Catholic Citizen

Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society), 55 Berners Street, London, W. 1.

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15th DECEMBER, 1926.

Price Twopence.

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,

-Francis I nompson.

The League's Seventh Assembly.

By LESLIE R. ALDOUS.

The Seventh Assembly of the League of Nations, there can be little doubt, marked a definite turn in the tide of the fortunes of the League. Up to September, the year 1926 had undoubtedly been a critical one for the League. The extraordinary Assembly in March, called for the express purpose of admitting Germany to the League, had proved a fiasco, for the simple reason that the League's Machinery was prevented from working by the bickerings of a number of States. The Seventh Assembly, nevertheless, amply atoned for all the doubts and hesitations of the past few months, even if in doing so it has temporarily lost the co-operation of Spain and Brazil.

Right up to the last minute, one met people at Geneva who prophesied that some hitch would occur, as during March. But, as events proved, there was to be no mistake this time. On the first Wednesday of the Assembly, the usual routine work was postponed, to give place to item 11 on the Agenda: "The Request of the German Government for Admission to the League of Nations." Amid a tense silence, the dramatic roll-call vote of the Member-States was taken. As soon as it was realised that Germany had unanimously been elected a Member of the League, delegates, press and public alike burst spontaneously into wild

and enthusiastic applause.

When the German delegates took their seats on the following Friday, unprecedented crowds thronged both the floor of the Salle de la Reformation and the galleries. In his capacity as President of the Assembly, it fell to the Foreign Minister of Jugo-Slavia —the Serbia on whose territory the Great War commenced in 1914-to welcome the new member. He then called upon Dr. Stresemann, the leader of the German delegation, to address the Assembly. The speech which followed, read in German and interpreted into French and English, created a very favourable impression. But the most inspiring feature of the session was yet to By a happy gesture, M. Briand, Foreign Minister of France, had been invited by the Bureau of the Assembly to reply to the German Foreign Minister. He held the Assembly spellbound by a wonderful feast of oratory, probably the finest that has ever been heard at Geneva. Moreover, it was a speech which breathed the very spirit of the League of Nations. Anything which followed would have been an anti-climax, so the Assembly wisely adjourned.

The re-organisation of the League Council, which came up for discussion the following week, was a step the importance of which can at present hardly be estimated. Viscount

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should consist of five permanent members and nine non-permanent and semi-permanent members, as against the four permanent and six non-permanent members of the old Council. The Great Powers-Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Japanhold the permanent seats. In the elections view. for the remaining members, Poland, Chile and Roumania were appointed for a period of three years; Colombia, Holland and China for two years; and Salvador, Belgium and Czecho-Slovakia for one year. On a further vote, Poland was declared eligible to stand for further election at the end of her term of office. It is important to remember, how- achievement of great moment." Twenty ever, that at any time the Assembly, by a States, including Great Britain and Germany two-thirds majority vote, can declare the Council dissolved and proceed to a new election.

against the new Council. It is admittedly an experiment, and Time alone can show efficiency than its predecessors.

to deal respectively with legal, technical, satisfactory that has yet been held. disarmament, financial, social and political problems. It was encouraging to notice how well the German members slipped into the work of these Commissions. Their assistance is bound to prove of enormous value to the League in the future. Not unnaturally, the stirring events of the first week tended to unbalance the routine work, and the activities of the Commissions. The inevitable result was that an enormous amount of work had to be crowded into a short space of time towards the close of the Assembly. Viscount Cecil, Dr. Nansen, and other prominent delegates publicly deplored the tendency to "scramble through" some of the items on the agenda. However, in more normal circumstances, their timely words of warning will doubtless be heeded.

In an article of this description, it is unnecessary to deal in detail with all the reports on the various activities of the League which came before the Assembly. Suffice it to say that these indicated clearly that almost all sections of the League's machinery seem to be functioning very

To the minds of some Governments, indeed, it would be true to say that certain of the League's organs would appear to be

Cecil's scheme proposed that the Council working too efficiently. Perhaps this was the reason which led Sir Austen Chamberlain to apply the adjective "inquisitorial" to a questionnaire of the Mandates Commission. Judging from a resolution passed commending the work of the Commission, the majority of the Assembly did not entirely share this

One of the most important acts of the Assembly was left until the final day. The Slavery Convention, brought forward a year ago by Viscount Cecil, was then adopted with some enthusiasm by the Member-States. Sir William Vincent, speaking on behalf of India, described it as "a tangible and effective -an unusually large number-signed the Convention without delay.

