

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

*Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society).
8^B, Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford Street, London W.1.*

VOL. XLV. No. 2.

15th FEBRUARY, 1959.

Price Sixpence.

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

Nurses in Council

By P. M. Brandt

An Ad Hoc meeting on conditions of Work and Employment of Nurses was held at Geneva from 6th—11th October, 1958. The Report and Recommendations have not yet been considered by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office but are to come before it at their one hundred and forty-first Session in March.

The meeting was attended by experts from fourteen countries, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, India, Japan, Liberia, Philippines, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. and by observers from two governmental and eight non-governmental organisations, viz. World Health Organisation, Council of Europe, International Committee of Catholic Nurses, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Council of Nurses, International Federation of Christian Trades Unions of Employees of Public Services and P.T.T., International Federation of Unions of Employees and Public and Civil Service, League of Red Cross Societies, World Federation of Trade Unions and World Medical Association.

Miss Lillian Campion (Canada) was elected Chairman and Mrs. Janet Buckle (Liberia), Vice-Chairman. Miss Julita Sotejo (Philippines) was elected Reporter.

The Agenda comprised the following matters: (1) Employment situation; (2) Conditions of work; (3) Economic and social status of professional nurses and auxiliary personnel and (4) Recruitment.

Employment

As regards employment it was agreed by most of the experts that there was a general shortage of nurses in most countries—due as a rule to inadequate remuneration, long working hours, low social and professional status of the profession and the physical arduousness of the work. In some countries it failed to attract well-educated girls.

It was generally agreed that every encouragement should be given to nurses to continue their careers after marriage, and the question of part-

time employment for married nurses and others was discussed—also the need for refresher courses. Suggestions for attracting nursing staff to rural areas by preferential treatment were made, especially in areas where, owing to the shortage of doctors, exceptionally competent nurses were required.

The question of male nurses was also discussed. In most countries they were employed chiefly in a few specialised services though in one country there were more male than female nurses. Owing to the inadequate remuneration, long training and limited possibilities for promotion, attempts to attract men into the profession have met with little success.

It was becoming more and more the rule to employ married women in nursing, and it was agreed that the question of being married or unmarried was unimportant as long as a nurse could give adequate service.

Conditions of Work

Under this heading the meeting discussed contract of employment, remuneration and social security. It was emphasised that all nurses should have direct participation in negotiations determining their conditions of work, through their representative associations. Collective bargaining machinery was considered a satisfactory means of establishing nurses' conditions though the procedure might vary for nurses working in the public services and for those working privately.

It was unanimously agreed that the reduction in the hours of the working week was indispensable, and that it was highly desirable to limit hours of work to forty a week.

In some cases there was not sufficient difference between the salaries paid at the top level of the profession and those at the lower levels and therefore no incentive to undergo additional training to qualify for higher positions.

It was pointed out that in some countries, when the question of increasing nurses' pay was being considered, comparisons had been made between

the training required respectively, for the teaching and nursing professions and it was found that the nurses had a lower level of education. A higher educational standard was therefore urged.

Various detailed suggestions were made regarding holidays, suitable housing facilities, medical examinations and pension rights.

Economic and Social Status of Professional Nurses and of Auxiliary Personnel

It was emphasised that the nurse's qualifications were of great importance as the status of a profession was often enhanced by raising the requirements for entry into it; but different opinions were expressed as to the desirable level of such qualifications. The importance of providing advanced training for graduate nurses was stressed and also the possibility of providing university scholarships for those who wished to serve in administrative or teaching posts.

It was pointed out that equal pay for equal work and the question of remuneration generally were important factors in social status.

Recruitment

There was some discussion on the recruitment of nurses, including counselling and placement services and much interest was shown in the question of the placing of nurses abroad. Several experts held that graduate nurses should be given the opportunity of undergoing advanced study abroad.

It was recommended that in the interests of effective recruitment, special guidance and placement facilities should be developed for disseminating knowledge of nursing careers and of occupational choice and that qualified nursing personnel should be directly associated with the planning of nursing recruitment services.

