

WOMEN'S SERVICE  
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# THE Catholic Citizen

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

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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 Slavery.

By LEONORA DE ALBERTI.

St. Joan's S.P.A., as in former years, is holding a public meeting to follow the Annual Meeting on March 15th. This year the subject chosen is Slavery, a burning question at the moment, and one which has aroused great indignation among women's societies.

It will not come as a surprise to our readers to hear that slavery still exists even in parts of the British Empire. We have frequently spoken of Mui Tsai, or the system of adoption of girl children in Hong Kong, which is without question the enslaving of these children; but few of us realised to what extent slavery is carried on in other forms, and in other parts of the Empire. It is carried on in other places as well, but for evils committed under British rule we are particularly responsible. Citizens of an elected government are responsible for that government's actions; and, no less, for the works of permanent officials. Since the publication of Lady Simon's book on slavery the question has been much before the public. According to Lady Simon's estimate, there are four to six million slaves in the world, all of them saleable property. Abyssinia, Sierra Leone, China, Liberia, are among the countries with the worst record in this matter.

Our speaker on the 15th is Miss Nina Boyle, who has first-hand knowledge of conditions among certain African tribes. Miss Boyle has done much to arouse the public conscience, and as far back as 1919 endeavoured to persuade the Peace Conference to investigate the question of slavery. Since then the League of Nations has pledged itself to abolish slavery in all its forms, and it lies with the peoples of the States members of the League to see that the pledge is carried out.

As defined by the Slavery Convention of the

League of Nations, "Slavery is the condition or status of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised." A Sub-Committee of the House of Commons has been investigating the problem of Slavery, and receiving evidence. During the debate in the House on Colonial Policy and Coloured Races, on December 11th, the Duchess of Atholl and Miss Eleanor Rathbone, who both serve on this Sub-Committee, told the House something of the horrors revealed in the course of the enquiry. Both these women M.P.'s spoke at a recent conference on Slavery, convened by the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, and repeated what they had told the House of Commons. They spoke with feeling, and were obviously much moved by the cruel conditions under which tens of thousands of women live.

The Duchess of Atholl said she could think of no greater good that could arise from the woman's movement than the rescue of these wretched women from their hapless lot. She told us of several cruel practices such as the forcible fattening of girls of marriageable age until they became helplessly inert; the wearing of heavy anklets; she told us, as she had told the House, of a brutal pre-marriage initiation rite, which is nothing short of mutilation, and is the cause of endless suffering to the girl. A Christian girl, who had escaped in order to avoid this operation, was brought back and compelled to undergo it. More hostels are needed where girls can take refuge, especially such as have the courage to refuse the operation.

Miss Rathbone dwelt mainly on domestic and marital slavery. Since serving on the non-party committee of which we have spoken, she

had come to realise that millions of women under the British flag are living in foul, abject slavery. In some tribes she is born the property of her father, or of the men of her tribe, and sold into marriage without any right of choice; if the price placed for her is too high, she can be bought on the hire system; she has no rights over her children, and if left a widow becomes the property of her husband's nearest male relation.

The Chairman, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, and all the speakers, including Miss Nina Boyle, were agreed that it was the duty of women's societies to work for the abolition of slavery in all its forms.

We shall return to this question in a future issue.

### Notes and Comments.

It is a curious but recurrent fact that many moralists when they write or speak of women lose all sense of values; should they discuss woman's dress, then, indeed, it is a case of abandon hope. The latest extravagance to reach us is an article in the *Catholic Gazette*, in which amongst other things present-day fashions are denounced.

We ask the writer, now that his article is in cold print, to read it carefully, and in the first place to consider seriously whether by his insistence on *womanly* purity he is not upholding a double standard of morality; secondly, whether his article is not calculated to arouse man's passions more than the skirts he condemns.

If men are so obsessed by sex as the writer in the *C.G.* believes, their only remedy is to cultivate a clean and detached mind. An unclean mind is a diseased mind, and will find ample food for lust even though all women were to be swathed in clothes from 'head to foot,' and to wear the eastern veil.

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It would be a dark day if women were to hearken to *The Catholic Gazette*, and begin to consider themselves as a continual temptation to men. Happily our busy modern women are too level-headed to fall into any such trap.

In our opinion, the girls and women of today (or is it already of yesterday?) speeding upon their avocations, chasing buses and trams, unhampered by voluminous petticoats, are, for the most part, far less provocative than the woman of last generation, with her trailing skirts, rustling petticoats, restricted waist, and accentuated femininity.

We much regret to find the Editor of the *Month*, from whom we expected a more enlightened point of view, patting the *Catholic Gazette* on the back for its outspoken article. We consider that the article is offensive and written in the worst possible taste; in a secular paper we should call it prurient.

### Protest Meeting.

As we announced in our last issue, with reference to Miss Neilan's article on the Licensing Laws, St. Joan's S.P.A. is holding a public meeting to protest against the refusal of certain restaurants and cafés to admit women unaccompanied by men after specified hours. This meeting will be held in the Kensington Town Hall, on Friday, April 4th, at 8 p.m.