The closing speech of M. Nintchitch, the There is much to be said both for and President, reflected the general spirit of optimism in regard to the future of the League. "If the League is not yet international," he whether it will work with greater or lesser declared, "events have shown it can and will be." All things considered, the Seventh As usual, six Commissions were appointed Assembly must be ranked as one of the most

Women in Spain and Spanish America.

Aeción Católica de la Mujer (Madrid). notes certain clauses of the new Spanish Labour Code, promulgated by royal decree on the 23rd of August, which grant to women a limited right to dispose of their own earnings. Article 14 is as follows: "Payment made to a married woman in remuneration for her work shall be valid, if her husband does not lodge an objection. In order that the husband's objection may be effective he must formulate it before the competent municipal magistrate, who shall, after he has heard the woman and examined the evidence, either authorise her, or not authorise her, to receive her wages herself. in order to spend them on supplying the needs of the home. If the husband and wife be separated, legally or in fact, the husband may not lodge an objection against his wife's receiving payment for her own

This article is completed by a clause of Article 452, which empowers a married woman to plead before a magistrate, if she

(Continued on page 91.)

Notes and Comments.

We regret that Lord Balfour of Burleigh's amendment to exclude women from the clause in the Lead Paint Bill (which prohibits the employment of women and young persons in painting any part of a building with lead paint), was defeated by thirty-five votes to seventeen. Luckily, Lord Bertie succeeded in getting women already employed in the industry excluded from the "protecting" clause, and has thus saved a number of women from being thrown out of work. We speak of this question in another column.

* * * *

Women who set their hopes in the Imperial Conference for the settlement of the question of a woman's right to retain her nationality on marriage, if she desires to do so, are feeling very indignant. The Committee on Nationality, presided over by the Home Secretary, appears not to have mentioned the subject, though it came within their terms of reference. Meanwhile there is a Draft Convention on Nationality issued by a Sub-Committee of the Law Committee of the League of Nations, now being considered by the States Members of the League. While the wishes of organised women are flouted, the Conventions of the League are an added danger to women who are fighting for equality.

A very interesting conference on the Public Places Order Bill was held on Nov. 30 at 4 St. James' Square, by kind permission of Lady Astor. This Bill, introduced in the House of Commons last year by Lady Astor. was recently introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Balfour of Burleigh. The idea was to call attention to the need of an Enquiry into the matter, which we trust will be a Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament. The Bill passed its second reading, and the Home Office promises an Enquiry.

At our request, Mr. Harney asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the fact that there is now only one register of electors published annually, the Government is prepared to pass into Law before the end of the qualifying period, June 1, a simple franchise measure giving votes to women at 21, and

on the same terms as men, to ensure that these names will be included in the 1927 register. The Prime Minister replied that the whole question is under the consideration of the Government.

Meanwhile the campaign goes on in various ways. We are glad that our "under thirties" are very active: some of our members have been lobbying on the question. We hope it is being brought home to Mr. Baldwin that women expect him to do his duty. * * * *

Great indignation is felt at the dismissal of Dr. Turnadge, Headmistress of the Twickenham County School for girls, while she was on leave of absence for the birth of her child. Dr. Turnadge was dismissed after eighteen years' service and within eighteen months of receiving pension rights. After her marriage in 1923 she was given permission to remain until July 1927. The N.U.S.E.C. is asking the Middlesex County Council Education Committee to receive a deputation.

We are glad to note that the Catholic Relief Bill has passed its Third Reading, in spite of some opposition.

(Continued from page 90.)

so desire, and if her husband authorise her. If he refuse to authorise her when she wishes to plead, the magistrate must summon both of them before him, and must settle the matter in dispute without further process.

