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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

St. Joan's in Geneva

By MARGARET VAILE

In recent years the Mother country has conferred many high honours on her sons and daughters from the Dominions and Colonies. It was therefore a source of great pride and joy, when with Mrs. H. DuVal, also from the year old Sydney Section, I was honoured by St. Joan's in being invited to attend the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, (May 15th to the 21st). The other delegates from St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance were Miss Barry and Miss Spender and Madame Freuler Bühler from Switzerland.

Sir John Boyd Orr, who gave the opening address, said that he regarded the Conference as one of the most important yet held. "Your organisations of a hundred Non-Governmental Organisations representing a common interest are above politics," he said, "and you will get things done that no one else can do—if you fail, I have no hope for the world." He concluded by saying that he hoped the Conference was the beginning of the government of the world by the people of the world.

Monsieur G. Thelin was elected president of the Conference, and Mrs. Corbett Ashby one of the Vice-Presidents.

The first part of the Conference was confined to those organisations having consultative status. Its work was chiefly devoted to the relationship of the Non-Governmental Organisations with the Economic and Social Council and with the specialised agencies; and their relations with each other.

Mr. Lyman White, secretary of the E.S.C. committee on N.G.O.s stressed the value of the collaboration of the Non-Governmental Organisations, of which there were now some thousand, each with its own particular knowledge and experience, and the power which they had in their hands for determining the fate of humanity. A great part of this value, he said, consists in the fact that international organisations are unhampered by considerations of national and govern-

mental policy. Many representatives spoke on the importance of improving information services as one of the surest ways for disseminating throughout the world the principles and purposes of the United Nations, and complained of the lack of discrimination and the delay in sending out documents to the various organisations. Both Mr. Lyman White and Mr. Orrick of the Information Section, said they realised these deficiencies and would do their best to see that they were remedied, but that their departments were hampered by lack of funds and staff.

The second part of the Conference, with representatives of one hundred and twelve organisations, was devoted to discussions of the work of the Human Rights Commission.

Here a great work was achieved by St. Joan's. At the plenary session, Miss Barry made a plea for the implementation of human rights for that part of the community least able to make itself heard. She urged that the Bill of Human Rights should cover the following five points:—

1. No child or woman, whatever her race, shall be treated as a chattel to be sold.
2. Every woman shall be permitted to choose her own partner in life despite any contract entered into in her name by any other person.
3. No marriage contract shall be made for any girl under 14, nor for any woman over 14 without her consent.
4. There shall be no lending out of wives under any pretext.
5. Widows shall not be inherited. They shall be free to dispose of themselves as they think fit, remain with the husband's family, be independent or re-marry.

These human rights and fundamental freedoms she said were not always respected and she indicated that in co-operation with the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations, amendments to the Draft Declaration, covering these points had been sent to the Human Rights Commission.

These amendments were later proposed by Miss Spender in the Civic Committee and by Miss Barry in the Social Committee and accepted.

They read :

Article 12.—Every person shall, at a certain age, specified by law, cease to be a minor and shall attain full legal majority.

Article 13.—The family deriving from marriage is the natural and fundamental unit of society which is best protected by a system of monogamy. All persons shall have equality before the law in matrimonial questions. No marriage shall be contracted before the age of 14 and without the free consent of both intending spouses.

The recommendations were adopted finally by the Conference and sent with others to Lake Success.

On the question of Equal Pay delegates agreed to the amendment put forward by Dame Caroline Haslett, on behalf of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, to substitute for Clause 2 of Article 24 the following: "all persons shall work with equal advantages and opportunities and with equal access to training and to all positions in trades and professions and shall receive equal pay without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion."

At the close of the Conference, Mr. Ennals of the World Federation of U.N.A., said that he felt as never before, that the people of the world, represented by the International Non-Governmental Organisations would have an opportunity to play their part in keeping before the Governments of their countries the desire of all peoples for an everlasting peace.

