

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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

VOL VI., No. 2.

February 15th, 1920.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give;
Who knows the gifts which *you* shall give,
Daughter of the newer Eve?

—Francis Thompson.

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

BY AGNES MOTT.

In a previous article in the CATHOLIC CITIZEN (April, 1919), I pointed out that the Ministry of Health Bill was based upon a false conception of the causes of national ill-health. It presupposed that disease was due to inherent defects in the character and habits of our people and could be overcome by administrative methods.

I also stated that the inevitable result of the fusion of Government Departments relating to health, would be the institution of a vast medical bureaucracy destined to control the health and habits of the people. Under such a system it was probable that eugenic measures would be introduced.

Now upon one thing we are all agreed, namely that it is desirable to take action for the promotion of the Public Health and for the stamping out of disease. But how is this to be effected? To frame a policy you must have a principle. There are only two principles upon which a Public Health Policy can be based. One is that disease is due to bad environment; therefore to secure health you must place human beings in proper surroundings. The other is that disease is due to defective Heredity; therefore to secure a healthy race you must stamp out disease by the methods of the stud-farm (in other words, Eugenics.) It is the conflict between these two principles which will decide whether or no the Ministry of Health will clash with Catholic teaching.

It has been obvious to students of Public Health that it has been the tendency during the last decade to rely on the infallibility of

the second principle, namely heredity. The efforts of legislation have been directed to an increase in State Control and Supervision rather than to an improvement in surroundings. The boasted plans of the Ministry of Health to build sufficient and suitable houses for the people have come to naught. Where are the million new houses? According to Lord Robert Cecil's statement only two houses have been actually built by the Health Ministry. Meanwhile a wail and cry goes up from all over the land for more houses. The local authorities make plans—prepare schemes but cannot go forward—Why? Because by vexatious interference the central authorities ensconced at the Ministry of Health block the way.

We do not find the same authorities blocking the way when it is a question of finding soft jobs for salaried officials. Hence an unmitigated enthusiasm prevails in political quarters for the appointment of Housing Inspectors, State Medical Officers, State Midwives, State Nurses, Health Visitors, Tuberculosis Officers and a host of other officials whose name is Legion.

This scheme is generally called 'co-ordination' and such co-ordination it is said will do marvels in restoring health to the people.

Let us look facts in the face. What has health inspection done in the past and what is it likely to do in the future? In an official Report of the Medical Research Committee (National Health Insurance) upon Infant Mortality, Dr. William Brend states that: "The growth of Schools for Mothers, Infant

Clinics, Ante-natal Clinics and visiting by health visitors has occurred almost entirely since 1910 and has increased with each year but the effect upon the Infant Mortality Rate seems to be nil."

Dr. Saleeby points out that the Infant Welfare Scheme in Bradford has failed to create either healthy infants or good motherhood. In Bradford the Infant Mortality rate is 135 per 1,000 births, whilst in the west of Ireland (where health visitors are unknown) the Infant Mortality rate is 35 per 1,000.

Dr. Baskett has shown that the effect of State interference in regard to the treatment and control of Tuberculosis has been to aggravate and increase the incidence of this disease. As a result of his evidence the British Medical Association has decided to instigate an enquiry into the effects of State Control.

In "Health and the State," William Brend says "we may multiply Medical Officers of Health, Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors, and we may establish insurance systems and medical services of all sorts but unless we deal with the great environmental causes which in large cities are continually producing disease in our midst, we shall still have our defective school population and we shall still be ravaged by tuberculosis and other preventable diseases."