Hitherto Spanish married women have had no rights at all over their own money. * * * *

It is announced from La Paz (Bolivia) that Señorita Amelia Chopitea has graduated as Doctor of Medicine and Surgery at Sucre, in Bolivia, being the first Bolivian woman to obtain this degree. The government has granted her a bursary in order that she may continue her studies in Europe. * * * *

La Nacion (Buenos Aires) announces that the law granting civil rights to the women of Argentina was promulgated on September 22. The first case under this law was tried on Michaelmas Day, and the verdict was favourable to the woman litigant.

H.D.I

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

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

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Protection for all Workers or Special Legislation for Women.

it is desirable to make special regulations more prevalent among men than among to protect women industrial workers, has women. Dr. Walker's advice to woman is: become acute in the last few months. The Stand upon thy feet. Dr. Murrell was reason lies in the two Bills now before equally emphatic in opposing special restric-Parliament—the Factories Bill and the Lead tions on women's work; she could see no Paint (Protection against Poisoning Bill) both of which discriminate against women under the guise of protecting them. On Nov. 26 the National Union of Societies of Equal Citizenship convened a conference of women societies to discuss these Bills, and the general question of special restrictive Legislation for women in industry. By the first resolution presented to the Conference it was made quite clear-and it cannot be too often repeated—that women who able to women only, are as keen as any other social reformers for good conditions and good pay for all workers; and the resolution re-affirmed the principle that labour regulations and restrictions should be based upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker.

It was moved and seconded by Dr. Jane Walker and Dr. Christine Murrell. Dr. Walker turned the table on the protectionists who would shelter women, by showing that an excellent case could be made for protecting men. Speaking generally, women have greater endurance, greater vitality, and

The controversy on the question whether enjoy greater longevity. Tuberculosis is reason for it, unless it was to remove a competitor. Nurses had proved that night work was not prejudicial to women's health. It must be remembered that the majority of industrial women workers are still unenfranchised, and thus lack the protection of a vote.

In the debate in the House of Lords on the Lead Paint Bill, Lord Dawson, too. declared that women were showing considerable aptitude for working out their own destiny, and should be allowed freedom to oppose so-called protective measures applic- engage in painting work. They were quite capable of taking care of themselves.

That is the crux of the matter. Special regulation "for women and young persons" lowers the status of women as workers and does result in their being treated as nonadults. Another probable result is the postponement of better conditions for male workers.

Lord Dawson stated that in his opinion it is very doubtful whether there is a case from the medical point of view for excluding women from the painting trade. He pointed out that lead poisoning in the husband produces abortion as well as lead

poisoning in the wife. He declared that if A NINETEENTH CENTURY TEACHER the regulations under Clause 1 are adequate and dust is prevented, and that if the regulations are good, and he believes they are, then both men and women will be protected, and if not, miscarriages will not be prevented by excluding women, for the father will transmit the poison. The chief aim, then, should be to make the industry safe for all workers.

The fact that feminists, in claiming equality for men and women in industry, are anxious for better conditions for all workers, was again emphasised in the resolution dealing with the Factories Bill, moved by Mrs. Abbot and seconded by Miss Cicely Hamilton. Right through Clause 2 of this Bill women are coupled with young persons and prohibited from doing a variety of things. It is surely clear that while special restrictions exist, it is impossible for women to claim equality of status and pay, and while woman is considered a child, needing protection—other than the protection all workers should have—she is not likely to be given a fair field and equal opportunities, but must necessarily remain something of an intruder in the factory or workshop, and at times

The Conference also discussed the International Labour Office and Conferences in connection with women's work. While a craze for restrictive legislation for women is abroad, the I.L.O. constitutes a real danger, especially as there exists an obvious reluctance to send women as delegates to the Conferences, but the consideration of this wide subject must be postponed to another

The resolutions put to the Conference were carried by large majorities, but there was a small but insistent minority representing workers who still think special legislation for women necessary. We were glad to hear their point of view, though we disagree with it.

L. DE ALBERTI.

We call the attention of our readers to the dance being organised by Miss O'Connor in aid of our funds. Tickets 2/6, may be had from the Office, 55 Berners Street, W.I. Remember January 5th, 8-11-45.

-JOHN HENRY BRIDGES. By Susan Liveing. With a Preface by Prof. L. T. Hobhouse and an Introduction by Prof. P. Geddes. 10s. 6d. net. (Kegan Paul.)