The meeting of Experts agreed on various recommendations on the above lines and invited the Governing Body of I.L.O. to give continued attention to the conditions of work of nurses within the I.L.O.'s research and information programme; to consider these questions through the special machinery for examining problems relating to women's work; to bring these problems, as they affect conditions of work and employment within the framework of the I.L.O. technical assistance activities; to intensify occupational classification and research work in the field of health and nursing services; to request the I.L.O., when considering the question of reduction of hours of work with a view to the adoption of an international instrument, to give special attention to the problems of hours of work of nurses.

The Meeting invited the Governing Body to transmit its recommendations to the Member States of the I.L.O. in order to enable governments to consider the necessary measures tending to their implementation.

PAN-PACIFIC CONFERENCE

The Pan-Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association held its eighth Conference in Tokyo last August under the presidency of Mrs. F. S. Balboa of the Philippines. The Conference was attended by delegates from some twenty countries lying within the Pacific area, the theme of the Conference being "The Role of Women in Community Development."

In his opening address, Mr. Wojcieki, Ph.D., Community Development Officer of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, pointed out that hitherto community development in Asia had been a rural movement but the newest projects were concerned with urban improvements. He stressed the great importance of women in this movement and quoted Mr. Nehru as saying: "It is the woman who has to be awakened. Once she is on the move, the village moves, and the country moves."

Practical questions discussed were: Food—a practical approach to Home and Community Development; Methods by which Nutrition and Health can be made real issues to both Rural and Urban Women; Fundamental Education—a Vital Factor in Community Development; How UNICEF helps the World's Children; The Contribution of Co-operatives; Training of Workers for Community Development Programmes, and Population Problems of Today.

Plenty of examples of the splendid work being done in these countries were given; for instance a nurse working with a mothers' group helped to solve the problem of water supply by persuading the women to start digging a well which the men finished. The population problem is great in all these lands but not all have given in to the Family Planner; other solutions are suggested such as the prohibition of polygamy (the Conference urged the Status of Women Commission to continue combating this abuse) and the increase of the food supply. It was pointed out that in Japan, the employer had to pay family allowances and "this made difficulties for fathers of large families."

Delegates told much and learned much of the work of the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies and enthusiastically promised to support the work by all means within their power.

These serious considerations were lightened and relieved by functions of decoration and entertainment, all culminating in an International Evening with national songs and dances.

At the end of the Conference the officers for the new period were elected—and the Alliance is pleased to note that Miss Rose Gallagher, a member of the Executive Committee of St. Joan's in New South Wales, was elected Hon. Secretary. The next Conference will be held in Australia in 1961.

P. C. C.

Notes and Comments

We hope as many members as possible will come to the Annual Meeting of St. Joan's Alliance on Saturday, March 21st, at 2.30 p.m. at 27 Wilfred Street, off Palace Street, next door to the Central Catholic Library. The Annual Meeting provides a great opportunity for members to meet the committee and each other and to express their views freely on the work of the Alliance. The committee will welcome advice, suggestions or criticism any member may have to offer. The speakers will be Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, D.B.E., Miss Margaret C. Clarke, Mrs. B. M. Halpern, Mrs. Hoare and Miss Ann Whittles. The chairman, Dr. Shattock will preside.

* * *

At the invitation of the Home Secretary, Mr. R. A. Butler, representatives of a number of women's organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance, visited the Home Office on January 29th to discuss with him the Street Offences Bill now before Parliament. The representatives of many of these organisations had called on the Home Secretary on January 29th, 1958, before Her Majesty's Government had announced its intentions in regard to the Wolfenden Report, and Mr. Butler was anxious to have a further exchange of views before the Second Reading of the Bill.

The representatives again expressed their views about the unjust provisions of the Bill. They left the Home Office profoundly dissatisfied with Mr. Butler's statements.

Though Mr. Butler is determined to get the Bill through, there is evidence of considerable uneasiness among the Government's supporters at the terms of the Bill. Efforts are now being made to obtain amendments during the Committee stage of the Bill and in the House of Lords.

An account of the Debate on the Second Reading of the Bill will be found on page 12.

* * *

On January 21st, the House of Lords, defying both the Government and the Opposition, declared itself in favour of admitting hereditary women peers to the House on the same terms as men. The following motion, proposed by the Marquess of Reading was passed by 59 votes to 51:

"That in the opinion of this House steps should now be taken to obtain leave to introduce legislation to confer upon such women peers as, under existing conditions, are not qualified to take their seats in this House, the same rights, duties, and privileges as are enjoyed by hereditary peers having seat, place, and voice in this House."

