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 JUNE, 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.

The Paris Congress.

BY LEONORA DE ALBERTI.

The great Paris Congress has come, and gone, leaving behind a lasting memory. Each Congress brings the feminist societies from all over the world closer to a unity which is destined to have a far-reaching effect on the policy of nations. Three years ago, for instance, at the Rome Congress a Commission was established to consider the question of Family Endowments; at Paris the principle was endorsed by a large majority. For ourselves, we abstained from voting, since our members have given no mandate. The Congress rejected by a large majority the suggestion that the Commission should study the question of the desirability of all wives, as distinct from all mothers, receiving an allowance. As Miss Macmillan pointed out, the suggestion is contrary to the feminist demand for equality. Congress agreed. Again, at Rome, points on the feminist programme of an Equal Moral Standard, such as free and confidential treatment of venereal disease, met with fierce discussion, and was finally referred back; at Paris all the resolutions of the Committee were passed almost without discussion. Societies of women have learnt that special laws on this point, means special laws directed against women. On the question of like conditions of work for men and women, a sharp division of opinion occurred between delegations, women of some countries still believe that special regulations

are needed to protect women; others, like ourselves, have learnt that special regulation for women's labour, prevent women from taking their proper place in industry. Finally, after a long discussion, the protectionists won by a small majority. That is to say, that the question stands where it did in Rome—that no regulations should be imposed, without consultation with, and the consent of, the workers themselves.

On the question of the protection of the unmarried mother, and her child, the Congress was united in desiring that every possible chance should be given to the illegitimate child to develop, and that the father should share equal responsibility with the mother; but again a sharp division occurred on the wording of the resolution on the point. All seemed willing to accept the words, "to give maintenance to the child according to the father's capacity to pay"; it was the words, "and the education he could afford for a legitimate child," that caused the trouble. Some people took the words to mean same social position, which, however, was not intended.

When one considers that women of all nations, creeds, races and classes, were represented, the unity achieved is indeed remarkable.

New countries and new societies were admitted at Paris: Cuba, Bermuda, Porto Rico, Luxembourg (Society of Catholic Women), Portugal, and Turkey.

The Women's Freedom League, we are glad to say, has now gained admission to the I.W.S.A.; second societies from Holland, Roumania, Jugo-Slavia, and France, have affiliated. The National Women's Party of America, we regret to say, did not gain

In the limits of a short article one cannot mention all the subjects discussed at the Congress; our readers know the programme of equality which the I.W.S.A. presents to its auxiliaries.

There were a number of Catholic delegates from many countries, of whom we speak in another column.

Sunday afternoon, June 6, was devoted to the League of Nations, when Mlle. Gourd presented her report on the I.W.S.A's. relations with the League. Princess Radziwill was the official delegate for the League, Miss Mundt, the delegate of the International Labour Office.

A number of successful public meetings were held in connection with the Congress. At the opening meeting the great Amphitheatre of the Sorbonne was packed. Presidents of delegations from forty countries sat on the platform. The Minister de l'Instruction Publique, M. Lamoureux, welcomed the Congress in the name of the French Government. French women, he said, unfortunately, were not yet enfranchised: he believed that enfranchisement was nearer than they expected. The Congress would be a new victory for the feminist cause. M. Bellan, President of Council Général de la Seine, followed, announcing that he was a feminist of 30 years' standing. He felt sure that it would be impossible to leave women for much longer outside the Municipal and Cantonal Councils, which deal so closely with the home and children. Mme. Brunschving followed with an able speech and a cordial welcome to the Congress. When our President, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, rose to speak, the whole audience rose and applauded enthusiastically. We were proud of our British President, who has certainly won the hearts of her followers.

On the following evening, when women Treasurer. of all countries addressed the Congress, it fell to the President of St. Joan's Alliance, Mrs. Crawford, to speak for Great Britain, in their respective countries. It rests with

Crawford spoke, in French, of our absurd Franchise law, and ended with a few words about our own Alliance, a society of Catholic women of Great Britain, anxious that Catholics in all countries should take their part in the 'great International Feminist Movement represented in the I.W.S.A.

Then there was the meeting against the Code Napoléon, when women lawyers from many lands, under the chairmanship of Mme. Grinberg, of the Paris Bar, figuratively tore the abominable code to pieces.

Then there was the meeting at which distinguished men from enfranchised countries paid tribute to the good results of woman suffrage; followed the next evening by women M.P's. from various countries.

