

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

Organ of St. Joan's Alliance (formerly The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society).
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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

Victoria, R.I.

By Vera Douie

In this brilliant book* Lady Longford presents us with a fascinating psychological study of a complex character, and with a picture of the great period of British history to which she gave her name.

She begins with the bizarre incidents surrounding the birth and baptism of the future Queen. At the latter, the Archbishop of Canterbury, infant in arm, waited at the font while George IV violently objected to the names—Alexandrina Charlotte Augusta—chosen by her parents. Eventually he himself gruffly proposed her mother's name—Victoria. Her lonely and unhappy childhood was followed by an adolescence made miserable by the intrigues in her own household, and by the bitter quarrels of her mother with the Royal Family. Mercifully, William IV clung on to life till a month after his heir reached her majority at the age of 18, thereby obviating the necessity for a Regency.

The first year of her reign brought her a brief happiness. Not only had she shaken off the control of "dearest Mamma", but *dear* Lord Melbourne was so kind and so amusing. The nation, too, after the reigns successively (to quote Sir Sidney Lee) of "an imbecile, a profligate and a buffoon", welcomed the accession of this young girl. Things, at any rate, could not be worse, and they might be better. But these halcyon days were numbered. After the Lady Flora Hastings scandal and the unfortunate affair of the Ladies of the Bedchamber, the Queen was hissed in the streets and at the opera. It was Prince Albert who rescued her from the unpopularity into which she had fallen.

In marrying Albert, she entered what she afterwards called "a safe haven". "I told Albert that he had really come like an angel of light to save me and take me out of all my difficulties," she recorded later in her Journal. But even for dear Albert it was not all plain sailing. In spite of conscientious efforts, she was never able to subdue her violent Hanoverian temper, and it was he who bore the brunt of her tantrums. From the beginning, however, he set out to "improve" her, and

she herself was touchingly anxious all her life to improve. The strain, too, of constant child-bearing made life difficult, and then there was Palmerston, with his reckless foreign policy, giving offence abroad, *not* showing her despatches, and sending British gunboats here, there and everywhere.

However, supported by a happy domestic life, she weathered the storms, and saw Albert's career culminate in the triumphant success of the Great Exhibition in 1851, the idea of which he had initiated, and for which she herself showed the greatest enthusiasm. His death ten years later from typhoid was a shattering blow from which she never wholly recovered.

On the verge of a nervous breakdown with grief, the Queen entered on a long period of seclusion. Albert would have told her that private sorrow must not be allowed to interfere with the performance of public duty, but alas Albert was no longer there to guide her. Not till 1866 did she deign even to open Parliament, and then she did so in deep black, and "utterly expressionless". It was many years before she consented to emerge from behind the veil, and then, with her revived interest in politics in the '70's and '80's, her Ministers may well have felt that her withdrawal from public affairs had not been without its advantages. Disraeli's tactful handling did much to bring her back to life. "Gladstone treats the Queen like a public department," he said, "I treat her like a woman." Gladstone, on the other hand, remarked: "The Queen is enough to kill anyone." Never at any time had she much grasp of the limitations of constitutional monarchy.

After many ups and downs in the public esteem, her long reign drew towards its close with great outbursts of love and loyalty. Her reception by the London crowds at her Diamond Jubilee was most gratifying. "No one ever, I believe," she wrote, "has met with such an ovation as was given to me, passing through those six miles of streets . . . the crowds were quite indescribable, and their enthusiasm truly marvellous and deeply touching. The cheers were quite deafening, and every face seemed to be filled with real joy." Her death four years later left the nation temporarily stunned.

*Victoria, R. I. By Elizabeth Longford (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 63s.)

The main fascination of Lady Longford's book lies, however, in the unfolding of the Queen's baffling and complex character. Though obstinate and stubborn, she needed someone to lean on. She was arrogant, yet humble; Albert's "dear little wife", yet every inch a Queen. Her attitude towards her Ministers was very personal. Extremely feminine, she felt above all the need to be loved, and to come first in someone's affections. People who treated her like a woman—Melbourne, Albert, Disraeli and even John Brown—were the most successful in managing her. Her feelings towards her vast family and vaster dominions were matriarchal. She experienced much sympathy for individuals, especially for her poorer subjects including India's teeming millions and her beloved soldiers, but took little interest in the great social reform movements of her reign.

