

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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THE

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Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give;
Who knows the gifts which you shall give,
Daughter of the Newer Eve?

—Francis Thompson.

Whither Islam? *

By I. M. DICKINSON

The pace at which the world of Islam is moving from a crystallized medievalism to Western conditions—from a cramping social-religious code to a reinterpretation of the Koran or to a repudiation of all religious authority—from Pan-Islamism to Nationalism—all these changes expressed in women's lives as the change from "veil to vote" are sympathetically studied in "Moslem Women Enter a New World."

Women of the West may be tempted to envy the apparent ease with which the Eastern women are attaining a political status which they themselves have struggled so long to reach. But it should be remembered that political status is not all, and that the average Moslem woman outside Turkey is not yet a member of a unified society. The fact that a few days ago Indian women went to vote for the Provincial Legislatures enveloped in their burgas to booths reserved for purdah nashins is a simple illustration of this. Except in Turkey only a minority of privileged women have crossed the threshold into a world in which men and women meet under normal wholesome conditions. The veil, whether as a symbol of the evils of polygamy, divorce, temporary marriage, or as a real material barrier to education and a healthy life for women and children, still covers the heads of the vast majority of the Moslem women of Africa and Asia. How difficult then is the position of the privileged few who are called to be leaders; not only must they make in their own lifetime a change of centuries in the teeth of bitter opposition from the older

generation; but they must be the interpreters of the new freedom, both in word and deed, to the dumb submerged multitude—the fellaheen women of the mud villages of Egypt, the purdah nashins in the crowded slums of Indian cities, the workers of the carpet factories of Iran, the peasant drudges of Asia and Africa, all of whom would say as a fellaheen woman said, "What should we know of change? We're just women." To distinguish between change and true progress is another problem these educated women have to solve; they have to choose whether their Nationalism shall express itself as in Egypt within the spirit of the Law of Islam retaining all that is good in the old culture, or whether they follow Turkey in saying: "We have only one goal—progress. We recognise no relationship between religion and progress, since social progress is blocked if contingent on religion." Words of a leader in the Turkish Parliament. The fate of Islamic civilisation will be largely settled by this choice as it is to Istanbul and Cairo that Moslem women throughout the East look for guidance and inspiration.

Nationalism which in Europe has put back the clock of woman's advance has had the contrary effect in the East. The rulers of Iran and Iraq follow Ataturk in recognising that a strong nation cannot be built without the co-operation of an educated and healthy womanhood. It is by appeal of patriotism that women have been awakened to the realisation of their responsibility for service to the Nation. The heroic part played by Turkish women and the leadership of Halide Edib in the War of Independence, the protest of the women of Iran who threw off their veils and exhorted their men to uphold the liberty of their country

* *Moslem Women Enter a New World.* By Ruth Frances Woodsmall. (George Allen & Unwin, 12s. 6d.)

during the revolution of 1911, the protest made against Zionism in 1929 by the group of unveiled women at the High Commissioners are only a few of the occasions on which Nationalistic fervour has triumphed over conservatism. The way in which so many of the Moslem women of India have joined in the National movement is among the most significant of these events.

Feminists will never forget the names of the few pioneers who stepped out from purdah before Nationalism made the step easy for them. Madame Charaoui Pasha, head of the Feminist Union of Cairo, is known to all for her work for suffrage, the abolition of polygamy, and for child welfare. In Iran Khanum Azamodeh and Khanum Daulatabadee started the first girls' schools early in the century; the latter is now inspector of girls' education under the Ministry of Public Instruction. Lady Abdul Qadir and Begum Hahbullah are among the distinguished group of Indian Moslem women who have fought for the abolition of child marriage and for a more liberal interpretation of the Koran.

These are crucial days for the women of the East, but Miss Woodsmall ends her book on a note of hope; she says: "Since the change in the position of women . . . is the most fundamental change which is taking place in the East their interpretation of the new freedom has therefore great significance for the East as a whole . . . Their solution, one can safely assert, will not be to repudiate progress and retire within the harem as the easier way, but rather to try to reconcile the old with the new way of life. Theirs is the task of fusing the priceless values of their old heritage with the rich possibilities of the new freedom . . . The Eastern woman to-day has begun to assume her responsibility as a world citizen."

Notes and Comments—(Continued from p. 21)

We offer our congratulations to Miss Anna Huang, on her appointment as Third Secretary to the Chinese Embassy in London, and wish her all success in her work.

We congratulate our member, Miss Monica Whately on her election to the London County Council, to which 24 women were elected.

The Alliance and the W.F.L. were joint hostesses at a luncheon to Mme. Brunshvicg, Under Secretary of State for Education, France.

Australian Aborigines

Under the auspices of the Alliance two interesting talks on Australia were given at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho, on February 24th, Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell presiding. Mr. Michael Spender, who was a member of the Great Barrier Reef Expedition, gave a fascinating description of the coast, telling of his journey from Western Australia to Queensland, a country of tropical rain forests and coastal mountains.

Miss Marie Carroll, member of the Executive Committee of St. Joan's Alliance in Melbourne, brought wonderful photographs of the flora and fauna of Australia, and of the aborigines. Miss Carroll described the life of the aboriginal, giving interesting details of Totemism, Medicine Men and ritual gatherings. She finally described the Catholic Missions to the Aborigines of which there are now four.

The Mission of New Norcia (West Australia) furnishes one of the oldest and most comprehensive efforts to fit the Aboriginal to take part in the ordinary life of the community. This Benedictine settlement stands without rival as a place of downright interest, as a centre of artistic and architectural attraction, and as an example of the complete conquest of pioneering hardships. The aborigines are given small plots of land to cultivate, and the women are trained in domestic duties. Schools and orphanages have been built for the young, and cottages for the married. An important town grew, largely self-contained, in which the natives were introduced to habits of industry. This noble estate is worked to the highest advantage and produces large quantities of wool and wheat and wine.

At the recent Conference on Australian Aborigines, held in Albermarle Street, under the auspices of the British Commonwealth League, Miss Carroll, delegate from St. Joan's Alliance, read a letter from Fr. W. J. Dew, Missionary of the Sacred Heart, Tennant Creek. Fr. Dew maintains that to remedy the scandal of the sale of aboriginal girls to Japanese Pearlmen in Bathurst Island, it is necessary for the Federal Government to provide an effective control by means of patrol boats.

Resolutions passed at the Conference called for a national policy towards the aborigines; qualified women "protectors" and the conferring of a new civic and social status on the educated aborigines.

Notes and Comments

The long-awaited Factories Bill has now passed its second reading and is in Committee stage. St. Joan's Alliance has sent letters to the Home Secretary and to various M.P.s pressing for amendments. We hope that the Bill will be so amended as to remove women from the category of young people and to make regulations for the health, welfare and hours of the workers apply equally to men and women. Speaking on the second reading of the Bill, the Member for the London University, Sir E. Graham Little, M.D., F.R.C.P., said:

"I do not think there is any medical reason to differentiate men from women in this Bill. I should like the division to be simply adults and adolescents, the latter, of course requiring some age qualification. Special measures may be called for on account of age but not, I submit, of sex, with the one exception of pregnancy. Pregnancy ought to be regarded as in the nature of an illness and treated according to the individual case. Women differ in the degree to which they suffer from the disability which they undergo during pregnancy. There ought to be no hard and fast rule such as four weeks' rest before and after delivery, but individual patients should be treated according to their different circumstances . . . (Medical supervision) is important for all classes of workers—not merely young persons and not merely a particular group of women, and, indeed, more, as is shown by these figures in the Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories, 1935. Medical supervision should be provided for all workers irrespective of sex."