There were at Geneva delegates from over one hundred organisations representing a great variety of interests; religious, legal, social economic and cultural and I feel that the recommendations of the Conference (which for the main part were unanimous) if carried out by the millions in the represented organisations, should help the citizens of the world to have a better understanding of one another's problems.

A continuance of the co-operation of so many organisations was assured by the setting up of an ad hoc Interim Committee to prepare for the next Conference.

On the lighter side, were two receptions given for delegates one at the Grand Theatre by the Municipal Council and the other by the Catholic Circle in Geneva. The latter was held at the Perle du Lac, on the Lake front and guests were presented to the Bishop of Geneva.

It gave me great pleasure to be able to announce at a special meeting of the United Nations Appeal for Children that our Sydney founder and president, Mrs. Jean Daly, is treasurer of the appeal in New South Wales.

A further honour was the request I received to make a broadcast over the United Nations network—as an Australian at the Conference.

I only hope St. Joan will be the inspiration and guiding light to us in Australia that she has been to the mother organisation.

International Notes

Cyprus.—In the new plan for the Constitution drawn up by the British Government and laid before the Consultative Assembly, adult suffrage for men is proposed but it is left to the Assembly to say whether the vote should be given to women too.

* * *

India.—The *Bulletin of the Indian Women's Movement* publishes a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi from "that great leader and poetess, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu." Here it is:

"We are his living symbols. We are his soldiers. We are the carriers of his banner before the embattled world. Our banner is truth, our shield is non-violence, our sword is the sword of the spirit that conquers without blood. . . . Shall we not give the world the complete message of Mahatma Gandhi. Though his voice will not speak again, have we not a million, million, voices to bear his message to the world? And not only in this world or our contemporaries but the world generation after generation?"

* * *

Hungary. When the Bill for nationalising the confessional schools in Hungary was introduced in the Budapest Parliament, in June—becoming law on June 16th—Mother Schlachta, the nun-deputy, was prominent among the Opposition. She roundly said that a commission of the United Nations ought to come to Hungary to discover whether freedom of opinion exists there. As a result she was expelled from the Parliament, the Committee of Privileges declaring that she had "offended against Hungarian democracy." During the singing of the national anthem which followed the announcement of the result of the voting, Mother Schlachta alone refused to rise to her feet.

It will be remembered that Mother Schlachta was the nun who founded an Order in Budapest with the aim of working politically. The Order divides its time between charitable work and political activities and its members earn their keep by domestic service and other work.

St. Joan's Alliance had the pleasure of a visit from Sister Schlachta in 1922 and delegates from the Alliance were hospitably received by her at Budapest during the Eucharistic Congress in 1938. Her sister Elizabeth, a member of her Congregation, was often present at our gatherings.

* * *

Switzerland. A Union of Catholic Women in Switzerland has been founded with the object of interesting its members in the political life of their country and to further their usefulness as Catholic citizens. It will organise study groups and courses of civic study and will encourage the formation of local groups. The first meeting of the Union took place in Zurich on the 26th June. It was an animated and interesting meeting. We welcome the foundation of this Union and wish them all success.

Notes and Comments

AUDIENCE WITH THE HOLY FATHER.

Four representatives of the International Alliance of Women had the honour of being received in special audience by the Holy Father during the meeting of the Board and International Committee of the Alliance in Rome. They were received on May 29th.

The delegation was composed of Dr. Rhyd (Sweden) President of the Alliance and a Protestant; Madame Malaterre Sellier (France) Vice-President and a Catholic; Madame Nabarouy (Egypt) a Mussulman; and Miss Florence Barry (Great Britain) Hon. Secretary of St. Joan's Alliance.

Madame Malaterre-Sellier introducing the delegation said that the Alliance worked for the civil and political rights of women and for the peace of the world.

Dr. Rhyd thanked the Holy Father for the great favour accorded the Alliance by receiving its delegates.

Madame Nabarouy spoke of the sad position in Palestine and she mentioned that Egypt had now a representative accredited to the Holy See—the Pope expressed His pleasure at this.

