THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

Organ of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, 55, Berners Street, London, W.I.

VOL V., No. 7.

July 15th, 1919.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

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

"YES, WE APPROVE."

(Words of the Holy Father to a member of the C.W.S.S.) By ANNIE CHRISTITCH, B.A.

"Nous voudrions voir des femmes éléctrices partout." (We should like to see women electors everywhere.) Such are the words of our Holy Father Benedict XV, exactly as they fell from his lips on the occasion when the present writer had the privilege of a private audience. Graciously permitted to lay before His Holiness the projects and problems of the day on which light is needed, it was a great joy to be able to bring before the Head of Christendom the aims and strivings of a brave little group of Catholic women in England. They had realised, at the outset of the agitation for the vote, its importance for Catholics, bound to defend the principles of the Church through the seething ferment of new conditions, and to imprint on modern reforms in so far as possible the unwavering code of morals propounded by the Vicar of Christ. The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society provided a safe and fruitful field for Catholic feminists anxious for reform, yet loath to identify themselves with certain aspects of the movement which ran counter to Catholic ideals. Failing this Society, some women, discouraged, would have refrained from any participation in what is now acknowledged by all to be a necessary and rightful claim, while others would have let themselves be carried away by societies which, excellent in themselves, were nevertheless irreconcilable with Catholic principles. Loyalty to the Holy Catholic Church was the primary motive actuating the founders of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society and when the writer had humbly given the above account of its object and activities and respectfully asked whether it had the approval of His Holiness, the reply came in emphatic tones "Oui, nous approuvons." ("Yes, we approve.")

All those who have the privilege of prostrating themselves before the Successor of St. Peter come away thrilled and uplifted. When the writer was afterwards asked about various details concerning the pomp and splendour of Vatican, she could only say that all else vanished from memory except the slight dignified figure robed in white whose ascetic face reflects such a depth of charity, solicitude, and heavy suffering. Who but His Divine Master can compute the cares that weigh upon the shoulders of Benedict XV.? We all expect from him counsel, sympathy, and encouragement for the particular good work on which we are engaged ; but do we realise the countercurrents, the conflicting elements with which he has to deal, the intricate problems that demand solution? Does one reflect that a gain to the Church in one direction may often mean a loss in another? Those who presumed to criticise the Holy Father's impartial attitude in the war would not have been so foolish and so heartless had they stopped to think that he is the Commander-in-Chief of Christ's international army which is fighting not for the world dominion but for the Kingdom of Heaven. As in many other cases which one may recall, time makes right prevail. Already the judgment of the Holy Father is being recognised, and the Germans no longer call him "pro-Entente" even though he canonises Joan of Arc; nor does our side call him "pro-German" because he gives heed to the religious claims of German Catholic colonists. When the history of the world-war will be

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died away, and when truth is no longer distorted, it is the unassuming figure in the warmest thanks for your congratulations authoritative chair of St. Peter who will be received a few days ago on the politiheld up as an example of intelligent humanity. He who prayed and worked rather than made the various expressions of sympathy and fine declarations, who took no merit to him- community of thought which have reached self for the success which he certainly achieved; but continued to encourage, extort and inspire, he is the outstanding personality of the period. True to his divine Model, his first concern in the war was the alleviation of suffering. From the day of his accession he preached peace; and he never ceased to preach it, regardless of the calumnies and threats of those of little faith. The spiritual paternity which Benedict XV. has manifested in such a very special manner to all his children during the past years of bloodshed, can now be concentrated on social problems. Already the women of Italy, encouraged by his desire that they, too, should co-operate in public work for the furtherance of religion and morality, are bestirring themselves to use every capacity they possess. Catholic women the world over will not be less eager to comply with the wishes of the Holy Father who would fain see women voters everywhere, counting on the "devout female sex" to defend the cause of religion and of Christian morality. In England the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society will always look with especial confidence and gratitude to that Pope who raised to the Altar the humble maiden most fitted to be the model of modern womankind. May St. Joan of Arc, patron of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, ever watch over and pray for its members and their undertakings that they may justify the trust of Benedict XV.!

The following is a copy of the reply received from the German National Union for Women's Suffrage to the letter sent to them by the Consultative Committee congratulating them on their enfranchisement.

To the Representatives of constituent societies of the Consultative Committee for Women's Societies Working for Equal Citizenship. Honoured Ladies,

Will you permit me, in the name of the German National Union for Women's Suf-

written in calmer days, when passions have frage, to express to you and through you to your great Organisations, our cal liberation of German women. Among us from abroad on this occasion, this in particular pleased and touched us, as a proof that beyond all the painful separating causes of the last terrible years, the common striving and equal enthusiasm for our great cause, always draws us women together again and unites us permanently.