And Mrs. Tate:

"I deplore the fact that women and young persons are classed together . . . You will never get better conditions for the workers of this country, either men or women, until you treat them on the same basis. By classing women and young people together, you are doing something which is detrimental to the young people, because if you wish to bring forward amendments dealing with young people, you are hampered the whole time by the fact that women are classed with them . . . You will not have women in competition with men in industry if you do the only thing which will cure it, and that is give equal pay for equal work. If you really want to protect women, that is the way to do it—not by putting restrictions on women's labour."

The Equal Pay Campaign has an unexpected champion in the present head of the Government. True it is equal pay for Cabinet Ministers that he has advocated and not equal pay for men and women, but his remarks are singularly applicable. "Opportunity," the paper of the National Association of Women Civil Servants, draws attention to the striking difference in recent utterances of Ministers, on the subject of the relation of Salary to Status. The Right Hon. W. S. Morrison, M.P., formerly Financial Secretary to the Treasury

(referring to equal pay for men and women) said: "I have yet to find that the people as a whole in this country measure their status by the amount of money they happen to be receiving." Said the Prime Minister (referring to equal pay for Cabinet Ministers): "When a position carries a higher salary it is naturally regarded as being more important, both for the work itself and in its status." We hope that this very natural belief of Mr. Baldwin may lead him to appreciate the injustice of the present position of Women Civil Servants.

The new Unemployment Insurance (Additional Days and Waiting Period) Order was approved by the House on March 3rd. Under this order the £17,250,000 unemployment fund surplus is to be used to take three days off the waiting period and add three to the benefit period, for those with good employment records. We are grateful to Miss Rathbone for declaring that justice should come before generosity, and that the surplus ought first to have been used to do justice to the women contributors.

"It is a mistake," she said, "to suppose that the needs of an unemployed woman are less than those of a man. If she eats rather less her clothes cost more, and she finds it more difficult to get respectable lodgings."

The Report of the Commission appointed to visit Hong Kong and Malaya and to investigate the question of mui tsai and of any surviving practices in those territories of transferring women and children for valuable consideration, was published on March 1st. The Report will be dealt with in our next issue.

From Miss A. L. P. Dorman, our devoted colleague in S. Africa, we have received the gift of a beautiful steel filing cabinet—a gift which was most badly needed in the office. Now who will give us 100 foolscap files to furnish it?

Members will be delighted to learn that the Rt. Hon. J. A. Lyons, Prime Minister of Australia, and Mrs. Lyons, will be the honoured guests at our Coronation Dinner on Monday, May 31st at the Criterion Restaurant. The tickets will be 7s. 6d., and places will be allotted in order of paid application. Readers will remember that Mrs. Lyons is President of the Australian Section of St. Joan's Alliance.

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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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St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance

Twenty-Sixth Annual Report

There are several very encouraging things to note as triumphs to the Woman's Cause during the year 1936. An event of world-wide importance is the instruction from the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda urging the formation of new religious institutes for maternity and health services in mission countries and elsewhere and suggesting that existing orders of nuns should establish special branches for these medical services. "In some regions of Africa, tribes are decreasing day by day and they are destined to disappear if provision is not made for a better assistance for mothers and infants," states the instruction, and all feminists know the great value of women doctors in countries where custom and convention do not allow women to see a male doctor. Many years ago our member, Dr. Agnes McClaren, made efforts to obtain permission for nuns to study medicine, going several times to Rome on this quest, and she would indeed have rejoiced at the present turn of events.

Victories in many countries include the following:

Two women were elected to the State Parliament of Western *Australia*. Two were elected to the chamber and three co-opted to the Senate of *Belgium*. In *Brazil* Dr. Bertha Lutz became a member of the Federal Parliament, and more women were appointed to the Diplomatic Service. In *Ceylon* one woman was re-elected to Parliament, and women were granted the municipal franchise. In *Cuba* seven women were elected to the Congress and two were appointed to the Diplomatic Service. Dr. Ingeborg Hansen became a member of the Parliament of *Denmark*. In *Finland* sixteen women were elected to Parliament, and married couples are now taxed separately. *France* saw the appointment of three women Ministers; two bills were introduced, one to amend the civil status of married women and the other to abolish regulated prostitution; unfortunately, the latter contained many clauses unacceptable to feminists and abolitionists. In *India* women were made eligible to sit in the Council of State, for which they already had the right to vote. One woman was elected to the Storting of *Norway*. Six women were elected to the Cortes of *Spain* and the Spanish Government nominated Señora Palencia as ambassador to Stockholm. *Sweden* saw the election of ten women to the Riksdag, one of these being Miss Hesselgren. In the *United States* a special postage stamp was issued in honour of Susan B. Anthony,

pioneer feminist; in the November elections five women were elected to the House of Representatives and one to the Senate. Miss Jean Batten of *New Zealand* completed the first solo flight from England to that country, in just over eleven days.

In our own country the chief triumph was the defeat of the Government on *Equal Pay*, this in spite of the fact that the Government had an enormous majority, that the whips were on and that the vote was not taken on a snap division. (See under "Equal Pay and Opportunities.") All feminists are grateful to Miss Wilkinson, and to the Labour Party for allowing her to choose equal pay as the subject of the resolution for which she had drawn a place in the ballot. The new Unemployment Assistance Regulations are a step nearer to equality between men and women since equal assistance is given to young persons under 21 living at home and to both sexes of whatever age who are living in lodgings; but a difference of 1s. is still retained in the rates for two classes of men and women and though this is better than the 2s. difference of heretofore it still continues the fallacy that a woman needs less for her maintenance than a man; Mrs. Tate, M.P., did trojan work for women's interests, on this bill. By the passing of the Midwives Act the status of midwives will be greatly improved, and their services placed within the reach of the great majority of expectant mothers. For the first time in history, a woman, Miss Florence Horsbrugh, M.P., moved the Commons address in reply to the speech from the Throne, and signatures appended to the announcement of the Proclamation of King Edward VIII included, for the first time, a woman Privy Councillor, Miss Margaret Bondfield. By express command of H.M. King Edward VIII the Statutes of the Royal Victorian Order were altered to permit the admission of women, and H.M. Queen Mary headed the King's Birthday Honours List with the award, Dame Grand Cross of this Order. Women continue to be appointed to various Departmental Committees, and Miss Picton Turbervill served with two men colleagues on the Commission appointed to investigate "Mui Tsai" in Hong Kong and Malaya. For the first time women were admitted as members of the Buyers Association of Great Britain. Personal successes in this country include Dame Christabel Pankhurst's investiture as D.B.E. in recognition of the historic importance of

her work for the political enfranchisement of women, and the election of Dame Laura Knight, R.A., as a member of the Royal Academy, she being the first woman to be so honoured since 1769. For the first time a Hunterian professorship has been conferred on a woman, Mrs. Philippa Martin, M.S., F.R.C.S. Amy Mollison flew to Cape Town and back within the record time of eleven days.