There are many other authorities whom I could quote but space forbids. The point is that if you believe bad surroundings to be the cause of disease—then the machinery of the Ministry of Health is ill-adapted to destroy that cause. The multiplication of officials, the establishment of a State Medical Service, the institution of Maternity and Ante-natal clinics are doomed to failure *since they do not and cannot prevent poverty, bad housing and unhealthy industrial conditions.*

On the other hand if you believe a defective heredity to be the cause of disease then the Ministry of Health fits in with the idea that the lives of people should be regulated in order that only the healthy should become parents. To secure such regulation you must have the necessary machinery of State Inspection. Are we justified in supposing that such is the principle upon which the work of the Ministry of Health is to be based? The reply to this question is to be found in a newly

published official memorandum entitled "An Outline of the Practice of Preventive Medicine," by Sir George Newman, Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health. The first principle to guide central and local authorities in this health policy is stated to be the question of Heredity and Race (of p. 46). "What is needed," says Sir George Newman, "is nurture and education and the study and practice of Eugenics—including the encouragement of worthy parenthood—the discouragement of unworthy—right through civilized society, at every age period and in every class" (of p. 50).

"The principal element of a national policy in Preventive Medicine will be 'Eugenics and Sound Breeding'" (of p. 99.)

This is sufficient proof that the main policy of the Ministry of Health as enunciated by its Chief Medical Officer is to be directed on 'eugenic lines.' Eugenics has been recently defined as "the way to bring about that the fit shall marry each other and the unfit shall be discouraged from marrying each other." The problem is who is to judge who are the unfit? The Eugenist says the medical expert, but are not the majority of the people in this country to be allowed a voice in the matter? The majority of our countrywomen desire, not the introduction of Eugenic fads, but proper homes and healthy surroundings in which to rear their children. Then—and only then—shall we slay the dragon of disease in this Nation.

The proposal of the Eugenists to label certain sections of the community as unfit for parentage is bound to conflict with human rights and to offend our sense of liberty. To be enforced it must breed a tyranny of the worst description. Eugenics is fatal to individual liberty and to the rights of the family. That such a system should be officially approved by the Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health is an ill-omen for the future. As Catholic citizens it is up to us to resist such an encroachment on our rights and privileges. We will not sell our birthright for a mess of pottage nor our liberties for a Ministry of Health.

We hope all our members who possibly can will attend the Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 14th, at 144, High Holborn.

NOTES AND COMMENTS. INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

At the request of our readers we have restored our motto to its place of honour. We parted with it regretfully and are glad to see it back.

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At this moment when women are having a hard fight against the reactionary spirit which would throw them back into pre-war conditions and prevent them from earning a decent livelihood we welcome every sign of organisation amongst the women most affected. The Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries have given many signs of the strength of their union; a very welcome sign is their new paper "The Woman Clerk," which appeared in December. The new organ will appeal primarily to the woman clerk, but it will watch and comment "on the doings of women workers of all grades and conditions, not in our own country only, but throughout the world." We hope the new paper will thrive and prosper.

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A member calls our attention to a phrase in the Primer of Social Science issued by the Catholic Social Guild, to which she justly takes exception. It is: "A woman is capable of almost ceaseless occupation among the congenial tasks of the home." p. 90. We had hoped that the old fallacy that domestic labour is necessarily congenial to all women, had been exploded long since. One cannot help feeling that the very people who profess to admire this kind of household drudge would fly her company like the plague. We refer the writer of the words to his own remarks as applied to a man's work; he must not be confined to monotonous toil, he must have time for rest and recreation. Apart from this a primer of social science which does not take into account the new status of women is bound to jar on modern minds.

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Members are requested to pray for the repose of the souls of Miss Hodgkinson and Mrs. McNulty, both old members of the C.W.S.S., lately dead. R.I.P.

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The Index of the "Catholic Citizen" for 1919 is now ready, and can be had on application at the Office, 55, Berners Street, W.1.

Will the new Belgian Chamber pass a Woman's Suffrage Bill? That is the question that Mad: Van den Plas asks with an irony that is by no means out of place in *Le Féminisme Chrétien de Belgique* (Dec. 1919). For if the Socialists, in spite of all their promises in the matter appear to be tepid in the matter, probably fearing the vote of Catholic women, the Right, which enjoys a small majority, gives even less reason for optimism. The position in Belgium to-day appears indeed to be very much what it was for so long in England: many individual members in every party supporting the demand, but no single party being ready to run the smallest risk in furthering a reform that all know to be long overdue.