> In the confident hope that this solidarity of women may develop more and more into the solidarity of mankind, as more women in all countries are enabled to exercise their influence as fully qualified citizens, and with best wishes for the speedy full political equality of the women of Great Britain.

> > I greet you as your devoted Servant. (Signed) MARIE STRITT.

(President, German National Union of Women's Suffrage.)

WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION BILL MEETING.

At the meeting in support of the Emancipation Bill held in the Memorial Hall on July 1st, all the speakers were women under thirty. The speeches were very determined and enthusiastic. Many Societies, including the C.W.S.S., supported the demand for the vote on equal terms with men. Two veterau suffragists, Mrs. Despard, and Mrs. Haslam, moved and seconded the vote of thanks to the young speakers, and wished them speedy success.

Convent of our Lady of the Cenacle, WAVERTREE, LIVERPOOL, WEEK-END RETREAT A For Professional Women WILL BE GIVEN BY

Rev. Fr. Vincent McNabb, O.P. JULY 25th to 28th.

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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Christitch's account of her audience with the Holy Father. Our members will be grateful to her for devoting part of her precious time to pleading the suffrage cause. It will be a great encouragement to those of us who have worked hard for the vote to hear that the Pope believes in Woman Suffrage. It will be an encouragement also, we have no doubt, to those who through the persistency of suffragists have been called upon to perform new duties, to which they were averse.

* * * * The Women's Emancipation Bill was carried on Friday, July 4th, by a majority of 15. In face of the hostility of the Government this is a notable triumph. The Coalition Whips were put on against the Bill, in spite of which the Government was defeated and the third reading carried. Lord Robert Cecil, a suffragist champion, made a fine fighting speed in support of the Bill. Suffragists, he said, had accepted the compromise of an age limit to allay the unreasonable prejudices of their opponents, whose apprehensions had proved to be unfounded. He earnestly appealed to the Government not to flout the House of Commons, but to take their whips off and leave members a free vote. Our readers will remember that the Standing Committee rejected the Government amendment to delete the Franchise Clause of the Bill. It remains to be seen whether the Lords will flout the will of the House of Commons.

We have received letters and leaflets from the Secrétariat International de l'Action Sociale de la Femme. The Secretary writes that as the Senate seems inclined to withhold the Suffrage, and women are determined to complete unity with her English comrades, and much encouraged by their sympathy.

We have also received a very cordial letter from the Secretary of the Ligue Catholique du Suffrage Féminin, Belgium, which was founded in 1912.

change of articles with our Belgian, French industrial life."

We have much pleasure in publishing Miss and Spanish Colleagues, besides an exchange of papers. *

> Amid all the wild charges brought against the modern woman we are glad to note the sensible, and we think fair, remarks of the "Catholic Times." In speaking of whether the manners and morals of women have deteriorated, our contemporary comes to the conclusion tht there has been a great change in manners, but very little in morality. It agrees that the war has had a temporary unfavourable influence both on manners and morals, but thinks that when the effects of the struggle have passed away the morals of women will probably be as good as in the past, though manners will remain changed. 'Woman's competition with man has made her more self-reliant, more outspoken, more vivacious in a great many ways, but probably it has tended on the whole, to strengthen her against temptation rather than to reduce her power of resistance to it." * * *

> We are asked to say that any reader of the "Catholic Citizen" specially interested in Mothers' Pensions for Great Britain (with which question Mr. Baldwin Roper, M.P., deals in this issue) can obtain a booklet on the subject free of charge from Judge Henry Neil, Strand Palace Hotel, London. * * *

At the Conference of the National Council of Women held at Leicester, June 24th-27th, an urgency resolution was passed pressing the Government to see that the Restoration of the Pre-War Practices Bill imposes no restriction upon the employment of women beyond those promised in the Treasury Agreement, and begging in particular that women should not be deprived of the right to work in new trades. The following resolution obtain it, the battle will be severe. She is in brought forward by the Women's Freedom League was also passed unanimously : "That this Representative Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland presses for equal opportunities and equal remuneration for equal work of women with men, and the recognition of their equal status throughout We hope to be able to arrange an inter- all branches of professional, business, and

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THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

Office: 55, BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W., I.

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Monthly, post free, 18 6d. per annum.

MISS LEONORA de ALBERTI. Hon. Editor MISS BRADY. Hon. Treasurer Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

PEACE?