The Chair will be taken by the Lord Balfour of Burleigh who, it will be remembered, sponsored the Public Places (Order) Bill in the House of Lords. The speakers will include our Chairman, Miss C. M. Gordon, Mrs. Abbott, Mrs. Cecil Chesterton and Miss Alison Neilans.

The Resolution that will be presented to the meeting is as follows:

"This meeting calls upon the Government to repeal the special clauses with regard to prostitutes in the various Licensing and Police Acts so that no vendor of refreshments need draw invidious distinctions between his customers, whether men or women, so long as these behave in an orderly manner.

"It further calls the attention of keepers of refreshment houses to the annoyance, inconvenience and hardships suffered by women as a result of the rules which they have made to exclude women from their premises unless attended by men."

Among Societies supporting the Meeting are: Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, British Commonwealth League, International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, National Council of Women, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, National Union of Women Teachers, Six Point Group, Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations, Women's Freedom League, Women's National Liberal Federation.

If any of our readers know of first-hand instances which would come within the scope of this meeting, they are asked to send them without delay to our Hon. Secretary.

In the meantime do not fail to book tickets for yourselves and your friends, and do all in your power to make the meeting a great success, and the protest an effective one.

Tickets, price 2/6 and 1/-, may be obtained from St. Joan's Alliance, 55 Berners St., W.1.

## 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.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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## St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

### Nineteenth Annual Report.

1929 will be remembered as the year when men and women first voted on equal terms, and the first woman Cabinet Minister, Miss Margaret Bondfield, was appointed, a precedent full of promise for the future. It was a happy augury that women first went to the polls on the same terms as men on the feast of our patron St. Joan of Arc, May 30th, the day of her martyrdom.

Among the outstanding gains of last year we place the passing of the Act raising the Age of Marriage to sixteen for both sexes. This was a question in which St. Joan's Alliance took a special interest; Mrs. Laughton Mathews on our behalf gave evidence before the House of Lords, and, as our delegate, moved a resolution on the same question at the Berlin Congress in the name of the British Auxiliaries.

On the initiative of the women's organisations in India, a similar victory has been won, the age of marriage having been raised to fourteen for girls and eighteen for boys. Our member, Dr. Mary Beadon, served on the Indian Committee which investigated this subject, and was the only European member.

An amending bill to the Widows, Orphans, and Old-Age Contributory Pensions Act increasing the number of women entitled to receive widows and old-age pensions was also passed.

We await with hope the report of the Royal Commission which is inquiring into the con-

ditions obtaining in the Civil Service. The terms of reference include the vital question of *Equal Pay and Opportunities*, the opening of the Diplomatic and kindred services to women and the abolition of the ban on married women's work. There are five women members of the Commission.

The position as regards *Women Police* does slowly improve. In London we have a definite promise that the number of police women shall be increased from fifty to one hundred; and in several important cities the outlook is more hopeful.

After much delay and many unfulfilled promises a real effort is being made by the present Colonial Secretary to bring about the abolition of child slavery (*Mui Tsai*) in Hong Kong, which still flourishes under the name of adoption.

We regret that no progress has been made with the Public Places (Order) Bill and shall continue to press for the reform of the *Solicitation Laws* on the lines laid down in this measure.

In *Canada*, following the Privy Council's decision that women are "persons" under the meaning of the British North America Act, women have been made eligible for the Senate. This is a great victory for Canadian women. Several members of the Alliance attended the sittings of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council which decided the case.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS. Last year the British Government sent two women, Mrs. Mary Hamilton, M.P., and Mrs. Swanwick, to the Assembly of the League of Nations as alternate delegates, and for part of the time Mrs. Swanwick was a full delegate.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE. A proposal of a Sub-Committee of the I.L.O. advocating the exclusion of female attendants from places where strong drinks are served, and a further proposal suggesting the strict medical control of women having illicit intercourse with men, were defeated owing to pressure from women's societies all over the world.

SUFFRAGE VICTORIES. We offer our cordial congratulations to the women of Ceylon on the attainment of Equal Franchise, and to the women of Rumania on having won their partial enfranchisement.

For ourselves, we are glad to say that St. Joan's Alliance records a steady stream of new members both at home and abroad; they are to be found in no less than twenty countries.

#### ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting was held on March 16th at St. Patrick's Club Room, Miss Helen Douglas Irvine presiding. The Annual Report was moved and seconded by Mrs. McMahon and Miss Stammers; the Financial Statement by Mrs. Kerr and Miss Patricia Hall.

The following resolutions were put from the chair and passed:

#### 1.—EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS.

(a) *Equal Franchise.* St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance wishes to place on record its gratitude to the British Parliament which distinguished itself by granting the vote to women on the same terms as men. At the same time, the Alliance expresses its thankfulness to the countless men and women, known and unknown, who have contributed to the winning of this victory after a struggle of 61 years.

(b) *Women in the House of Lords.* St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that peeresses in their own right should have a seat in the House of Lords, and, further, that in any measure reforming the Second Chamber, men and women should have equal eligibility and voting rights.