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In Italy the situation appears little better. *The International Women's Suffrage News* (Jan. 1920) reports that though a good many stalwart suffragists have been elected to the new Chamber, it also includes a number of strong antis. The hundred Catholic deputies are solid for suffrage, but the powerful Socialist party is supposed to be hanging back until their own women are better organised. On the other hand public opinion is becoming reconciled to the reform. Meanwhile Signor Meda, a leading Catholic politician, has introduced a Bill for the *recherche de la paternité*, which it is greatly to be hoped will pass.

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Higher salaries have just been voted to the much underpaid teachers of elementary schools throughout Belgium. Unfortunately an amendment proposing equal salaries for male and female teachers was rejected by a large majority of the Deputies.

In this matter France is more progressive than her neighbour, for the principle of equality between male and female teachers was voted last July.

In Denmark Parliament has decreed equality of payment between all men and women functionaries.

It is being realised in Belgium that women have special aptitudes for technical drawing, i.e. extreme neatness, precision and delicacy

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THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

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

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HUE AND CRY.

The war is over, and the new world was born on January 16th. This new world has many of the ugly features of the old, and a few peculiarities of its own. But the war is over and with it the fulsome chorus of praise of women and their work, which some of us cynical folk listened to with a certain grim amusement, and considerable anxiety, realising that when the reaction set in, notwithstanding this praise, women would have a severe fight to keep their newly won positions. For the chorus of praise we need not mourn, it was an unreal as the present—I will not say hymn of hate—but rather let us say chorus of dispraise. This dispraise is sometimes born of fear of the new womanhood that has sprung up, new that is to say to those who did "not know that we had such women"; but sometimes those who look askance at the opening of varied callings to women, are really anxious lest humanity suffer thereby. A short time ago for instance a preacher speaking of the infancy of Christ reminded his hearers that all those who had the privilege of belonging to the female sex were especially entrusted with the care of the young; the war had opened up many new fields to women, it had left us a legacy of women police, he understood that they did their work very well, but let it never be forgotten that until the last woman walked this earth, the chief vocation of women was the care of children. It had never occurred to the preacher, and after a sermon there is no question time, that there are other ways of caring for children than by watching their gambols in the park or tending them in the nursery, and indeed that the police women watching over the children of our great cities might well have ampler opportunities of fulfilling what he considered their chief vocation, than if they had stayed in their own homes. Which applies with equal force to women M.P.s, women

magistrates and other public offices for women.

But to return to the new campaign against women scarcely a day passes without there appearing a fresh lamentation in the press from some frightened or jealous man. Women must not be taught music, they are spoiling the musical world—they must not have equal pay with men in the teaching profession or that profession will be left to jaundiced spinsters who will rear an effeminate race of men unfit to fight in the next war. In the industrial world the strife is bitter, they must not be allowed in this industry, they must be turned out of the other. There are flappers at Whitehall, there are jazzers in Mayfair, wails one man; turn all women out of Government Offices shouts another, force them into domestic service yells a third.

Other papers send up a different cry, from these one gathers that all the feminine world is strutting around in a state of semi-nudity. Papers which never mention the real sores of the social order write as though were all women to wear a stock collar and sweep the streets with their skirts, no evil or temptation would remain to trouble the peace of a world become an earthly paradise.

And meanwhile what of the women who have caused this hue and cry? The women are going on their way with a splendid courage and determination, that fills us with pride. They have acquired a sense of responsibility, a self-reliance, an independence, with which their enemies had not reckoned. The spirit that pervaded the meeting at Essex Hall, convened by the Freedom League and supported by many societies including the C.W.S.S., when women gathered together to proclaim their right to live, is a spirit that makes for victory, a victory which may be deferred, but which is assured.