Her attitude towards the woman's movement is well known. Her anti-feminism was perhaps the only thing in which she and Gladstone saw eye to eye. Though by an irony of fate, she was brought into the world by a German midwife who also practised as a doctor, she did her best to keep women out of the professions, and especially out of medicine, their attempt to enter which, deeply shocked her. Nevertheless, in 1900, she gave the Kaiser-i-Hind medal to five women doctors working in India, and she found it entertaining when the reason given by a deputation of women demanding the vote turned out to be based on the grounds that "men were seldom fit for the work".

In addition to its absorbing subject matter, in these days of slipshod writing, it is a pleasure to read a narrative written in so admirable a style. The reviewer has not enjoyed a book so much for a very long time.

* * *

AUSTRALIA

A warm tribute was paid to Miss Rosemary Goldie by the Australian Bishops at the Vatican Council. They telephoned to her to say that at their meeting that morning they had passed a resolution congratulating themselves on her appointment as an *auditrice*.

Miss Goldie has been executive secretary of the Permanent Committee for International Congresses of the Lay Apostolate for the past twelve years in Rome.

In thanking us for our congratulations, Miss Goldie writes: "It is indeed an honour—and a responsibility—to be included in the 'token' representation of the 'other half of mankind,' admitted to the Council sessions. And, if our presence is above all a symbol, I feel is full of promise for the future of women's contribution to the life and mission of the Church."

I.A.W. CONGRESS, TRIESTE

The twentieth Congress of the International Alliance of Women, August 19th to September 1st, 1964, attended by two hundred delegates and ten fraternal delegates, from thirty-three countries, covered much ground. The five Standing Committees, International Understanding, Civil and Political Rights, Economic Rights, Equal Moral Standard, Education, presented reports and full programmes. The basic theme of the Congress was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and each Committee was linked to relevant articles of the Declaration. Resolutions in support of topics familiar to most feminists—such as closer understanding through exchange visits, seminars, the work of the Status of Women Commission, Commission on slavery, need for more women in national and local government, attention to rural education in particular in developing countries, were adopted.

Resolutions newer in type covered study of national Bills of Human Rights, the system of the Ombudsman, consideration of the position of Persons Born out of Wedlock, methods of combating the belief that the general rise in venereal disease was due to prostitutes, while expert evidence carefully collected points to quite different social causes, (e.g. teenage promiscuity, homosexuality, migrants separated from their families, lack of sexual education, decreased power of penicillin) . . . this argument against the prostitute is being used to promote the idea that a return to tolerated houses is advisable, and to neoregulationism . . . and further, the study of the 1950 Convention on Traffic and Prostitution as a basis for a model type law on prostitution.

African delegates from Liberia, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, were additions to Congress, both in debate and in picturesqueness.

Hospitality was boundless; extraordinarily fine expeditions, steamer down the Yugoslav coast, coach to ancient towns, magnificent dinner parties in mediaeval surroundings of great beauty, splendid folk dancing in Muggia, an unfailing transport system, free of charge, from hotel to point of entertainment, excellent male voice singing, pyrotechnical display seen from reserved seats, gave an unforgettable background.

A Committee of Honour of forty-two members included representatives of Government, Parliament, local authorities, firms, noted individuals.

Mrs. Ezlynn Deraniyagala having for personal reasons resigned from the presidency, Begum Anwar Ahmed, of Pakistan, was elected; Princess Firouz (Iran) became first Vice-President, with Mrs. Anrep (lawyer, Sweden, Government appointed marriage conciliator) second, and Dr. Hedi Flitz, M.P. (Bonn Parliament) third. The new headquarters will be in Washington, with Elizabeth, Halsey as before, Administrative Secretary. M.C.C.