Lord Reading said that the whole situation had changed by the admission to the House of women life peers and that he could not believe that the effect of their presence had had any notably shat-

tering effect on the quiet enjoyment of the normal amenities of the House by those members who had been most vehemently hostile to the arrival of women in the House.

His sole purpose was to remove a disability from some twenty peeresses in their own right.

Viscount Alexander of Hillsborough, for the Opposition, made it quite clear that the Labour Party was quite fixed in its opposition to the hereditary principle. The Marquess of Salisbury pointed out that the hereditary women peers held their peerages by just as much unquestioned right as male peers. Hitherto, they had been debarred because of the sex disqualification but now the Government itself had altered the position by the Life Peerages Act.

Lord Pethick-Lawrence said it was "just foolish to try and fight a rearguard action against the complete equality of one sex with another."

Lord Hailsham, speaking against the Motion, said Lord Reading was asking the Government to legislate in an expiring Parliament on a subject which would be rigidly opposed on party lines and would complicate and embitter relations between the parties. He denied Lord Pethick-Lawrence's suggestion that the opponents of the motion were a set of Mrs. Partingtons "trying to sweep back the tide with a mop." It was the duty of both parties as the election approached to try and fix attention on things that really mattered.

Lord Reading, commenting on this reply, said that an injustice was not less an injustice because it affected only a small number of people. The division was then taken and the motion carried by eight votes.

* * *

The Interracial Review (U.S.A.), one of the most valued exchanges we have with *The Catholic Citizen* and one we read with the greatest interest now appears in a new and attractive format. Over the years, *The Interracial Review* has given evidence of steady progress in devoted work for the eradication of prejudice and discrimination in the field of race relations.

In 1940, on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of *The Catholic Citizen*, among many congratulatory messages received was one from *The Interracial Review*:

"The staff and associates of *The Interracial Review* feel a distinct kinship with the persons associated with *The Catholic Citizen*. We believe that we in some measure understand their problems and that they understand ours. . . . We congratulate our English brethren on their devoted work. We assure them of our prayers and we ask them as well. May *The Catholic Citizen* continue for many years to do its present excellent work."

This seems an appropriate moment to say how warmly we still reciprocate these words nearly twenty years later.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

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The Street Offences Bill

The Second Reading of Mr. Butler's Street Offences Bill took place on January 29th.

Two amendments were put forward, one by Mrs. Jeger, listing a number of reasoned objections; one by Mr. Paget merely demanding a six months postponement. The latter was called as being the more comprehensive.

Mr. Butler said: "The object of this Bill is to help clear the streets, and for this purpose, to make it possible to charge prostitutes who ply their trade in the streets and to stiffen the penalties against them." He added: "I acknowledge at the outset, as the Wolfenden Report did, that this will undoubtedly result in driving some of this trade underground, but I am convinced that in the long run it will mean that fewer young women will fall into this way of life." He referred to the meetings he had had with the societies and associations principally interested, among whom, of course, were the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene and St. Joan's Alliance, and he said that he appreciated that the Bill would face considerable opposition.

The main objections were that the Bill sanctions injustice as between men and women, and injustice before the law to women who are prostitutes, and that its provisions of higher penalties and prison sentences, adopted as they admittedly are, entirely for reasons of public order, would fail in their effect owing to the increased danger of police corruption and the inevitable emergence of touts and panders whose activities would be fully as disruptive of public order as those of the prostitutes.

Mr. Silverman summed up the first point: "This thing is unjust in itself. . . It is contrary to the general principles of our law because it makes that an offence in a woman which is not an offence in a man." And again: "The criticism of inequity is that under our law which the Bill perpetuates it is accepted as a crime to offer for sale what it is no crime to buy." Mr. Rees-Davies answered this point: "There is some talk about

the difference between the treatment of men and women. I do not agree that there is any difference. Under Section 32 of the Sexual Offenders Act, 1956, a man can be charged if he persistently solicits or importunes. Importuning is the usual charge in respect of a man, but he can be charged with persistently soliciting. I agree that this charge has not been very much used, but there is no reason why it should not be."