#### 2.—EQUAL MORAL STANDARD.

(a) *Solicitation Laws.* St. Joan's S.P.A. expresses dissatisfaction with the Report of the Street Offences Committee and demands the repeal of the present Solicitation Laws, and the substitution of a law 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 conviction.

(b) *State Regulation of Vice.* St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to hasten the abolition of all brothels known to the authorities within the jurisdiction of the British Empire.

(c) *Veneereal Diseases.* St. Joan's S.P.A. welcomes the recent declarations in favour of voluntary methods of dealing with venereal diseases which have been made by the House of Commons, the Ministry of Health, the British Medical Association, and the London County Council, and re-affirms its opposition to any form of compulsory notification or treatment of venereal diseases.

(d) *Mui-Tsai.* St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Secretary of State for the Colonies to take all necessary steps to enforce effectively the pledge made in Parliament by the Secretary, in March 1922, to abolish within a year the system of child-slavery which prevails and is increasing in Hong-Kong under the name of the Mui-Tsai system.

(e) *Federated Malay States.* St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to publish before the General Election the Report of the Advisory Committee on "Social Hygiene" which has been inquiring into new enactments in the Federated Malay States giving power for the compulsory medical examination of alleged "prostitutes."

#### 3.—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 employment after marriage.

(b) *"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.

#### 4.—NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that a British woman should have restored to her the right of retaining her nationality on marriage with an alien, which was taken from her in 1870: and that, irrespective of marriage, she should have the same right as a man to retain or change her nationality.

#### 5.—MATERNAL MORTALITY.

St. Joan's S.P.A. welcomes the fact that two committees have been set up by the Minister of Health to inquire into the causes of maternal mortality, and hopes that these investigations will be complete and thorough. It calls for more widespread and adequate maternity services.

#### 6.—INCOME TAX.

St. Joan's S.P.A. holds strongly that the income of married persons should be separately assessed and separately taxed and that each should be entitled to the abatements to which a single person is entitled.

#### 7.—AGE OF MARRIAGE.

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass through all its stages a simple measure raising the age of marriage for boys and girls to 16.

#### 8.—WOMEN POLICE.

St. Joan's S.P.A. 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.

#### 9.—WOMEN IN MEDICINE.

St. Joan's S.P.A. deplors the action of certain London Hospitals in excluding women from their medical schools: in view of the crying need for highly qualified women throughout the Empire and the fact that the public, both men and women, subscribe to these hospitals, it urges the governing bodies to reverse their decision and admit women students on equal terms with men.

#### 10.—BIRTH CONTROL.

St. Joan's S.P.A. re-affirms its conviction that the policy of the present Minister of Health should be continued in not allowing information on artificial Birth Control to be given at Infant Welfare Centres which are maintained out of public funds to which people of all opinions are required to contribute.

#### 11.—CATHOLIC EDUCATION.

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls for fair and adequate financial treatment of Catholic elementary and secondary schools similar to that received by Council Schools.

#### 12.—GENERAL ELECTION.

(a) *Party Programmes.* St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the political parties to embody the above reforms in their election programmes.

(b) *Women M.P.'s.* St. Joan's S.P.A. views with grave dissatisfaction the small number of promising constituencies hitherto allotted to women candidates, and urges that this defect may yet be modified by all the political parties.

#### 13.—POLICY OF THE ALLIANCE.

The Alliance pledges itself to support wherever possible, Parliamentary candidates who adhere to the whole of its programme, in particular, women candidates.

After the Business Meeting a public meeting was held, when Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A., spoke on: "What we can do at the General Election."

Miss Gordon was elected Chairman, and Mrs. Mathews Hon. Treasurer in place of Miss

Gabrielle Jeffery, whose resignation was received with great regret. The meeting placed on record its deep appreciation of Miss Jeffery's long years of devoted work, and later, as co-founder of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, she was invited by the Committee to become an honorary life member of the executive committee, an invitation which she gratefully accepted. Our special thanks are due to Miss Douglas Irvine for her indefatigable work both as Chairman and Press Secretary during the past two years.

MONTHLY MEETINGS. These meetings have proved a great success, and have been the means of bringing new members to the Alliance, of advertising our work, and of keeping our members in touch with the committee and with each other. Owing to the kindness of Canon Dunford, our regular meetings are held in St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square.

The first meeting was held on January 21st, when Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, spoke on "Our International Responsibilities," the chair being taken by the Viscountess Dupplin.

In February, Miss Helen Fraser gave an address on "Women in Business," with Miss Eleanor FitzGerald in the chair. In March, we had Miss Gordon's address on work at the General Election, of which we have already spoken. In April, Miss Chave Collisson, M.A., spoke on "Woman, the Vote, and the British Commonwealth," with Mrs. McMahon in the chair.

In May, the Alliance gave a dinner at the Forum Club in honour of Miss Helen Douglas Irvine, our late chairman, Miss Gordon presiding. Among our guests and speakers were Mrs. Abbott, Miss Alison Neilans, the Viscountess Rhondda, Sir Henry and Lady Wood, and many striking tributes were paid to the spirit and work of St. Joan's Alliance.

In July, Mrs. V. M. Crawford and Mrs. Laughton Mathews gave an account of the 25th anniversary Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance held in Berlin the previous month.