Notes and Comments

Another Golden Jubilee of great significance to all members and friends of St. Joan's Alliance will be celebrated on January 21st, 1965. On that evening we shall be commemorating the launching of *The Catholic Citizen* just over fifty years ago. It will provide an opportunity for honouring its daring founders, its generous and distinguished editors and contributors and its often humble, but valiant, early street sellers. It will enable us to demonstrate our gratitude to those responsible for its never-failing appearance, despite two world wars and countless other difficulties. We shall be able to rejoice together that our little organ has won such a high reputation for accuracy and acumen and that it has been able to make, through its quality and world-wide circulation, a not inconsiderable contribution to the emancipation of women everywhere.

The celebration is to take the form of a dinner on Thursday, January 21st, 1965, at St. Ermin's Hotel, Westminster, when the speakers will be Lady Longford, whose recent study of Queen Victoria has won such acclaim, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Father Christopher Laughton Mathews, Dr. Marita Harper, Miss Christine Spender and Mrs. Shirley Williams, M.P.

Applications for tickets, 35s. each, should be made to Councillor Miss Hulme, 31 Russell Road, London W.14, who is kindly organising the event.

* * *

We are especially glad to welcome the election to Parliament of Mrs. Shirley Williams. Many of us will have heard her speak at our meetings. She is the first member of St. Joan's Alliance to win a seat at Westminster—following the unsuccessful candidature of our members Lady Currie (Liberal) in 1922, Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell (Liberal) and Miss Monica Whatley (Labour) in 1935.

Mrs. Williams contested Harwich at the by-election in 1954 and Southampton (Test) in the General Election 1955. She is an M.A., Somerville College, Oxford, a well-known broadcaster and T.V. personality and a member of the Broadcasting Advisory Committee.

Mrs. Williams joins Mrs. Alice Cullen the only other Catholic woman in the House.

Members will have an opportunity of congratulating her in person at *The Catholic Citizen* Jubilee Dinner on January 21st.

* * *

This has been called the age of the laity, but I wonder how many who think in these terms include the women! One really wonders why, for example, women are not allowed in the sanctuary, to serve Mass properly and do anything that lay people can do.

This is a relic of the man's world of the past. Surely it could be changed. (Search).

We believed that the bogey of "feminisation" of the Church had been dispelled, but it is resuscitated by Father Karl Rahner, S.J., the theologian usually regarded as "progressive". The concept of the Church's growing effeminacy remains as vague as ever, the implied accusation that women's "piety", offer of service and inveterate habit of church attendance alienates the virile male, also persists. It is difficult to tilt at something so ill-defined as is the bogey of "feminisation" but Katherine Burton did this very effectively in *The Catholic Citizen*, April, 1964. Unfortunately Father Rahner now reiterates his views on the Church's growing effeminacy, in an article "Men in the Church", in his "Mission of Grace", vol. 11, without further clarification.

* * *

Members of St. Joan's Alliance will wish to join in the general congratulations being offered to Professor Dorothy Crowfoot-Hodgkin on the award of the 1964 Nobel Prize for Chemistry. She is the third woman to win this prize, the others being Madame Curie in 1911 and her daughter Madame Joliot-Curie in 1935. It is reported that she has it in mind to devote the £18,750 prize to "set up a scholarship scheme at Oxford. I'd like also to contribute something to the cause of peace and famine."

* * *

On a stone of the new building of the Co-operative and Permanent Building Society, in Barter Street, Holborn, can be read the following inscription, placed at eye level for the perusal of all those who pass by:

* * *

The Women's Freedom League, founded 1907, worked for equality between men and women from its headquarters on this site between 1914 and 1959.

It comes as a joy to discover this inscription so unexpectedly.