This Act came into force on January 1st, 1957. Under the Act 307 men were convicted in 1957 and 284 in 1958 in the Metropolitan area. Neither the Home Secretary nor the Attorney General were able (in spite of questions asked as long ago as December 15th) to give the number of those cases which involved men soliciting women and not men. Mr. Greenwood stated that it was two. In Nottingham, however, according to Lt.-Colonel Cordeaux, the police appear to be making more use of what is clearly an entirely optional provision of the law.

As regards prostitutes, however, the option is being extended the other way. The bill adds "loitering for the purposes of prostitution" to solicitation, in the case of a "common prostitute" and removes the need to prove annoyance as being a dead letter. (As Mrs. Eirene White said: "We have heard a great deal about the dead letter of the annoyance provision concerning prostitutes, but not one word about the dead letter concerning the soliciting of women by men.")

These provisions aroused considerable opposition. As regards the term "common prostitute" Mr. Butler said: "It is no novelty in our Statute law. What the Bill does is to remove annoyance, to reenact the same term as has been used since 1824 and to increase the penalty." He was not anxious to define the term further. He added: "I am satisfied that the magistrates will know a common prostitute when they see one, on the evidence put forward to them." And: "I am perfectly well satisfied that the police are able to distinguish by the activities of a woman and by

the evidence, of not only one policeman, but of two policemen, of what a woman is up to when they condemn her as a common prostitute and bring her before the court." This provoked a retort from Mr. Silverman: "He is saying that he relies confidently . . . on evidence . . . by the police, who will decide whether a woman is a common prostitute and the courts will accept it when they say so." The objection was summarised by Mr. Anthony Greenwood. "We believe that (the term common prostitute) militates against the presumption of innocence and that it introduces prejudice into legal proceedings."

On the questions of loitering and annoyance Mr. Elwyn Jones said: "Loitering for the purpose of prostitution is not in itself a crime. Nor is soliciting for the purposes of prostitution in itself a crime, either on the part of a man or a woman, but Clause I in its present form makes both crimes if done by a common prostitute, even if no annoyance is caused and even if no nuisance is proved. . . This is unsatisfactory and a dangerous legal provision." Mrs. Jeger said: "When hon. Gentlemen like to think of common prostitutes, I should equally like to name some men as common frequenters of prostitutes. Suppose she is rightly named, she is still a citizen of this country, and has her rights under the law." Mr. Butler's defence was a pragmatic not to say arguable one. "I have done something which is straightforward by removing a provision which was known not to operate and not to have any importance." Even the Government's legal supporter, Mr. Rees-Davies who said: "There has been a terrible hoo-ha about the phrase common prostitute," had to admit: "To a large extent I agree about the question of loitering. That is the most difficult point about the bill."

On the question of corruption Mr. Paget said: "If we step up the penalty, if we threaten their means of livelihood . . . which is what imprisonment comes to, we are providing the incentive to corruption to quite an enormous extent, and doing it without increasing the control of prostitution." Mr. Greenwood doubted the deterrent effect of prison sentences on the strength of figures for other parts of the country where such penalties are already imposed.

Mr. Greenwood spoke for all the opposers by saying: "We wish to ensure that in doing what is—rather unfortunately called sweeping the dirt under the carpet, we do not sweep away our traditional and cherished civil liberties at the same time." Mr. Silverman, too, spoke for many, when he attacked the basis of a Bill covering what Mr. Elwyn Jones called "the borderline between law and morals," by saying: "What makes the nuisance or the annoyance is not the act of any single prostitute, but the fact that there

are so many of them on the streets; so that the girl is not only prosecuted without evidence of annoyance, but is prosecuted for an annoyance she does not commit. She is not responsible for the presence of the others, but it is for that that she is convicted."

The Government put on the Whips, while the Opposition was left free to vote according to conscience. Ayes 235, Noes 88. It was impossible, in view of the fog and other complications to determine how many Government supporters abstained (apart from Miss Vickers who admitted during the course of the debate that she was going to do so).

B. M. Halpern

BRIDE PRICE

It is good to read that the payment of bride price has been forbidden in the French Cameroons by Archbishop Graffin of Yaounde. In a pastoral letter, the Archbishop points out that the practice of giving money in exchange for a bride destroys the natural freedom to which every individual is entitled regardless of sex; moreover it drives young men who cannot find the money, into concubinage. The practice has long been discouraged by Christian leaders, but without success. The Archbishop now forbids, under pain of sin, anyone in his diocese who accepts or offers money in payment for a bride. "Women," said His Grace, "have the right to make certain decisions about their own future. Men alone do not make marriages, they are made with the free consent of both parties."

