

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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THE Catholic Citizen

Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society),
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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.

Women and Democracy

By V. M. CRAWFORD.

When, in the VI century, the Council of Mâcon unanimously laid down that the word *homo* meant a human being and therefore included woman as well as man, it may have hoped to have cut off at the root a cause of controversy which nevertheless has survived from that century to this. For, in a great measure, varying in different lands, we still live in a masculine world in which woman is still struggling to secure that freedom for her personality to which nature has entitled her. Even to-day, she is condemned by many moralists to maternity and to a narrow domestic existence as her main function in life, unless indeed circumstances should arise, as in recent years, when society suddenly calls upon her to take her share in heavy and even responsible work outside her own home.

Faced with these contradictions, Madame Leroy, in a pamphlet* on which this article is mainly based rightly emphasises that to Christianity is due the merit of proclaiming the fundamental equality of all human beings. Far from exalting womanhood solely because of her maternity, Christian doctrine teaches the excellence of virginity chosen for the love of God, in other words it considers woman as an autonomous person with the right to pursue an individual career. In brief, nothing in the Gospels confers any superiority of one sex over the other.

Nevertheless the position of woman was regulated by so many influences that it was only by slow degrees that her religious equality became effective, and it was not till the middle ages that her rightful position became widely recognised in the face of considerable male opposition. This is apparent from the positions filled by distinguished women in many spheres as well as by female land holders and great abbesses. Women

excelled also in many trades and industries until the dawning of the machine age materially altered economic conditions. There followed for women a period of moral and social decline when women were pushed once more into the background and were maintained by rich husbands in luxurious idleness as a proud possession. Christian influence almost disappeared and Governments tended to regard social needs almost wholly from a masculine point of view, while education passed largely into male hands.

Whatever hopes were legitimately built by women on the spread of democratic ideas in the XVIII century culminating in the French Revolution were effectually extinguished as far as France was concerned by the Code Napoléon, as Madame Leroy points out in her pamphlet. Elsewhere liberalising tendencies were too powerful for suppression and by the close of the XIX century, democracy had long since ceased to be purely masculine in outlook, more especially in the New World. International feminism had its birth at the first Women's International Congress held in Paris in 1878 and a powerful impetus was given by the first World War to the whole feminist movement from which no receding is conceivable.

It is sometimes forgotten that feminism has also an economic basis. The industrial age has tended to produce greater economic instability, compelling middle-class women without previous preparation to take part in "the struggle for life." Thus it is not out of pure antagonism to men but from a simple desire to reach some financial security that they have pushed into more lucrative professions and occupations. And in a similar spirit they have clamoured for higher and better education, as a preparation for women's normal life.

Madame Leroy wisely adopts a tolerant attitude in regard to man's reactions towards women's ambitions. In truth he has seen himself engaged in a losing battle on every side, and he has reacted

* *La Femme dans la Démocratie* by Magdeleine Leroy-Boy. A speech made at the twenty-eighth *Semaine Sociale* 1946.

with every weapon—legal, political and social—that he could find. Not a little help, too, has come to him from women themselves, and Catholics who, on Christian principles, should be in the forefront of the feminist ranks have often shown themselves the most timid and hostile "antis." They have clung to the supposed safety of a sheltered life and dreaded fresh responsibilities and have been too submissive to man-inspired theories.

It is, in truth, modern democracy, organised by men for themselves, which has rendered the inequalities between the sexes too illogical for men themselves to support. Practical life under modern conditions has broken down one by one all the old restrictions that hedged in women's activities. Again marriage, though its essential duties must be recognised, is now admitted to be not wholly incompatible with an outside career. So noted a sociologist as Maritain has not hesitated to point out that St. Paul's much quoted strictures concerning women may well have been affected by special conditions at Corinth. To-day we may set against them the expressed hope of Pope Benedict, in 1919, that all women should have the vote, followed by later pronouncements of Pope Pius XII in favour of equal pay for equal work, and of the use by women of their political power. It is probably true to say that the revision of oppressive laws, urgent as this is, would be less beneficial than a wide modification of public opinion especially where family life is concerned. It is essential that a belief in co-operation should take the place of subordination. After all, what is woman actually demanding today? Simply to take her place in life side by side with man, not in order to serve him, but to labour with him for the common good.

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Blanche Smyth Pigott

We ask the prayers of our members for the repose of the soul of Blanche Smyth Pigott who died at Lymington on June 4th. Miss Smyth Pigott was one of the five original members of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society and it was at her flat in February, 1911, that the first informal meeting was held when it was decided to found the Society.