* * *

The office of sacristan brought her extraordinary joy. She regretted all her life her exclusion from the priesthood and on that account was "delighted to die before the age at which ordination usually takes place". She rejoiced greatly in the fact that a virgin St Barbara communicated St. Stanislaus Kostka. "Why not a priest or an angel?" she said. "We shall see such wonders in Heaven! I imagine that those who have desired the priesthood in this world will enjoy its privileges in the next." (*Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. Autobiography and Letters edited by T. N. Taylor. Burns Oates 1930. Note on page 227.*)

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

founded 1911

BRITISH SECTION OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE
AND

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

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THE FAWCETT LIBRARY

A public appeal has been launched for funds to enable the Fawcett Library to continue and develop its valuable work and to meet the growing demands for its services. The Library has very close links with the Fawcett Society, which supports it by a generous annual grant, and it includes the Women's Service Library, founded in 1926.

St. Joan's Alliance has always had a friendly association with the Fawcett Society from the days when that was known as the London Society for Women's Suffrage; indeed the Alliance was inspired by the same cause—the rights of women. The Fawcett Library now has in its care the news cuttings collected by St. Joan's over the years and, of course, a complete run of *The Catholic Citizen*. The Alliance also has a personal interest in the Fawcett Library for Miss Vera Douie is its greatly valued librarian. So the future of the Fawcett Library is of interest to our members as well as to all who are concerned in matters relating to the position of women in society past, present and future.

The Library exists "for the advancement of education and learning, with special concern for the interests and achievements of women throughout all periods of world history." It administers a large and growing accumulation of books, official publications and journals, press cuttings kept daily up-to-date, illustrations, manuscripts and autograph letters, all classified for quick reference. Besides providing facilities for private research and access to its literature by borrowers, the library gives a valuable information service through the skilled assistance of its librarian. It is becoming increasingly recognised as a repository for relevant documents owned by private individuals or public organisations.

The content of the library falls into four main divisions:

(a) **The Antiquarian Section** constitutes a unique collection of contemporaneous material relating to the social, political and legal position of women in the past, their education, work and domestic arts, as well as the advice tendered to them from age to age as to how they should behave.

(b) **The Historical Section** covers all aspects of the women's movement, including in particular large collections of pamphlets, leaflets, periodicals and reports of the women's suffrage societies, and the history of women's activities in various spheres.

(c) **The Modern Section** contains, in addition to the material specially relating to the position of women, a useful collection on more general subjects. A special feature is the Sadd Brown Library dealing with women's life and work in Commonwealth countries.

(d) **The Biographical Section** contains, in addition to some 1,500 biographies, a large and important collection of letters that date from the early nineteenth century concerning the life and work of women in various fields. Of special value are Elizabeth Garrett Anderson's letters to Emily Davies (one of the founders of Girton College) describing her fight to secure entry to the medical profession; also some papers presented by Florence Nightingale's family which include her plan of the Scutari hospital; and original correspondence of Millicent Garrett Fawcett, leader of the constitutional women's suffrage movement, with many eminent Victorians.

A growing awareness throughout the world of problems connected with the impact of rapidly changing social and economic conditions on the position of women has greatly stimulated demand for the library's services. Among the users are many university and training college students, post-graduate and other research workers, authors, journalists and men and women in public life.

Overseas visitors from the Commonwealth and elsewhere make considerable use of it, and material is sent to enquirers all over the world—mainly through the machinery of the National Central Library, of which the Fawcett Library is an "outlier". There are a number of corporate subscribers, including the B.B.C., Bedford College, trade unions and teacher training colleges.

However the members' subscriptions and the charges for service and loans are totally inadequate for the running and upkeep of the library, even with an annual grant from the Fawcett Society. In fact, the total income, including the grant, is about £1,500, and the annual expenditure amounts to about £1,600—and this is not at all a realistic figure. It is so extraordinarily low only because of the practically voluntary service of the experienced and expert librarian and of the very many generous gifts of books and other material and of special donations.

Hence the public appeal for £50,000. The money is essential to enable the library to continue its present work and to meet the growing demand for its services in providing accurate information to all interested in a class of social problems of immediate and increasing concern and importance.

