

# THE Catholic Citizen

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

Vol. XXXIII. No. 7.

15th JULY, 1947.

Price Fourpence.

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.

## A Tour in the Middle East

BY N. SPILLER

It would be wonderful anyway to visit the lands of Scheherazade's tales; but to go there with a purpose adds infinitely to the interest. The International Alliance of Women has, since 1904, the date of its creation as an "International Alliance of Women for Suffrage," won many victories; and in a great many countries women have been fully, or partly, enfranchised.

Asia and Africa have begun also, it is true. Asia, with China and India (partially) as well as Japan, under MacArthur's order. But, except for South Africa, the African continent is still . . . shall we say "old fashioned"? The Middle East, in fact, except for enlightened Turkey, has been left untouched. The whole Middle East is about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  million square miles, and has a population of 81 millions.

The President of the Alliance, Dr. Hanna Rydh, and I visited only part of this large field.

There is one common feature in these countries—Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Ethiopia, and in Europe, Greece, women are unenfranchised. On the whole most of these lands are poor; the soil being often deserts; they lack water, minerals and power. They depend mostly on agriculture. There is no coal, and oil in two only of these countries—Iraq and Iran. Considering the human factor, the density of the population is great, because of rapid increase, and in relation to natural resources. The crowding is at its worst in the Nile Valley. Diseases are inevitably widespread. Poor sanitation and ill health do affect the economic and the social life.

The war has developed roads, railways and air communications but all this has brought a strain on these parts of the world, and considering that the system of land ownership is deplorable, you will understand that whatever the admirable women we met on our journey can do to create schools, nurseries, rural industries, clinics, etc., is only a drop in the ocean of misery we saw. There cannot be any progress until education, medical services on a large scale, as well as food, shelter and clothing are very greatly improved. In this,

women could greatly help if the work done by the élite we met in high schools and University and social services in Egypt, Iraq, Iran, could be increased by thousands.

The Egyptian Premier, Nokrashy Pasha, said recently that "he wanted to raise the standard of life of the people of Egypt." We say that he cannot do it without the help of the women.

When we saw in Iran little girls of five years of age making carpets from morn till night, we were reminded of the cry of the children at the time of our own industrial revolution.

We saw educated veiled women taking no part in the social life of the community, though one of them was director of a secondary school for girls!

When we saw the lack of water canalisation in a fine large city like Teheran, and heard that beggars are better off than labourers, we realised that the emancipation of women is at the root of the betterment of these fine people, and we can assure you that there are many women in those countries who feel with us that equal education, equal opportunities, equal freedom to choose a profession . . . or a husband, are essential liberties!

There is probably often equality of misery between men and women, but women are less free in the real sense of the word and that must add to their sufferings.

The sun shines, the skies are blue, the friends we met were delightful. Let us help these friends to conquer that freedom and those fights that are the birthright of all human beings.

\* \* \*

We were delighted listeners at Mrs. Spiller's talk on July 1st at the Caxton Hall, when she gave us a vivid picture of the Middle East and of Greece. She and Dr. Hanna Rydh had a wonderful reception in the countries they visited—and they managed to find ways of "getting over" their ideas of women's progress and emancipation. They talked to girls in Cairo University and in secondary schools and even to very little children. They visited hospitals,



clinics, schools, factories and were guests in the most primitive towns without water supply as well as in the highly sophisticated towns.

Their impression was of the great poverty of the majority of the people and of the lack of opportunities for the co-operation of the women with the men in raising the general standard of living.

## Reviews

**Venereal Disease.** By L. Martindale, C.B.E., M.D., B.S. F.R.C.O.G., (A.M.S.H., 2s.).

**History of the Abolition of State Regulation of Prostitution.** By Madame Legrand-Falco. (A.M.S.H., 1s. 6d.).

The first Alison Neilans Memorial Lecture was on Venereal Disease, its influence on the health of the nation, its cure and prevention. The pamphlet, which has reproductions of plates from 15th century treatises on the "serpent's evil," gives an historical account of the introduction of the disease into Europe from the Indies following Columbus' discoveries; an analysis of the disease; and a reasoned argument for voluntary as against compulsory treatment.