The authoress of this singularly interesting biography is herself a Catholic, but also the niece of Dr. Bridges, one of that brilliant group of young Oxford men-of whom perhaps Frederic Harrison was the most widely known-who in mid-Victorian days set themselves the task of expounding the Positive Philosophy of Auguste Comte to the English public. For many reasons they had little success on the religious side of their propaganda, but on the social and ethical side their teaching had a very wide-felt influence on English public life. This was due not only to the intellectual and literary gifts of the Positivist leaders-Congreve, Harrison, Bridges, Beesley and others-but to their high moral character and to the disinterested zeal with which they advocated their often unpopular views concerning war, foreign policy, modern industrialism and so forth, and of the whole group Dr. Bridges was in some ways the most attractive by his wide humanitarianism and his great personal charm. For twenty-two years, as medical inspector to the L.G.B., he fought the hard battle of Poor Law reform, so that he united a practical knowledge of human nature with a scholarly understanding of the world of books. He so far relented from the acute anti-feminism of the Positive creed that he actively favoured women standing as Poor Law Guardians, though he drew the line at County Councils. The book has some interesting references to Catholic matters: "A long afternoon with Cardinal Manning, who came to talk over the plans of his schools. His extreme patience and attention to the most humble details is very striking." And there is a very gratifying testimony to the superior excellence of our Catholic Convent Schools, of which Dr. Bridges says that the most casual visitor must needs be struck with the difference in refinement and in moral control which marks them from the children who remain in the State orphanages. Mrs. Liveing's own detachment from Positivism is made abundantly clear, yet with unusual tact and understanding she has portrayed all that was best in the movement to which her distinguished uncle devoted much of his career.

International Notes.

Jus Suffragii reports that New Zealand has at length passed legislation allowing women to be Justices of the Peace; they are, however, still debarred from sitting on juries.

Mrs. N. E. Cousins contributes to *Stri-Dharma* a striking article on the amazing diversities in the position of Indian women in the present time of transition, testifying, too, to the splendid and rapid progress they are making in the face of overwhelming difficulties and pointing out that the next two mass movements will be for the raising of the age of consent to sixteen and the holding of an All India Women's Conference on education in the near future.

Equal Rights publishes an article by Mme. Heidary, the first woman member of the Persian Government, and now on a visit to the United States. Mme. Heidary explains that the woman movement in Persia only dates from this century, and has wisely concentrated its influence on the demand for education for girls which formerly was wholly non-existent. To-day considerable educational progress has been made, and there appear to be two main feminist societies-one with an educational and one with an industrial aim. The latter has started various workshops where women only are employed in silk, wool and cotton weaving. Easy divorce exists in Persia, but on conditions wholly favourable to the husband.

The National Council of Catholic Women in the United States, to which thirty-five dioceses are affiliated, held its annual Convention in October at Milwaukee with great success. One of the most important meetings put very forcibly the objections which American Catholic women seem to feel very widely to the Equal Rights Amendment of the National Women's Party. They not only protest against it for academic reasons, but because they fear it will wipe out industrial legislation now on the statute book giving protection to the woman factory worker, protection which, in their opinion, is much needed.

The Luxemburger Frau publishes a letter from a lady in Mexico to the International Women's Catholic League, giving pathetic details of the sufferings endured by Catholics in that country, and their sense of desolation with the Blessed Sacrament removed from all their churches.

Dr. Luise Jorissen contributes an enthusiastic account of the Bierville Peace Congress to *Die Christliche Frau*, an article which shows clearly—what we knew from other sources—how much stronger the movement for international peace is among German than among English Catholics.

To the Occasional Paper of the Suffrage women of South Africa, Miss Fedden contributes some vivid "Impressions of an Overseas Visitor." Information, both public and private, that has reached us, goes to show how helpful her African tour has been to the Suffrage movement there.

* * * *

Meanwhile one of our South African members, Miss Dorman, has also been very active. As deputy for Mrs. Fitzsimons she attended a meeting of the Executive of the Suffrage Union at Bloemfontein and spoke at a big public meeting at the Town Hall. She then visited Cradock and spoke for, the Women's Civic Association, and on her return journey she founded a new branch of the Women's Enfranchisement League at Golden Valley, the new English settlers' place. One gains some idea of distances in S. Africa from the fact that out of seven nights that Miss Dorman was away on this little tour, three had to be spent in the train.