On October 7th Miss Susan Musson, secretary of the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child, spoke on "Recent Legislation Concerning Illegitimate Children," with Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, B.A., in the chair.

On November 19th the Alliance gave a dinner at the Rendez-Vous restaurant to Mademoiselle

Lenoël, Hon. Secretary of the Orleans Suffrage Society, and to Mrs. de Fonseka, of the Suffrage Society of Ceylon. Miss Gordon presided.

The meeting on December 9th was of particular importance, the subject being Birth Control. Father Martindale, S.J., gave an address on the teaching of the Catholic Church as regards contraception, and Mrs. Laughton Mathews explained why St. Joan's Alliance opposed Birth Prevention on feminist as well as Catholic grounds. At the close of the meeting Father Martindale answered a number of questions.

**GENERAL ELECTION.** An event of great importance in 1929 was the General Election—the first in which women voted on the same terms as men. The Alliance issued a questionnaire based on the resolutions passed at our Annual Meetings:—the Admission of Peeresses in their own right to a seat and a vote in the House of Lords; Equal Moral Standard; Equal Pay and Opportunities; the Right of Married Women to Retain or Change their Nationality, to engage in paid work, to be separately assessed and taxed; Opposition to Information on Birth Control being given at State-aided Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics maintained by public funds; and Fair Treatment for Catholic schools.

The Alliance was represented on the deputations organised by the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee received by the leaders of the three political parties before the Election. Members of the deputation dealt with the reforms which the non-party women's organisations wished embodied in the various election programmes. On the deputation to Mr. Lloyd George, the Alliance's representative, Miss Patricia Hall, put forward the question of Equal Pay and Opportunities in the Civil Service; and on the deputations to Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, Mrs. Laughton Mathews pressed for the raising of the Age of Marriage for boys and girls to sixteen.

At the same time a similar deputation from the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship was received by each of the party leaders, at which this organisation urged, in addition to other proposals, that information on Artificial Birth Control should be available at state-aided Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics. On each occasion our representative made a speech giving reasons for our opposition both on moral and social grounds, and registered an emphatic protest against the

proposal put forward by this organisation. None of the party leaders was willing to commit his party to this question of Birth Control.

Mr. J. C. C. Davidson, chairman of the Conservative party, received representatives from the various societies on the question of Equal Pay and Opportunities in the Civil Service. Miss Butler-Bowdon attended on behalf of the Alliance, the deputation being organised by the London and National Society for Women's Service.

The Alliance was responsible for a deputation in the St. Marylebone constituency, and also co-operated in those organised in Kensington and Paddington. The Alliance gave help to eight women candidates, and also to that staunch feminist, Mr. Frank Briant, by sending speakers and canvassers. While rejoicing at the election of fourteen women to Parliament, we much regret that our member, Miss Monica Whately, was defeated, though she polled 11,699 votes, raising her party total by 30,017 votes. We also much regret the defeat of Mr. Briant by a very narrow majority. Following our custom at former elections, Holy Mass was offered at our request on polling day at St. Patrick's, Soho, to beg Divine Guidance for the electors.

#### INTERNATIONAL.

**BERLIN CONGRESS.** The triennial Congress of the International Alliance of women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship was held in June at Berlin and was a celebration of the silver jubilee of the I.A.W.S.E.C. Our delegates were Miss Barry and Mrs. Laughton Mathews; alternate delegates, Mrs. Crawford and Miss Butler-Bowdon.

Mrs. Laughton Mathews, on behalf of the British delegation, moved a resolution urging that the age of marriage in all countries should not be less than sixteen for boys and girls. Miss Barry moved an amendment (which was carried unanimously) clarifying the wording of the resolution relating to the civil registration of marriages, and making it clear that the registration was in addition to, and without in any way interfering with, a ceremony performed by a religious body.

The German Catholic Women's League, which sent fraternal delegates to the Congress, entertained the Catholic delegates, forty in number and drawn from seventeen countries, to a tea-party, over which Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes, who is also a member of our Alliance, presided. The President of the C.W.L., Dr. Krabbel, gave an interesting account of her League, a very powerful body in Germany,

while Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford spoke of the work of St. Joan's Alliance. On the Sunday, the Catholic delegates attended Mass at the Ursuline Convent, and were afterwards entertained to breakfast by Frau Radler, a member of the C.W.L., who also gave them a delightful concert.

**OPEN DOOR INTERNATIONAL.** The Open Door Council had called a Conference in Berlin on the two days preceding the Congress of the I.A.W.S.E.C., which resulted in the formation of the Open Door International for the Economic Emancipation of the Woman Worker. Twenty-one countries supported the new International, and St. Joan's S.P.A. was the first society to apply for affiliation.

**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.** By the kindness of Miss Christitch, members of the committee were given the opportunity of meeting the Catholic delegates attending the meeting of the I.C.W. in London during May. Among the many distinguished visitors were Countess Apponyi, substitute delegate for Hungary to the League of Nations Assembly, two sisters of that very progressive congregation, the Hungarian "Sisters of Social Service," and our old friend, Professor Mary Hayden, from Ireland.

