

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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THE

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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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.

Women of The Katanga.

By MAGDELEINE LEROY, LL.D.

To arrive in England from France, the adventures of the war led me to come across Africa, which fact, fortunately, gave me an opportunity for very interesting studies, one of which was the social condition of the Katanga woman in the industrial part of the Belgian Congo.

I met missionaries, social workers, magistrates, government officials, manufacturers, people with great experience because of their close contact with the people, and through them I learnt many aspects of native life.

The mining zone of Katanga is the continuation of the Rhodesian Copperbelt: it forms a plateau once deserted by the Africans driven away by the freezing nights of the dry season. So, to attract and to acclimatize them, the companies adopted a stabilization policy, the value of which is being proved by its results: the black labourer likes to come to the mining areas and he settles there with his family.

They live in model camps established by the companies for their own workmen or in the native quarter built near every town.

Certain considerations of law and order have led to the suppression in the colony of some primitive practices and this has incidentally assisted the welfare of the women. The regulations of a camp or a native quarter forbid many other customs peculiar to a tribe or a clan. However, although separated from the original group, or perhaps because of that, the native woman is happy in her new surroundings.

In a camp, family life is easy. The concrete huts are spacious enough and the internal arrangements assure proper hygiene and comfort. The workers and the school-children eat a hot meal every day in a canteen, and the housewife goes to get for her family the weekly rations scientifically

constituted in order to obtain the best physical efficiency from the workers, now and in the future, since the expectant mothers and the babies get a very special diet!

The women receive much advice on housekeeping and cooking: they are taught to prepare food not previously known by them, and they are encouraged to cultivate vegetables near the camp.

Dispensaries, hospitals, laboratories, ensure a perfect medical service, and there are many thriving child-welfare centres. Elementary instruction is given under the direction of missionaries. When a boy is fourteen years old he is apprenticed, while the girl earns her first money learning to make working clothes or hospital overalls.

Sport and child entertainments stimulate the family pride. Further, when a worker is alone, he is encouraged to re-establish his home by asking his wife and children left in his native village to rejoin him, or to get married if he is a bachelor: the expenses of the journey are paid and all the arrangements are made by the suitable administrative department of the company. If there are any Christians among them the Mission is warned. When the lad has produced the greater part of the dowry asked by his fiancée's father, the administrative department lends the balance, in order to hasten the wedding, for the dowry must be entirely paid before this takes place.

On account of the distance of the recruitment centres, the women are in a considerable numerical inferiority. The desire to remedy this inevitable inconvenience of such inequality has influenced to a large extent the matrimonial policy taken up by the Companies.

When an old worker is retired, he may choose to return to his native village or to remain in the

Katanga as an agricultural labourer, but in both cases a house is built for him by the Company.

In a native quarter there are more contrasts: a primitive hut may be seen next to a smart little house with several nicely furnished rooms that many European workmen would envy, and which the occupier has purchased by monthly payments.

A council of the most reliable citizens governs the native quarter on which the Europeans exert only a right of supervision and perform a general rôle of material and moral protection.

Schools, hospitals and other institutions are very often served by the missionaries who care for the religious and moral needs of their black flock. These missionaries, assisted by some kind colonists, provide suitable amusements, such as films, sports and scouting.

Further, as in Elizabethtown, the welfare worker paid by the Government calls at the houses and has organised special centres for the education and the recreation of the women, who sell their needlework to the European shops and are pleased to earn money. With their first savings, they get two much-desired things—a sewing machine and a bicycle!

Nothing but their goodwill and inclination obliges these women to come to the social centres, and if they always keep some childish aspects in their minds, it is touching to notice their endeavours to get rid of a certain natural laziness, their desire to be civilised and the confidence they show towards their benefactresses.

So, at least in this country, where a good humanitarian influence is exerted, the native woman will never know the sad situation of her Moslem sister who suffers so much through the difference between her own primitive education and the refinement reached by the menfolk.

If the improvement of the lot of women follows that of the cultural development of the men, this will be to the greatest advantage of the whole family and will also be most beneficial to the Colony.

Rent Collecting.

Will you come and celebrate St. Joan's Day, Saturday, May 30th, any time after 2-30, at 5 Holly Place, Hampstead, and help to collect the June quarter's office rent. There will be tea 1/- and supper 2/- and walks on the Heath. Each member is asked to bring and buy a utility gift, household requirement, or food. R.S.V.P. to the Office if you can come. Bring a friend with you.