Miss Barry spoke of the work for the women in less developed countries and for the abolition of the State Regulation of Prostitution—she thanked the Holy Father for His noble allocution of September 1947 and presented the *Catholic Citizen* to Him asking for His Blessing on the paper which He willingly accorded.

With much graciousness the Pope spoke to each delegate of their country and in His blessing to the four representatives of the Alliance, He said He blessed all those delegates who were absent "just as though they were in the room."

Madame Malaterre at the close of the audience asked the Holy Father to encourage the work of the International Alliance of Women and the Pope responded with words of encouragement and then took leave of His visitors saying with a paternal smile—"Good-bye."

Miss Spender also had the privilege of seeing the Holy Father at a later audience.

* * *

The Trusteeship Council has had before it the Petition from St. Joan's Alliance regarding the paragraph entitled "Our African Sisters" in the August-September (1947) number of *The Catholic Citizen*. This concerned the custom of the Bekom tribe in the British Cameroons of allowing its King to claim "wives" from among young girls in the tribe, against their will and by force. Much discussion has taken place at the Council, which has been widely reported in the press. We hope to deal with the matter more fully when we have received the relevant documents.

At the recent Conference in Geneva, a member of St. Joan's picked up a press release in which it was said:

"The representative of St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance intervened to ask that the Covenant of Human Rights should take account of certain rights denied to women in many countries for example, 'the right to choose freely her life partner'—to divorce and to re-marry freely."

This was received by our colleagues in the Conference with much laughter and the Secretariat was also much amused that we should have been reported as being in favour of divorce, and immediately issued a corrigendum. The misunderstanding arose from the rather technical point put forward by the Alliance—the last of the five points quoted in our front page article—dealing with the freedom of widows, in certain countries, to re-marry if they so desired.

* * *

On June 26th, members of the Alliance were entertained at Hampstead to meet distinguished members from Overseas. Speeches were made by Mrs. Akerele, Mrs. DuVal, Miss Margaret Vaile, Miss Barry and Miss Spender, with Miss Challoner in the chair.

Mrs. Akerele from Nigeria told us something of the position of women in her country. She said that few of the women were educated but their anxiety for education was the reason why so many of them came to England to study. She asked that opportunity should be given to these students to see the real British way of life for which they had a great regard. "Give us," she said, "this chance to know you."

Mrs. DuVal and Miss Vaile told us of the very live Section of St. Joan's in Sydney and thanked Mary Tenison Woods for having discovered St. Joan's here and brought it to New South Wales. Miss Vaile said a word about the work and contacts at the Geneva Conference while Miss Barry and Miss Spender spoke of the work done at the Conferences in Geneva and Rome.

Miss Poolman, who had just arrived from Melbourne, gave us a pleasant surprise by coming to the Party. She brought greetings from Miss Flynn, the able secretary and founder of the twelve year old Victoria Section of St. Joan's.

The Bring and Buy Sale held in connection with this Party, brought in £25 for the funds.

* * *

The Petition to admit women to the House of Lords remains open and forms may be obtained from St. Joan's Alliance, 55, Berners Street, W.1. All those who have not signed the Petition are asked to do so now without delay.

* * *

We offer our sympathy to Mrs. McCann, chairman of our Mersey-side Branch on the death of her brother and ask members to pray for him. R.I.P.

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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"Catholic Citizen."

Equal Pay

On June 10th, yet another mass meeting was held at the Central Hall, Westminster on Equal Pay. Mrs. Cazalet Keir from the chair pointed out that while we have postponed our rally in deference to the Prime Minister's call to the nation not to risk inflation by wage demands, wages have, in fact increased by 100 million a year; so we renew our demand confident that men and women of courage will rally to a cause based on justice and reason.

Mr. Mallalieu M.P., said that though the old parrot cry of women's inferiority was now exploded, another takes its place, "We can't afford to give equal pay." The truth is, we can't afford not to give it. One of the greatest deterrents to effort is a sense of injustice.