L. de ALBERTI.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1919.

Our ninth year opened auspiciously with the General Election; many of our members did useful work for some of the women candidates in various constituencies, and the list of questions drawn up by the C.W.S.S. was presented to numerous candidates throughout the country. On the day of the Election, December 14th, the High Mass at Westminster Cathedral was offered, at the request of the C.W.S.S., to beg Divine Guidance on the men and women electors. Holy Mass was also offered for the same intention and in thanksgiving for Peace at St. Patrick's, Soho, on December 1st, at the request of the Society.

Our Annual Meeting was held at the Minerva Café on Saturday, February 15th. In the absence of the Hon. Mrs. Walter Roch, the chair was taken by Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A., Vice-Chairman. The adoption of the Annual Report was moved by Miss Fennell, and seconded by Mrs. V. M. Crawford. The adoption of the financial statement was moved by Miss Rochford, and seconded by Miss Agnes Mott. Miss Christopher St. John then addressed the meeting and urged every member of the C.W.S.S. to educate herself to discharge the duties of citizenship. At the close of the meeting the following emergency resolution was put from the chair:—

"That this Society pledges itself to press for immediate legislation by which a scheme for Widows' Pensions shall become law."

Mrs. V. M. Crawford supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

On April 15th a meeting of the C.W.S.S. was held at the Minerva Café, when Miss Leadley Browne, M.B.E., spoke on the proposed scheme of pensions for the widows of civilians. The chair was taken by Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A. The following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Anderson, was carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, believing that reconstruction must start with the welfare of children, urges the Government to

establish a system of Pensions for Widows with dependent children."

During the course of the year we have been represented at a number of conferences, and have lent our support to numerous meetings organised by various societies. Amongst others we were represented at Conferences on Women and the League of Nations, on Women M.P.'s, on Widows' Pensions, on the Economic Position of women, on the Ministry of Health, on India, on Venereal Disease, etc.

In May we supported the meeting organised by the Women's Freedom League in support of Lord Buckmaster's Bill to open the Law to women, at which Mrs. Finlayson Gauld spoke in the name of the C.W.S.S. We also supported the meeting held at the Memorial Hall in July to press for the passage of the Woman's Emancipation Bill, and a contingent from the C.W.S.S. walked behind our Banner in the procession, which started from the Women's Freedom League Offices.

In September Miss Fennell addressed a meeting of the Women Clerks and Secretaries on the subject of Widows' Pensions.

Amongst other meetings supported by us was the Protest Meeting against the Gladstone Report, organised by the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, and the protest meetings organised by the National Federation of women teachers, besides many others.

Deputations. Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A., represented the C.W.S.S.

on the deputation to the Home Secretary from the Penal Reform League, on the subject of prison reform. Miss Agnes Mott was our representative on the deputation organised by the Ministry of Health Watching Council, which waited on Dr. Addison in June, to urge that women should be adequately represented on the People's Council of the Ministry of Health. Miss Mott urged the great importance of securing the representation of working class mothers. The C.W.S.S. was also represented on the deputation which laid before the Government

women's view of the married women's Income Tax. Mrs. Anderson represented the Society on that occasion.

Letters and resolutions have been sent by the C.W.S.S. to the Heads of Government Departments and the Catholic M.P.'s concerning Amendments to Sex Disqualification Bill, Lord Buckmaster's Bill, Women's Emancipation Bill, Widows' Pensions, Married Women's Income Tax, Amendments to Ministry of Health Bill, and of protest against the Restoration of the Pre-War Practices Bill.

The Hon. Mrs. Walter Roch and Miss Barry are our representatives on the Consultative Committee. Miss Jeffery represents us on the Women's Citizens Association for Marylebone. Miss Whately on the W.C.A. for Kensington, and Mrs. Gunning on the W.C.A. for Fulham. Miss Blackledge represents us on the Police Court Rota, and Miss Agnes Mott on the Committee of Enquiry into Sexual Morality. We were also represented on the St. Marylebone Independent local election Committee.