Country members and those unable to come are asked to help by sending a gift or contribution in cash or kind.

Post-War Planning.

Deputations are being organised by the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations to representatives of the various governments in London, to lay before them two resolutions passed by the Committee. The first concerns the status of women and declares that whatever post-war conditions may be, "the equalising of the status of men and women is an essential element if those conditions are to satisfy the community and that we women and citizens will work to obtain this equality." The second resolution runs: "Whereas the right to earn is one of the essential rights of human personality, and whereas unemployment, in all its consequences, physical, social, economic and moral, is as serious an evil for women as for men, the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations calls upon all governments to ensure that both in immediate and in post-war planning, the right to earn and to obtain the rate for the job, and the right to enjoy full opportunities for training and for promotion should not be denied because of sex or marriage."

So far deputations have been received by the Prime Ministers of Belgium, Greece and Holland, Yugoslavia, the British Minister of Reconstruction, the Free French Director of Labour and the Norwegian Minister of Social Welfare. The deputations were received in a friendly spirit, and in most cases it was promised that the resolutions would be sympathetically considered by their Government's post-war planning committees. The Free French wrote to say that its social sub-committee expressed its full agreement and stated that its future would be in accordance with these principles.

As one of the constituent societies of the Liaison Committee, St. Joan's Alliance had the honour of taking part in some of these deputations.

These resolutions were also sent to the meeting of the I.L.O. Emergency Committee held recently in London.

NOTES AND COMMENTS (continued from page 35).

allowance of £80 on which no tax is payable. In addition to the marriage allowance of £140 there has been hitherto a personal allowance on the married woman's earnings limited to a maximum of £45 on which no tax was payable. The Budget has now increased this allowance to £80, thus raising the maximum allowance on a wife's earnings by £35. This concession is estimated to cost the country £5,000,000 this year. It will be noted that only married women wage-earners are affected and not the married women who work in their own homes.

Notes and Comments.

We offer our homage and respectful congratulations to His Holiness Pope Pius XII on the occasion of his Episcopal Silver Jubilee, together with the assurance of the prayers of our members.

* * *

About 40,000 women workers in Royal Ordnance factories are to receive wage increases next week, in some cases up to as much as 19/-.

The majority of the women in Ministry of Supply filling factories will receive between 8/- and 10/- more a week. Nearly 5,000 engaged in gun-making factories are to get rises between 12/- and 19/- a week.

In the case of the higher-skilled workers women are now to receive the full basic rate of £1 14s. 0d. paid to men, plus 75 per cent. of the men's war bonus, making a total wage of £3 2s. 0d. The principle of men's pay for women doing men's jobs has been conceded to most of the grades.

The agreement has been reached after weeks of negotiations between the Ministry of Supply and the trade unions. The extension of the new rates to Admiralty and War Office establishments is under consideration. Why must women receive less war bonus than men?

* * *

A 48-hour working week and new minimum rates in England and Wales are provided for in an agreement ratified by the National Joint Industrial Council of the Retail Bookselling, News Agency, Stationery, Tobacco and Confectionery trade.

Shop assistants and other grades will receive a minimum in London of 65/- weekly for men of 25 years and over, and 43/- for women of 24 and over. Figures for provincial towns of 10,000 or more are 62/- and 40/- respectively, and for all other places 60/- and 38/-.

Comment is superfluous!

* * *

The latest report of the Unemployment Statutory Committee shows that the Unemployment Insurance Fund had a credit balance of nearly £80,000,000 on December 31st, 1941. Proposals have been put forward as to what should be done with this surplus. Our own suggestion would be that, for one thing, the Unemployment Benefit should be made equal as between men and women. The Beveridge Committee is overhauling the whole question of insurance for post-war planning, and we trust that they will recommend equal contributions and benefits as between men and women in all schemes of insurance.

* * *

The first A.T.S. in Anti-Aircraft Command to be killed by enemy action at a gun site is Private

Nora Caveney, aged 18. Nora Caveney volunteered for A.A. duties and joined one of the first mixed batteries to take over front-line gun sites on the South Coast.

She was killed on April 17 by a bomb splinter as she stood at a predictor on a south coast gun site during a raid. She was following an enemy plane and was "on target" when she collapsed.