Lady Megan Lloyd George, in her thrilling orator's voice, cried that women were no longer stand-ins for men. Woman power was needed as much today as during the war. She was sure the whole country would approve a generous gesture to the women at this moment. For wages were not frozen, only equal pay was shelved.

Mr. A. J. Cummings (*News Chronicle*) called on women to show their solidarity and strength. Women in the House of Commons have shown up the ignorance of men M.P.'s on women's subjects, and have demonstrated a greater sense of justice than men. During the war British women came into their own, showed their aptitudes and talents, and proved quicker at the uptake than men, yet still in some industries are not far removed from sweated labour. He suggested a questionnaire for each M.P. at the coming general election, and gave his opinion that the one problem to solve before we can attain a balanced society, was the relation between the sexes.

David Eccles M.P. spoke of his firm belief in the justice of equal pay, the rate for the job. During

the war patriotism was the reason given to women why they should not press for it, then expediency was the excuse; fear of inflation was the next red herring and now it is the export trade.

Mrs. White in a brave speech which must have recalled to many older listeners the fight for the vote, called for honesty in filling the pay packets. We British laid ourselves open to the charge of hypocrisy by boasting in the Atlantic Charter that sex discrimination was abolished, while we repudiate women's just claim for equal pay. Between June and January 217 wage increases were given to men, but this was done by the exploitation of women. Women must push their claim, first put forward many years ago and accepted by the labour government twenty-six years ago. She pleaded for more action. It was now a sellers' market for women, but to get justice we need deeds, not words.

A vote of thanks for reasoned and brilliant speeches was given and a resolution passed (see below) which was taken by the supporters of the meeting to the House of Commons to bring to the notice of their M.P.'s. The women were admitted to the lobbies in small numbers. Those outside chanted: "We want equal pay now."

"That this meeting proclaims the fact that although twelve months ago the Chancellor of the Exchequer refused to implement the principle of equal pay for equal work through fear of inflation, since that time wages and salaries have been increased by more than £100,000,000 a year.

"This meeting expresses its indignation at the continued injustice of discrimination in pay between men and women workers on the ground of sex alone and demands the immediate implementation of equal pay for equal work—the rate for the job—in all Government and public employment."

D. WHITTLES.

Meeting in Rome

The International Alliance of Women held meetings of its Board with Presidents of National Auxiliaries during the last week in May, Rome being the seat of the gathering. A more interesting and beautiful background could not be imagined. The weather was, on the whole, warm and fine but not too hot. Our hosts were the Italian Society—the Alleanza Femile Italiana and Dr. Hanna Rydh, President of the Alliance, presided at the meetings.

Miss Barry attended the Conference in her capacity as member of the Board while Miss Spender acted as proxy for Miss Challoner, Chairman of St. Joan's Alliance, one of the British auxiliaries. The meetings covered reports of the work done with the United Nations, reports from societies, and discussed further work to be done in the various countries, besides deciding the programme and meeting place of the next Congress to be held by the International Alliance of Women. Decisions regarding finance and the *International Women's News* were also taken. Representatives came from Australia, Belgium, Ceylon, Egypt, France, Great Britain, Greece, Holland, Italy, Sweden, and Switzerland.

The work of The Equal Moral Standard Committee of which Miss Barry was Chairman was of particular interest to our Italian colleagues who are working for the abolition of State Regulation of Prostitution in their country, under the able leadership of Signora Cajuni De Silvestri. A resolution on this subject, submitted by the Italian Society and supported by the International Alliance, was presented to Commendatore Marini by Dr. Rydh, Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Miss Barry, for the personal attention of On De Gasperi. This deputation was facilitated by Don Luigi Sturzo, a staunch friend and member of St. Joan's Alliance. Meantime other members of the Board, with Signora De Silvestri, were received by officials of the Minister of the Interior, and deputies of different parties were "lobbied." This campaign received a good press. A fuller account of the Conference will be found in the July number of the *International Women's News*, including articles by Miss Barry and Miss Spender.