On the other hand women in *Bermuda, France, Switzerland* and *Quebec* are still refused the vote, and the women of *Quebec* have again failed in their attempt to win the right to vote in provincial elections. The career of judge or advocate has been refused to the women of *Germany*, and no woman can serve on a jury whatever the nature of the case. In this country keen disappointment and regret was felt when at length the Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Admission of Women to the Diplomatic and Consular Services was made public, and it was found that the Government had accepted the opinion of four of the eight members of the Committee, to the effect that the time has not yet arrived when women can be employed usefully in either of the foreign services. The two women members of the committee signed a minority report in favour of the admission of women.

Equal Pay and Opportunities

Feminist Societies continued the campaign for *Equal Pay*, and on March 17th at Caxton Hall the Joint Committee on Women in the Civil Service organised a meeting for M.P.s at which Colonel Clifton Brown, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, Major Hills and Viscountess Astor spoke, Professor Winifred Cullis presiding. The meeting was supported by 25 organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance, and a resolution was carried unanimously, "calling upon the Government to establish one salary scale in each grade of the Civil Service which shall apply equally to all in it without regard to their sex."

On April 1st Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., moved a resolution in the House of Commons on the Civil Service Estimates, demanding that women in the "common classes of the Civil Service" should receive Equal Pay for Equal Work, and on this resolution the Government was defeated by 156 votes to 148. Under the technicalities of Parliamentary procedure, and after the Government Whips had got to work, another vote was taken and this time the Government obtained 149 to 134. The Prime Minister attempted to treat the first vote, which was the real test, as unimportant, but was eventually compelled to adjourn the House. The question was then made a matter of confidence in the Government which sent out a 3 line whip to its followers to support the vote of confidence on April 6th. The vote was obtained by a large majority (361 to 141) but it was generally felt that the Government "obtained it for reasons more comprehensive than the merits of the question (equal pay) upon which they asked for it." —(Times.)

On May 25th the Alliance took part in a Conference convened by the Joint Committee on Women in the Civil Service, to discuss the best means of continuing the campaign.

It is significant that many bodies are beginning to realise that if women are paid less than men, the men will suffer as well as the women, so that justice is only obtained for both sexes by equal remuneration.

Thus the National Association of Local Government Officers, the Guild of Insurance Officials, the Bank Officers Guild, the Trade Union Congress, and the Railway Clerks' Association all adopted resolutions in favour of equal pay at their annual Conferences, and the question was also brought up at the annual Conference of the Amalgamated Union of Operative Bakers, Confectioners and Allied Workers.

Women Police. Two police women have been appointed to the Leicester City Police Force, owing largely to the efforts of our member Councillor Miss E. C. Fortey, J.P.

Married Women's Work. Again owing chiefly to Miss Fortey's efforts, the Leicester Education Committee passed a resolution deleting the regulation that women teachers should be obliged to resign on marriage. On the other hand the Cornwall County Council has altered its regulations so that married women are ineligible for permanent appointment in the service of the Council and women members of the county staff are required to resign their posts on marriage.

Nationality of Married Women

The Alliance has co-operated with the Nationality of Married Women Pass the Bill Committee in pressing for this subject to be included on the Agenda of the Imperial Conference to be held in London after the Coronation.

Jubilee of the Repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts

On April 23rd the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts. On this date, at our request, the Rev. Fr. Vincent McNabb, O.P., offered Holy Mass in thanksgiving, at St. Dominic's Priory. The Mass was attended by Mme. Pesson Depret, President of the French Section of the Alliance, and by our Chairman, Secretary, and other members, and afterwards breakfast was kindly provided by Mrs. Garrard. Under the joint auspices of the A.M.S.H. and the Alliance, a Public Meeting was held at the Livingstone Hall on April 24th, the subject being "The Fight against Regulation in France." Mrs. Corbett Ashby presided, and Mme. Pesson Depret, General Secretary of the French Section of the International Abolitionist Federation, was the chief speaker, other speakers being Miss Higson, Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Miss Neilans. Members of the Alliance attended the Jubilee Luncheon given by the A.M.S.H. on April 23rd at the Criterion Restaurant.

International Council

On December 8th, the third Council Meeting was held at the Wilton Hotel, London. Mrs. Laughton Mathews presided, and Miss Barry, Hon. Secretary, acted as proxy for Miss Lisboa (Brazil), Vice-President, by request of the Brazilian Section. Among those present were Mlle. Lenoël (France), Vice-President, and Miss Marie Carroll (Australia). Two further Vice-Presidents were elected at the meeting: Professor Mary Hayden, D.Litt. (Ireland), and Professor G. McEntee, Ph.D. (U.S.A.).

Throughout the year Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Miss Barry have represented the Alliance on the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations.

At the Congress of the *International Council of Women* held at Dubrovnik during October, Dr. van der Pijl of Holland, represented St. Joan's Alliance as Fraternal Delegate, and gave a speech of greeting on our behalf.

Status of Native Women

At the 16th Assembly of the League of Nations, a resolution was passed asking Governments, Women's International Organisations, and the International Labour Office to examine the question of the Status of Women, and to report to the League for consideration by a future Assembly. As one of the constituent Societies of the Liaison Committee of International Women's Organisations, St. Joan's Alliance has undertaken an enquiry relating to the Status of Women in Mandated and other Territories. The Alliance has sent out its own questionnaire to missionaries, doctors, teachers and others with experience of conditions in Africa, and some very valuable information has already been collected.

Publicity was given in the *Catholic Citizen* to a letter from Archdeacon Owen of Kavirondo sent to the *Manchester Guardian*, in which he quoted the case of the girl Kekwe of Kenya convicted of manslaughter because she stabbed the man from whom her family had accepted the bride price, in spite of her expressed aversion, and who had pursued her when she ran away to the man of her choice. Later on, at the request of St. Joan's Alliance, Miss Rathbone, M.P., asked a question in the House on this case and on the subject of Tanganyika marriage customs in general.

League of Nations Assembly

Miss Barry and Mlle. Lenoël were our official representatives at Geneva during the 17th Assembly of the League of Nations. They attended various meetings and commissions of the League as well as meetings of the Liaison Committee of International Women's Organisations. At a meeting arranged by the Liaison Committee to discuss with the sixteen women delegates, several items on the Agenda of the Assembly of special interest to women's organisations, Mlle. Lenoël and Miss Barry urged the importance of Governments including in their memoranda on the Status of Women, the position of native women in Mandated Territories, Colonies and Protectorates. With reference to the Mandates Report they stressed the importance of training native women as teachers and midwives. The delegate of the Irish Free State emphasised this point when the Mandates Report was considered by the sixth commission of the Assembly. The Alliance, with other members of the Liaison Committee, was joint hostess at a Reception given in honour of the women delegates. It was represented at the High Mass celebrated in the Cathedral of Notre Dame for the Catholic delegates, and at the Dinner given to them by the Cercle Catholique of Geneva.

We receive documents from the League of Nations and letters and papers from many countries in an ever-increasing number. These add greatly to our knowledge and thus to our usefulness to individuals and to other organisations.