Another A.A. girl, Pte. Gladys Keel, on duty as a spotter, took Nora's place at the predictor and continued to follow the raider, and the guns were able to continue firing without a moment's delay. Other A.T.S. on the predictor kept on with their jobs, working with drill-like precision throughout the rest of the raid, which lasted nearly an hour. It was their first engagement with the enemy.

The battery's second in command said that the girls' discipline under fire was most praiseworthy and "seasoned soldiers could not have behaved better."

* * *

The *Daily Sketch*, with the rest of the daily press, recorded the fact that Ellen Steed, an 18-year-old Edinburgh girl, drives a 15-ton crane lifting loads of molten metal direct from a foundry furnace. It is "a war job no other woman in Britain has yet tackled"—in fact, the *Daily Sketch* calls Ellen Steed "Britain's first direct-from-the-furnace crane driver"—though we presume it means first woman crane driver. "She is the envy of several hundred girls turning out important tank parts at a south-east Scotland foundry." Who said women were not capable of doing heavy industrial work? (Of course, they have always been capable of doing heavy house-work!)

* * *

It is with astonishment we read in the *Times* that during Sir Stafford Cripps' report to the House of his mission to India he said: "The only ultimate test must be the wish of the actual majority of the *male* (italics ours) population in the provinces—that was to say, a plebiscite." (The issue in question was that of Pakistan.)

* * *

Considerable agitation took place outside Parliament to induce the Chancellor of the Exchequer to agree to the separate assessment and taxation of married women, but Sir Kingsley Wood followed the advice of the T.U.C., who were unable to recommend this change as the tax paid by a married couple on a joint assessment is for very many incomes less than the tax paid by two single persons. The single taxpayer receives a personal

Continued on page 34.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen"

55 BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.1. Tel. Museum 4181

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

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Patriotism is Not Enough.

Chairman's address at the 31st Annual Meeting of St. Joan's Alliance on March 14th:

You have heard the Annual Report and the able speeches made in its support. I have little to add except one or two reflections on the past year.

First, I would say to those who thought it unpatriotic to continue our work in war-time or who have tried to deflect us from our specific work to that of "furthering the War Effort"—I think the year has proved that our specific work *is* patriotic—it seeks to give to *all* citizens equal opportunities of serving according to their individual capacity. Has not the attitude of the Government and of individuals alike shewn how far we still are from that goal? We do not ask for favoured positions, reserved posts, percentage representation, but for mere equality of work and sacrifice. We have been treated most frivolously. When we are to be kept out of things we are "ladies" to be protected—when we are needed we are "women" to work—our older and experienced women were slighted at the beginning and flattered at the end: our young girls are asked "to take a man's place," but at the end of the war, where will their "place" be? We ask that this shall end and the words of a Government official that you have heard: "It is service not sex that counts"—made a reality.

Secondly—it has seemed to me as I have attended Conferences and Committees, read articles and talked to ordinary folk that we have still a long way to go in the education of our own sex in social and political responsibility. We deplore and condemn that restriction of population in the name of a higher standard of living whose results the Dutch Minister so bravely pointed out at the Inter-allied Conference on Physical Culture—the tragic list of "only sons" in the *Times'* daily

column of death—but neither must we allow motherhood as such to serve as an excuse for shirking our responsibilities. A young and healthy widow, not lacking domestic help, and with one son John at a good day-school, in answer to my plea for one half-day a week Care Committee Work—used these noble-sounding words—"John," said she, "is my Care Committee!"

That is not an abnormal result of the over-glorification of motherhood—a result that was amusingly castigated in "Dear Octopus!" Motherhood, like patriotism, is "not enough." This failure to realise responsibility socially has its counterpart in a political sense. Many women still take their politics from their husbands without thought—and some go further. We have in our possession a letter from a Mother Superior in answer to a request for signatures in the Equal Compensation Campaign saying briefly and conclusively "I believe in 1 Cor. xi. 3." In this connection I hope you will all read our Austrian member's eloquent article in the current issue of the *Catholic Citizen*.