For many years Miss Smyth Pigott was press secretary. We quote from our Annual Report for 1913:—

"Miss Smyth Pigott has continued her work this year as press secretary, a very important office, and earned the gratitude of Catholic Suffragists by the fearless manner in which she has conducted her various campaigns. Our opponents are beginning to realise that they cannot attack our Society and our cause with impunity, and during the course of the year many a foe who lightheartedly entered the lists, has been ignominiously routed by our valiant and logical champion."

She also did much speaking for the Society in a forthright manner, but the charm of her smile and grace of expression disarmed her opponents. The fight for an equal moral standard which underlay the woman's movement was the aspect of the campaign which particularly appealed to her and the Alliance owes much to the courage and clear-sightedness with which she openly spoke and wrote on subjects which, in those days, and especially in the society in which she had been brought up and lived, were taboo.

She was also a member of the W.S.P.U.

Although for many years she had lived in the country, she never failed to pay an annual visit to the office and to renew her subscription.—R.I.P. B.G.

STOP PRESS. St. Joan's Alliance expresses intense indignation that the Government is not prepared to implement the policy of equal pay for men and women, a principle now accepted by the three major political parties. The Chancellor estimates the cost of introducing equal pay to be £24,000,000 at this stage, some of which will be returned in taxation. It is impossible that this sum would endanger the financial stability of the country. Women have waited for many years for equal pay and think it wrong that the Government should refuse to take action by putting forward specious and sentimental excuses that have long been refuted.

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Women Students at the Catholic Workers' College

(From the *C.W.L. Magazine*, February, 1947.)

The small band of women students who have been trained at the Catholic Workers' College at Oxford, since its foundation some 25 years ago, have a special claim on the interest of the Catholic Women's League. It was the generous hospitality of the beloved Foundress of the Catholic Women's League, Miss Margaret Fletcher, which first made possible the attendance of women students at the College, and she continued to provide a residence for them, and to watch over their interests, until her death. Now that the College has re-opened, after a period of compulsory suspension during the War, the League may care to be reminded of the valuable contribution the College makes to Catholic women's activity.

Founded in memory of Father Plater, S.J., the College stands for the belief that "public opinion, the views of ordinary people, can and do count, and are best shaped by those who share the lives of the masses, and understand their outlook. A bit of active work in this or that good cause can carry more influence than much lecturing and speech-making."

The students come to Oxford "to gain, above all, a better understanding of God's purpose in this world and of man's eternal destiny in the next." They are wage-earners, who are willing to leave their careers for a year or two in order to prepare to play their part as Catholic citizens. The course is cultural and consists partly of Social and Economic Theory and History, and partly of Moral Philosophy and the Philosophy of Religion. For those who remain a second year, a University Diploma in Economics is open and many have secured this valuable trophy. The course is not intended primarily as a professional training, although it is useful in all branches and several students have left their original careers to become social workers. The majority have gone back to their own work in factory, or shop, or office, able to undertake responsible work in public service, and equipped for the leadership of the causes they profess.

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Could there be a better way of counteracting the un-Christian influences in the national life which we all deplore? How much precious ground is lost just for the lack of this sort of testimony at the right time and place!

Naturally, the number of women willing to face this interruption in their career is not large, but three students are already at work and have already given ample evidence of just the qualities required. Two convert social workers at Oxford have generously offered accommodation for them, and their local Education Authorities are helping with grants, but the expenses are heavy, being £125 per year for each student barely covering the cost. The finances of the College at the present moment are suggestive rather of a faith in miracles than of financial sanity, for the women students' fund amounts to only £15. Set against the huge sums available for the training of young communists, or members of other organizations bent on the destruction of all we hold dear, the amount seems ludicrously small. The members of the Catholic Social Guild have to put forth strenuous efforts to keep the College and its scholars going, and they need much more support if even their modest schemes are to be fully developed. The women's Catholic Societies are, for the most part, unable to help by direct donations, but their individual members may well be both willing and able to do so.

Father O'Hea will gladly receive any contribution towards the support of his existing women students and, such is his belief in the greatness of the cause, he asks for names of suitable candidates for future years.

LETITIA FAIRFIELD.

Dr. Fairfield's appeal is addressed especially to members of the Catholic Women's League, but the cause which she has described so well will interest other societies, the schools and Catholic women generally. The College begs for contributions, however small, to bring the sum of £15 up to meet the fees (£375) of the women now in residence and to make some provision for the future. The College also wishes to be put in touch with suitable candidates.