An outstanding feature of the meetings held by the I.C.W. was a Pageant of Progress. The Suffrage section was entrusted to St. Joan's Alliance and was organised by Miss Butler-Bowdon. It took the form of one of the historic Suffrage processions, and many of the old banners of the various Suffrage Societies were carried, the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society banner and that of St. Joan being particularly admired.

**ACTION INTERNATIONALE DEMOCRATIQUE POUR LA PAIX.** A party of fifty members of this organisation paid a friendly visit to London in September. Members of the Alliance gave hospitality to some of the delegates, including one of the priests. We were particularly glad to welcome our old friends, Monsieur l'Abbé Sébire and Monsieur and Madame Hoog, and to meet that good suffragist, Monsieur l'Abbé Pinçon, and Monsieur and Madame Paul Gemähling, so prominent in the Abolitionist movement in Alsace.

#### ST. JOAN'S CELEBRATIONS.

Miss Butler-Bowdon represented St. Joan's Alliance at the centenary celebrations at Orleans in May in honour of St. Joan of Arc, and placed a wreath tied with our colours at

the foot of her statue in the Cathedral. The wreath bore the inscription: "Homage to St. Joan, our Patron, who helped British Women to gain Enfranchisement." We are greatly indebted to our member in Orleans, Mlle Lenoël, for her kind hospitality to our delegate. Our representative also took part in the national procession at Paris in honour of St. Joan, walking with the group of French Suffragists, and placed flowers in our colours on the steps of her statue.

The Alliance was represented by Miss Barry and Miss Butler-Bowdon at the laying of the foundation stone by the Bishop of Southwark of the church to be built at Farnham as an act of reparation to St. Joan. A relative of St. Joan's family and also the Bishop of Beauvais, the successor of Pierre Cauchon who condemned St. Joan, came from France specially for the ceremony. Our delegates generously contributed five pounds on behalf of the Alliance towards the building fund.

#### CATHOLIC EMANCIPATION CONGRESS, LONDON.

As St. Joan's Alliance is a political organisation of Catholic women and not an official Catholic Society, it was not officially represented at the Congress. Nevertheless its members were well to the fore during the celebrations.

At the women's meeting at the Albert Hall, our chairman, Miss Gordon, was one of the speakers, while Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell recited the ode composed for the occasion by our member, Miss Enid Dinnis. An orchestral piece was also specially composed for this occasion by yet another member of ours, Miss Dorothy Howell, who is one of the leading young composers in this country.

To turn to the less spectacular work, numerous members from our chairman down to the newest rank and file member spent hours on end selling THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN to all and sundry outside the various meetings and during the procession. As a result over 1,500 papers were sold, and we came in touch with many new members and friends. In this we had the good help of our Liverpool members, Miss Parnell and Mrs. Johnstone, who worked valiantly.

#### N.C.W. CONFERENCE.

The National Council of Women held their Annual Conference at Manchester in October. Our delegate, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, led the opposition to a resolution moved by the N.U.S.E.C. urging the Ministry of Health and

Local Authorities to allow information on artificial Birth Control to be given at Child Welfare Clinics in receipt of Government grants. The resolution was unfortunately carried.

We wish to express our admiration for the courageous way in which Mrs. Laughton Mathews upheld the fighting spirit and tradition of St. Joan's in the midst of strong opposition. Her excellent speech was printed in full in the November issue of THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN.

Our delegate also seconded a resolution, moved by Miss Musson of the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child, urging the Government to introduce a Bill for the enforcement of Affiliation Orders Overseas. The resolution was carried.

Unfortunately there was no time to take the resolution which stood in the name of St. Joan's Alliance dealing with the opening of the Diplomatic and kindred services to women.

In view of the N.C.W.'s policy on Birth Control, the following resolution was passed by the Executive of St. Joan's S.P.A.:

"In view of the resolution adopted by the Annual Conference of the National Council of Women at Manchester on October 16, calling upon the Minister of Health and Local Authorities 'to allow information with respect to methods of Birth Control to be given by the Medical Officers at Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics in receipt of Government Grants'—which resolution is contrary to Catholic principles, and also to true feminism—St. Joan's S.P.A. decides to withdraw from affiliation to the National Council of Women."

#### CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER SOCIETIES.

The Alliance was represented on the following bodies: (1) *The Catholic Citizen's Parliament*; (2) *The Equal Rights Committee*; (3) the following sectional committees of *The National Council of Women*—Industrial, the Parliamentary and Legislative, the Rescue and Preventive; (4) *The Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union*; (5) *The National Council for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child*; (6) *The Women Peers Committee*. (7) The Alliance is also represented on the joint committee of the three British Auxiliaries affiliated to the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, and (8) on *The British Commonwealth League*.

In addition to the above, we are affiliated to the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene and the Open Door Council.