I think too, that we ourselves may be perhaps too complacent. We are the spearhead of Catholic feminism, it is true, but the spearhead must be supported by a handle or haft—of common wood perhaps, but hard, and all of a piece! We need to train our young people to be "political"—young communists do not underestimate the fundamental importance of *law*—and those who fought for Catholic Emancipation and for women's freedom can point to law after law that they got changed through pressure in Parliament, that changed the status and outlook of mankind. We have with us to-day—and gladly welcome—women who through bitter experience can witness to the misery bad laws engender—and the utter helplessness of a country without representation—and yet our

people—Catholics especially—shirk the word "political." Our young people have as yet eschewed realities—and we must bring it home to them—and those who lead them—that reality will not eschew them—and that, before it is too late.

These our visitors who will shortly speak to you themselves are now our links with the women of the submerged countries, and they represent the spirit still unsubdued and ready to break forth of those countries now suffering such extremities of grief. We are proud to have them with us—and look forward to a greater development of international work after the war, through the friendships fostered there. We shall hope to be allowed to work together for the needs of the post-war world.

Finally, we must as Catholics and feminists, go on spreading these, to us, inseparable ideals, until we have overcome the opposition of both good and evil on one or other count, as St. Joan overcame the opposition of good men to her vocation, on the grounds of her womanhood, and of bad men to her genius, by her sanctity.

P. C. CHALLONER.

CIVIL SERVANTS.

The National Association of Women Civil Servants have sent us their comments on Mrs. Prister Cruttwell's article on the War Injuries Compensation published in the April issue of the *Catholic Citizen*.

"I think if you will allow me to say so, that the Alliance is doing very fine work on a matter of major importance," the letter runs. The writer goes on to point out that though some women civil servants may be lethargic on this matter they are not likely to be members of the Association which "was one of the first organisations to take up the question of unequal compensation for civilian war injuries." She goes on to outline the continuous part the N.A.W.C.S. has played in the campaign for equal compensation and ends with a short defence of the woman civil servant.

"Mrs Cruttwell says that the women Civil Servants she met were 'timorous' as well as 'indifferent.' Perhaps it would be more true to say that the nature of their work and the restrictions on political activity among Civil Servants tend to make them cautious of taking any action which would appear to have a political significance. Please do not think I am being belligerent—but somebody has to stand up for the women Civil Servants!"

We are glad to be associated with the N.A.W.C.S. in this campaign, as, indeed, we have worked together in many another equality campaign since early suffrage days.

Women Engineers.

The *Woman Engineer* (March) gives interesting news of the position of women engineers in various countries. Mrs. Eileen Bigland, at a meeting of the Women's Engineering Society, spoke of her experiences in the Soviet Union. She has travelled widely in Russia and speaks the language (she is half-Russian), which gave weight to her account of the progress that has been achieved by women since the early days. Women have no restrictions laid upon them in Russia to-day, married or single, they can work if they wish to and take their place beside men doing similar work for precisely the same pay. The universal enthusiasm with which the women of the diverse races within the U.S.S.R. have seized the opportunity offered them, to develop their powers according to their tastes, is remarkable. Even the Moslem women, till recently regarded merely as the property of the men, have thrown away their veils and take an active part in communal affairs. However, as far back as Czarist days a woman had taught engineering in Russia, and Mrs. Bigland's grandfather (a Scottish engineer in Russia) had had three Russian women engineers working under him.

At a later meeting a Polish woman, Zofia Witort, spoke of the position attained by her countrywomen in the trades and professions on the re-birth of Poland in 1918. Unlike their sisters in other parts of Europe the Polish women did not have to fight for political emancipation, it was freely given to them, together with the right to enter and practise any calling they might choose on exactly the same terms as Polish men. One faculty only at the universities was barred to them—theology. Polish women eagerly availed themselves of the openings offered and had, up to 1939, achieved an honourable reputation for fine work well done in all their undertakings. A most cheering feature mentioned by Mrs. Witort was the goodwill that existed between men and women working side by side at the same job and the willingness of the men to work under a woman chief, it being taken for granted that she was only his chief because she was the better "man."

Ira Rischowski gave her experiences of the prejudices and difficulties she had to overcome in Germany to achieve the aim she had resolved on at the age of 12 of becoming an engineer. The equality of men and women in Germany was established after the revolution of 1918, but this equality was on the surface only and any girl wishing to become an engineer had to struggle hard to overcome the many ways freely made use of by owners and teachers to evade the law permitting the training of women engineers. Helped by her

father, an enlightened director of a shipyard, Ira succeeded and other women also overcame the prejudices of men, so that in 1933 there were 618 women engineers and mechanics in Germany. The coming of the Nazis turned the tide, and women were again relegated to the three "K's." War in a measure has put them back in the workshops, but it is made clear that their work is only to be looked upon as an emergency measure.