Australian Section

On her arrival home in Melbourne last March Miss Margaret Flynn, who had consented to found an

Australian Section of St. Joan's Alliance, called a meeting of the Australian members for March 25th. This meeting decided that the Headquarters of the Section should be in Melbourne, and an Executive Committee was appointed with Mrs. J. A. Lyons as President, Miss K. M. Walsh as Vice-President and Chairman, and Miss Margaret Flynn as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. As the meeting was about to open, a message of goodwill arrived from the Rt. Hon. J. A. Lyons, C.H., sending good wishes also from Mrs. Lyons, who regretted her inability to be present owing to illness. On May 30th, St. Joan's Day, the Section received the blessing of His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne, and on the first Sunday in May the Committee received Holy Communion in a body. The inaugural Public Meeting was held at the Catholic Central Library, Melbourne, on August 6th. Miss K. M. Walsh presided over a packed meeting, and the speakers included many priests and Miss Anna Brennan, also Vice-President of the Section. The meeting was widely reported in the Catholic and secular press. Reports of subsequent meetings have appeared in the *Catholic Citizen*, in which accounts received from the Hon. Secretary of the Section are published nearly every month. Already the Section has done a good deal of propaganda and work in connection with aboriginal women and its collaboration will be most valuable in collecting information for the League of Nations. (See under "Status of Native Women.")

Brazilian Section

Early in the year "Accao Cultural," an organisation of Catholic feminists in Brazil, founded by Maria Herminia Lisboa in 1933, decided to come under the banner of St. Joan. Thus a Brazilian Section of the Alliance was formed and took the name of "Alliança Santa Joanna d'Arc." The Society has its own paper, *A Candéia*—a well-produced quarterly review, which was exhibited at the Vatican Press Exhibition. At the moment the Section is concentrating on the education of women for their social and political duties under the Brazilian constitution. From time to time accounts of the work of the Section are published in the *Catholic Citizen*, and it keeps in close touch with us. On behalf of the Society, Miss Lisboa, Hon. Secretary, was present at the 2nd National Eucharistic Congress held in Brazil this year.

French Section

L'Alliance Ste. Jeanne d'Arc, under its President of Honour, Mme. de Romanet, Mme. Pesson Depret, President, and Mlle. Lenoël, Hon. Secretary, has continued to do good work. On the question of African women, three meetings were held, two addressed by Rev. Père Pichon, Holy Ghost Missioner, and one by Mme. J. Vassal, the explorer. L'Alliance was received in deputation on this subject by Senator Gautherot. Other meetings were addressed by L'Abbé Dimnet; Mme. Pesson Depret; Mlle. Paris. L'Alliance took the initiative in sending a letter to the French Government, which was signed by other feminist organisations, asking for the inclusion of the status of native women in the Government's memorandum to be submitted to the League of Nations. It has also undertaken the sending out of our questionnaire on native women to the French Mandated Territories. *La Revue Ste. Jeanne d'Arc*

does valuable propaganda and was exhibited at the Vatican Press Exhibition.

The 25th Annual Meeting was held on March 21st at St. Patrick's Club Rooms, Soho Square, Mrs. Laughton Mathews presiding. The Annual Report was read by Miss Pauline Brandt, its adoption moved by Miss Eleanor FitzGerald, and seconded by Miss Duify. The Financial Statement was read by Miss Brandt, its adoption moved by Miss Terry, and seconded by Miss Warnecke. Mrs. McCann, Chairman of the Liverpool Branch, then presented the Liverpool Branch Report which was supported by Mrs. Murray.

As no nominations had been received, the Executive Committee elected Mrs. Garrard and Miss Jessie Organ to fill the places left vacant by Miss Dickinson and Miss Fedden. Later on in the year, owing to the death of Mrs. O'Connor (R.I.P.), Miss Monica O'Connor was co-opted to the Committee, and on the resignation of Miss Pauline Brandt from the office of Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Garrard kindly replaced her. We take this opportunity of thanking Miss Dickinson and Miss Fedden for their help on the Committee, and Miss Brandt for her service as Hon. Treasurer.

After the Chairman's address, the following resolutions were moved from the Chair and carried:

1.—SILVER JUBILEE

On the occasion of its Silver Jubilee, March 25th, 1936, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance records its deep gratitude to Gabrielle Jeffery, founder of the Alliance, to Leonora de Alberti (R.I.P.), Editor for nineteen years of the *Catholic Citizen*, to Florence Barry, Hon. Secretary for twenty-two years, and to all workers known and unknown in the past and present ranks of the Alliance.

2.—EQUAL STATUS OF WOMEN

St. Joan's S.P.A. expresses its satisfaction that the League of Nations has asked Governments to collect and forward to the Secretary General, information in regard to the Status of Women in their respective countries. It begs the Government in preparing its memorandum to work in co-operation with women's organisations in this country and also to give due consideration to the position of women in the Crown Colonies and territories under British Mandate.

3.—EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. urges that in all territories under British administration women be granted equal political rights with men.

(b) *Women in the House of Lords.* St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that peeresses in their own right should have a seat and vote in the House of Lords and further, that in any measure designed to reform the Second Chamber men and women should have the same right to sit and be elected.

4.—EQUAL MORAL STANDARDS

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. re-affirms its demand for the repeal of all the existing legislation specially directed against "common prostitutes."

(i) In this connection the Alliance urges upon the Government the necessity for amending Section 2 S/s.(1) and 3 S/s.(2) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885 which, by excluding "common prostitutes" and "women of known immoral character" from the operation of the law

against procurers is in effect, encouraging a traffic in such women.

(ii) *Solicitation Laws.* St. Joan's S.P.A. regrets that the Government has taken no action to remedy the present unjust solicitation laws, calls for their repeal, and the substitution of a measure on the lines of the Public Places (Order) Bill, which deals with street solicitation by general legislation against annoyance or molestation, and under which the evidence of the person annoyed or molested would be necessary in order to obtain a conviction.

(b) *Child Assault.* St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass into law a Bill providing more effective safeguards for the protection of young children from sexual assault.

(c) *Illegitimate Children.* St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass without delay a bill providing for the enforcement of Affiliation Orders Overseas on similar lines to the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Act 1920.

(d) This year being the 50th Anniversary of the Repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts, St. Joan's S.P.A. offers its congratulations to the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene which, under the leadership of Josephine Butler, was responsible for the abolition of the abominable system of State Regulation of Prostitution in this country.

5.—EQUAL PAY AND OPPORTUNITIES

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government and Local Authorities to establish among their employees a system of equal pay and opportunities for men and women, and freedom for married women to decide for themselves whether or not they shall engage in paid work, thus setting an example to other employers.

(b) In particular it calls upon the Government to open the *Diplomatic, Consular* and kindred services to women on the same terms and conditions as they are open to men; it further demands the immediate publication of the Report of the recent Departmental Committee on this subject.

(c) "Protective" Legislation

St. Joan's S.P.A., while believing that protection should be afforded to industrial workers, declares that to impose restrictions on women only is to treat them permanently as minors, and to lower their status as workers. It believes that the only policy which safeguards their individual liberty and responsibility is that of basing all labour regulations and restrictions upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker, and calls upon the Government to apply this principle to all legislation, and to instruct its delegates to support it at all Conferences of the International Labour Office.

6.—INSURANCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT

(a) (i) St. Joan's S.P.A. reiterates its demand that benefits and contributions under all national insurance schemes shall be the same for men and women.

(ii) It calls upon the Government to amend the Agricultural Unemployment Insurance Bill in accordance with the above principle.