Lastly, the Congress closed its public meetings by a massed meeting at the Trocadero to demonstrate the enthusiasm of women of all nations in the cause of peace.

The Municipality of Paris welcomed the Congress at the Hotel de Ville, at a delightful reception, when the President, M. Guillaumun, assured the audience that the Municipality of Paris was in sympathy with the aims of the Congress, and warmly supported the feminist demand for freedom.

The Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes has earned the gratitude of us all, and may well be proud of the success of the Congress.

There can be no doubt that the Congress made a profound impression on the public of Paris, and we hope it has brought the enfranchisement of French women appreciably closer.

Changes in the Alliance.

In view of the large number of enfranchised countries now affiliated to the Alliance, the name has been changed to the International Woman Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship; and the Board has been increased from eleven to twenty-one. Seventeen countries are represented on the Board. Mrs. Corbett Ashby has been re-elected President, Miss Frances Sterling continues as

Germany, Greece and Roumania, gave invitations for the next Congress to be held in the absence of Miss Rathbone. Mrs. the Board to decide the next meeting place.

Notes and Comments.

We deeply regret the passing of our Hon. Press Secretary, Miss Isabel Willis, of which we speak in another column. At our request Mass was offered at St. Leonard's, where she lived, for the repose of her soul; and on June 13, at 10-30, at St. Patrick's, Soho, at which the Committee and many members of the Alliance were present.-R.I.P.

Miss Douglas Irvine has kindly consented to undertake the duties of Hon. Press Sec. * * * *

The Peacemakers' Pilgrimage from all parts of the country will converge on London on Saturday, June 19. St. Joan's S.P.A. has undertaken to marshal the contingent forming up at Hamilton Terrace, St. John's Wood, and marching to Hyde Park. All members interested in the peace movement should form up behind our banner at 2 p.m. * * * *

On June 15, St. Joan's S.P.A. is giving a Dinner at the Rendez-Vous, to welcome Mrs. V. M. Crawford, our delegate to the Paris Congress, and to hear her report of the Congress. Tickets, 5s. 6d., from the Office, 55 Berners Street.

Lord Astor's Bill to enable Peeresses in their own right to sit and vote in the House of Lords, comes up for its Second Reading on June 22. Last year it was defeated by two votes only. All the feminist societies are strongly in favour of the Bill, and the Women Unionists at their Annual Conference passed a resolution in favour of this reform by an overwhelming majority. The resolution stated that the question should be considered on its merits and not merely in connection with the reform of the Second Chamber. This should help matters very as a young woman: she was a staunch considerably.

All members of St. Joan's Alliance and all Catholic women are reminded that the Alliance is counting on them to make an important feature of the Procession which near Charing Cross, at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Square, Pall Mall, and St. James's to Hyde Park, where the demand for equal political rights for men and women will be made her gallant soul.-R.I.P.

from fourteen platforms. On one of these, St. Joan's own platform, which will be the goal of our contingent, the speakers will be Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, B.A., first Chairman of the Alliance; Rev. A. Day, S.J.; Miss Monica Whately; Mr. Joseph Clayton; two of our "Under Thirties," Miss Monica O'Connor and Miss Stewart Parnell, B.A., and the Hon. Mrs. Walter Roch. It is expected that at least five hundred will form up under the blue, white and gold banners. All Catholic women are invited to take their places among them. Do not fail.

Our member, Miss Monica Whately, has been adopted as Labour candidate for Hythe. We wish her success in her campaign.

Death of Miss Isabel Willis.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance has suffered a severe loss by the death of Miss Willis. For the last ten years Miss Willis has filled the post of Hon. Press Secretary with great ability. We have always felt proud of the able manner in which Miss Willis defended and explained the principles for which we stand, both in the Catholic and Secular press. She passed away peacefully on May 9, at the age of 82. As late as April 30 a letter of hers appeared in the Catholic Times on the question of an Equal Moral Standard. Sanity and lucidity were the outstanding characteristics of her writing. She carried her years so gallantly, her mind was so alert, that it came as a surprise to many to hear that she was an octagenarian.

Miss Willis was received into the Church Catholic and a whole-hearted feminist. She was a member of the National Union of Societies for Woman Suffrage, the old W.S.P.U., Women's Freedom League, and of our own Society from its foundation. The ideals of the League of Nations will be marshalled on the Embankment, appealed to her, and she was an active member of the League of Nations Union. July 3, and will march by way of Trafalgar She died in harness as she would have wished, after a few hours' illness, and our cause is the poorer by her loss. God rest L. de A.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

55 Berners Street, London, W.I. Tel. Museum 4181.

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

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The Great Procession.