E.F.G.

International Notes.

In much-bombed Malta the Women's Auxiliary Reserve came into existence in November, 1939. Numbers of Maltese women are helping in the hospitals and women are serving as Air Wardens, secretaries, canteen workers, interpreters, etc., etc.

* * *

Legislation to create a women's auxiliary reserve in the U.S.A. Navy to release thousands of men for sea service was passed recently by the House of Representatives and sent to the Senate. The House had previously passed and sent to the Senate a bill to create a women's auxiliary army corps.

* * *

The traveller from Europe on arriving at New York is greeted by a woman before ever he sets foot on land. Rising from the water, Liberty—majestic, star-crowned, holding aloft the torch of freedom—welcomes him.

The first statue to be erected to a real flesh and blood woman in the United States stands in New Orleans, a statue of a stout elderly woman, with but one word carved at its base—"Margaret."

This woman, Margaret Haughery, wore no crown save a battered old hat, but in her heart she bore the invisible torch of flaming, unquenchable charity. Without family, without money, without learning, this humble clever Irishwoman started and carried on first a milk business, then a bakery as well, for the benefit of the orphans of New Orleans, irrespective of race or creed. She had so sound a business head that in addition to big sums spent on her adopted children during her life she left them a large fortune when she died. Her will was signed with a cross. Margaret could neither read nor write, but she certainly made her mark. (Information culled from the *Catholic Digest*, U.S.A.)

On February 11th Mr. Creech Jones asked in Parliament what progress had been made in implementing the recommendations of the Copperbelt Disturbance Inquiry. The reply stated that the recommendations in respect of wages and conditions had been put into effect. Domestic science classes for the women had been started in some of the Compounds. The United Missions were sending out a third woman welfare officer. The mine managements are encouraging the making of flower gardens, but have not increased the size of plots. The "Elder" system has been accepted at all the mines. Legislation providing for improved rates of workmen's compensation has been enacted. Every encouragement is now being given to workers to bring their wives with them to the mines. As for the extension of opportunities for Africans to take on skilled work, "this matter is receiving attention."—*Empire*.

* * *

By an Ordinance which came into force in the Autumn of 1941, the regulation of prostitution has been re-established in the Netherlands. "Women of the streets" have to provide themselves with a Government pass and to undergo periodical medical examinations enforced by the police. Breaches of this law are punished by six weeks' imprisonment or a fine of 500 florins.

* * *

Hon. Treasurer's Note.

The office rent is paid up to date but the Society is still in debt to the tune of £14 and, moreover, another instalment of rent is due in June! What are we going to do about it? Since every member of the Society is ultimately responsible for its continuation, we hope each one will put on her thinking cap and see what can be spared from family or individual budget as a gift to St. Joan's. Would that we had a car and limitless petrol so that we could collect 1/9 a month from willing members. However, since this is not possible, what about a money box? (Twelve 1/9's add up to one guinea—who would have thought it?)

We should like to take the opportunity of informing readers that the Office has still a plentiful supply of sale goods, so that anybody who finds themselves near 55, Berners Street, might with advantage to themselves and us, call in and make some purchases. We still have a few second-hand clothes. Orders taken by post for all goods, though we cannot guarantee that every object required is in stock.—J. M. ORGAN.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

*Leonora de Alberti in the "Catholic Citizen,"
May 15, 1917.*

"In her able introduction Miss Segar helps us back to the atmosphere of those early days when poets took their calling seriously and were teachers as well as singers. But they were no solemn kill-joys, with a religion like a sort of skeleton in the cupboard, to be allowed a day's outing on Sunday. Their religion was something to sing about and rejoice in, the world was a goodly place, and England was merrie England. They had learnt to rejoice in the Lord and to share their joy with their fellows."—*Review*.

Equality.

On Wednesday, April 29th, I went by invitation to Kensington House (the Convent of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate) to address the Club of the two St. Teresa's on "Equality." This club has recently been founded for girls in business and the civil service, banks, etc.

Many of the members experience the effects of inequality, but none the less there was some lively discussions afterwards, though they had to be conducted to the sound of dance music, for the Club, after its discussion meeting, turns to a class in ballroom dancing with equal enthusiasm. I am to continue the subject on another occasion.