(b) St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to amend those sections of the Anomalies Act which subject married women to unequal regulations and unjustly deprive them of unemployment benefits for which they have paid.

(c) St. Joan's S.P.A. re-affirms its demand that the Public Assistance Rates when amended should be made equal for men and women, and boys and girls, and that either husband or wife should have the right to apply for family relief.

(d) St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to allocate for the training and relief of unemployed women an equal sum of money in proportion to their numbers as is expended upon men.

7.—NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass into law a bill giving married women the right to an independent nationality on the same terms as other adults, and further that the Government should propose similar legislation to Dominions Governments. It further calls on the States Members of the League of Nations to adopt an international convention recognising a married woman's right to her own independent nationality on equal terms with men.

8.—SLAVERY

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that in all territories under British jurisdiction it shall definitely be laid down that no woman, whatever her race, shall be sold by her father or alleged proprietor; that no marriage contract shall be made for any girl under 14 years or for a girl over 14 years without her consent, and that there shall be no inheritance of a widow by her husband's heirs.

(b) St. Joan's S.P.A. begs the League of Nations Advisory Committee of Experts on Slavery and the Mandates Commission to include in their investigations the important question of the position of women and girls.

(c) St. Joan's S.P.A. views with grave concern the report of the Governor's Committee on the Mui Tsai System in Hong Kong, which clearly establishes that the Mui Tsai System and the buying and selling of girls in the British Colony continues. It welcomes the appointment of the Government Commission to investigate the subject. It notes with satisfaction the recent replies in the House of Commons on the subject by the Colonial Secretary, but mindful of similar pledges in the past, it urges strong and decisive action by the Government to implement such pledges without delay.

9.—MATERNAL MORTALITY

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Ministry of Health to provide adequate maternity services throughout the country, and further urges upon its members the duty of pressing their local authorities to carry out to the full their powers in this respect.

10.—LEGAL POSITION OF MARRIED WOMEN

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. expresses its satisfaction at the passing of the Law Reform (Married Women and Tortfeasors) Act which amends the law relating to the capacity, property and liabilities of married women in contract and tort and abolishes the liabilities of husbands for their wives' torts.

(b) *Income Tax.* St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that the income of married persons should be separately assessed and separately taxed.

11.—WOMEN POLICE

St. Joan's S.P.A. welcomes the increase in the number of Women Police in the Metropolitan Area, and calls upon the Government to further legislation making it compulsory for Watch Committees and Standing Joint Committees to appoint a sufficient number of Women Police.

12.—BIRTH CONTROL

St. Joan's S.P.A. deplores the policy of the Ministry of Health in allowing in certain cases information on artificial birth control to be given at centres maintained out of public funds. It urges its members to watch the matter in their Local Councils.

13.—DIVORCE

St. Joan's S.P.A. regrets the action of certain societies in pressing for further facilities for divorce and trusts that all Christian bodies will unite in opposing this demand.

14.—STERILISATION

St. Joan's S.P.A. records its opposition to the introduction of any legislation designed to promote the voluntary or compulsory sterilisation of mental defectives.

15.—EDUCATION

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A., while welcoming the Education Bill which offers assistance to some Catholic Schools in carrying out the work necessary for their re-organisation on Hadow lines, accepts the proposed change in the method of appointing teachers, only on the understanding that the Bill is a first step towards a satisfactory national settlement which will give voluntary schools a permanent place in the national system of education. It calls for the amendment of clause 11 so as to ensure that it shall not be lawful to force non-Catholic teachers into Catholic Schools.

It further calls upon the Government to ensure that there shall be no special exemptions applicable only to girls.

(b) St. Joan's S.P.A. urges upon the Government the necessity of providing adequate and equal facilities for the education of native girls and boys under British Rule.

In January the Committee and Office workers gave an informal Dinner at the Minerva Club to Miss Margaret Flynn of Melbourne, prior to her departure to Australia. In wishing Miss Flynn God-speed, she was presented with a gold medal of St. Joan sent by the French section. Two other dinners were given by the Alliance, the first on June 4th, at the Minerva Club, to Dr. Van der Pijl and her sister from Holland, the second on December 8th, at the Wilton Hotel, when the guests of honour were Miss Marie Carroll from Australia and Mlle. Lenoël of France. Mrs. Laughton Mathews presided in each case.

On April 24th, through the kindness of Mrs. Laughton Mathews, the Committee and Office workers were entertained at her house to meet Mme. Pesson Depret, President of the French Section, who brought heartiest greetings from the French members of St. Joan's.

Two lectures of unusual interest were given under the auspices of the Alliance. The first, by Miss Christopher St. John on February 22nd, the subject being "Hroswitha's Plays," Miss E. FitzGerald presiding. The second, on November 25th at St. Patrick's Club Room, by the Rev. Fr. Vincent McNabb, O.P., on "St. Elizabeth of Portugal, Patroness of Peace," Dr. Shattock presiding.

The Alliance has continued to take part in *Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* established in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Westminster, where members are pledged to watch on the first Thursday of every month and are asked to pray

for the intentions of the Alliance. This year, the Fourth Anniversary of the Adoration was celebrated on November 6th, when the Alliance was represented at Benediction by Mrs. Aylward, one of our most regular watchers, and our beautiful banner of St. Joan was among those placed in the church during the ceremony.

On May 30th, the anniversary of the burning of St. Joan, Mass was offered for the intentions of the Alliance through the kindness of our member, Fr. Joseph Dobbelaers. In accordance with our custom, a wreath, tied in our colours, was placed on the shrine of St. Joan in Westminster Cathedral.

Our congratulations were sent to His Lordship the Bishop of Pella on the attainment of his Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee. His Lordship has been an associate member of the Alliance for very many years, has several times spoken on our platform and takes a keen interest in our work. We were represented by the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Editor at the Jubilee Mass at St. George's Cathedral, Southwark, and the Hon. Secretary attended the Jubilee Reception at the Hotel Metropole.

Co-operation With Other Societies

The Alliance is affiliated to the International Abolitionist Federation, the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship and the Open Door International, and is represented on the Committee of the following societies:

The Catholic Citizens' Parliament by Miss Barry; the Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union by Miss Harley Bacon; the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations by Miss Harley Bacon and Miss Barry; The National Council for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child by Mrs. Hand; The Women Peers Committee by Miss Barry; The Parliamentary and Legislative Committee of the National Council of Women by Miss Barry; The British Commonwealth League by Miss Graham; The Nationality of Married Women Pass the Bill Committee by Miss Barry; the South of England Catholic Land Association by Miss Gunning; and the "Quota" Committee by Mrs. Laughton Mathews. We are also affiliated to the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene and the Open Door Council, and we send an "observer" to the Liaison Women's Committee on Indian questions.

Mrs. Laughton Mathews was our representative on the ad hoc Committee convened by the *National Council of Women* to draw up a Memorandum on the "civil, political and economic status of women in the United Kingdom" for presentation to the Government in connection with its report to the League of Nations.

On our behalf, Miss I. R. V. Welch has attended the meetings of the *Married Persons Income-Tax Reform Council*, to which we have recently become affiliated.