On the lighter side the Meeting was of the greatest interest as many social events were arranged in connection with it. We were most grateful to the Italian Society, who showed us such kind hospitality all the time we were there. The meetings were held in their Committee rooms, and they did not forget to refresh us regularly with elevenses and tea. Twice we met officially with the members of the Italian Society at semi-public meetings, for discussion of feminist questions. Outside associations of Italian women rejoiced in entertaining us—there was the Women

Medallists Association who gave us a wonderful concert with singers from the Rome Opera House, at the Palazzo Barberini, and there were several parties given by kind hostesses, one at a restaurant in the Pincio Gardens and another at a delightful private "apartment," and also a surprise vermouth party. There seemed no limit to the hospitality of our Italian friends. The Rome Municipality gave a party in our honour at the Capitol, when we were shown round its wonderful treasures in comfort and were afterwards entertained to tea on the terrace overlooking the Forum. Then there was an expedition to the Tivoli and a Public Meeting on Peace held at the Palazzo Venetia. Many speeches were made at this meeting in French and Italian and from all nationalities, and afterwards there were refreshments and talk with some of the Italian women deputies. The British delegates were entertained at the British Embassy, through the kindness of the British Ambassador and his wife who showed them round their lovely garden.

Miss Barry and Miss Spender had the privilege of being shown round Parliament by Deputy Elsa Conci, Vice President of the Women's Section of the Christian Democratic Party.

A very great privilege accorded to the International Alliance of Women was the special audience with the Holy Father granted to four representative delegates. An account of this audience appears on p. 43 of this issue.

For the rest, we refer members to the special Conference number of the *International Women's News* which may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary of St. Joan's Alliance, price 6d.

CHRISTINE SPENDER.

Nationality of Married Women

On the Second Reading of the British Nationality Bill, Mrs. Ayrton Gould urged the Government to amend it "so that any adult who becomes a British subject can only do so on condition that he or she takes the oath of allegiance. With that, I think we shall have a long overdue and welcome change which will gladden the hearts of many people especially . . . women who have suffered grievously under the fact that they were unable to remain British subjects."

Mr. Symonds also made a plea that "alien women be put on exactly the same basis as alien men and be obliged to take the oath of allegiance when becoming British citizens." He gave a masterly survey of the fight for the nationality rights of married women.

Mr. Pickthorn, however, bravely said: "I am on the Blimp side of the controversy" and apparently Viscount Hinchinbrooke had a similar point of view.

May in Parliament

Another landmark on the long road to equality was reached on Monday, May 31st, 1948, when Mrs. Florence Paton, M.P. for Rushcliffe, Nottingham, presided as Chairman in the House of Commons. Mrs. Paton, acting as Deputy Chairman for Major Milner, was the first woman ever to fill this position.

The House, in Committee, was considering the Civil Estimates in regard to Civil Aviation in Scotland, when at 6.30 p.m. Mrs. Paton took the Chair. Speakers who took part in the debate joined in congratulating her, and Lieut-Col. Elliott summed up the general feeling when he said: "We have just had history made . . . and I desire to pay tribute to the capable and courteous way in which she conducted our affairs."

The month in Parliament saw the completion of the second reading of the Children Bill, a very great piece of social legislation. A further aspect of the care of young children was discussed on May 28th. There has been a constant agitation since the end of the War against the tendency on the part of local authorities to dispense with the war-time arrangements for day nurseries for the children of working mothers. The Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Bill has now been given its second reading. "It aims," said Mr. John Edwards, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, "to safeguard the health and welfare of young children and to give mothers who go out to work the peace of mind that comes from the knowledge that their children are being properly cared for while they are at work. We now have no alternative," he continued, "but to ask them to go back to industries producing goods vital to the success of our export drive."

The necessity for day nurseries at the present time has thus been conceded.