Mildred Couldrey

NATIONS UNIES SEMINAR SUR LA
CONDITION DE LA FEMME DANS
LE DROIT DE LA FAMILLE

Lomé, Togo 18th—31st August, 1964

Intervention faite par Mme. Michelle Dackey

"Je vous remercie Mme. la Présidente, de me donner la parole. Je voudrais simplement appeler l'attention sur un point pour lequel l'Alliance Internationale Sainte Jeanne D'Arc que Soeur Marie André du Sacre Coeur et moi-même représentons ici, lutte depuis de longues années.

Il s'agit de l'intégrité physique de la femme. Certaines coutumes africaines, en imposant l'excision, détruisent cette intégrité, sans aucune raison médicale justifie cette opération. Il conviendrait donc de ne pas imposer l'excision aux jeunes filles qui n'en veulent pas et d'amener peu à peu l'abolition de cette coutume qui d'ailleurs n'existe pas partout. Au Togo il n'en est pas question.

Au cycle d'études d'Addis-Ababa en 1960, Mme. Awa Keita, député du Mali, a apporté en faveur de cette abolition, des arguments très convaincants. Je ne les reprendrai pas ici pour ne pas allonger ce débat.

Je demande simplement au nom de l'Alliance Internationale Sainte Jeanne d'Arc, que l'on cesse d'imposer cette coutume aux jeunes filles qui ne veulent pas. Souvent même les parents de la fille rejetteraient volontiers cette coutume si les grands-mères n'insistaient tellement pour que l'incision soit faite.

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT U.S.A.

For the first time since 1940, the Republican Party failed to endorse Equal Rights Amendment as a presidential election campaign plank. For the second time since 1944, the Democratic Party failed to endorse the proposed amendment to the United States Constitution to grant equal rights to women citizens.

Representatives of the following organisations appeared before the Platform Committees of the July Republican Convention and the August Democratic Convention:

National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs; General Federation of Women's Clubs; People's Mandate; National Association of Women Lawyers; National Women's Party; National Order of Women's Legislators; Veterans of Foreign Wars, Ladies Auxiliary; American Women's Medical Association; American Association of Women Ministers; National Association of Coloured Women's Clubs, Inc.; American Society of Women Accountants and California State Teachers Association—(Republican Convention only).

Opposition to endorsement of the amendment was represented by Miss Margaret Mealey, Executive Director, National Council of Catholic Women; Member, Citizens Advisory Committee on Status of Women (Successor to President Kennedy's Commission on Status of Women). She represented: American Civil Liberties Union, American Nurses Association, Americans for Democratic Action, National Consumers League, National Council of Catholic Women, National Council of Jewish Women, National Council of Negro Women, National Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, Young Women's Christian Association and ten AFL-CIO unions composed of men and women members. Some of the other organizations also have male members.

Miss Mealey stated that the President Kennedy's Commission on Status of Women after its 1963 careful study of the matter took the position that a constitutional amendment on women's rights was unnecessary. She emphasised that enactment of the "so-called Equal Rights Amendment" would jeopardise existing protective labour laws for women only.

National President George Meany in his platform statement said united AFL-CIO unions opposed, as unnecessary and as destructive of labour standards for women, the adoption of the "so-called Equal Rights Amendment".

In September, the Senate Judiciary Committee for the eighth time approved the proposed amendment which has never been voted upon by the full membership of the Senate, nor passed out of the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee.

M. E. Seebach

GENERAL ELECTION, 1964

Whatever members' feelings may be about the outcome of the General Election, as a non-Party organisation, we must all feel grateful for the much larger share of Ministerial appointments that have gone to women.

There were ninety women candidates—twenty-nine were elected as against twenty-five in the last General Election. Of the last Parliament one woman, Mrs. Hill, lost her seat, six new members were elected.

