 is not yet available, but he gave these figures for 1960:

Number of women with no previous proved offences serving prison sentences of up to 12 months, 33; 12 months to 2 years, 25; 2 years to 3 years, 7; over 3 years, 4; for life, 2; total, 71.

The statement about the nature of the offences shows that twenty-three of these convictions were for violence against the person, though none were for murder, and that nearly all of the remainder were for offences connected with theft or fraud. (April 12th)

Urban Redevelopment

Mr. Deedes, Member for Ashford, on a Private Members' motion, successfully moved the adoption of a Resolution urging the Government to view urban redevelopment on a national scale, to see that guidance and advice becomes available to local authorities, and, among other things, to examine the possibility of closer co-ordination between the Ministries concerned. The debate that followed was one of the most important that have ever been held. Mr. Deedes exhibited great knowledge and experience of the tremendous issues involved.

The House adopted his resolution, many speakers showing an awareness of the need for the most careful planning and preparation about a matter which affects the lives of most of us. Some of the interesting points put forward and comments made were as follows:

Mr. Deedes: "Our towns and cities must either master the motor vehicle, or they will be overwhelmed by it."

"It is socially absurd that a woman should spend her working day in a new skyscraper with the latest automation and every modern convenience and return to a house, built in 1861 with a lavatory at the bottom of the garden."

"In spite of all that is being said and written about urban renewal, no one seems prepared to face the full implication of the central and inescapable fact that housing—housing within the means of every income group is the key to the whole problem."

Mr. B. T. Parkin: "It may be that it is in the womb of Destiny that it will even eventually be the Conservative Party which will nationalise the land. Although they have been the party of the landowner, of the vested interest, they have never abandoned the legal and philosophical concept that land is held on grant from the Crown. They have never said that they believe in absolute ownership."

Mrs. Joyce Butler: "We are in danger of getting a megalomaniac repetition of a pattern all over the country of towns where a few multiple shops dominate the central area." (April 13th)

Dame Irene's Threat

When the first place in the ballot for Private Members' debates was won by Dame Irene Ward the House expressed its delighted amusement. There was another burst of laughter when she declared how she would use this opportunity: "I give notice that on 7th May I shall call attention to the need for co-ordination between Government departments in the work they are supposed to do." (April 17th)

C. M. Cheke

The Ballad of Joan the Maid

What time the winds blew chilly
through the gardens of the plain
in France there grew a lily
very slenderly and stilly,
in France there grew a lily,
by the marches of Lorraine.

To the Dauphin in his castle
in shadows watching late;
to many a weary man-at-arms
within the shrinking state
there came a sound of marching feet from out the
Eastern gate.

For in a cottage garden
when summer burned the land
to Joan the Maid there had appeared
a Saint on either hand
and Michael, Captain of the Host, had spoken God's
command:

Go, for the Lord hath pity
upon this realm to send
Thee as His captain to the wars
His honour to defend
and we, the Saints of Paradise, go with thee to the end.

And as the light of dawning
floods over earth and sky
so spread the noise of her approach
repeated joyfully
through all that darkened land where men had long
thought but to die.

This from the King of Heaven—
thus spake the maid—I bring
such help as never yet was brought
to any Christian King
since ever Christ, our Blessed Lord, did die for our
saving.

To Orleans beleaguered
by England's arméd might
she turns her then and leads the host,
a rare and blessed sight,
along the willowed river bank with spring flowers all
alight.

The English from their castles
she forces to retreat,
till the good citizens come forth
with joy into the street
with banners and with torches their deliverer to greet.

Then forth from out the city
she rides without delay
there in the open field to bring
the English stag to bay
and sound the mort of England on the trumpets of Patay.

To Rheims, my gentle Dauphin,
now let us fare, I pray,
that God may set His seal upon
the work that's done this day;
but hasten, for my time is short and soon I must away.

At the King's coronation
in the high choir of Rheims
still and aloof among them all
like unto one that dreams
she stands as straight as candle-flame that in a dark
place gleams.

Here was the great fulfilment
Her Voices did foretell
and from her eyes the unbidden tears
in thanks and wonder fell
while all the nobles bared their swords and cried
aloud Noel!