HON. TREASURER'S NOTE

We warmly thank all those members who responded so generously to the rent fund appeal which now amounts to £25. It is not so far a very good response, but we trust that we shall not be disappointed in receiving further donations.

Another reminder—the annual subscription of £1 which includes *The Catholic Citizen*, fell due on January 1st. If members realised how much clerical work is saved by prompt payment, they would post their subscription at once.

N. K. Carr

OBITUARY

We ask the prayers of our members for Miss Agnes Quinlan, of whose death some six months ago, we have only just learned.

Miss Quinlan was one of the very earliest and staunchest members of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society. She kept up her interest in the Alliance until her death and never failed to make a generous response to any appeal, for help. May she rest in peace.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Holland. The General Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church has decided to admit women to the posts of deacon and elder and, by special consent, to the function of Minister. On marriage, however, she will be obliged to retire.—“*Endeavour*”, *International Archives of the Women's Movement*.

* * *

Ireland. The death of Peig Sayers, the last of the Gaelic-speaking storytellers of the Basket Islands brings to an end an ancient community with an interest all its own. This community, on five islands exposed to the south-west gales of County Kerry gradually diminished until, in 1953, the last few households were transferred to the mainland.

The story-telling, for which the Basket Islanders were famous, resulted in three autobiographies, “The Islanders” and “Twenty Year's A'Growing” which have been translated and “Pey” which has not. This last was told by Peig Sayers, who, though what is called illiterate, retained and passed on great knowledge of the orally-preserved literary heritage of Gaelic Ireland. It tells of her life when left a widow with twelve children whom she brought up in circumstances difficult enough to daunt all but the most tenacious and determined. The vigour and grace of her language attracted many scholars to her home and these wrote down what she told. Her “book” ends: “Perhaps they will come to the grave yard where I shall be lying. But the likes of us will not then be found. We shall be stretched out quietly—and the old world dead and gone.”

* * *

Nigeria. Ten years ago, a school-teacher, Miss L. Murphy, left her school in Liverpool in mid-career and devoted herself to helping Bishop McGettrick of Ogoya in his battle against leprosy. The Medical Missionaries of Mary undertook the medical side, which has had excellent results in cures and when Miss Murphy went out she organised village schools.

Now she has eighteen schools, all built by lepers, with nine hundred pupils, whose teachers are also lepers. She has also provided an adult education service and is planning a training college. She has just been home on leave—and has spent much of her holiday learning to weave in Donegal.

* * *

The Internationalist Abolitionist Federation reports that four more countries have ratified the Convention on the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others—Argentina, Czecho-Slovakia, Japan and Ceylon, bringing the number of ratifications to twenty-three. This is not very satisfactory as the United Nations contains more than eighty member-states. The Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe has unanimously recommended its Members to ratify the Convention.

Vietnam. When, three years ago, South Vietnam became independent the women were still in a state of complete subjection as they had been for centuries. They had no say in the choice of a husband while he could dismiss his wife for any trifling “disobedience” or make her serve a new mistress of the house.

Last month a new Family Law was passed which changes the status of women; they may now exercise the right of choice in marriage; they may practise a profession without their husband's consent being required; they need not live with their in-laws or put up with their husband's infidelities. “More freedom for women, less license for men,” sums up the achievements of Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu, the sister-in-law of the President, Ngo Dinh Diem, and his official hostess, a Catholic “first lady” in a country of seventy-five per cent. Buddhists and “the most determined feminist since the late Emmeline Goulden Pankhurst.”

Madame Ngo was active in the Resistance to both the French and the Communists and when independence came she rallied the women against the oppressors in their own family life. She sits in the Assembly as an Independent and with the firm support of the President she succeeded in overcoming the opposition to her Bill in the Assembly.

When preparing her Bill Madame Ngo drew up a declaration of independence for women which she submitted to legal experts all over the world. At the same time she roused the women to emulate the courage of the two heroic young sisters Trung who raised an army against the Chinese invaders two thousand years ago and died rather than surrender.—(*Time*.)