The list is as follows (asterisks signifying new members):

Labour:

Bacon, Miss Alice, C.B.E.—Leeds, South-East
 Braddock, Mrs. Elizabeth—Liverpool, Exchange
 Butler, Mrs. Joyce—Wood Green
 Castle, Rt. Hon. Barbara—Blackburn
 Corbet, Mrs. Freda—Camberwell, Peckham
 Cullen, Mrs. Alice—Glasgow, Gorbals
 Hart, Mrs. Judith—Lanark
 Herbison, Rt. Hon. Margaret—Lanarkshire, North
 *Jeger, Mrs. Lena—Holborn & St. Pancras South
 *Kerr, Mrs. Anne Patricia—Rochester & Chatham
 Lee, Miss Jennie—Staffordshire, Cannock
 Lloyd George, Lady Megan—Carmarthen
 *McKay, Mrs. Margaret—Clapham
 *Short, Mrs. Renée—Wolverhampton, North-East
 Slater, Mrs. Harriet—Stoke-on-Trent, North
 *Summerskill, Dr. Shirley—Halifax
 White, Mrs. Eirene—East Flint
 *Williams, Mrs. Shirley—Hertfordshire, Hitchin

Conservatives:

Anderson, Miss Harvie—E. Renfrewshire
 Emmet, Hon. Mrs. Evelyn—East Grinstead
 Gammans, Lady—Hornsey
 Hornsby-Smith, Rt. Hon. Dame Patricia, D.B.E.—
 Chislehurst
 Pike, Miss Mervyn—Melton
 Pitt, Dame Edith, O.B.E.—Birmingham, Edgbaston
 Quennell, Joan Mary, M.B.E.—Petersfield
 Thatcher, Mrs. Margaret—Finchley
 Tweedsmuir, Lady—Aberdeen, South
 Vickers, Miss Joan, M.B.E.—Plymouth, Devonport
 Ward, Dame Irene, D.B.E.—Tynemouth

The following is the list of Government appointments:

Minister of Overseas Development: Rt. Hon. Barbara Castle, M.P., Member of the Cabinet.

Minister of State, Home Office: Miss Alice Bacon, C.B.E., M.P.

Under-Secretary of State, Colonies: Mrs. Eirene White, M.P.

Minister of Pensions and National Insurance: Rt. Hon. Margaret Herbison, M.P.

Parliamentary Secretary Public Building and Works: Miss Jennie Lee, M.P.

Under Secretary of State for Scotland: Mrs. Judith Hart, M.P.

Government Whip: Mrs. Harriet Slater, M.P.

There are thirty-two Catholic members, three more than in the last Parliament. Eight of these are new members.

Lord Longford has been appointed Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords and Mr. Maurice Foley, Joint Under-Secretary for Economic Affairs.

REVIEWS

Recherche de Dieu. Recherche de l'Homme. Maria Leblanc. *Journal d'une A.F.I.* (A.F.I., 84 rue Gachard, Bruxelles.)

This is the intimate spiritual journal of a remarkable member of the *Auxiliaire laïque des missions* of Brussels. Aya, as she was known to her friends, died at the age of thirty-three of Hodgkins disease—a disease from which there is no recovery but which has its remissions in between distressing bouts. During her short life Aya achieved a great deal of mental and physical activity, entering the lay institute at the age of eighteen. She studied at Louvain where she gained degrees in psychology and philosophy, after which she went to Chicago to help found a centre for students and here she continued her university training. Ultimately she was called to the Congo where she was to help in the formation of a centre of psychological research. She was asked especially to study the problem of the adaptation of the Katanga woman to western civilisation. After she had become ill she presented to Louvain University her thesis for a doctorate in psychology under the title of "The Personality of the Katanga Woman". The thesis was not published until after her death (reviewed in *The Catholic Citizen* of August/September, 1962). During one of the remissions of her disease, Aya begged to take up a professorship in Lovanium (Congo). She longed to return to the Congo and she appeared to be so much better that she was permitted to do so, and it was at Lovanium that she spent the last few months of her life, not returning until the last mortal arrow had struck her. A month after her return she died in the beloved Mother House of the Institute (Rue Gachard) where on the last night of her life, she had begged to be.