#### CONFERENCES, ETC.

The Alliance was represented at a number of conferences: (1) on *Forced and Contract Labour*, organised by the League of Nations Union, by Miss Patricia Hall; (2) *Young Offenders*, arranged by the Howard League for Penal Reform by Miss Hynes; (3) *The Education of the Citizen*, organised by the N.U.S.E.C. by Miss Hall; (4) *Equal Rights' Treaty*, under the auspices of the Six Point Group, by Miss Barry and Miss Gordon; (5) *Mental Health*, called by the National Council for Mental Hygiene, by Miss Havers; (6) *The British Commonwealth League Conference on "Women and the Future,"* with special regard to the Women of the Less Forward Races within the British Commonwealth. This was attended by Miss Barry, Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Mrs. O'Connor.

Miss Barry and Miss Gordon attended the opening of the Social Service Bureau of the Catholic Women's League, and Miss Monica O'Connor represented us at the meeting on Equal Pay organised by the National Union of Women Teachers.

Several members of the Committee were present at the lunch given in July to women members of Parliament in honour of the first Woman Cabinet Minister. This occasion was memorable as the last appearance in public of Dame Millicent Fawcett.

#### DEPUTATIONS.

Besides the deputations already reported, Miss Fedden represented us on a deputation organised by the Women's Freedom League to—(1) Rear-Admiral Roys, Assistant Commissioner of Police; (2) The Parks and Open Spaces Committee of the L.C.C.—to urge the appointment of more *Women Police* for Hampstead Heath. Later in the year, another deputation, urging the appointment of more *Women Police* throughout the country, was organised by the N.U.S.E.C. and received by the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Scotland. Miss Gordon represented the Alliance on this deputation.

An able speech was made by Miss Monica Whately, who represented us on a deputation to the Home Secretary organised by the Equal Rights Committee in regard to the proposed *Factories Bill*. She demanded an equal status for men and women in industry, and the removal of women workers from the category of the child and young person. The deputation further asked that no section of the *Factories Bill* should give power to base Departmental

Regulations Orders or Special Orders on sex, but that these should be based on the nature of the work.

#### RESOLUTIONS AND LETTERS.

A large number of letters and resolutions have been sent to the authorities concerned in regard to various aspects of our work, including the *Wills and Intestacies Bill*, *Mui Tsai*, *The Nationality of Married Women*, and the two suggestions put forward by the *International Labour Office* to which reference is made on page 20.

#### "THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN."

Thanks to our circulation committee and gallant paper sellers, the circulation of our paper has largely increased this year. THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN is exchanged with many foreign papers and penetrates to distant corners of the globe. We know that it has cheered many a pioneer fighting a lone battle, and that it is valued not only by Catholics, but by other feminists.

Through the energy of Miss Butler-Bowdon, the proceeds from our advertisements have almost trebled.

We have to offer our earnest thanks to our paper-sellers, who brave all weathers and inconvenience to bring THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN to the notice of the public. We must particularly mention Mrs. and Miss Kerr, who hold the record for regular sales each month with 565 copies to their credit. Miss Butler-Bowdon exceeded this number with a total of 568 copies, sold chiefly outside meetings.

#### PRESS AND LITERATURE.

As usual, we wish to thank the Editors of *The Universe*, *The Catholic Times*, and *The Catholic Herald* for so frequently publishing reports of our activities. We must also express our gratitude to the Editor of *The Tablet* for several paragraphs commending the action we took in opposition to the provision of Birth Control information at State-aided Maternity and Child-Welfare Clinics.

In the Catholic Press, letters from the Alliance have appeared in various journals. A letter in *The Catholic Times* regarding recommendations of the International Labour Office for the Welfare of Seamen in Ports; against which women's organisations had protested, drew a letter from the Secretary of the Apostleship of the Sea; "welcoming the support of the Alliance" in the matter. Other letters appeared in *The Catholic Times*, on Equal Pay for Men and Women and the Question of Unemployment, and in answer to a reported statement regarding the Catholic Schools Campaign, "that women did not possess the same driving force as men." *The Universe* published letters on

the Nationality of Married Women and the Importance of Catholics taking part in Political Life. A letter stressing the importance of voters making sure that their names were not omitted from the Parliamentary Registers, appeared in several Catholic papers. A review in *The University Catholic Review* of our book *Towards Citizenship* showing a lamentable ignorance of the whole ideal of the feminist movement, resulted in a short correspondence.

In the Suffrage Press we must thank *The International Woman's Suffrage News* for publishing our monthly reports, and *Time and Tide*, *The Vote*, *The Woman's Leader* and *The Woman Teacher* for advertising our meetings among their "Forthcoming Events." *The Woman's Leader* published a tribute from our Chairman to Dame Millicent Fawcett, and the *Policewoman's Review* an article by Miss Fedden showing the attitude of the Alliance towards Women Police. A letter appeared in the *Woman's Leader* explaining our withdrawal from Affiliation to the National Council of Women, and a reply to a letter concerning Catholics in the reign of Queen Elizabeth was published in *Time and Tide*.

Reference has been made to the Alliance in several foreign periodicals, including: *The Flashlight* (S. Africa), *The Woman* (Melbourne), *Equal Rights* (U.S.A.), and in the French papers, *La Jeune République*, *La Française*, *Questions Féminines et Questions Féministes*.