* * *

Switzerland. The women of Switzerland have been refused the vote in Federal affairs by a majority of more than two to one. The proposal to amend the Constitution in order to give votes to women in Federal elections necessitated a referendum of the whole country as well as of more than half the Cantons. Only the Cantons of Geneva, Neuchatel and Vaud voted in favour of the federal proposal. The Canton of Vaud has the distinction of having granted its women the vote in Cantonal affairs. We know that our colleagues will persevere until victory is assured.

* * *

U.S.A. Professor G. P. McEntee, Ph.D., a Vice-President of the Alliance, tells us that two of her students at Hunter College have chosen subjects of great feminist interest as historical theses. One has elected to study “The Married Women's Property Act” and the other “Mrs. Pankhurst” for research papers in Modern English History. “So,” writes Miss McEntee, “the good work crosses the sea.”

TWELVE SAINTS FOR TODAY

“Saints and Ourselves” (Hollis & Carter, 15s.) edited by Rev. Philip Caramen, S. J., brings together in one book another group of reprints from recent issues of *The Month*. Because the articles are all by different authors, and each writer was free to choose his subject, an extraordinary variety of treatment, quality and readability, will be found among the twelve chapters; but few of the authors attempt to do what the publishers advertise as an object of the series: “to choose the saints that appeal to them most and explain why.” Those who have done so have produced the most successful essays.

Some of the authors, however, have not explained their choice of subject, nor have they attempted to give what Father Broderick calls “the merest bald sketch . . . for the refreshment of memory.” Father Broderick admits the necessity of this even for a well known saint like St. Bernadette. But other authors have too readily assumed, even when dealing with somewhat recondite saints, that the reader will already be acquainted with the biographical details, which are either omitted, or recounted in such an inconsequential way that they do not help—thus H. O. Evennett on St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Walter Starkie cannot fall into this trap when dealing with St. James the Apostle, as little more than legend is known of him; but he fills out his chapter by riding his familiar hobby horse of Spanish history.

Some of the subjects are straightforward short biographies; thus Muriel Spark on St. Monica; Anne Fremantle on St. Basil; and Alice Curtayne on St. Catherine of Siena. Others clutter up their few pages with too much quotation, too much detail, too many dates. With all the will in the world your reviewer was unable to complete the chapter on St. Malachy of Armagh, by Gerald Murphy, which so ponderously paints in the ecclesiastical and social situation in twelfth century Ireland that only a shadowy picture of St. Malachy emerges. The same problem faces, and has not been solved, by A. C. F. Beales, who has to describe the educational situation in sixteenth and seventeenth century Europe before he can deal with St. Joseph Calasanctius.

It is a problem which arises also in the case of St. Gregory the Great, but Nicolette Gray solves it admirably. In a few brief paragraphs she paints a vivid picture of Rome as it was after the sacks of the fourth century; when the pagan monuments were still intact, but stood as empty shells, and the city built for a population of one million as the capital of the world, was inhabited by a population of forty thousand and surrounded by warring factions. Against this lightly but vividly sketched background, the relevance of a study of St. Gregory in the political confusion of today, when social structures are crumbling, is clearly seen.

Similarly Leslie Macfarlane, admirably condensing the life of St. Thomas of Canterbury, draws the

parallel between the problems of Thomas à Becket in the twelfth century and our twentieth century world.

Arnold Lunn is equally successful, in achieving the balance between too much and too little biography, in his portrait of St. Francis Borgia, whose heroic rejection of power to embrace poverty and humility—his trust that God would provide—is a virtue difficult for us to understand, let alone achieve, in these materialistic times.

Fr. Broderick tells us the oft-told story of Bernadette, and leaves us with a new and more profound understanding of the peasant girl who ended her life so quietly, so remote from the consequences of what she had seen and heard at Lourdes. As Fr. Broderick says: “In our time of Stars and Personalities and pathological craving for the limelight, it is a benediction to think of Bernadette and her unself-conscious holiness.”

Hugh Ross Williamson achieves an equal success with the unlikely material of St. Benedict Joseph Labre. It is easy to be repelled by the idea that the vocation of sanctity should be fulfilled by a man living the life of a verminous beggar. Hugh Ross Williamson not only explains the point of what seems at first pointless, but enables us to look on the behaviour of this eccentric character with a new sympathy, and to recognise, in his rejection of the popular attitudes of the Age of Reason, a useful lesson for today. **Margaret C. Clarke**

Psychical Phenomena. By Fr. Réginald-Omez, O.P. Faith and Fact Books. (Burns & Oates, 7s. 6d.)