The second lecture was given as part of the celebrations in honour of the victory of the Abolitionists in France, and is a brilliant exposition of the fight that led to that victory, by one who took a leading part in the campaign.—P.C.C.

**The Pivot of Society.** By Juanita Frances. (Married Women's Association, 6d.).

A new pamphlet which urges the legal recognition of the married woman's contribution to the home and consequent right to a full share of the husband's income.

We have received the following books from the Mercier Press, Cork:—

**As in a Mirror.** By Father James, O.F.M.Cap. (8s. 6d.).

**The Mystical Body.** By Father M. Eugene Boylan, O.Cist.R. (5s.).

**Most Worthy of all Praise.** By Vincent P. McCorry, S.J. (10s. 6d.).

**The Apostles' Creed.** By S. N. D. Illustrated by Jerome Sullivan.

**Hail Mary.** By Sister Marie du S.C., S.N.D. Illustrated by Patrick O'Connor.

**My Angel.** By Sister Marie du S.C., S.N.D. Illustrated by Jerome Sullivan.

These three little books also from the Mercier Press at 9d. each, provide work and instruction for small children and should be a useful addition to home and infant school equipment.

## Welcome to Our Australian Guests

A delightful party was held at Holly Place, Hampstead to welcome our members from Australia, Mrs. Copley and Miss Helen Murphy (Melbourne) and Dr. Nell McMahon (Sydney).

After tea and strawberries and considerable activity over sales and raffles, the visitors assembled for "business." The chairman, Miss Challoner, moved a resolution of indignation at the Chancellor's specious excuses for failing to implement the principle of equal pay, a resolution enthusiastically endorsed.

Dame Vera Loughton Mathews came specially to greet our Australian members. Miss Challoner said how delighted we all were to have her amongst us again after her seven years of honourable service. Dame Vera welcomed the visitors saying how sad she had been not to be able to visit Australia when so near—in India. She hoped she would see some of those present at the Conference of St. Joan's International in September at Brussels. She stressed the importance of our work for the full development of the Christian principle of the equality of the sexes. She asked the visitors to take back with them, greetings to friends old and new in Australia, and the thanks of the committee for many generous gifts received from them.

Mrs. Copley regretted Miss Murphy was unable to come, through indisposition, and said how glad she was to bring messages from our old friend and indefatigable Melbourne founder and hon. secretary, Miss Flynn, and to meet members of the Alliance in Great Britain in such a friendly and sociable way. She looked forward to attending the Brussels Conference.

Dr. Nell McMahon, an original member of the committee of the Alliance in Sydney, gave an account of its foundation and of its constitution. She said that the drawings of St. Joan for the prize offered by a member were ready for adjudication.

Letters recently received at Headquarters said that Mass had been offered for the Alliance on St. Joan's Day in accordance with tradition, at St. Patrick's, Church of the Marist Fathers, Sydney. Melbourne kept its St. Joan's Day celebrations on Whit Sunday when Dame Enid Lyons, Australian President of the Alliance, gave an inspiring address on its work at the P.A.G. Rooms, to an enthusiastic gathering. Miss Flynn said how delighted they were in Melbourne to have a visit from Mrs. Jean Daly, the chairman of the Alliance in Sydney.

As a result of sales, raffles, etc., together with sales at the office, just under £30 was collected for the funds.

## Notes and Comments

**Nationality.** On July 3rd, Mr. Gammans asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he is prepared to introduce in the near future legislation whereby the British-born wives of Polish and other foreign nationals may retain their British nationality.

Mr. Ede replied: "As the hon. Member will be aware, a Conference of Experts from countries of the Commonwealth met in February last to discuss nationality matters of general interest. It is proposed shortly to circulate to the Governments of the countries represented the text of a Bill based on the report of that conference, and this text will include provisions to carry out the policy of the Government already announced in regard to British-born women. In the meantime I am not in a position to make a statement as to the date when the legislation contemplated can be introduced."

\* \* \*

All Women's Organisations will rejoice to hear that at long last Cambridge University is proposing to abandon its unique position among the Universities of the world of withholding the full degree from women who have qualified for it.