Address: REV. L. O'HEA, S.J.,
Catholic Workers' College,
Oxford.

Notes and Comments

On May 30th, St. Joan's Day, in accordance with a tradition, which has been followed since the late Father Alfred, O.F.M. Cap. set the example many years ago, Mass is offered for St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance by one of our priest friends. This year the Mass was offered by Father L. Oberarzbacher, an Austrian Missioner and Monsignor Filmer also offered his Mass for our intentions. To both these friends we express our thanks. In the evening the committee attended Benediction at the cathedral when a laurel wreath was placed by Miss Challoner, our Chairman, on the Shrine of St. Joan.

The tragic death of Mrs. Mavis Tate on June 4th has come as a great blow to the woman's movement. Mrs. Tate was a member of Parliament (U) from 1931 to 1945. A few years' work in Parliament drove her into the feminist ranks and she could always be relied upon to fight in Parliament, and outside, against sex discrimination and on behalf of the equality of the sexes. Her great triumph was the success of the campaign she waged for the granting of equal compensation for war injuries suffered by men and women civilians. She conducted this campaign with great courage, persistence and skill, and behind her she had the whole-hearted support of the women's organisations. She was concerned about the position in Germany as early as 1934 when she paid a visit to Germany to rescue the wife and child of a former Socialist member of the Reichstag. In 1945 she visited Buchenwald concentration camp with seven other M.P.s., she being the only woman. She took an active part in the equal pay campaign and was one of the speakers at the mass meeting at the Central Hall in January of this year.

A Conference was called on May 15th by the Minister of Labour and National Service to discuss with women's organisations, methods by which women could be induced to come to the help of industry in the present economic crisis. The Parliamentary Secretary quoted the Minister as saying that "the Government, although mindful of the many domestic duties of our womenfolk . . . has nevertheless found it necessary to appeal again to those who can to come back into industry and help to increase the output of the things we need at home and the things we must export to enable us to purchase our requirements abroad."

In the discussion that followed, Mr. Ness Edwards was left in no doubt as to the feeling of the women's organisations on the subject of equal pay. He seemed surprised that the demand was so widespread and persistent and promised to inform the Minister. He said that there was of course no question of direction of labour nor

would any appeal be made to mothers of very young children nor to women whose going to work would cause unnecessary hardship in the home.

St. Joan's Alliance was represented by the Chairman and hon. Secretary.

Another Conference at which the Alliance was represented was called by the Minister of Fuel and Power to enlist the support of the women's organisations in the Gas and Electricity Economy Campaign and to invite suggestions.

On May 13th a pleasant ceremony marked the opening by the Lord Mayor of London, of the first Cecil Residential Club for Girls at fine modern premises at 195/201 Gower Street, N.W.1. The Club where 72 fortunate girls will have bed and breakfast and full week-end board for 30s. is well supplied with up-to-date amenities—roof-garden, showers, games-room and laundry accommodation. A Youth Organisation and a Social Committee will arrange educational classes, dances, and entertainments.

Mrs. Cecil Chesterton, whose energy is responsible for the Club, spoke of a similar venture she has at heart and in hand for 72 old women who will no doubt also appreciate the happy atmosphere of such a "club."

We record with regret the death of Dr. Harold Moody, founder and president of the League of Coloured Peoples, soon after his return from his journey to the West Indies to learn (amongst other things) about the present conditions of his people and their hopes for the future. It is interesting to quote his assertions that "adult suffrage is one of the the greatest blessings that has attended this island" and that "everyone is bound to be impressed by the development, which is out of all proportion, in the rise of womenfolk of the islands to positions of executive responsibility. This is the most striking and most significant happening in the last twenty-seven years, since my previous visit."

By request of the O.D.C., Sir Guildhamme Myrddin Evans, Deputy Secretary to the Minister of Labour, and one of the Government delegates to the forthcoming International Labour Conference, received a deputation of women's organisations. The deputation, which took place on June 4th, dealt with the discrimination against women in the Draft Convention on Social Policy in Dependent Territories which is to be discussed at Geneva this month. The Alliance was represented by the Chairman and Hon. Secretary.

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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Equal Pay

We go to press too soon after the Margate Conference of the Labour Party to report the Government's reaction to the overwhelming majority (2,310,000 as against 598,000 on a card vote) in favour of the immediate grant of equal pay to all women employed by the Government and Local Authorities.