MISS WALL.

To the older women who walked in the Suffrage processions in pre-war days, the news that there is to be a monster Equal Franchise march this summer will come as a trumpet call.

We will recall vividly the enthusiasm, the gaiety, the endurance, the stern resolve of the processionists, the colour, beauty and symbolism of the banners, with their inspiriting legends, the music of the bands, the crowded pavements, the green of the trees, and the cloud flecked skies, and the cheers of sympathisers as we marched shoulder to shoulder from the Embankment to Hyde Park, or the Albert Hall, described by Mr. Zangwill as the Cathedral of our Cause.

Then there were the good-humoured remarks of the watching crowds and the wide-eyed gaze of those, awed and impressed, who viewed a Suffrage procession for the first time—people who expected a collection of short-haired, be-spectacled angular women, with stiff linen collars and tweed bloomers, and who found instead a happy joyous crowd of girls or beautifully dressed women.

The remarks made were most amusing, and no less were the replies.

"Go 'ome and wash the baby," produced:

"Being a respectable single woman, I have no baby to bath."

"Why don't yer git married," was responded to by: "Because I don't wish to be charged with bigamy."

"Go and darn the old man's socks," brought as answer: "Mended them last night, thanks."

These were interspersed with: "Go it gals"; "Bravo! go in and win"; "Bless their little 'earts," and all the *clichés* of a kindly Cockney gathering.

And from club windows and mansion gates, gazed the politicians and statesmen and a breath of prophecy touched them:

"They are waking, they are waking,
In the East and in the West,
They are throwing wide their windows
to the sun,
For they know the dawn is breaking,

And they quiver with unrest,
For they know their work is waiting to
be done."

Ah! those were the great, the brave days, when we processed to gain entrance to the constitution and to demand that we should no longer be outlaws and classed with infants, imbeciles, convicts and lunatics.

Eyes sparkled, hearts beat high, and feet stepped out, slowing at an inner curve of the serpentine formation and hastening at an outer one.

With shoulders back and four abreast, we marched to the Women's Marsellaise or Ethel Smythe's "March of the Women," or tripped it to the Scottish lassies drum and fife band.

And the vision of a fairer Britain was before our eyes, a Britain where a mother is the parent of her child, where women were citizens and law-makers, and the upset of a man-made, lop-sided world, for "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

And now is the chance for the girls of to-day to snatch the rapture we felt, to hear an echo from those spacious times, to flaunt proudly their badge and to carry the banner poles in the last lap of the fight. It is their turn to step out hopefully in this after-war and after-strike world, and to proclaim to all that "youth is knocking at the door" and will not be denied; to show they want to come into their own, to shoulder the responsibilities which educate, and to build Jerusalem in England's green and pleasant land.

Every member of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance who lives in London, or within reasonable distance, should join up on the Embankment at 2 o'clock, Saturday, July 3, to march behind St. Joan's banner. And every Catholic woman believing in Equal Franchise, whether a member or not, should line up in the cause of Justice to swell the procession ranks. There are a score and a half of societies supporting, including St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. It must not be said that Catholic women are apathetic and reactionary, and lacking in public spirit. We hope many Catholics will join up under St. Joan's banner. Those who are prevented from coming should not fail to send a donation to Miss Barry, 55 Berners Street, Oxford Street, W. 1, to pay the expenses of the procession and the cost of our new banner.

This is probably our last procession, and it must be the biggest and the best.

Rain or fine, be there and ensure its success. Make it a point of honour to turn up: we must be at least 500 strong.

M.F.

Catholic Delegates at the Congress.

On Tuesday evening, June 1, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance brought together the Catholic women present as delegates at the Tenth Congress of the International Suffrage Alliance. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, the President, most kindly allowed her salon in the Hotel Lutetia, to be used for this extraordinarily interesting gathering.

Thirty-four women were present, and they represented thirteen countries: England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Spain, Belgium, Austria, Germany, Jugo-Slavia, Ukraine, the United States, Peru, and Newfoundland. They included the Princess de Croy, that heroine of the Great War who was imprisoned for the help she gave to Edith Cavell; Princess Radziwill, of the Secretariat of the League of Nations; Madame Malaterre-Sellier, President of the Paris Suffrage Society and member of the Board of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance; Madame Cherix-Nisot, who is a doctor of canon law; and Miss Leonora de Alberti, Editor of *Ius Suffragii* and the *Catholic Citizen*.