It is proposed that women should be in a position of equality with men throughout the University (except in regard to the officer of proctor and Esquire Bedell) with a reservation regarding the number of those in statu pupillari.

In view of the recent practice of Parliament of adopting differential retiring ages for men and women, it is pleasing to note that it is proposed that no difference shall be made in the retiring age of men and women.

As the Report of the Syndicate recommending these changes appeared too large to be considered by the Regent House this term, it will have to await consideration in the October term, when it is hoped that it will receive full approval. After approval of the principle, it will be necessary to consider the consequential amendments to the Statutes, and the result will then be submitted to the King in Council. Only after this approval has been given, will it be possible to make arrangements for the ceremony of conferring full degrees on those women who have received titular degrees during the last quarter of a century, and also on those who, not needing it for professional purposes, have refused to take what in their opinion was a sham substitute for the degree they had earned.

\* \* \*

Will those members who wish to attend the Conference of St. Joan's (International) Alliance in Brussels on September 3rd and 4th kindly notify the Hon. Secretary before July 28th?

At the Annual Conference of the Women's T.U.C. held in Newcastle on July 4th, representing 1,250,000 workers, a resolution was carried unanimously, expressing disappointment at the Government's failure to grant equal pay to men and women. The resolution called upon the T.U.C. to make immediate representations to the Government to set an example to private employers by introducing equal pay for its own employees.

The chairman, Dame Anne Loughlin, who is also a member of the T.U.C. General Council and was one of the signatories of the minority report of the Royal Commission on Equal Pay, asked that the Government should make a statement of the date on which the principle of equal pay could be implemented.

\* \* \*

Members will enjoy extracts from an article in *Cruz* by Patricia A. Dias on the meeting of the World Union of Catholic Students at Anzio. It would be a pity to lose the savour of her remarks by summarising.

"There were about 200 representatives, from about 40 different countries, including one man who solemnly assured us that he represented the women students of his country. . . ."

"There was a tendency, I thought, to talk rather vaguely about 'problems.' Sometimes I found it difficult to understand what exactly the problems were, e.g., the much discussed 'problème féminin,' which is to be the subject of discussion again at an international camp for women students later in the year. When I tried to find out what this problem was I received several rather unsatisfactory answers and eventually was told, darkly, that I had a lot of problems I didn't know about. Where ignorance is bliss, why create a sub-secretariat? But perhaps I am being a little unfair; few other countries have mixed federations like our own and in many of them the function of women students seems to be, as one priest in all seriousness put it, to 'be there' with their gaiety and modesty."

\* \* \*

The office will be closed from August 5th to September 11th. Correspondence will be attended to as usual.

\* \* \*

Quite a number of members have not yet paid their subscriptions for 1947. We feel sure that if they realised the amount of trouble this gives, not to speak of time and material involved, they would hasten to pay. We beg all those who owe their subscriptions to fill in the slip enclosed with this issue of the "Catholic Citizen" and send their cheque, postal order, or even stamps, at once, if possible, but please before July 25th when we want to make up our accounts for the half year.



## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen"

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

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"Catholic Citizen."

## Human Rights

The following Memorandum has been submitted to the Human Rights Commission by St. Joan's (International) Social and Political Alliance:—

Believing in the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man and therefore in the dignity and worth of human personality, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance maintains that any Bill of Human Rights should recognise the inviolable right of the individual, irrespective of creed, race, sex or class, to life and bodily integrity; the right to worship; to marry and participate in family, civic and national, life; the right to earn, to contract, to possess and use property; the right to speak and write according to the conscience and ability of the individual;

And believing that it is the function of the State to uphold justice, to reconcile authority with individual liberty, the dignity of the individual with the welfare of the State, and the legitimate concern of every human being for himself, his family and his country with the concern for other families and other peoples, and furthermore, believing that the inadequate participation of women in public life has led to an ill-balanced development of human society, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance maintains that no International Bill of Rights will be acceptable, or workable, unless based on these fundamental principles.