And now the task is ended
that I was sent to do;
fain would I seek my father's roof,
I prithee let me go.
But deaf the King was to her plea and would not
have it so.

Till on a day of darkness
the foeman bore her down,
and Burgundy to England sold
this captain of renown
who carried her, bound hand and foot, captive to
Rouen town.

There in a loathsome dungeon
through wintry months she lay
with jeering soldiers in her cell
watching her night and day
while ever was she tempted sore her Voices to betray.

Even so unto her judges
right valiantly spake she:
This much my Voices have revealed
and this they promise me
that my deliverance will come by a great victory.

Unto the Pope, the Father
and Head of Christians all
I do appeal! So cried the Maid,
and fear on them did fall
and silence for a space there was throughout the
judgment hall.

Now silent were her Voices
and counsel came there none,
by King betrayed, denied her God,
all hope and comfort gone,
into the dark night of the soul the Maid entered alone.

Bewildered and forsaken
as Christ Himself of old,
a frightened child they led her forth
to die, as it is told,
in sight of all the world and never a friendly hand to
hold.

So was her soul delivered
by fire, and she knew
this was the promised victory,
and with a wonder new
she cried: my Voices were of God and what they said
was true.

And as the mounting furnace
the approaching end proclaims
for all to hear she calls aloud
thrice, on the Name of Names
and enters into Paradise with a great rush of flames.

With the elect of Heaven
henceforth her place shall be,
a standard-bearer in that high
and blessed company
of those who nearest are to God. My sweet Saint,
pray for me!

John McEwen

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Ghana. Under Fellowships granted by New Zealand in the new Commonwealth Aid Plan, young women from Ghana will shortly leave for New Zealand to train as dental hygienists. On the completion of their training they will staff a number of dental clinics which the Government plans to establish in various parts of the country.

* * *

India. Mr. Nehru has appointed Dr. Sushila Nayar as Minister of Health, one of the six Ministers of State in his new Government. Dr. Nayar was personal physician to the late Mahatma Gandhi. She is the second woman to be Minister of Health, the first being Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur, who is so well known and so loved and admired in this country.

* * *

Switzerland. Of the one hundred and ninety-seven deputies elected in the Canton of Vaud in March, thirteen were women.

REVIEW

Mementos of the Martyrs and Confessors of England and Wales. By Henry Sebastian Bowden of the Oratory. Edited and revised by Donald Attwater. (Burns Oates, 16s.)

This new and revised edition of a book first published fifty years ago is a welcome introduction to the numerous men and women who witnessed to the Faith in penal times; some—the forty martyrs whose Cause is now under consideration—by their deaths, and many others by their lives.

The extracts for every day are from their authentic speeches and letters, delightful in themselves. Reading them should lead to a greater desire for knowledge of these noble men and women, who, dying for their obedience to the Holy Father, the Pope, were at the same time loyally and devotedly English—as St. Thomas More declared, "I am the King's good servant—but God's first."

P. C. C.

* * *

We have heard with sorrow, as we go to press, of the death of a very early member, Miss Marguerite Fedden. R.I.P. An obituary notice will appear in the next issue of *The Catholic Citizen*.

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To band together Catholics of both sexes, in order to secure the political, social and economic equality between men and women and to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens.

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All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of £1 which includes *The Catholic Citizen*. Men are invited to join as Associates, on the same conditions, with the exception that they may not elect or be elected to the Executive.

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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

V. M. Crawford in "The Catholic Citizen,"
15th May, 1937

As regards divorce it is important to recognise the marked alteration in the Soviet attitude towards marriage as revealed by the changes in the marriage laws included in the new Family Code already referred to. Admittedly the extreme facility with which in the past marriages have been both contracted and dissolved, has had lamentable results, especially where children were concerned, and the State now wishes to instil a more responsible view both of marriage and parenthood. Hence the new Code makes divorce both more difficult and more expensive to obtain and enforces stricter regulations concerning alimony. However little this reform may have been inspired by Christian motives, it is satisfactory that this partial return to Christian moral practice should have been realised as essential to the moral welfare of the nation. The Soviet Republic are in a constant state of flux and their ultimate form is impossible for outsiders to predict. All the more should feminists study with an open mind social and economic developments still in progress which affect the daily lives of millions of Slav women.—*Women in Russia*

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