Hon. Press Secretary's Report. During the past year the Hon. Press Secretary has been able through the courtesy of the Editors of Catholic papers and reviews to call the attention of their readers to several important questions of the day, the chief of these being Women in Public Service, Widows' Pensions, and the League of Nation's Union.

With regard to the first named, an article which appeared in the *Catholic Times* was written to show in how many different ways the energies of women could be made use of for the public advantage. Reminders of the date on which the Registers of Parliamentary and Local Government voters were made up was sent to the Catholic papers; also a list of questions suitable for putting to Parliamentary Candidates, and another suitable for similar use at elections to local government bodies.

The urgent need for granting pensions to necessitous widows with dependent children is a subject in which our Society is deeply interested, and the Hon. Press Secretary was very glad to be allowed to show its urgency by articles which appeared in the *Tablet* in May, and in the *Month* for June. In spite

of our efforts and those of other Suffrage Societies this most necessary reform is still denied by the Government, so we have to continue our work for it.

Some criticisms having appeared in the Catholic Press of the attitude of the League of Nation's Union towards Catholics, the Hon. Press Secretary addressed a private letter to the Secretary of the Union calling his attention to these criticisms, and at the same time she wrote to the Catholic papers urging Catholics not to boycott the Union on account of that article, but rather to consider it their duty as citizens to become members, and by this means to bring their influence to bear on its councils. The Union Secretary wrote a reply complaining that its attitude towards the Catholic Church had been entirely misunderstood, and finally the result was that overtures were made by the Union to the ecclesiastical authorities of such a nature that the Union Secretary was able to announce with evident satisfaction that Cardinal Bourne had consented to become one of the Vice-Presidents.

Christmas Sale. The profits of our stall at the Sale (1918) amounted to £18 6s. We also had a stall at the White Elephant and Jumble Sale held at the Central Hall in April.

The Catholic Citizen. We have again to thank many professional writers, members and associates of the C.W.S.S. for the generous literary help they have given us during the year, which enables us to keep up the high standard of our paper. *The Catholic Citizen* is exchanged for many papers published by feminist societies in foreign countries, it goes to the United States, South America, South Africa, Spain, Italy, France, Belgium, &c. In spite of the heavy increase in printing, &c., it was again decided not to raise the price of the paper, and a dance was given at Golders Green in November to help the funds of the paper. As the amount thus raised (£6 6s.) did not cover the deficit the sum was made up by two generous members of the C.W.S.S.

The Holy Father's Approval of Woman Suffrage. In June of this year our member, Miss Annie Christitch, B.A., in a private audience of the Pope definitely asked his Holiness whether

he approved of woman suffrage, the Holy Father replied: "Nous voudrions voir des femmes électrices partout." (We should like to see women electors everywhere). Miss Christitch then laid before the Pope the aims and objects of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, and enquired whether he approved of it. "Oui nous approuvons" ("Yes, we approve") replied the Pope emphatically. Miss Christitch wrote an account of her audience, which appeared in the *Catholic Citizen* of July, and in the other Catholic papers.

We offer our hearty thanks to all those who have come forward to help the C.W.S.S. during the year; Miss MacManus, Miss Cochrane and Miss Whately, who have taken charge of the office on various occasions; Miss Begg, who has done typing for us, and all our valiant paper sellers.

The Committee received with great regret Miss Gadsby's resignation from the Rent Fund, for which she has been responsible for many years. They take this opportunity of thanking her for her great services to the Society. The Committee also received with much regret Miss Brady's resignation from the post of Hon. Treasurer of the *Catholic Citizen*, which she has held since the foundation of the paper. The Committee have also to thank Miss Brady for her long services to the C.W.S.S.

Both Miss Gadsby and Miss Brady remain, of course, members of the Society, and we know that we can depend on their help, when they have more leisure.

We have also suffered a heavy loss by the departure from England of our valuable friends, Father Walshe and Mrs. Macdonald, who have gone to California.

We offer our congratulations to Miss G. E. Bellasis, who has entered the Ursulines.