An astonishing amount of information on the reputable aspects of psychical phenomena and research, recent and remote, is made available in this small manual. The translation and the occasional notes by Renée Haynes are excellent.

It is useful to get the official Catholic attitude to these phenomena which are too often discredited by mediumistic and other varieties of fraud. Their independence from religious implications is well demonstrated, as also the honest and scientific motives which have animated many research workers investigating this difficult aspect of human experience. The lack of bias with which available facts are presented should recommend the book to anyone interested in the subject.

F. Mackenzie Shattock

The Origin of Man. By Nicolas Coste. Faith and Fact Book. (Burns & Oates, 7s. 6d.)

This readable and informative account of the origin of man was written by a scientist and theologian, who has the gift of being intelligible in both subjects. His treatment of man's creation for its bearing on the theory of evolution is the best the reviewer has come across.

One forgets the book was written in French as the translation is smooth and competent.

F. M. S.

Hommage à Louise H. De Craene-Duuren. (Edité par le Groupement Belge de la Porte Ouverte, Bruxelles.)

This pamphlet pays tribute to Louise De Craene-Van Duuren who died twenty years ago. She was an ardent feminist who devoted many years of her life to work for the woman's movement. She helped to found the Open Door International in Berlin in 1930 and founded the Belgian Group of the Open Door in 1929, remaining its inspiration till her death.

In the second part of the pamphlet, Dr. Adèle Hauwel gives a masterly survey of the contribution of this Belgian group to the economic emancipation of the woman worker, and outlines the work still to be done.

P. C. C.

Way Forum, the organ of the World Assembly of Youth, gives an account of the General Assembly of W.A.Y. held in New Delhi last August. The inaugural address was given by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who begged the younger generation to build their activities on sound foundations and not to raise barriers, but to bring people together instead of separating them, to tear down barriers of hatred, distrust, intolerance and fear.

Sarwat Qureshi, executive officer of the All Pakistan Women's Association said she was surprised by the small number of women represented at the Conference, the more so as W.A.Y. purported to represent accurately the youth of the world. The absence of women delegates was very conspicuous, she hoped at future Sessions an equal number of women would be represented. Men must be brought to change their outlook towards women, she said, and to accept them as partners. The responsibility of evolving a real status for women should rest as much with men as with women, for the support and confidence of men is essential.

Lenten Fare and Food for Fridays. By Constance Cruickshank. (Faber and Faber, 12s. 6d.)

This fascinating book gives the account of many dishes with their traditional and local names which were, and in some cases are, eaten on different occasions between Shrove Tuesday and Easter Sunday. The title is a little misleading for neither Shrove Tuesday nor Easter Sunday are in Lent. The book will be a godsend for those who try to prevent the young from associating self-sacrifice with enforced fish dishes of uniform unpalatableness.

P. C. C.

BOOKS RECEIVED

The following **Faith and Fact Books** have been received from Burns & Oates (7s. 6d. each).

History of the Mass. By François Amiot.

Biblical Criticism. By Jean Steinmann.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From "The Catholic Citizen," 15th February, 1934

Since 1919 when Parliament, passing the Sex Disqualification Removal Bill distinguished itself by deliberately excluding women from the Diplomatic and Consular Services, thus raising barriers at the moment it was supposed to be removing them; women's societies have raised protests against this closing to women of vast fields of service. Indeed, while formerly they had been excluded by British tradition and prejudice, they are now excluded by Orders in Council. But members of Parliament, apparently lost to all sense of humour, could see nothing peculiar in their conduct, so stubborn are our countrymen in their prejudices. While not claiming that women must necessarily do better than men, it can scarcely be claimed, seeing the state of the world, that the latter have been wholly successful in diplomacy. In other countries where women have been appointed to diplomatic and consular posts the experiment has been a complete success. And why not? Tact, courtesy and a strong desire for peaceful relations are qualities with which women are richly endowed, and they are qualities which may go far in breaking down prejudices between the representatives of different nations.—L. de Alberti in "Women and Diplomacy."

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