A very long-standing grievance that has been given welcome publicity in recent months is that of the wives who are awarded maintenance and separation allowances. It is a positive disgrace that a wife should have no guarantee whatsoever that an allowance, once granted, shall be regularly paid to her. Many people feel very strongly that some means should be sought to ensure the enforced payment of maintenance allowances, if possible through the P.A.Y.E. machinery. An unsatisfactory reply was received in a recent written answer by the Home Secretary to a question by Mr. Palmer, as to whether the Home Secretary would introduce legislation to increase the maximum sums payable as maintenance and separation allowances, and as to whether magistrates could be given power to order the deduction of sums granted under maintenance orders from wages or salaries of employees at their place of work. The Home Secretary stated in reply that any such proposal would be "extremely controversial".

By the way, it would be interesting to have a definite ruling as to whether the sum of money involved in the granting of equal pay is really to be considered too large or too small to matter. In the debate on the Finance Bill, second reading, when discussing the capital levy, Mr. Glenvil Hall said that the sum to accrue from this tax this year was "only £50 million. It cannot surely be seriously argued," he went on, "that this comparatively small sum can have such overwhelming effects."

It makes one think!

J. F. COOPER.

June in Parliament

The House has been working very late during June, all night sessions have been almost common, and once they rose as late as 9 a.m. The diligent if exhausted members were mainly discussing Finance, Gas and the Representation of the People Bill.

It was pleasing to see a question asked, by Mr. Evans on June 10th, to ensure that men as well as women should be eligible for appointment as *Children's Officers*. Mr. Ede assured Mr. Evans that appointments would be made strictly on experience and suitability. Will the same be true of salary?

In this connection a very sinister point was raised by Mr. Hollis on June 10th. He asked the Minister of Health "why, in view of the fact that there has never been any discrimination in salary between male and female hospital administrative officers, senior female administrative officers are, under the new health scheme, to receive only two-thirds of the salaries of males." Mr. Bevan merely replied: "This is under consideration by the appropriate Whitley Council and I will send the hon. Member a copy of the decision when it is made." Mr. Hollis pressed him further: "Will the council and the right hon. Gentleman bear in mind, quite apart from the general merit about equal pay or the general difficulties of it, that a differentiation of as much as 66⅔ per cent. is surely something almost unknown. The Civil Service differentiation is only about 80 per cent." Mr. Bevan could say nothing ahead of the recommendations of the Council.

In view of the fact that all doctors within the new scheme can now also be considered to be in state employment there is obviously a grave risk of established successes being attacked by this roundabout means.

Incidentally, does this mean that Mr. Hollis, one of the more active Catholic members, is now abandoning the contention that woman's place is in the home? It would be a most welcome "conversion."

The straightforward question on *Equal Pay* was asked, again, on the 17th by Mr. Gallacher—

Reviews

Visitation—*The Film of the Medical Missionaries of Mary* Distributed by the Catholic Film Society.

This film, produced by Andrew Buchanan, should be seen by all those who are lucky enough to have it thrown on a screen in their Parish. It shows the development of the Medical Missionaries of Mary (Ireland) from the time their foundress, Mother Mary Martin, first conceived the idea of such a company, sixteen years ago, till the present day. The Instruction by the Sacred Congregation de Propaganda Fide, allowing Religious complete freedom in medical and surgical work, took away all obstacles to the development of the Congregation, which aims at giving the Sisters the best and most modern scientific professional training for their work as Doctors. The film shows their work in Nigeria for lepers, in maternity and child welfare, as well as among the innumerable sick. There are scenes at the Mother House in Drogheda which is part of the magnificent hospital of Our Lady of Lourdes started by Mother Mary, and the film thus alternates between Ireland and Nigeria. It is most beautiful, pleasing both to eye and ear, and one's attention never flags from beginning to end. C.S.

Vita E Pensiero, Rome. (February, March, April, 1948).