Obituary. It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of our associate, the Very Revd. Canon Brenan; and of our members, Mrs. Berkeley Mitchell and Miss E. Martyn, and also of our associate, Pierse McCann. R.I.P.

Brighton. Hon. Representative, Miss A. H. Bennett, 30, Cissbury Road, Hove.

Owing to the resignation of the Worthing members of the C.W.S.S. Miss Barry visited Brighton on October 14th to ascertain the

wishes of the Brighton members regarding their Branch. A meeting was held at the Pioneer Club, which was very well attended, the members showing great interest in all that Miss Barry told them concerning the work of the Society. It was felt that the Society had a future and that as its full programme "to secure political, social and economic equality between men and women" had not yet been obtained, and that its future object "to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens" offered a wide field of labour it was a pity to disband the Brighton members. After a full discussion it was resolved on the motion of Miss Merrifield, seconded by Miss A. H. Bennett:—"That the members of the Branch be asked to subscribe to Headquarters direct and that there be a local representative with whom Headquarters shall communicate when there is special work to be done or information to be given." On the nomination of Miss Manning, seconded by Miss Brunlees, Miss A. H. Bennett was elected and agreed to act as representative.

The following resolution was then passed unanimously and forwarded to the local Members of Parliament:—

"That this meeting of the Brighton members of the C.W.S.S. unanimously supports the amendments to be moved by Lord Robert Cecil, Sir Samuel Hoare and Major Hills to the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill, and demands that the Bill so amended be passed into law."

Since then four new members have joined the Branch, and a meeting of the members will be held early in 1920.

Liverpool and District Branch. Miss A. J. Musson, Fair View West, Rainhill. During the year the Branch

sustained a great loss owing to the departure of Mrs. Macdonald and Father Walshe, who sailed for California, also by the departure with them of Miss Bullen, a member of Committee and paper seller, to all of whom our best thanks are due for the work they did for the Branch. Mrs. Macdonald and Father Walshe were presented with cane deck chairs and illuminated addresses, as a farewell gift from the members.

Miss McKinley resigned the office of Hon. Treasurer owing to pressure of other work.

We take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude to her for what she did for the branch. Miss A. de Bulnes kindly accepted the office of Hon. Treas. and Mrs. Parnell undertook to organize the sales of "The Catholic Citizen" after the departure of Mrs. Macdonald and Miss Bullen. Miss Musson continued to be Hon. Secretary.

The Annual Meeting was held on Jan. 15th. Miss E. O'Callaghan was elected chairman in place of Mrs. Macdonald (resigned), and Miss I. M. Collier, vice-chairman.

A letter of congratulation was sent to His Grace the Archbishop of Liverpool on the occasion of his Jubilee, August 15th.

During the year, letters were sent to the Prime Minister and the local M.P.s asking them:—

(1) To support the equal appointment of men and women as officials in the Ministry of Health.

(2) To use their influence to remove the existing disabilities *re* married women's income tax.

(3) To support the Labour Party's "Women's Emancipation Bill," especially Clause 2, relating to the granting of equal franchise for men and women.

(4) To support the Amendment to the Government "Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill, standing in the names of Lord Robert Cecil, Lt. Col. Sir Samuel Hoare and Major Hills, asking for equal franchise and the opening of the Civil Service to women on the same terms as men.

Letters were sent to the Catholic candidates for election to the Liverpool City Council in November, asking them if elected, to support the principles of Equal Pay for Equal Value in Work, an equal moral standard, also the granting of Pensions to Civilian Widows and Women Police.

Letters of congratulation were sent to Miss Mabel Fletcher (Conservative) Mrs. Bamber (Labour) and Mrs. Egerton Stewart Brown (Liberal), on their election to the City Council.

Delegates attended the Esperanto Congress held in Liverpool in June.

By arrangement with the Liverpool Branch of the C.Y.M.S., members of the C.W.S.S. were allowed to attend, in an unofficial capacity, the Miniature City Council organised by the C.Y.M.S.