It was a most enjoyable evening, and I welcome such opportunities of making St. Joan's Alliance better known amongst those whom our work so closely concerns.—P.C.C.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

Hon. Secretary: Miss A. McNeish, 61 Rosedale Avenue, Crosby, Liverpool, 23.

Letters were sent to the Candidates in the recent by-election in Wallasey asking them, if returned, to press for equal pay and opportunity; equal compensation for war injuries; entry of women into the Diplomatic and Consular Services; equal nationality rights for married women; the elimination of all sex discriminations in pensions and insurance legislation. Their replies were sent to our members in the constituency and to the press.

Mass was offered on behalf of the Branch for our late secretary Miss Bowden, killed by enemy action on May 3rd, 1941. We know our members will remember her in their prayers.—R.I.P.

Here and There.

The National Union of Women Teachers recently held its Annual Conference, when several equalitarian resolutions were among those passed. We have pleasure in quoting the following paragraphs from Miss D. Appleby's fine presidential address:—

We wish to know, why is this break with the past not applied both ways, so that women receive just dues for services rendered. What principle governs the payments made to women in Civil Defence, in training for engineering, in allowances and pensions for Civil Injuries—all fractions of the payments to men. We duly observe, however, that in rates of income tax, out of which, presumably, some of these higher payments to the men are made, women are vouchsafed complete equality.

Such events point the moral to observant women of to-day, who see in this continued reactionary treatment of their sex, the seeds of those hideous developments which have taken place in other countries, under the titles of Fascism and Nazism.

We must counter with vigorous protest every step which denies to women equal recognition with men and equal partnership in the State.

We ask no favours and declare that it is time for the erasing of all legislation which was conceived in the days when woman was not recognised as an individual, but merely as a dependant of man.

We claim equal opportunities for service, equal responsibilities to the community and general acceptance of the principle of equal pay for equal work.

In the survival of mankind women make the greater contribution and take the greater risk. To women, the waste of human life in war is an appalling spectacle, and we believe that the influence of women with equal rights would make a contribution sorely needed in international counsels.

* * *

From a letter published in the *New Statesman and Nation*:—"A woman of Britain is expected to live on (frequently) a third less income than a man. The work she does, even if identical in every particular to the work of a man, is paid at a lower rate. In my own experience I worked as an ambulance driver through nine months of London's blitz. The pay was more or less equal, the men receiving 70/- for 72 hours per week, with meals allowed. Women received 47/- for 48 hours per week. But even then the thought rankled that the man beside me was considered more valuable than myself in event of injury. Now the difference has become exaggerated; a grateful Home Office (women now under conscription) rewards our voluntary services of those earlier days by putting us on a new 84 hours per week rate of women 52/-, and men 74/-. Compensation remains as unequal.

"Is my resentment unreasonable? 52/- for 84 hours per week is about 7½d. an hour. The job may be practically non-existent at the moment,

but it has not been all pleasure. Am I to continue wasting my young energies to preserve this privilege of superiority for the men of this country. What sort of women are we children of those who fought for our emancipation?"—*Ambulance Driver.*

* * *

"We (the Woman-Power Committee) always are desirous of presenting to the country a properly balanced team of men and women, working for the common cause. In March 1942 I can confidently assert that the Government is still completely unaware of the real advantages of co-operation."—*Miss Irene Ward, M.P., in "Women at Work."*

* * *

By an agreement between various bodies in the electrical industry, including the Electrical Trades Union and the National Federated Electrical Association, women may now, as a temporary wartime measure, be employed on skilled electrician's work. After a probationary period, they will be paid the rates fixed for men of the same grade, provided they carry out the same work without additional supervision or assistance. We may be permitted to echo the *Electrical Times*, which says: "Bearing in mind the often ill-placed sockets which the male wireman has installed, maybe the introduction of a little feminine domestic sense will result in the 'convenience' of the ordinary domestic installation being more in keeping with the meaning of the word."—*Electrical Age.*

ART NOTES

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ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

NON-PARTY

Office—55, Berners St., Oxford St., London, W.1.

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.

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.

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in the South of England

The Hospital was founded in 1856 by four Sisters of Mercy on their return with Florence Nightingale from the Crimean War.

The Hospital contains 158 beds, including 31 beds for Paying Patients. Private rooms are available from 8 gns. per week. Eight beds are set aside for Priests and Nuns from the Diocese of Westminster.

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