Though the Charter of the United Nations lays down that human rights and fundamental freedoms are for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, discriminations due to tribal customs are sometimes overlooked, and it is particularly urged that the following points be specifically included in the International Bill of Rights:—

1. No child or woman, whatever her race, shall be treated as a chattel to be sold by her father or alleged proprietor.
2. Every woman shall be permitted to choose her own partner in life despite any contract entered into in her name by any other person.

3. No marriage contract shall be made for any girl under 14, nor for any woman over 14 without her consent.
4. There shall be no lending out of wives under any pretext.
5. Widows shall not be inherited. They shall be free to dispose of themselves and their children as they think fit, remain with the husband's family, go back to their own, be independent, or re-marry.

These points are stressed as they are frequently overlooked although they vitally affect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of a vast number of human beings.

\* \* \*

The Alliance wrote to the **Trusteeship Council** in connection with the item on the Agenda of its First Session which dealt with the Formulation of Questionnaires on the Political, Economic, Social and Educational Advancement of the Inhabitants of each Trust Territory. In this letter, the Alliance urged that questions be included in any such questionnaires to elicit information regarding child marriage; forced marriages; lending out of wives; inheritance of widows; the right of women to contract, etc. (It is on the basis of these questionnaires that the administering authorities are to make their annual reports to the General Assembly.)

In the same letter the Alliance wrote, "We are confident that, in conformity with the equality of the sexes laid down in the Charter, more specifically in Chapter XII, Article 76, which states that one of the basic objectives of the Trusteeship System is 'to encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,' there will be no sex discrimination under the International Trusteeship System.

"We stress this point, because we note that in the Draft Convention concerning Social Policy in Non-Metropolitan Territories, under Non-Discrimination, Articles 14, 15, 16 and 17, the word *sex* has been omitted and women workers are thus

Continued on next page

## Parliament and Equal Pay

Although long used to neglect of their interests by one Government after another, women stand amazed at the cool cynicism of our present rulers, whose considered opinion on the grant of Equal Pay was voiced by Mr. Dalton on June 11th:—"As a broad affirmation of a general principle the Government accept as regards their own employees the justice of the claim that there should be no difference in payment for the same work in respect of sex." But he went on to say that to do justice would cost money and that this could not be contemplated in view of the very heavy commitments the Government has already authorised, in "redistributing more justly the purchasing power of the people." In other words women workers are penalised while others obtain increases—Members of the House of Commons actually raising their own salaries from £600 to £1,000. It is only when women demand "the rate for the job" that Mr. Dalton pontificates:—"So long as there is no corresponding increase in output any step which adds to the total of money incomes is wholly inflationary in its consequences and thus tends to cancel through higher prices the gains already conferred." No space was found in the argument for mention of the many thousand male workers, who now receive the same pay for a shorter week. In plain English the result of the generous wage increases recently given to men has been to lower the value of the wages women receive and for this they are to get no compensation whatever. This is indeed a case of "heads I win, tails you lose."

Mr. W. J. Brown in a brief but forcible speech exposed the hollowness of the Government claim that they endorsed the principle of Equal Pay, by recalling that "twenty-six years ago men and women in the clerical, executive and administrative grades in the Civil Service were put into a common class, recruited by a common examination at a common age and were employed interchangeably on common work," and asking if, in view of this record, Mr. Dalton thought there was any point in his saying that the Government accepted the principle of Equal Pay, when after 26 years they propose to do nothing about it.

There was obvious uneasiness on the Government benches at the poor figure the Labour Party was made to cut. Mrs. Castle stated frankly that the women affected by Mr. Dalton's statement "will be deeply disappointed by the suggestion that they alone should be expected to forego any satisfaction of a just claim so long as inflationary pressure lasts," and Mrs. Manning emphasised "the very great disappointment that the Chancellor's statement will mean to the millions of women in this country." It was not revealed why wage increases to men apparently do not result in inflation, but

only those to women, and it will be interesting to see what replies are given by Government spokesmen to any further demands by the stronger sex.