We continue to be represented on the Liverpool Council of Women Citizens and during the year the council passed the resolutions on the following subjects which were supported by the C.W.S.S.

(1) The inclusion of women in the franchise proposals of the Government of India Bill.

(2) Married Women's Income Tax.

(3) Pre-war Practices Bill.

The Council held Conferences during the year for members of the affiliated societies on:

(1) Women's Suffrage in India.

(2) State Regulation of Vice.

(3) Temperance.

(4) Domestic Service.

And a Summer School on Housing.

A public meeting on "Widow's Pensions," was also held in which the C.W.S.S. co-operated, the principle speaker was Judge Neil of Chicago—the "Father of Widows' Pensions."

Our best thanks are due to Mrs. Macdonald, Miss Bullen, Mrs. and Miss Parnell, Mrs. Hughes, Miss K. Pye, Miss D. Hughes, Miss Musson, Miss Shannon, Misses de Bulnes, Miss McKinley, Miss Jervis, and Miss F. Barry who have sold papers during the year.

We also wish to express our gratitude to Mr. Charles Quinn who very kindly audited our accounts again this year.

A Letter from the Treasurer.

Dear Fellow Members,

In presenting our report of the work of the C.W.S.S. in 1919, I take the opportunity of making a special appeal to you for the present year.

A glance at our balance sheet will show you that although happily we had no deficit on the 30th November last, we started the year with only £13 to the good. This sum has now been expended and every penny must be raised to meet expenses in the months to come.

The future of the Society therefore depends upon the amount of support that each member can give to it. The quite inadequate sum derived from such a small annual subscription has been supplemented year after year by a few enthusiastic supporters, but obviously we cannot count indefinitely upon this source of income.

On March 28th, the rent of our Office will be raised by £10. To cover this fund alone I need more than 2/6 for every day in the year. But if only 366 members would send me one half-crown each, I should have no further anxiety on this score.

At a time when some of the Suffrage Societies are merging their identity in new activities, we are justly proud that the C.W.S.S. still stands for nothing less than the object which it set out to obtain, namely, votes for women on the same terms as men. I am confident that you will continue to give us the financial support necessary to attain that goal.

GABRIELLE JEFFERY.

LONDON AND BRANCH NOTES.

Office: 55, Berners Street, London, W.1. Tel.: Museum, 4181. Hours: 3-30—5-30; Saturdays, 10-30—1-30. Other times by appointment. Annual Meeting, Saturday, February 1st, at 3 p.m., at the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

BRIGHTON.

A meeting of the Brighton and Hove Branch of the C.W.S.S. will be held at the Sussex Pioneer Club, 4, New Road, Brighton, on Saturday, February 28th, at 3-30 p.m., to meet Miss Annie Christitch, B.A. At 4 p.m. an address will be given by Miss Annie Christitch, on the work of Saving the Children. Members are requested to invite their non-Catholic friends. Admission free. Collection, half of which will be given to the "Save the Children Fund."

LIVERPOOL.

Miss A. J. Musson, Fair View Street, Rainhill.

The Annual Meeting was held at 6, Lord Street, on Thursday, January 29th, at 7-30. It was decided to hold meetings for members and friends at least once a month during this year.

STIRLING BRANCH.

Hon. Sec., Mrs. Bentley Murray, The Shielling, Stirling.

The members of above Branch worked hard during the Scottish Educational Elections in May and 16 dozen of the "Why I Should Vote" pamphlets were distributed in Stirling, Cambusbarron and Bannockburns.

Five of the members are on the Congregational Committee to organize a Presentation to Monsignor Canon Smith on his retirement from 35 years' hard work in the Parish. Six

of the members served on the committee to organize the first Congregational Re-union which took place on Friday, Jan. 23rd, and which was a great success, over 500 people being present.

Mrs. Bentley Murray, the Hon. Sec. of the Branch is on the Committees of Stirling Child Welfare, Stirling Branch of the National Council of Women and of the Stirling War Memorial.