On Saturday, June 28th, on the fifth anni- tells us, is simply a liquidation of the war world on the ashes of the old. In the chaos that reigns to day, we stumble along like children in the dark, babbling of reconstruction, while some see salvation in one form and some in another. Feminists, myself among them, see a ray of hope in the fact, daily becoming more clear, that men are beginning to look to women to help them, in the shaping of the policies of nations. In one country after another women are being enfranchised, a sign we may hope that the reign of force is nearing its end. In every sphere they have entered women have been a civilising force, that is a fact which is everywhere acknowledged, and if a new world is indeed to be built, free from the prejudices and hatreds of the past, women must be ready, and must be allowed, to shoulder a part of the burden, which women in a special manner. The Treaty, he

versary of the murders at Serajevo, which was situation in the world. The aspirations tothe signal for the European conflagration, the wards a new international order, and a fairer war officialy ended. To many people it and better world, are not written in this ended unofficially seven months ago, nor was Treaty and will not be written in treaties. there that spontaneous outburst of heartfelt Not in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, but joy which marked the announcement of the in spirit and truth must the foundations of Armistice. The peoples, anxious and weary, the new order be laid. The General reminds watching disease and famine and revolution us that it is not only our late enemies, who sweeping over Europe in the track of the war, need a new heart, but ourselves also; "a spirit have been eagerly awaiting the moment when of pity, mercy, and forgiveness for the sing they might start in earnest to rebuild a new and wrong which we have suffered. A new spirit of generosity and humanity, born in the hearts of the peoples in this great hour of common suffering and sorrow, can alone heal the wounds which have been inflicted on the body of Christendom. And this new spirit among the peoples will be the solvent for the problems which the statesmen have found too hard at the Conference."

Surely these noble words express what many of us have been feeling. It is with the peoples, weary of the old diplomacy with its intrigues, wrangles, and unstable alliances that the future of the world lies. God was banished, at all events officially, from the Paris conferences, but no law can banish Him from the hearts of the people, and the people must learn to put their trust in Him Who alone can change the face of the world, and trusting in Him build up the new Kingdom, not upon men have found too heavy. The noble the sands of changing friendships and appeal which General Smuts has issued to the alliances bred of distrust, but upon the rock people must find an echo in the hearts of of Christian brotherhood, love, and goodwill. L. DE ALBERTI.

RECENT SUFFRAGE VICTORIES.

Within the last few weeks a Bill enfrauchising the women of Sweden was passed by both chambers of Parliament without a division; and in Holland the Lower House passed a Woman Suffrage Bill by 64 to 10.

London and Branch Notes.

The Office, 55, Berners St., will be closed for the Summer Vacation from July 25th. Correspondence attended to as usual.

The C.W.S.S. has written to the Catholic M.P.'s pressing for their support to the amendment of the Pre-War Practices Bill, to prevent the exclusion of women from trades and processes which did not exist before the war.

Miss Agnes Mott was our representative on the deputation organised by the Ministry of Health Watching Council, which waited on Dr. Addison on June 12th, to urge that women should be adequately represented on the People's Council of the Ministry of Health. Miss Mott urged the great importance of securing the representation of working class mothers.

We supported the Women Clerks and Secretaries in their great Protest Meeting at Central Hall, Wesminster, on June 16th, against the Gladstone Report.

We also supported the meeting held at the Memorial Hall to press for the passage of the Women's Emancipation Bill, and a contingent from the C.W.S.S. walked behind our own Banner in the procession which started from the Women's Freedom League Offices.

C.W.S.S. WIMBLEDON BRANCH.

Under the auspices of the Women Citizens' Association a Public Meeting was held on June 12th at 8 p.m. to discuss the subject of Widows' Pensions. The Speaker was Miss Rathbone, President National Society for Equal Citizenship, and one of our members. Miss Fennell was in the Chair and took part in the very sympathetic discussion which followed Miss Rathbone's lecture. Lady Laughton and other members of the C.W.S.S. also

took part. A resolution was passed at the close urging the Government to introduce a Measure without delay.

HON. TREASURER'S APPEAL.