An interesting and comprehensive Review of social, cultural and political topics of the day from the Christian Democratic stand-point. An article on the Value of the *Mother's and Housewife's Domestic Work* in the February number should be of interest to readers of the *Catholic Citizen*. Although a lengthy and in many ways original survey of woman's work at home, of the prestige attached to it from antiquity and of its necessity seen in the most modern of homes, this article, unimpeachable in theory, does not offer any practical solution to the problem of the economic recognition of the value of the housewife's work. The human figure of the constructive, creative resourceful housemother, rather than the mechanical ideal of the universal provider, the "Dea ex Machina" with gadgets—this is well brought out,

(continued on next page)

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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

Leonora De Alberti in the "Catholic Citizen," July 15th, 1923.

Blessed Anna Maria Taigi holds the unique position of the only discovered married woman saint, that is to say whose sanctity was known and who died in the holy state of matrimony . . .

. . . A pretty girl, married at the age of twenty, fond of amusement and finery like most young girls, after a year of married life she gave up, with her husband's consent, both finery and amusement, and started on her journey in search of spiritual perfection. But she did not wander from home in search of it . . . she lived an ordinary life of a woman of her class. A life of domestic toil amidst the cares of rearing a large family—a devoted wife, and excellent mother. Ordinary and yet how extraordinary. For the poor working woman toiling with her hands, cooking the family meals, yet lived in close communion with God, and for forty-seven years had before her eyes the vision of a mysterious sun or disc, in which she could foresee future events, affecting the welfare of humanity.—*Blessed Anna Maria Taigi.*

as also the great need of *resourcefulness* in these days of shortages and substitutes. There is one article on English religious poetry and literature which mentions Francis Thompson, but *not* Alice Meynell!

E. M. PRISTER-CRUTTWELL.

The Mass My Life (The Young Christian Workers, Is.)

This pamphlet gives material for a series of enquiries on the Mass, so that the Young Christian Worker shall be stimulated to take a more active share in the Sacrifice of the Mass, and carry Christ's Kingdom into the factory, the business or the workshop.

P.C.C.

Myrtle Among Thorns by Marguerite Fedden (The Burleigh Press 7s. 6d.).

In another of her interesting novels Miss Fedden brings before us the story of Myrtle Bell whose life is nearly ruined because of a fall on rocks causing a lesion of the brain and consequent insanity. Fortunately Myrtle is rescued by an operation and restored to her husband and child and her violin. There is plenty of incident and sub-plot and the setting moves to many places including, Wales, Belgium and the Marquesas Islands. Miss Fedden manages to be remarkably informative about her backgrounds and I, for one, learned a great deal about Bloomsbury and Hampstead that I had never known before. There are some good bits of characterisation among the minor characters and the principals stand out well.

C.S.

Public Speaking—The Modern Way by John Radcliffe (The Falcon Press 7s. 6d.).

In a series of nine lectures on tested technique (incidentally models of what such lectures should be) Mr. Radcliffe gives some sound advice on speaking. The reader who has in any way tried to be a speaker will realise at once how very good the "tips" in these lectures are and will long to try some of them out in his or her next speech. For the controversialist or debater the book will be a veritable goldmine and the chapters on How to be Clear—Convincing—Interesting and How to Speak Without Notes could not be bettered. There is a certain astringent cynicism about the book—and how one wishes some earnest but *boring* speakers would read it! I challenge anyone not to be a better speaker from having absorbed these lectures.

C.S.

A Directory of Catholic Schools and Colleges, 1948 (Paternoster Publications' 2s.).

Attractive Nylon Parachute Material, full length panels, white or primrose. 2 panels 20s., postage 9d. **Egyptian Cotton Material, long panels, no cross seams, white, sky, green, gold, rose or orange, 25s. parcel, postage 9d.** **New American Cloth, for tables, blue or green tile pattern, width 37 ins. 10s. 3d. per yard, postage 1s.—CELIC, LTD. (Dept. 848) Mail Order Stores, Bedford.**

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

NON-PARTY

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Patron: Saint Joan of Arc. Colours: Blue, White & Gold.
Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 4d. 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.

MEMBERSHIP

All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of 10s. 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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