At the *British Commonwealth League* Annual Conference, this year on "Women's Progress towards Equality in Government Services and in Changing Africa," the Alliance was represented by Miss Barry, Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Miss Spender. Miss Barry seconded the resolution urging Woman Suffrage in Quebec, and a resolution pressing the necessity for the education of native girls and women in Africa was spoken to by Miss Spender. Mrs. Laughton Mathews proposed a resolution heartily congratulating the British Government "upon the

appointment of a Commission to proceed to Hong Kong and forthwith examine into the position in regard to Mui Tsai," and seconded a resolution deploring the passing of the Irish Free State Conditions of Employment Act, limiting the employment of female workers.

On October 23rd the *Women's Freedom League* convened representatives of Women's Organisations to a Conference on the Status of Women. A resolution put forward by the Alliance calling upon the British Government to supplement its communication on the status of women already sent to the League of Nations, by a memorandum concerning the status of native women in its Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories was proposed by Miss Barry. Owing to objections put forward by St. Joan's Alliance and other feminist societies a resolution asking for wider facilities for divorce was called into question and withdrawn by its mover, the unanimous feeling of the delegates being that such a resolution was outside the scope of a conference on the Status of Women.

At a conference organised by the League of Nations Union *Women's Advisory Council* in July to discuss points on the agenda of the Assembly of the League of Nations with Miss F. M. Graves, member of the British Delegation, Miss Spender urged that further consideration should be given to the question of assisting the Russian women refugees in the Far East.

The Alliance was represented at two private meetings convened by the British Commonwealth League; one to meet the new Governor of Bermuda, and the other to hear Dr. Bolendra of Ceylon on the Child Adoption Bill.

The Alliance also took part in the following Conferences and Meetings:

Subject.	Convenor.	Representatives.
Exchange of Views on Wireless Talks	B.B.C.	Miss Barry, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, Misses Parnell, Spender and Trotman.
Modern Civilization and the African.	B.C.L.	Miss Barry, Mlle. Lenoël, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, Misses Parnell and Spender.
Women's Employment.	Over Thirty Association.	Misses Barry and Bodenham
I.L.O. and Native Labour.	L.N.U.	Mrs. Hand, Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Miss Spender.
Paper on African Women.	W.F.L.	Misses Barry and Spender.
Annual Meeting (Bristol)	O.D.C.	Mrs. Hey Groves.
Russian Women Refugees.	Lady Proctor.	Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Miss Bodenham
Women Under Indian Cultures.	B.C.L.	Misses Barry and Spender
Equal Pay.	National Association of Women Civil Servants.	Miss Barry.
Inheritance Bill.	N.C.E.C.	Miss Spender.
League of Nations Assembly Report.	Women's Advisory Council.	Misses Harley Bacon and Parnell.

Members of the Alliance attended the reception given by Lady Astor on March 23rd, and the party given at the Caxton Hall in honour of Mrs. Despard's 92nd birthday. They also attended three receptions given by the British Commonwealth League; one to Dr. Sweet of Australia; the second in connection with the B.C.L. Annual Conference; and the third to Mme. Margarati, late of the Belgian Congo.

Members were present at a Garden Party given by Mrs. R. Seligman and Mrs. Corbett Ashby (President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance) to meet His Majesty the Emperor of Ethiopia and

Princess Yashimabet, in recognition of the encouragement they have given to the education and training of girls in Ethiopia.

Miss Barry was present at a party given by the Dowager Lady Nunburnholme to the British Delegates to the Congress of the International Council of Women at Dubrovnik.

Several members were happy to subscribe to the presentation fund to Miss Nina Boyle in recognition of her great work in the feminist cause. The Alliance was represented at the Presentation Party at the Lyceum Club.

By kind invitation of Mrs. Rees, members attended a lecture on St. Teresa of Avila given by Monseigneur d'Herbigny at the Lyceum Club, under the auspices of the French Circle.

The Alliance was represented on the committee convened, under the Chairmanship of the President of the Society of St. Gregory, to promote *The People's Mass for Peace*, which took place at Westminster Cathedral on Easter Monday, when a great congregation sang the ordinary and responses of the Mass.

At the reception given by His Grace the Archbishop of Westminster to the Catholic Delegates of the Third International Conference on Social Work, members of the Alliance acted as "hostesses."

On March 29th, members sold flags at Westminster Cathedral in connection with the Knights of St. Columba campaign to collect for the Archbishop's school fund.

Letters and Resolutions were sent to:

Her Majesty Queen Mary expressing sympathy on the death of King George V.

The Treasury, protesting against the scheme for the re-organisation of clerical workers within the Civil Service which proposed to create a new low-grade department to be reserved for women only.

The Prime Minister, expressing indignation at the action taken by the Government in its efforts to nullify the vote on Equal Pay in the Civil Service.

The Colonial Secretary, asking for information with regard to forced marriages in Tanganyika.

The Piccadilly Hotel, protesting against the exclusion of women unaccompanied by men from the refreshment lounge.

The Lord Chancellor and others, urging the defeat of the so-called Marriage Bill, giving further facilities for divorce.

The Colonial and Dominions Ministers, deploring the decision to reserve administrative posts in their departments to men and urging that men and women should be given equal opportunities in these departments.

The Home Secretary, protesting against the coupling of adult women with young persons in the Employment of Women and Young Persons Bill; asking that women should be permitted equally with men to work on the two-shift system, and that regulations for the welfare of young persons should apply equally to boys and girls. Also a further letter urging that in the forthcoming Factories Bill young persons be legislated for separately, and adult men and women be given the same protection as regards hours of work and regulations affecting their general health, safety and comfort.

Certain members of Parliament, begging support for the principle of an equal standard of maintenance for

men and women in the new Unemployment Assistance Regulations.

The International Labour Office, asking that the economic status of women be included in the survey of the Status of Women to be made by Governments for the League of Nations.

The Foreign Secretary, a joint letter signed in collaboration with other Women's Societies, protesting against the Government's statement and Report on Women in the Diplomatic Service. Also a further letter asking for the inclusion of the Status of "Native" Women in the Memorandum to be submitted to the League of Nations.

The Hibbert Journal, protesting against the publication of an article on "Women under Fascism," in which the Church's attitude towards marriage in Italy was misrepresented. A protest was also sent to Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, author of the article.

Deputations

Mui Tsai. The Government Commissioners appointed to investigate the question of Mui Tsai in Hong Kong and Malaya, received at the Colonial Office a deputation from fourteen women's organizations, initiated by the British Commonwealth League, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, representing the Alliance, urged immediate full registration of Mui Tsai and increase in the number of Inspectors. She assured the Commission of the prayers and best wishes of the Alliance.

Natives Registration Act. A deputation to the Secretary of State for the Dominions, organised by the British Commonwealth League, expressed anxiety regarding a proposal to legalise concubinage contained in the Natives Registration Bill for Southern Rhodesia. On behalf of the Alliance Mrs. Laughton Mathews urged the importance of giving facilities for a settled family life to native men and women.

Personal

We offer our congratulations to the following members of the Alliance: Dr. Adams Clark, on having been awarded the Jubilee Medal for services in Bukoba, Tanganyika Territory; Miss Marjorie Grosvenor of Australia, on her marriage to Mr. J. R. Halligan; Mr. and Mrs. Kettle of Uganda, on the birth of a son; the Rt. Hon. J. A. Lyons on his appointment as Companion of Honour; Sister Marie Margaret (Margaret Organ) on her Religious Profession as a Canoness Regular of St. Augustine, Congregation of Our Lady; Miss Brigid Stafford on her appointment by the Irish Free State as Government Advisor to the I.L.O. Conference.