Mrs. Robson was anxious to start a company of Girl Guides in the Parish but this proved to be against the wishes of the Bishop and Parish Priest. It would be interesting to hear the experiences of those who have been more fortunate in establishing Catholic companies of Girl Guides.

WIMBLEDON.

Hon. Sec., Lady Laughton, 11, Stanton Road, Wimbledon, S.W. The activities of this Branch have been chiefly confined to assisting in the plans and meetings of the Wimbledon Women Citizens Association. Our member, Miss Mary Fennell, has been elected Hon. Sec. of this Association. Our members also took a very active part in the recent Borough Election and, by their efforts, largely contributed to the successful return of the two women candidates. *The Catholic Citizen* is on sale at the Church gates and has a steady list of subscribers.

Continued from Page 3

of touch, and that the work of copying plans and designs of all kinds should offer a good career. Steps are therefore being taken to start drawing courses in secondary schools which will specially train girls for taking up this work.

Dutch servants appear to be forming themselves into syndicates or unions. These not only insist on good conditions of pay, hours, etc., but are taking active steps for the training of their members in domestic science. (*La Femme Belge*).

* * * *

We gather from the latest number of *The Woman's Outlook* that the Women's Emancipation Association of South Africa is pursuing its vigorous propaganda on behalf of woman's suffrage. It has a convinced supporter in General Smuts, who said publicly not long ago that "it was possible that where men failed, women, with their larger qualities, may put right what we have spoilt."

V.M.C.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

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Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 1d. monthly.

OBJECT.

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

METHODS.

1. Strictly non-party
2. Active propaganda by political and educational means.

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THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE MEETINGS

THE

in the

MINERVA CAFE,

144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.

- Wed. Feb. 18—Speaker: **Miss Edith Neville**. Subject: "The Work of the Penal Reform League." Chair: **Miss Metge**. 3 p.m.
- Wed. Feb. 25—Speaker: **Dr. Octavia Lewin, M.B., B.S.** (Lond.) Subject: "Cinema Neck—Are We Too Civilised?" 3 p.m.
- Mon. March 1—Speaker: **Major A. C. Morrison Bell, M.P.** Subject: "Proportional Representation." 7 p.m.
- Wed. March 3—Speaker: **Hon. Mrs. Wm Cecil** (Member West Sussex County Council). Subject: "The British Soviet System." Chair: **Mrs. Keevil Rickford**. 3 p.m.
- Mon. March 8—Speaker: **Mr. W. L. George**. Subject: "Women under Socialism." Chair: **Miss Pierotti**. 7-30 p.m.
- Wed. Mar. 10—Speaker: **Miss Jessie March** (Sister Jessie). Subject: "The Unmarried Mother." Chair: **Mrs. Earengy**. 3 p.m.

Tea can be obtained in the Cafe at close of meeting at 6d. each.

Thursday, February 19—Belmont Hall, Clapham. Model Parliamentary Election, 7 p.m. Candidates to be announced later in *The Vote*.

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LECTURES.

- Wed. 18th Feb. 8-15 p.m. "Some Poets and their Message" Mr. R. Dimsdale Stocker. Chairman—Mr. Harry Simpson.
- Wed. 25th Feb. 8-15 p.m. "Proportional Representation." Mr. T. Scanlan. Chairman—The Viscountess Rhonda.
- Wed. 3rd Mar. 8-15 p.m. "The Russian Problem." Mr. Aymer Maude. Chairman—Mrs. Percy Bigland.
- Wed. 10th Mar. 8-15 p.m. "Physical Strength as a basis of Freedom." Dr. Christine Murrell. Chairman—Mr. J. Y. Kennedy.
- Wed. 17th Mar. 8-15 p.m. "Nationalism versus Internationalism." The National Party has kindly consented to send a Lecturer. Chairman—Miss C. Woolner.

Invitations to Lectures given to Non-Members on application to the Secretary.

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