V. M. C.

CHRISTMAS and JUMBLE SALES.

Both these Sales proved most successful: the Christmas Sale realising £18 0s. 3d., and the Jumble Sale £10 19s. It is a pleasure to announce that by these efforts the debt on the Alliance has been wiped out and we hope to be able to balance the accounts at the end of the year. It was also gratifying to remark an increased interest shown among members; there were more gifts, helpers and buyers, than usual. Our warm thanks are due to the tireless band of helpers, to those who sent money, and to the following for their gifts:

The Misses Barry, Butler-Bowdon, Carroll, Dr. Norah Cassidy, Miss Coignon, Mrs. Crawford, Misses Demery, Douglas Irvine, Fraser Duff, Fedden, E. and K. FitzGerald, Gorry, Mrs. Groves, Misses Hargrove, Hayes, Hill de Héring, Hynes, Jeffery, Mrs. Keogh, Mrs. Liveing, Misses Meredith, Merrifield, Meyer, Misses M. and K. Moclair, Dr. Margaret Morice, Misses O'Farrell, Radclyffe, Mrs. Roper, Miss Ryan, Mrs. Saint George, Mrs. Shorto, Miss Slachta, Mrs. Smiley, Misses Stack, Stafford, Francis Tucker & Co., Ltd., Misses Wahid, Walker and Wall.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH. Hon. Secretary: Miss N. S. Parnell, B.A., 45 Falkner Street, Liverpool.

The Committee wish to thank all who contributed articles for the recent Jumble Sale. The full amount realised by it cannot yet be announced, as articles that were left over are still being sold privately.

still being sold privately.

We cannot help expressing our regret that so few were present to hear the Right Rev. Mgr. George on November 15, as we were indebted to him for an unusually interesting address and for the sympathetic hearing he gave to the discussion that followed.

We note with satisfaction that one of our members, and an ex-Treasurer of the Branch, Mrs. L. Hughes, has been appointed a Justice of the Peace.

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de Zaro, Madame			14	C
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		-	73.00	
	£	11	3	6

* Christmas Sale.

IMPORTANT.

There is still a debt of £30 upon the Catholic Citizen, and to help towards clearing away this heavy burden there will be a Sale of Christmas Presents in the Office on Thursday and Friday, December 16 and 17, from 3 to 6-30 p.m. There are still many useful and pretty things to buy, and tea will be provided at 6d. per head. Many members should welcome this opportunity of shopping in comfort with the added enjoyment of tea and a chat with other members.

G. JEFFERY.

A Meeting promoted by the Joint Standing Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations was held on November 27th at Kingsway Hall. It' was a party meeting, and although representatives of some non-party women's organizations were admitted to it, including St. Joan's Alliance, no amendments were allowed to a resolution calling upon the Government to amend the Factories Bill in such wise as to impose further restrictions on women's work. We regret that this meeting was not a conference in the real sense of the word

Equal Franchise.

A successful meeting, under the auspices of St. Joan's S.P.A., was held in Marylebone on December 7th, to demand that a Government measure be introduced giving women the suffrage on the same terms as to men. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford, made it clear that St. Joan's does not stand for changing the age to 25. Excellent speeches in favour of the resolution, which was passed unanimously, were made by Miss Griffin, replacing Mrs. Anthony of the Young Suffragists, Miss Adeline Bourne, Actresses' Franchise League, Dr. Octaira Lewin, Women's Freedom League, Miss Nancy Lightman, National Union of Women Teachers, and Miss Helen Ward, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

Apologies for absence were received from his Worship the Mayor; Sir Douglas Hogg; Alderman F. W. Dean; Councillors: Rev. Michael Alder, Mrs. Henriques, Mrs. Liddle Simpson, Mrs. West Russell; Mr. David Ross; Miss Tuke; Lady Barrett, Dame Mary Scharlieb and Dame Madge Kendal.

Sir Douglas Hogg has consented to receive a deputation.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

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