Visitors from Abroad. During the year we were glad to welcome from *Australia* Miss Marie Carroll, Miss Curtin, Miss Danaher and Miss McGarry; from *Austria* Dr. Buresch; from *Belgium* Madame Margarati; from *Egypt* Miss McCurdy; from *France* Mlle. Lenoël, Madame Pesson Depret and Mrs. Scott-Hill; from *Germany* Dr. Fassbinder and Fraulein Döppling; from *Holland* Dr. Van der Pijl and her sister, and from *Ireland* Mrs. Kettle.

We offer grateful thanks to the following who have given devoted help at the Office and at the Barrow during the past year: the Misses Bain, Davis, E. FitzGerald, Lowe, Organ, Hope-Robson, Terry and Warnecke. We also thank Miss Eva Barry, Mrs. Berry and Mr. Burnham for most valuable clerical

assistance rendered outside the Office, and Mrs. Ellingworth for her help at Socials. Without the generous help of our "office boy," Miss Bodenham, and our devoted daily office worker, Miss Mary Trotman, it would have been impossible to carry on during the past year.

Obituary

The annual Mass for the deceased members, associates and benefactors of the Alliance was offered at St. Patrick's, Soho Square, on Sunday, November 1st.

The Executive Committee has sustained the loss this year of Mrs. O'Connor (R.I.P.) one of the earliest members of the Alliance and a Committee member during the last twelve years. She was well known to most of us and her sane and sympathetic outlook will be greatly missed. The Alliance was represented at the Requiem and funeral by Miss Barry and Miss Spender. We have also lost a valued member by the death of Mrs. Stewart Mason, (R.I.P.), for four years Hon. Secretary of our Liverpool Branch, to which at all times she gave her loyal and gallant service. Headquarters was represented at the Requiem in Birkenhead by Miss Eva Barry.

We regret to record the deaths during the year of the following members: Sister Mary Augustine, Mr. George Bate, Mrs. Reginald Clarke, Signora Crespi, Miss Gallagher, Mrs. Jeffery, Mrs. Liddell, Margaret, Rance of Sarawak, Miss Martyn, Miss Roberts, Mrs. Roper, Miss Smith-Rewse, Dr. Herbert Vaughan, R.I.P.

On the anniversary of Mrs. Pankhurst's birthday, Miss Graham, with representatives of other societies, laid flowers at the foot of Mrs. Pankhurst's statue in Victoria Gardens.

Press Report

Letters on behalf of the Alliance have been numerous in the Catholic Press. In the "Clergy Review" our Hon. Editor commented on certain points in an article "The Family and the Farm," by Richard O'Sullivan, K.C. Two letters appeared in the "Catholic Herald" regarding the co-operation of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society with other Suffrage Societies during the fight for the Vote. The Alliance contributed a letter to the "Universe" commenting on an editorial note entitled "Marriage versus Career," and one to "The Catholic Herald" criticising an anti-feminist article by "Michael." An editorial note on "Cheap Female Labour" which appeared in the "Catholic Times" gave the Alliance an opportunity for showing the necessity for "Equal Pay for Equal Work."

"The Times" and "The Manchester Guardian" published a letter signed jointly by the Alliance and other Women's Organisations asking for the inclusion of a woman on the Palestine Commission, and a joint letter also appeared in "The Times," drawing attention to the Bill to amend the Hindu law governing Hindu women's right to property.

A reprint from the "Catholic Citizen," "St. John of Rochester and St. Thomas More" appeared in "The Catholic Women's Review" (Australia). "The Slave Market News" quoted a long extract concerning Mui Tsai. "The New Chronicle of Christian Education" and "The Anti-Slavery Reporter and Aborigines Friend" both had reprints of our Hon. Editor's article, "Marriage and the Family in

Mission Countries," as also did "The Catholic Herald." The "International Women's News" reprinted an article on "Women in the Diplomatic Service" by Nancy Stewart Parnell, and a note on the gaining of the municipal franchise by the women of Ceylon. It also quoted in full our comments on the Parliamentary debate on "Equal Pay," with the introductory remark: "As the procedure is complicated we gratefully take an account from the 'Catholic Citizen.'" "La Croix du Nord" (France) quoted at length from an article, "The Position of Women in the Cameroons" by Mgr. Le Roy. Our comments on the decision of the Government not to employ women in the Consular and Diplomatic Services were published in "The Scotsman" and several other Scottish newspapers. Dom Gilbert Higgins, C.R.L., praised the work of the Alliance in a letter to the "Hornsey Journal."

"Paulinusblatt" (Germany) published an article on the work of the Alliance by Dr. Fassbinder, and the foundation of the Australian Section led to much publicity in the Australian Press, notably in "The Advocate," "The Tribune," "The Argus" (Melbourne) and "The Sydney Morning Herald."

Our thanks are due to the Editors of the "Tablet," "The Universe," "The Catholic Herald," "The Catholic Times," and "Opportunity," for publishing frequent and often long reports of our activities: and to the "Woman Teacher" and the Women's Freedom League Bulletin for advertising our meetings.

Once more we are indebted to Miss Sheila Hynes for her careful upkeep of the Press Book.

"The Catholic Citizen." During the year the paper was exhibited at the Vatican Press Exhibition, and thus shared in the message from the Vatican sending the Holy Father's "Paternal Benediction to the Catholic Reviews and Journals of England, to the Editors, to their Associates and to all those who promote and support these valiant champions of the Faith." The Editor was on the platform and the paper was on view at the Preliminary Exhibition, which was opened by His Grace the Archbishop of Westminster at the Cathedral Hall. Copies were sent to the Second International Congress of Catholic Journalists held in Rome. The current issue was on sale on the Catholic Bookstall at the Third International Conference on Social Work, and free back numbers were given away. In December an Institute dealing with the Archives of the Woman's Movement was opened in Amsterdam, and the Alliance sent as a gift, a complete set of bound volumes of the *Catholic Citizen*, each volume containing an inscription setting forth the aims and objects of the donors. The paper is exchanged with over 100 Catholic and feminist papers throughout the world.

We are once more indebted to many distinguished experts for their contributions, in particular to Mrs. John Jones for her article on Aboriginal Women, "Girl Slaves in Christian Countries"; to Miss E. M. Turner, of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, for her article entitled "A Great Victory" (the repeal of the C.D. Acts); and to Miss Beatrice R. Coole, B.A., for her article on "Margaret Roper, the Daughter of St. Thomas More." Under the title "The Patroness of Peace," we were privileged to publish the report made by Miss Barclay Carter of Father Vincent McNabb's lecture on St. Elizabeth of Portugal. The issue containing this report was very popular.

Hon. Treasurer's Report

We are glad to report that this year our subscription list is £31 more than in 1935. We offer our most grateful thanks to those who have given to our Jubilee Fund whether the gift was 25 pence, 25 shillings or 25 pounds. The response has been a most generous one and through it the office help which is so badly needed can in part be provided.

It is most heartening to note that whereas our Christmas Stall at the Green White and Gold Fair in 1935 was a disappointment, in 1936 it was an unqualified success. The amount raised, together with Office sales, was £36 9s. 7d. Our thanks are due to all those who helped.