Money received from 15th June to 4th July, 1919. £ s. d. *Anon 2 10 0 Anon 0 I 0 Benson, Mrs. P. J. 0 10 0 Brady, Mrs. and the Misses 0 5 0 Brady, Miss I 0 0 *Cochrane, Miss M. 0 2 0 Crawford, Mrs. V. M. ... I I O Degidon, Miss 0 I O de Souza, Mrs. ... 0 5 0 Frv, H. S. L., Esq. ... 0 5 0 Hall, Miss A. 0 5 0 Hastings and East Sussex C.W.S.S. 0 10 0 James, Miss ... I 0 0 *Kelly, Mrs. 0 I 0 Lambert, Miss M. E. 0 I 0 McArthur, Miss 0 I 0 Martyn, Miss D. ... 0 5 0 Mason, Miss M. F. ... 0 2 6 Mole, Mrs. 0 I 0 Morice, Dr. Margaret 0 7 6 Quinlan, Miss Agnes 0 10 0 Quinlan, Miss Edith o I O Roch, The Hon. Mrs. Walter ... I O O Scott, Mrs. Maurice 0 I O Whately, Miss 0 7 6 Witty, Mrs. ... 0 5 0 £15 18 6

Hearty thanks are due to the above-named for their most encouraging response to my appeal last month. I hope that during July many more contributors will be added to the list and that the good record will not only be maintained but, if possible, exceeded, as our present resources are quite inadequate to meet the absolute minimum expenditure for rent, telephone and office expenses.

> GABRIELLE JEFFERY. *For Rent.

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The Operation of Mothers' Pensions in Great Britain. By A. BALDWIN ROPER, M.P.

It may be asked why I as one of the youngest Members of Parliament, and an unmarried one at that, am interesting myself in Mothers' Pensions. Well, perhaps it is because I am fortunately still young enough to remember that I had a Mother and the value to me of that Mother's care and devotion, that I am anxious to see every child in this country enjoying the same privileges-I may say the same rights. For I hold that every child however poor has the inherent right to a mother's care and love.

I propose :---

" That these pensions be limited to necessitious mothers with more than one child, and that only where the father is dead The Cost of Neglect. or incapacitated from work.

- That the same amounts be given as are given to war widows and their children, and that it be administered in the same way by the same Department, the Ministry of Pensions.
- That the same supervision be given as is given in the case of War Widows and their children.
- That seventy-five per cent. of the money be provided by the National Exchequer. and twenty-five per cent. by the local rates.
- I estimate that the total cost for several years after this system is in operation will be about ten millions sterling per annum.
- When the State insures motherhood in this way, more men and women will marry, and there will be fewer unmarried mothers.
- The American system of dealing with dependent children is such an improvement on the Poor Law system here that I think every citizen should understand what the adoption of Mothers' Pensions would mean in Great Britain.

Possibly the reason for making things unpleasant for a widow and her children was to discourage applicants for relief. If so, it was Mothers' Pensions to the community in Great successful, for no woman who was not absolutely forced to do so, would become a Poor Law widow. Also there was the terrible thought that if she did apply, her children hospitals and prisons.

might be taken from her and given to other people to be taken care of.

Thus on every side was the unfortunate widow faced with despair. Indeed, it seemed to be the settled policy of many Poor Law Guardians that the best way out of the problem of these mothers was ' to learn them to be widows' by starving them, by overworking them, by degenerating them through poverty until they had lost heart and health and ambition and pride in their children, and were finally thrown on the scrap heap while the children God help them, went to swell the ranks of crooks, street women and gaol birds.

So while it may have saved the rates in one direction, this system cast a heavy burden upon the country in another. " Neglected children," says George Bernard Shaw, " cost more than well-nourished ones to everybody except their immediate parents." It costs the country much more to rear a boy in an Orphanage, a Borstal Institution or a reformatory, than it does to rear him in an ordinary home

Britain's Brood.

In this country we have 130,000 children under the Poor Law. By allocating to them the same sum as was found suitable in the States, the same sum is allowed to the children of officers, \pounds_{24} per year, the total amount expended each year would be £3,120,000. This seems startling. But the round figure of Old Age Pensions at first frightened the country. This system in operation, however, would do away to some extent with the tremendous number of institutions now in existence for dependent children. The sums expended in these institutions runs into millions of pounds annually. The cost of Britain would be more than repaid by the improvement in national health, and by the saving in expenditure on workhouses,

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REVIEWS.

BLESSED JOAN OF ARC. By A. Maude Royden. Sidgwick and Jackson, 2/6 net.