Mrs. Crawford, Chairman of St. Joan's Alliance, presided, and informal speeches were made showing the relations between Catholicism and feminism in very widely scattered countries. There was peculiar interest in Madame Dufay's account of the birth and growth of feminism among Catholics in a provincial corner of France, where it had to overcome the deep distrust of a most traditionalist society. Señora Aurora Càceres told how she had formed a Women's Rights Society in Peru, the country in the world which is perhaps the most jealous guardian of the manners and customs of old Spain. It happened to her, during a visit to Rome, to hear a sermon in favour of feminism preached by a Franciscan. She persuaded him to lend her his manuscript and, with a friend, she sat up for a whole night translating it into Spanish. This sermon, together with the example of "Spanish grandmothers," by this time in possession of the municipal vote, and the obvious fact that Peruvian girls, attending the university, would not walk blindfold in the well hedged path trodden by their

(Continued on Page 51.)

Table of Woman Suffrage.

From The International Woman Suffrage News.

the world:

Australia.- Equal suffrage and eligibility for municipal bodies, State and Federal Parliaments.

Austria.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for municipal bodies and Parliament.

Belgium.-Equal municipal suffrage and eligibility for municipal councils. Eligibility for Parliament and provincial councils without suffrage, except for a limited class of war sufferers.

Canada.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies, both Federal and Provincial, except that women are not eligible as Federal senators, and that they have not suffrage or eligibility for the Province of Quebec.

Channel Islands.—Suffrage and eligibility. but unequal.

Czecho-Slovakia.- Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Denmark.-Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Esthonia.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Finland.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Germany.- Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Great Britain.—Equal municipal suffrage and eligibility. Parliamentary suffrage restricted to women over 30, as against men of 21, with other inequalities.

Greece.—Limited measure of municipal and communal suffrage, without eligibility, to come into force in two years' time.

Hungary.—Municipal and Parliamentary suffrage restricted to women over 30, as against men of 21, and with other for all elected bodies. inequalities. Eligibility for women on educational test.

Iceland.-Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

India.—In British India women have equal suffrage in the Provinces of Bombay, Madras, the United Provinces, Assam, and Bengal, but without eligibility. The Province of Burma had equal suffrage granted by a special constitution, with the right to grant eligibility by a resolution of the Legislature. In certain towns, such as Bombay and Madras, women have municipal suffrage and

The following is a brief resumé of the are eligible. In the native States suffrage present position of woman suffrage all over has been granted in Cochin, Travancore, Jahalwar, and Mysore.

Ireland.-Free State: equal suffrage and eligibility. Northern Ireland: unequal suffrage with eligibility as in Great Britain.

Jamaica.-Equal suffrage without eligi-

Kenya.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Lettonia.- Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Lithuania.- Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Luxembourg.-Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Netherlands.-Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Newfoundland.-Municipal and Political suffrage and eligibility at age of 25, as against 21 for men.

New Zealand .- Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Norway.-Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Palestine.-Women have equal suffrage and eligibility for the Jewish National Assembly, but they have no voting rights under the constitution.

Poland.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Rhodesia.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Russia.-Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

South Africa.- Equal municipal suffrage and eligibility.

Spain.-Limited measure of municipal suffrage and eligibility.

Sweden.—Equal suffrage and eligibility

Trinidad and Tonga.-Women have the vote at 30 years of age, as against men at 21, subject to a property qualification in both cases. Women are not eligible to sit in the Council.

United States.-Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Windward Islands (Granada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, etc.).-Women have the vote at 30 years of age, as against men at 21, subject to a property qualification in both cases. Women are not eligible to sit in

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

Hon. Sec. Miss N. S. Parnell, B.A., 45 Falkner Street,

Though there is no regular meeting to record this month the Branch has been very active in connection with the Peacemakers Pilgrimage. Mrs. Murphy and Miss Jervis served on the Banners Committee and also found time to make a handsome banner for the Branch out of a flag of St. Joan generously given to us by Head-quarters. As Miss Parnell was on the Executive of the organising committee she was able to report progress from time to time and was given valuable assistance in advertising the Pilgrimage among Catholics by members of the Committee who volunteered to distribute handbills outside various churches. On the day of the Liverpool Demonstration many of our members attended the special Pilgrimage Mass offered at Copperas Hill (thanks to Mrs. Parnell) and a strenuous afternoon was spent by some members of Committee in decorating the Exchange Flags for the Mass Meeting. Eventually fifteen of us marched proudly behind our banner and attended the pilgrims as far as Widnes in charabancs and two of us went as far as Warrington where we were given hospitality. We all found it a thrilling ex-

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

May 1st-31st, 1926.