Mr. Dalton, and presumably also his Ministerial colleagues do not appear to have given much thought to the women's claim. This was revealed in his replies to suggestions from various members of the House as to the possibility of making some small efforts to put into practice the principle of Equal Pay to which they had just paid lip service. Mrs. Castle's suggestion that Mr. Dalton should "consider making a partial beginning by one or other of the methods which have been put to him from various quarters," was quietly shelved. Mr. J. Callaghan, backed by Mrs. Manning, suggested that as the Chancellor's twin objections are cost and inflation he should consider putting into force at some future date a scheme which would cost very little and would not create inflationary pressure, for example by giving to women the men's rate of increase, which in the Civil Service would mean giving them four shillings a week instead of three. Mr. Dalton replied that this was a new idea to him, but although he would be happy to look at it, this "must not be taken as diminishing the emphatic statement I have made on behalf of His Majesty's Government that this is not the time for assuming heavy additional burdens." He followed this up by an emphatic negative to Mrs. Middleton's suggestion of deferred credits "by which when production reaches the level which we hope and believe it will before long, the women will have made up to them what they are losing at the present time by the deferment of equal pay."

As a result of the debate women are clear on at least one point—the Government does not intend to give them justice. It is for them to consider what steps they should take next. As Mrs. Castle warned the House recently women are showing themselves very disinclined to accept Mr. Dalton's invitation to return to industry and as apparently the Government, although not interested in fair play, is amenable to pressure, women may well turn their attention in this direction, as suggested by Lady Violet Bonham Carter at the recent Liberal Assembly at Bournemouth.

C. M. GORDON.

## Human Rights—continued from previous page

excluded from the legal safeguards accorded to all male workers under this section."

The Trusteeship Council decided, at its Meeting on April 23rd, 1947, to transmit a copy of this latter "Petition" to the I.L.O. with a request that the Trusteeship Council be informed of whatever action the I.L. Conference may take on the matter.



## International Notes

**Asia.** The Asian Relations Conference held in New Delhi in March, represented thirty countries and was inaugurated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru under the Presidency of the famous poetess and leader, Sarojini Naidu. Amongst the delegates were many women, twelve from India, seven from Ceylon, five from Indonesia, three from Palestine (Jewish), and one or two each from Egypt, Burma, Malaya, China, Philippines, Iran, Korea, Cambodia and Tadjikistan. Others came as observers or interpreters.

Though the Status of Women and the Woman's Movement was listed as a separate subject for Group Discussion, none of the women felt that it was their only or even main concern. In fact, they gave up the idea of having a third sitting on this Group in favour of combining with that on Social Services, as they felt there was no place for an exclusive consideration by women of these problems. The Indian women made it clear that they aim at complete and fully-operative equality with men, and expressed the conviction that such rights, based as they are on human values, will be best won in co-operation with men.

At the conclusion of the Conference, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, as President, gave an oration "so inspired that it held 40,000 people spellbound."

In the Report of the Discussion Group (Status of Women and Woman's Movements) it was suggested that the All-Asian Women's Conference should be revived, and that a Liaison Committee of Asian Women representatives should be formed.—(*Bulletin of Indian Women's Movement.*)

**Australia.** Thirty Tsingtao "sewer rats" have left their dark, verminous retreats at the call of an Australian U.N.R.R.A. "pied piper," and are being cared for, fed and clothed in a Catholic Mission Orphanage. The "pied piper" is Miss Teresa Wardell, of Melbourne who holds a diploma in social service and a general nursing certificate from St. Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, and the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, London.

Miss Wardell's success in coaxing the "sewer rats" from their manholes, where they would take refuge when stoned away from the wharves by policemen, has been featured in the China press, with accompanying pictures.

When Miss Wardell, her programme ended, left Tsingtao recently, the ex-wharf rats, now 30 strong, showed up unexpectedly in their old haunts—the wharves. But they were there to bid her farewell. Natty and trim in their navy blue and olive drab, they scampered with delight over Miss Wardell's ship, from which, in their old life, they would have been harshly barred.—(*Australian Catholic News-letter.*)

Miss Wardell was a Vice-President of St. Joan's Alliance in Melbourne until she left for China.

**Finland.** This year the Finnish nation celebrated the 40th anniversary of the granting of the Parliamentary vote to women. England was represented at the festivities by Mr. W. Teeling, M.P.