It is a real satisfaction that that staunch equalitarian, Mrs. E. M. White, moved the resolution at such a vital moment. The reply of Mr. Crawford, for the executive, was that this reform, to which, as Mrs. White reminded the Conference, the Labour Party had been committed since 1922, had been accepted in principle but that to give effect to equal pay would involve a total cost to the Government and Local Authorities of about £30,000,000, which was at present prohibitive. Here Mrs. White scornfully interjected, "What! Cannot afford to be honest!" Rumour has it that the excuse will be that this is not the time for increased expenditure either of Government money on (women's) wages or of those wages on "consumer" goods.

Twenty-five years ago, the principle was conceded to the Civil Servants and the reform withheld on the same plea, that it was not the time; the financial position of the country would not allow it, but a review within three years was promised.

Twice since then, Parliament has approved the principle and twice it has been jockeyed into turning down its implementation. As Mrs. Cazalet Keir pointed out in her letter to the *Times*, "The equal pay resolutions passed by bodies of various political complexions since the start of the century must by this time be legion . . . since 1882 the T.U.C. has systematically passed supporting resolutions—the Liberals are in favour, and now Mr. Butler and his colleagues . . . on behalf

of the Conservative Party . . . have also plumped for equal pay. The time must have come for immediate unequivocal action. Never again will any Government find both their own supporters and their opponents so completely agreed on what is not just a domestic money issue, but an act of fundamental justice."

There is no need to go again into the arguments for equal pay, particularly as the principle is not called in question except by determined anti-feminists such as Mr. Christopher Hollis, M.P. (see his article in a recent number of *The Tablet*). It may, however, be worth while to point out that in such reforms as the raising of the school-leaving age and the introduction of a forty-hour week the Government has not been prevented by fear of expense from doing what it felt to be right. May we remind the Government, too, that it has given increases of wages to various groups of men and that it does not control their expenditure by reducing their wages?

Women, during the crises with which this country has been afflicted continuously for the last few years, have risen to all occasions and taken their full share of responsibility. Men and women have been trusted in times of danger and need and have responded. Cannot some means of combating the dangers of inflation be found other than by doing injustice to the women, whose help Governments ask in all emergencies and whose rights they ignore when the specific need is past? May it not be that the satisfaction derived from just treatment will lead to such an increase in production and such a willingness to co-operate in saving, as will overcome the very crisis of which the Government is making so unjust a use?

P. C. CHALLONER.

The Month in Parliament

During May a great part of the time of the House of Commons was devoted to the Government measures for Conscription, Town and Country Planning and the Nationalisation of Transport. This last has a special interest for women, who, having struggled in vain to secure places for themselves and their children in the Whitsun holiday trains now wonder if the taking over of motor buses will result in the raising of fares and the abolition of reserved seats in them also.

The parlous position of *Russian born wives of British men* was again brought up on May 5th. Mr. Pickthorn asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he proposes to instruct His Majesty's representative in Moscow to draw the attention of the Government there to the unprecedented nature of any general prohibition or effective frustration of marriages between the nationals of two friendly States. In reply Mr. McNeil said that the Government had not considered it proper or necessary to make any representations to the Soviet Government on their recent enactment prohibiting marriage between Soviet citizens and other nationals. Mr. Hector Hughes then elicited the statement that under English law the Soviet wives are British Subjects and under Soviet law Soviet citizens. Mr. McNeil declined to commit himself as to the nationality of the children of such marriages.

On May 6th Sir T. Moore asked the Secretary for Scotland if he would introduce legislation making *venereal disease, notifiable*. Mr. Westwood replied that "the balance of opinion as far as Scotland was concerned was that compulsory notification might hinder, rather than help, the campaign which doctors, the Government and the Authorities were waging against this disease." On the same day Mr. Piratin asked the Prime Minister when he would make a statement on equal pay and whether opportunity would be given for a debate at an early date. Mr. Arthur Greenwood said he hoped to make a statement shortly.

During the debate on the same day on the Matrimonial Causes Rules distressing figures regarding *Divorce* were given. When the war ended the number of cases coming forward in one year was approximately 50,000 of which about 40,000 were provided by the Services. The number is still rising and those seeking divorce are more numerous than has ever before been the case. Much of the discussion centred round the financial cost of divorce and an attempt by Mrs. Corbet to discuss the welfare of the children was ruled out of order.

On May 20th Mr. Sorensen asked the Secretary of State for War how many British soldiers have applied for permission to *marry German girls*; and to how many has permission been given. Mr. Bellinger replied that "up to May 10th 1947,

3,633 applications had been made. Necessary formalities had been completed in 1,254 cases and these applications will be authorised on completion of the waiting period. Permission to marry had been granted in 404 cases and 114 authorised marriages had taken place."