		た	5.	u.	
Butterworth, Miss	 		5	6	
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Gordon, Mrs.	 	 I	0	0	
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Overton, Mrs,	 		2	6	
* Toner, Mrs.	 		3	0	
		Naci.		-	

* "Catholic Citizen."

TREASURER'S NOTE.

In order that the Alliance may have an assured income, however small, a Collectors' Circle has been formed, each collector guarranteeing to raise 25/- quarterly, either by Subscriptions from members or in any other way. Seven collectors have already volunteered, many more are urgently needed. The Scheme, from which we hope great things, is to start this month. I will gladly send particulars to any enquirer.

My apologies are due for an error in the Subscribers' list for April. The entry against Mrs. M. F. B. Neill's name should have been f.2.

I regret, also, that I overlooked the sale of tickets (£7 4s. 6d.) in giving my account of the financial result of the Equal Franchise Meeting on April 29th. The total receipts were therefore £13 10s. 6d, which reduces the deficit to about £3.

G. JEFFERY.

Catholic Delegates at the Congress (continued from p. 49). ancestresses, made her courageous enterprise possible. Very different was the story which Frau Rudel-Zeynek, a deputy in the Austrian Chamber and member of the Christian Socialist party had to tell. In her country the feminism of Catholic women is encouraged by their co-religionists, as a counterweight to the forces opposed to Christianity. Finally, Madame Szeparowycz, a member of the Uniate Church of Ukraine, related how in her little-known country, mainly populated by peasants, the women combine ardent Catholicism and enthusiastic feminism, and the parish priests, as a matter of course, give out notices of the feminist

meetings from the pulpit. At the conclusion of the meeting it was decided that the women present at it would attend together the nine o'clock Mass at the historic Church of St. Sulpice, on Sunday, June 6.

On the evening of June 6, Princess de Croy received Catholic delegates at the Lyceum Club.

We are asked by the Registrar General to give publicity to the increase of penalties for false Notices of Marriage, and false statements in connection with the Registration of Births and Deaths:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT, 1925.

The attention of Registration Officers is requested to Section 28 of the above named Act which reads as follows:

(1) Section three of the Perjury Act, 1911 (which relates to false statements as to marriages) shall have effect as though at the end of subsection (1) thereof there were inserted the words "and on summary conviction thereof shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds."

(2) A person convicted summarily of an offence under section four of the Perjury Act, 1911 (which relates to false statements as to births or deaths), shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds.

(3) Summary proceedings for an offence under the said section three or under the said section four may, notwithstanding any provision of the Summary Jurisdiction Acts, be instituted at any time within twelve months after the commission of the offence.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

NON-PARTY.

Office—55, Berners St., Oxford St., London. W.
Patron: Saint Joan of Arc. Colours: Blue, White & Gold
Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 2d. 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.

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

The International Woman Suffrage News

The Monthly Organ of THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE,

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At the present time "Jus Suffragii" forms a unique link between the women of all nations. It contains articles, reports and letters from all countries and constitutes a valuable record of woman's activities. Sample copies may be had free of charge on application to the Office—II Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C.

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exists for the purpose of assisting convert clergymen of the Church of England and ministers of other denominations who, by entering the Catholic Church, . . . are reduced to a condition bordering on destitution. The need for funds is so urgent that we are compelled to appeal publicly for help."

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Join the contingent of Catholic Women behind the Banner of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

Form up on Embankment by Charing Cross Bridge

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Capt. F. N. Blundell, M.P., (two lectures) on "The Agricultural Problem: its History and the Present Position."

Mr. R. G. Hatton on "The Agricultural Outlook from the point of view of a research worker."

Mr. Leslie E. Toke on "Some Obstacles to Land Reform." Mr. H. Somerville, M.A. (three lectures) on "Economic Reconstruction."

Mr. Stanley B. James. "From Communism to Catholicism."

Rev. Eustace Dudley on "Natural Resurrections" and others.

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Applications should be made at once and a deposit of 10/- paid if Board and Lodging is required.

Address: -Secretary, Catholic Social Guild, Oxford.

Cambridge Summer School

OF

Catholic Studies

July 31st to August 9th.

Subject: - Christ, The Redeemer.

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Occasional Classes will be held for further explanation and discussion of the matter treated in the lectures.

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