**France.** Madame Archambault kindly attended the third International Congress in Paris of L'Union Feminine civique et sociale on "La Mère, Ouvrière de Progrès Humain," for St. Joan's Alliance.

The Assembly drew up a declaration which might have been taken from any feminist programme, but which seems to us to ignore dangerously the basic principle of Christianity—and of feminism—the intrinsic worth of human personality. The glorification of the mother is no more a sound basis for reconstruction than the glorification of the male—and both fall into the error of ignoring the equal value of every human being in the sight of God.

**Hungary.** We were delighted to meet Madame de Kresz on her way through London, from Budapest to Canada, and to have news from her of our other members in Hungary.

**Italy.** It is natural that the sixth centenary of the birth of St. Catherine of Siena should excite more religious interest in Italy than here. But it is of interest to all Catholics to learn that of recent years, and not in Italy alone, a remarkable recrudescence of Catherinian studies leading to a fuller appreciation both of her brilliant personality and of the depth of her understanding of mystical theology has been in progress. No less than four hundred of her collected letters, addressed from the Pope downwards to many of the leaders in the world of her day have been closely studied and reveal, both the intensity of her Dominican spirituality and the important part played by this great mystic in the political events of her day.—(*Vita e Pensiero.*)

**Sweden.** A useful piece of ammunition for the equal pay campaign comes from a Report of the Population Committee concerning the energy per hour required for certain jobs—the laundress is listed between the stonemason and the lumberman!

An article in *Hertha* by Brita Akerman, Social Director of the Swedish Association for Arts and Crafts, demands equal rights for the woman working at home. She advocates an agreement "expressed in clear and unequivocal terms" as to the division of labour between husband and wife—and the adaptation of working conditions to suit the business or professional woman who "needs to work in her home and only to use part of her working ability in the open market."

V. P. F.

## MERSEYSIDE BRANCH.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. De Rouffignac, 31, Gorseedale Road, Liverpool.

In April we were happy to arrange for Miss Barry to address the Women's Organisations Committee on the Nationality of Married Women. As a result a resolution on the subject was sent to the Liverpool M.Ps. Before the meeting, the chairman of the Liverpool Branch, Mrs. McCann entertained the chairman and hon. secretary of the W.O.C. and some members of the committee of the Alliance to lunch at the Adelphi to meet Miss Barry.

In May, Mrs. McCann gave a talk on the history and work of the Alliance to the W.O.C., which is hearing in turn, an account of the work of each constituent society.

In June, Sister Bride of the White Sisters gave an inspiring lecture for the Alliance at the Convent of the White Sisters on the Status of Women in Uganda. On July 10th representatives of the Alliance attended the opening of the new Josephine Butler House. We are looking forward to a talk from Dr. Mary Cardwell on July 19th, followed by tea, by the kindness of Mrs. Mallon, in Wavertree.

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

A. L. P. Dorman in the "Catholic Citizen" July 15th, 1922.

It is a distinctly hopeful sign that only an insignificant minority of the members of the C.W.L. are opposed to women's enfranchisement and the opposition appears to have come from those who have "fears". (How the Suffrage movement has suffered and does suffer from inordinate "fears"! ) or from those who cannot distinguish the views of a few extremists from the great question which we firmly believe and know to be based on true orthodox, Catholic principles . . . From conversations and observation we find there is a strong movement to prepare women for their political and civic duties and rights when they shall have obtained them or where they have already obtained them. Those women who are valiantly fighting to win electoral rights for women may take to themselves this consolation: where the victory is gained there will be a large body of women, well organised and instructed ready to make good use of the vote which has been won for them by those who have borne the burden and heat of the fight.—*Suffrage and the International Catholic Women's Leagues.*

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**Wanted.**—Light Wheelbarrow.—E.C., c/o St. Joan's Alliance.

**Matron** required for Catholic Probation Home, London, for girls aged 17 to 21. State training and experience. Salary, Government scales.—M.Y., c/o St. Joan's Alliance.

**To Let.**—August, small furnished flat. Wembley Park, Middlesex.—Y., c/o St. Joan's Alliance.

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