Our book *Towards Citizenship*, a handbook of *Woman's Emancipation* was reviewed in the Catholic, Suffrage and General Press, and in the following papers abroad: *The Catholic News* (S. Africa), *The Commonwealth* (U.S.A.) and *The Week* (Bombay). Letters from the Alliance appeared in *The Times* on the Age of Marriage, and in *The Liverpool Daily Post* on the Suffrage Deputation to Mr. Baldwin. In co-operation with other Societies we contributed letters to *The Times*, on Peeresses; the Exclusion of Women Students from London Medical Schools, and urging support for Mr. Sarda's Child Marriage Bill in India. A letter on Co-education in Medical Schools appeared in *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Manchester Guardian* and other papers.

The Alliance in general has had a good press this year, and in particular the speech of our Delegate to the National Council of Women Conference at Manchester, and the evidence given by the Alliance before the Select Committee of the House of Lords concerning the Age of Marriage Bill, brought wide-spread publicity throughout the country.

Our book, *Towards Citizenship*, sold well at the beginning of the year, and has been welcomed wherever members have taken the trouble to introduce it in the right quarters. This short history of woman's advancement through the ages should prove invaluable to all who are interested in the Woman's Movement, and especially to those who are connected with Convents or in any way in contact with young people. Copies may be obtained from the Alliance's office, 55 Berners St., W.1. Price 2s. 2d. post free. The leaflet "To Young

Women Voters," compiled by Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, was widely distributed before the General Election, particularly at the Catholic Emancipation Celebrations in April.

Miss Douglas Irvine was our Press Secretary until the Annual Meeting, after which she was succeeded by Miss Gordon. We wish to express our gratitude for the generous help which they have given us and also to thank Miss Hynes, who with great care and patience has so admirably kept the Press Book.

#### HON. TREASURER'S REPORT.

It is satisfactory to note an increase in income during the past year, but as our work is growing in importance both nationally and internationally, it is still a struggle to make both ends meet. We are specially grateful therefore, to those members who have guaranteed to give a yearly £5 towards the rent of the office, which is the biggest item which we have to meet. These friends are: Miss Bain, Miss Barry, Miss Butler-Bowdon (2), Miss D. J. Collier, Lady Currie, Miss Donovan, Miss Douglas Irvine, Miss E. FitzGerald, Miss C. M. Gordon, Miss Jeffery, Mrs. Kerr, Liverpool Branch, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, Miss Stammers and Miss Wall, (included in last year's accounts). Other friends have definitely promised smaller amounts, but as several of our rent donors have not felt able to renew their promise this year, we still need six members who will generously consent to give this regular £5 a year. This is our outstanding need financially.

We are specially grateful to our Liverpool Branch who sent us £10 this year, and have promised a regular £5 towards the Rent Fund.

There has been a very gratifying improvement in the accounts of *The Catholic Citizen*, partly owing to the great increase in advertisements, and partly to the increased circulation, with the result that it has only been subsidised to the extent of £3 from the General Fund as compared with £40 last year.

Money-raising activities of members of the Finance Committee and others have been numerous, and have resulted in a good increase of Funds. Two Jumble Sales have been held, a Whist Drive (Finance Committee), Bridge Drive (Lady Laughton and Mrs. Kerr), Character delineations (Miss Wall), several Dances (Mrs. Kerr). Mrs. Kerr made a good profit on her earlier dances, but unfortunately there was a deficit on the two held last autumn. Our grateful thanks are due to those members who have organised or have helped these schemes for raising money without which our work could not go on.

#### PERSONAL.

We offer our congratulations to Miss Dorothy Stevens who has entered St. Thérèse's Uganda Novitiate. To Miss Cecilia Hill de Héring on her marriage to Mr. Percy Picton; to Miss Wadham on her marriage to Dr. Wickham.

We rejoice to record the birth of a son to Dr. Elizabeth Higgins, Mrs. Huggett and Mrs. Parsons.

A department of work which might be overlooked, and for which we are especially grate-

ful is the valuable help given in the office by individual members. We wish to thank Miss Gladys Mason who, besides helping regularly, called daily for letters during the summer holidays; the Misses Fedden, Hynes, Stammers and Young who have helped regularly; Miss Patricia Hall and Mrs. Price who helped while in London, and Mr. Kenneth Fox who for several weeks came daily to help. Beyond all others have we to thank Miss Butler-Bowdon who comes daily and all day, and is ready to turn her hand to anything and everything.

We must also thank the able Hon. Secretary of our Liverpool Branch, Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, and her energetic committee, for their valuable work which is chronicled elsewhere.

It has been a great pleasure to welcome the following visitors; Miss Fleming (Australia), Mrs. de Fonseka (Ceylon), Miss Hennelly (New Zealand), two Hungarian "Sisters of Social Service," Miss Jenner (South Africa), Mlle. Lenoël (France), Miss Sheridan (Canada) and Miss White (U.S.A.).

#### LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

*Hon Secretary: Miss N. S. Parnell, B.A.,  
45 Falkner Street, Liverpool.*

The year 1929 has been on the whole a prosperous and successful one for the Branch. The imminence of the General Election undoubtedly stimulated women's interest in political matters and gained us several new members. We were further helped in our recruiting by the numerous mass meetings organised either to celebrate the Centenary of Catholic Emancipation or to urge Catholic claims in the educational sphere. Largely as a result of these factors, and thanks also to the energy of a few of our members, the membership now stands at a higher figure than for many years.

The Branch has now a permanent meeting-place at 153 Upper Parliament Street on reasonable terms.

Of the five ordinary meetings held during the year, two have been of general interest, namely Mrs. Cole's address on the Labour Party, and Mr. Edwards' on "Proportional Representation"; and three have had a direct connection with our aims and objects, namely Mrs. Laughton Mathews' delightful account of the Berlin Congress, Miss Mabel Fletcher's talk on women police with special reference to Liverpool, and Miss Leadley Brown's address on "The Nationality of Married Women."

In order to raise a donation of £10 for Headquarters, a whist drive was held on March 20th which realised over £6, followed by a social for the same purpose realising £1 13s. A second social was held on September 27th in order to reunite members after a long vacation.

On this occasion Miss McCrindell appealed for our help in the Social Survey of Liverpool about to be made. At the request of several members a dance was organised on October 31st, the first held by the Branch since the War. It proved a very enjoyable affair, and added £3 12s. to the funds.

The Branch has co-operated more than usual with Catholic societies. It was well represented on the organising committee of the Women's Mass Meeting during the Educational Campaign, and its Hon. Secretary represented it on the Emancipation Centenary Celebrations Committee. The Hon. Secretary was also on both panels of speakers and spoke at the chief meetings in St. George's Hall. We also sent delegates to a meeting convened to discuss the formation of a Liverpool centre for the Catholic Council for International Relations. We have maintained our relations with the Women's Peace Crusade, several of our members taking part in the deputations to candidates before the election and in the usual Armistice Day procession. We have also co-operated with the Women's International League in a meeting addressed by Mrs. Swanwick on October 10th, and with the W.C.A. in one addressed by Miss Neilans on October 28th. We are still associated with the committee responsible for the Josephine Butler Celebrations and were represented at the meeting organised by this body when the appeal was launched in Liverpool for a national memorial to Josephine Butler.

Fewer resolutions than usual have been sent in the name of the Branch owing to the General Election occurring so soon after the Annual Meeting, but several members made use of the questionnaire drawn up by Headquarters. A resolution, however, concerning the proposed Factory Bill was sent to the Prime Minister, Home Secretary, and all the local M.P.'s. One was also sent to the City Council after Miss Fletcher's address, and helped, we may hope, to secure the favourable vote of that body on behalf of women police in Liverpool. We still have the task of converting the Watch Committee. One concerning the nationality of married women has also been passed.

The committee has met eight times, first at 49 Falkner Street by kind invitation of Mrs. Johnstone, who always kindly provided refreshments, and latterly at 45 Falkner Street. It sustained a severe loss in the death of Mrs.

Parnell, its Vice-Chairman, whose office was held by Miss Jervis for the remainder of the year.

Two Masses have been offered up at the request of the Branch during the year, one to beg Divine Guidance for the electors on Polling Day, the other for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Parnell, to whose funeral the Branch sent a most beautiful wreath.

To all those who have contributed to the success and prosperity of the Branch during 1929 we offer our best thanks. We are especially grateful to Mrs. Graham for her great generosity in the matter of Whist Drive prizes and refreshments; to Miss N. Noonan for her organisation of the dance and for interesting her girls in our work; to Mrs. Johnstone for her hospitality to the committee; to Miss Johnstone and her corps of paper-sellers and leaflet distributors, who were responsible for gaining us several new members; and to Miss Fox Taylor for her invaluable help with the secretarial work.

In conclusion, one can only hope that the partial victory for Women Police in Liverpool, to which we contributed our tiny quota, may stimulate us all to believe that this Branch has a future before it, and that if only we could give it a little more of our time and of our thought and of our faithful service, it might contribute something worth while to the community to which we belong, and to the women's movement of which it is a part.

#### OBITUARY.

The feminist movement has suffered an irreparable loss by the death in August of the great suffrage leader, Dame Millicent Fawcett. She was always a true friend of St. Joan's Alliance, and many members were present at her funeral, to which a wreath, tied with our colours, was sent. The Alliance was also fully represented at the Memorial Service at Westminster Abbey in October.

Another pioneer suffragist has gone from among us in the person of Dr. Aletta Jacobs of Holland. The Alliance grieves also for several of its own members, Mrs. Madeleine Parnell, who for many years was the mainstay of our Liverpool Branch, and whose daughter Nancy carries on the tradition. On behalf of headquarters Mass was offered at St. Patrick's Soho, for the repose of her soul, and a wreath was placed on her grave. Other losses suffered during the year have been Mrs. Hayes (Dublin), one of our earliest members; Councillor Mrs. Leigh, Mayor of Knutsford, Miss M. F. Mason, and Mr. Paulit.—R.I.P.

The Annual Mass for deceased Members, Associates and Benefactors of the Alliance was offered at St. Patrick's, Soho, on the first Sunday of November.

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