C. M. GORDON.

Women in East Africa

It was a great pleasure to meet Miss Mabel Shaw at the British Commonwealth League party at the Minerva Club on 12th May. Miss Shaw, who has given a life-time to the education of African girls in Northern Rhodesia, has just returned from a tour of East Africa and she drew a picture of conditions in Uganda and Kenya which was at once encouraging and depressing.

The people of Uganda are prosperous and dignified, the women especially are gracious and hospitable and are doing magnificent welfare work, but they suffer from a sense of inferiority. Some of the women students of Makerere were heard to say, "You can never know what all this means to us, all doors are opening at once,"—but they have a certain fear of the future, of going back and being "drowned in Africa." In Kenya the women are "just women" and the Kikuyu women in particular are treated as beasts of burden—bent double with the loads they carry from childhood to old age. The unspeakable circumcision rite for girls is still in force there and public opinion has not been aroused on this subject.

Miss Shaw stressed the need to persuade parents that girls' education matters. It is, she said, "shockingly behind." At one co-educational school there were sixty girls to six hundred boys, at another only three girls were up to academic standard. Miss Shaw deplored the loss of African rhythm and culture; she quoted an African as saying, "You have cut us away from our background." She pointed out the terrific strain involved in the rapid development from primitive to modern conditions within a few years. Speaking of the future of Africa which hangs in the balance between the two opposing outlooks of materialism and Christianity, Miss Shaw said that the old tribal restraints have gone and it is imperative that Christianity takes over. She paid tribute to the work of the missions and said that she had heard that this year some Catholic African sisters were going to Makerere college. May we dare to hope that they will go in sufficient numbers to take advantage of what Miss Shaw calls "this terrific and urgent opportunity." P.C.C.

We congratulate our member Mrs. Byrne on the birth of another son on May 1st in South Africa.

Peace Treaties

Readers may be glad to have the text of the clauses dealing with non-discrimination in the recent Peace Treaties with Italy, Roumania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Finland.

Part II. Political Clauses. Section 1 in each treaty. Italy (Roumania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Finland) shall take all measures necessary to secure to all persons under Italian (Roumanian, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Finnish) jurisdiction, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, the enjoyment of human rights and of the fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, of press and publication, of religious worship, of political opinion and of public meeting.

The Treaties with Roumania and Hungary also contain the following clause: Roumania (Hungary) further undertakes that laws in force in Roumania (Hungary) shall not, either in their content or in their application, discriminate or entail any discrimination between persons of Roumanian (Hungarian) nationality on the ground of their race, sex, language or religion, whether in reference to their persons, property, business, professional or financial interests, status, political or civil rights, or any other matter.

* * * *

In the Treaty with Italy the following paragraphs occur under *Nationality*. The Government of the State to which the territory is transferred shall, by appropriate legislation within 3 months of the coming into force of the present treaty provide that all persons referred to in paragraph 1 i.e. who were domiciled on June 10, 1940, in territory to be transferred) over the age of 18 (or married persons, whether under or over that age) whose customary language is Italian, shall be entitled to opt for Italian citizenship within a period of one year from the coming into force of the present treaty . . . The option of the husband shall not constitute an option on the part of the wife. Option on the part of the father or, if the father is not alive, on the part of the mother, shall however, automatically include all unmarried children under the age of 18.

The state to which the territory is transferred shall, in accordance with its fundamental laws secure to all persons within the territory without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, the enjoyment of human rights and of the fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, or press and publication, of religious worship, of political opinion and of public meeting.

Similar clauses deal with those whose customary language is one of the Yugoslav language.

International Notes

United Nations. Miss Léonie Mitchell of Paris has been appointed Chief of Section of the Status of Women Commission. She will replace Miss Elsie Bowerman who has been acting temporarily in this capacity.

Belgium. The Bulletin of *La Porte Ouverte* reports that for the first time Louvain University has given a degree in Thomist Philosophy to a woman, Mademoiselle Suzanne Mansion of Liège. We offer her our congratulations.

Brazil. Miss Maria Junqueira Schmidt who has been appointed to the Commission on Education is the first woman to serve on a Government Commission.

France. Dr. Cavaillon of the French Ministry for Public Health and Population, recently stated that V.D. has decreased in the last quarter of 1946, for the first time since the beginning of the war, i.e., since the closing of the brothels.