The Warrior Maid of Orleans makes a special appeal both to Catholics and non-Catholics, and though the literature concerning her is voluminous, every new life is welcomed. In the little book before us Miss Royden writes with reverence and sympathy of Blessed Joan, nevertheless there are phrases which jar on Catholic feelings. None more so than the phrase : " Joan of Arc was that rare soul-a mystic who is also and equally a sacramentalist." (p. 129.) It is not rare in the Catholic Church, as Miss Royden must know, for a mystic to be a sacramentalist. For to a Catholic, saint or sinner, the Sacraments are not forms and symbols they are realities, they are channels of grace; and no saint or mystic. because of extraordinary graces would forego the grace of the sacraments, they would desire them the more. They would not otherwise be Catholics. We note that the volume forms one of a series, and that the preceding volumes are the Lives of Saint Francis (Lawrence Housman) and of that giant of mysticism Saint Catherine of Siena (Alfred W. Pollard) to whom the Blessed Sacrament was indeed the Bread of Life. We think, too, that Miss Royden shows little understanding of the faith of the Middle Ages when she tells us that "To us the 'trustworthiness' of God has a new meaning, and whereas Joan's utter confidence in Him seemed amazing to her contemporaries, who thought of God as of Nature in terms of caprice, it should be comprehensible to us who knew both as unchanging law."

Though to us the medieval attitude may sometimes appear crude, the people, in a sense, were perhaps closer to God. They were not surprised at miracles, they were not anxious to explain them away. The world itself was a miracle (as indeed it is) and God was not a Being to be worshipped only on Sundays, but a Father who was very real and very near, unto whom His children might turn in their daily troubles. Nevertheless Miss Royden has handled her subject with the reverence we should expect of her and has written a simple and touching account of the life and martyrdom of our holy Patron.

L. DE A.

HEALTH. By the Author of the Devil's Devices. (1/-. S. Dominic's Press, Ditchling.)

This clever skit on the Ministry of Health is intended as a warning of what may be expected, when the army of Health Officials get to work. We think tht the dangers of the Health Ministry are great, and it is well that we should be alive to them. Nevertheless there are also possibilities of good in this Ministry, and if all lovers of freedom, and believers in Christian standards, give their minds to it, the evil may be checked, and the effects of the new Ministry be beneficial. The Councils which are being set up should be able to prevent the adoption of inquisitorial and offensive methods in administering the new Act, or to abolish them where adopted.

THE SOWER. A monthly Journal of Catholic Education. (41d. by post.)

A new Catholic magazine, especially one of so high a standard as "The Sower," is an event to be welcomed by Catholics. It is addresed to all Catholics to persuade them that : " Of the many points of contact between the Church and the modern world, education is the point where Catholicism has most to gain by energetic thought and action, and most to lose by an atmosphere of indifference." We feel that this new magazine is going to be truly progressive, that it will not confound. old rooted prejudices, with immutable moral laws, and that it will not raise unnecessary stumbling blocks in the way of those who are fighting the battle of the Faith in a changing world. That is the impression the first number leaves upon us. We welcome "The Sower."

GLADSTONE REPORT PROTEST MEETING

The Association of Women Clerks' and Secretaries is to be congratulated on the success of their Protest Meeting held in the Central Hall on June 16th. It was an encouraging sight to a feminist to see the great hall packed with women, many of them quite young girls, determined not to be prevented from rising in their profession. They were supported in their demand for equal opportunities with men, by all, or nearly all, the women's organisations. Our own banner held a very prominent position in the hall.

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Dictory Bonds

We should all like to buy Victory Bonds, but do not all know how except by the expenditure of £85, and many cannot even spare such a sum, or, indeed, have not got it. But we can all take advantage of the excellent offer made by The National Mut al Life Office, 39, King Street, Cheapside, E.C., by which we can purchase a £100 Bond and pay for it by instalments spread over a period of 10, 15 or 20 years.

Everyone knows that these bonds are to be redeemed by the Government by annual drawings; the first drawing takes place in September, 1920. So that anyone purchasing a Victory Bond by The National Mutual Life Office's scheme may become the lucky owner of a large sum of money by the expenditure now of a few pounds only. "As, if the Bond is drawn for redemption during the currency of the Policy, the amount received from the Government will be handed over to the Assured without payment of further premiums."

On the other hand, if the Bond is not drawn, it eventually becomes the property of the Assured at the end of 10, 15 or 20 years. Thus, a person aged 30 next birthday can, by a payment of $f_{.5}$ 14s. 10d. annually, secure a £100 Victory Bond either at the 15 years or drawings during that term. Should death occur during this period, the Bond is handed over to the Assured's representatives. This is one of the safest, best and most profitable forms of investing savings and of providing for the future, and should appeal especially to all women. If you would like particulars to suit your own case, apply stating your age and mentioning the Catholic Citizen. to Miss ROCHFORD, WOMEN'S BUREAU, 39, KING STREET, CHEAPSIDE, E.C. 2.

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OBJECT.

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

METHODS.

 Strictly ron-party
Active propaganda by political and educational means.

MEMBERSHIP.

All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of 1s. 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

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Printed by Wadsworth & Co. The Rydal Press, Keighley.