A Jumble Sale held in Camden Town in February brought in £10 9s. 9d. We are grateful to all those who gave clothes, etc., and to those who conducted the Sale. We are also grateful to all who have contributed goods to the Barrow throughout the year. The Barrow has now become a regular institution to the mutual benefit of our clients and of ourselves. The Christmas, Jumble and Barrow Sales totalled £89 19s., £20 more than last year.

Our most pressing need is a very heavy item, namely the Office rent—£90. The members who contribute year by year to this fund have been most loyal and generous and we are very grateful to them.

Some of our members have been responsible for raising money and at the same time have given delightful Social Functions. Miss Gadsby generously provided tea for the Ramblers to Kenwood on June 27th when Miss Terry gave fun to members and money to the funds by her after-tea character delineations. Mrs. and Miss Graham provided tea and a most enjoyable afternoon at Beaconsfield on October 10th. The Misses Billing and Davis and Mrs. Garrard kindly gave a Whist Drive on November 13th, and Mrs. Laughton Mathews gave a Bridge Drive in December. To all these we offer our grateful thanks as we do to Miss Davis for saving much Office expense through duplicating for us.

The "Catholic Citizen" has more than paid its way in spite of the fact that we have three times inserted an extra page. We are in need of an advertisement manager. Who will offer? More advertisements would enable us to enlarge the paper further. We thank our valiant band of paper-sellers, more especially Mrs. Aylward, Mrs. Hand and Miss C. Carter, and we hope others may be inspired to follow their example.

Liverpool and District Branch

We have sustained a sad loss in the death of Mrs. Mason (R.I.P.), our former Hon. Secretary for four strenuous years. She had been in failing health for some months, and for this reason resigned her post as Hon. Secretary at the beginning of the year. May her perseverance and industry be an inspiration to others. The Branch was represented at the Requiem by Miss Bowden and Miss Crawford.

The 23rd Annual Meeting was held on February 24th when Mrs. McCann was elected Chairman; Miss Johnstone, Vice-Chairman; Miss Bowden, Hon. Secretary, and Mrs. Maxfield, Hon. Treasurer. We were represented at the Annual Meeting of the Alliance in London by Mrs. McCann and Mrs. Murray.

The new Committee began by inspecting the register of members, and it was decided that those members who did not appear at Meetings should be

canvassed. This was done with encouraging results.

During the year the speakers at the General Meetings were: Dr. Heath on "Dietetics and Modern Economics," Miss Johnstone on "The Work of Distinguished Women through the Ages," and Miss Fedden on "The Fight for Enfranchisement."

A Garden Party was held at Miss Barry's home in Birkenhead in August, and a Social was given at St. Philip Neri's Hall, Liverpool, in September. Thanks are due to Miss Barry, Mrs. McCann, to the late Mrs. Shaw (R.I.P.) and to Miss Wylie for the use of their houses for Meetings and Socials.

During the Autumn the Section took part in the Jubilee Celebrations in honour of Josephine Butler's triumph, the repeal of the C.D. Acts. Members spent a very interesting evening at the Butler Memorial House, by invitation of the Warden. We were represented at the Jubilee Meeting at India Building, presided over by the Archbishop of York.

The Branch took part in the Equal Pay campaign by sending a wire to Mr. Baldwin in connection with his action over Miss Ellen Wilkinson's resolution on Equal Pay. The local M.P.s were also canvassed and a resolution on the subject was passed at the August Garden Party, and forwarded to the Prime Minister and M.P.s.

We hope during 1937 to have an increased membership and greater activity, and to arouse interest by means of the summary made of Miss Fedden's speech, and the propaganda leaflet promised from Headquarters.

Review

Are Women taking Men's Jobs? By Muriel Heagney. (Hilton & Beitch, Melbourne, 2/6.)

From Victoria, Australia, comes a masterly treatise on the position of women in industry by Muriel Heagney, undertaken at the request of the Victorian branch of the Open Door Council, following upon the inquiry of the Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria into "the effect of the increasing ratio of femininity in industry on male employment, and whether equal pay should not be introduced in many industries."

She first denies that there has been any increase in the ratio of women to men in industry, pointing out that the first primitive industries were generally founded by women and that from the dawn of civilisation women have shared the burden of labour with men in the fields and home. To substantiate her contention that the ratio of women to men has not increased appreciably in Victoria, she quotes the statistics of the Victorian Censuses from 1854 to 1933, and whereas the percentage of women breadwinners rose from 12% in 1854 to 27% in 1881, the next fifty years, the period to which critics are generally referring, show no increase, in 1933 being only 25%. In purely industrial occupations there has been an in-

crease, certainly, from 5.73% to 7.48, with a corresponding fall of 2% in domestic occupations.

The question of equal pay is next considered. In some professions the principle of equal pay operates, although, in the teaching profession, women are still excluded from Class I, the highest and best paid classification, and their salaries are about 72% of the men's. In industry, however, there is marked inequality, and in the long struggle for improvement in working conditions this inequality has been further emphasised. An illustration of this is seen in the awards of the Clothing Board of Victoria between 1897 and 1917 when the award for the men employed in the clothing industry was increased from 30s. to 50s., whereas the award for women rose from 20s. to only 28s. Similar inequalities have marked the awards of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court, created in 1904 in Australia for the settlement of industrial disputes and the fixing of awards.

Some space is then devoted to the problem of married women in industry. Economic freedom for women, she contends, is essential for the full development of personality, but a married woman has no legal right to payment for the services she renders her family. Moreover, apart from the inherent right of married women to work, investigations in other countries—in Austria, Germany and the United States—have proved that 90% of married women in employment have sound economic reasons for working.

Reviewing the position of women workers in other countries, Miss Heagney observes that prior to the depression women had made great progress in America towards equality both in the professions and in industry, more branches of industry being open to women there than in any other country except Russia. In Germany, the remarkable prominence of women in the professions and administrative posts as well as in industry, has been retrograded by the ruthless Nazi regime under the pretext of solicitude for the preservation of the family and home life.

As a foil to conditions in these countries and Australia is presented the position of women in Soviet Russia, the only country where no discrimination is made and where women are filling capably, and even brilliantly, occupations in University teaching, scientific research, and every branch of industry, whilst in 1934 32% of the members of the urban, and 26% of the rural Soviets were women.

Finally, she enumerates the efforts of women's organisations from every part of the world to bring before the League of Nations the unfavourable position of women, in an endeavour to secure a complete legal and economic equality represented by equal opportunity, equal pay and the raising of the ban on married women workers. M. McG.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH
Hon. Secretary: Miss Bowden, 22 Fern Grove,
Liverpool, 8.

A meeting was held on Monday, March 1st, at 25 Croxth Road, by kind invitation of Mrs. McCann, at which Miss Hallworth, of the Liverpool Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, was the speaker.

THE BACH CHOIR

QUEEN'S HALL
PASSION SUNDAY, MARCH 14th
J. S. BACH'S
ST. MATTHEW PASSION
in its entirety

MORNING (Part I) at 11. AFTERNOON (Part II) at 2-30
INTERVAL 1½ Hours

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Committee Room C, Livingstone House

Chair:
SIR ARTHUR NEWSHOLME, K.C.B., M.D.

Speakers:

Mrs. MARSTON ACRES
"Some Fundamental Principles of Morality"

The Rev. C. F. ANDREWS
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