New Zealand. Miss Mabel Howard, Minister of Supply, is the first woman to be appointed to the Cabinet in New Zealand.

Sweden. Miss Karin Koch, Professor and Economic Advisor to the Government has received the status of Minister. We are pleased to note that she was appointed to serve on the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations.

U.S.A. Theta Phi Alpha, the National Society of Catholic University Women, has awarded its Siena Medal to Representative Mary T. Norton (Democrat of New Jersey and member of Congress for 23 years) as the outstanding Catholic woman of the year. The medal, which was presented by the Most Rev. Richard J. Cushing, Archbishop of Boston, is awarded by vote of a national board of ecclesiastical authorities and university women. It is pleasant to recall that when Mrs. Mary Norton was delegate to the I. L. Conference in Paris in 1945, she kindly entertained some members of St. Joan's Alliance who were attending the Conference, to lunch.

We hope our members will attend a **Talk on Women in the Middle East** by Mrs. Spiller, Hon. Treasurer of the International Alliance of Women, which bids fair to be very interesting. The Talk is to take place on July 1st at 6 p.m. in the Tudor Room at the Caxton Hall. Mrs. Corbett Ashby will preside. Please keep the date free and come.

P.S.B.

Reviews

Fishers of Men translated from the French of *Pêcheurs d'Hommes* by Maxence van Meersch (John Miles 9s. 6d.).

This is a book which repels and attracts by the dreadful clarity with which it depicts conditions in a French factory town. The writer does not compromise, but alongside the picture of degradation he gives a picture of the leavening work of the Jocist in its midst, his pains and persecutions, his courage and his rewards. The hero of this book, poor down-and-out as he so often was, learned true psychology in his dealings with his fellow-workers. He records his sense, almost of profanation, on hearing a priest "talk of troubles he himself has never met;" he recognises the power that a man's private life, his home and his little ones, has in changing the individual entirely; he saw the depression produced by the feeling of being only a cog in a machine. Our hero saw that men are often Communists out of sheer need to give themselves to an ideal and he realised the temptation of an *élite* to look down on the masses and so lose the power to help.

In reading this most compelling book the reviewer has an uneasy feeling that, in his love for family life and in his pain at its frustration through modern conditions and economic necessity, the author condemns the principle of the equality of the sexes, inspired by Christianity as it truly is, by confounding it with Communism. One feels that in the name of family solidarity he is prepared to deny freedom of choice to women to decide whether or not they shall work outside the home.

P.C.C.

Our Faith by Rev. Bernard Kelly, F.R.Hist. S. (Virtue & Co., 7d.).

This small book contains clear, brief instructions on the principles of Catholicism, which have been of proved value in work with the forces and elsewhere and aims at supplying the need of those who have to defend their principles in factories workshops and offices.

P.C.

Extension (18s. per annum from 107, Fleet Street, E.C.4.)

This magazine, a U.S.A. monthly, helps to gain support for the Extension Chapels. It has, together with a goodly amount of thrill and romance quite a lot of serious interest, including an article on *Christian Democracy in Italy* by Don Luigi Sturzo.

In a covering letter from the London agent, introducing the magazine, we are told that it "has a special feminine appeal because of its fiction, fashions, etc." Poor feminine creatures that we are!

P.S.B.

Catholic Profiles, Series I (Paternoster Publications, 4s. 6d.).

In these articles outstanding Catholic personalities among Catholic men and women have been brought before us "in their own setting of work, home and recreation." Many readers will have noted this series in the *Catholic Herald* and will be aware that our Hon. Secretary holds an honoured place therein. They will recognise other names in connection with St. Joan's Alliance, notably Dame Vera Laughton Mathews. In fact we may be proud that out of the ten women whose likenesses have been included in this first volume, six belong to the Alliance. Count de la Bedoyère writes in his introduction that the production of these profiles has brought home to him "how many Catholic men and women there are in these islands worth telling a story about and how much work of all kinds is being done without the Catholic public generally recognising it." He adds: "In any case, it is well that we should all know one another better, and this is one way." It certainly is and we feel that anyone who buys this book will have many pleasant surprises. C.S.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Leonora de Alberti in the "Catholic Citizen" May 15th 1922.

We were glad to read in a recent number of the *Tablet* W.H.K.'s remarks . . . W.H.K. also quotes Lecky's tribute to the Fathers of the Church for their endeavour to impress upon Christians "the equality of obligation imposed upon both sexes." The tribute should be better known among certain feminists, who are sometimes prejudiced against the early Fathers, it might re-adjust the balance a little. —Notes and Comments.



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