Members of lay institutes do not by any means lead a sheltered life. They are very literally "in the world but not of it", and this meant for someone of Aya's temperament many a struggle with doubt and fatigue. It was a struggle generously and courageously undertaken; the spiritual honesty, loyalty, and fidelity to prayer shown in this journal is astonishing in one so young, and, comparing the beginning and end of the journal one notices very strongly the maturity and balanced outlook achieved. Members of St. Joan's Alliance were privileged to meet Aya for a few brief days during the St. Joan's International Congress held in Brussels in 1958.

C. Spender

Fifteen African Couples Discover Europe. (Ed. Notre-Dame, Coutances Manche, 5 francs)

In August, 1957, fifteen African couples of the *Action Catholique des Familles* from the Ivory Coast, undertook a forty-five days' journey across France, Belgium and Italy, visiting European families in their homes, for the purpose of studying the role of European women within the family group.

This little book relates with humour the details of this original expedition. It was indeed an amazing experience for these young Africans who had never left their country before and also for the European families who welcomed them into their homes. Sympathy and solid friendship were quickly established, and precious practical information on domestic and family matters exchanged.

The second part of the book gives the concrete results achieved by these African families after their return home. Traditional laws have been progressively modified (marriage, dowry, funerals, matriarchate, land property, etc.) in the interest of women and the family.

Here is a fine example of a practical project which could be repeated for all the developing countries of Black Africa, and which would interest all those who have at heart fraternity between races and advancement of family and social life throughout the world.

A. M. Pelzer

A Book of Comfort. An Anthology. Compiled by Elizabeth Goudge. (Michael Joseph, 25s.)

Elizabeth Goudge would seem the perfect person to be asked to make an anthology with the above title and she does not disappoint us. The anthology is divided into five parts with headings which in themselves make comforting reading . . . "the glory and wisdom of creation", the "delighting in each other", "the comfort of Faith", "comfort in tribulation", "comfort in living in the world of the imagination"—yes we have it all and the quotations, under sub-headings, cover a wide range of prose and poetry. Everyone will find their favourites and at the same time be grateful for the fresh angle and fresh material brought to their notice. For myself I am grateful that with "the great poems of the world" Elizabeth Goudge has seen fit to include "others that have little literary merit . . . because it would have been like turning one's back on a friend to leave them out." So we have the Bible—the Psalms and the Old and New Testaments, and we have authors, old and new, who are already known to us and the sudden joy of delightful discovery. We also have the pleasure of finding an extract from something familiar suddenly shining in a beautiful new light, because, like a precious jewel it has been sought and chosen and placed in a fresh setting.

There are a few very obvious misprints which it is hoped will be corrected in any reprinting. Let others explore this delightful book—it will make the perfect Christmas present. C.S.

A Catholic's Guide to Social and Political Action.

By Rev. C. C. Clump, S.J. (4th revised edition, 1963, C.S.G., Oxford, 6s.)

By means of question and answer, Fr. Clump gives us a very readable abstract of traditional teaching on "Catholic action" in the social and political fields. The answers are drawn from papal encyclicals and addresses and to the non-specialist they reveal, perhaps for the first time, the clarity, succinctness and up-to-date features of many of these documents. Take for instance Pope Leo XIII's (Human Liberty, 1888) ". . . the law of nature is the same thing as the eternal law, implanted in rational creatures, and inclining them to their right action and end."

A surprising omission occurs in the "edited" quotation from *Pacem in Terris*. Here important words are omitted, namely apropos of the right to set up a family, the statement that "the man and the woman enjoy equal rights and duties". This omission should be corrected in the future editions of Fr. Clump's useful and informative manual.

F.M.S.

The Universe Book 1965. Edited by Piers Compton. (Robert Hale, 25s.)

This is a selection of articles, stories and reports from *The Universe*. An ideal book for dipping into and to remind one of the good things recorded in the past. A suitable Christmas present.

F.A.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

F. Mackenzie Shattock in "The Catholic Citizen", 15th November, 1939

On the scientific side some knowledge has been acquired of the facts governing sex-determination. We are beginning to understand, also, the function and inter-relation of the glands which regulate secondary sexual characteristics. The fact is that these characteristics are not entirely fixed for any one person, and that they are to a limited extent interchangeable and variable according to the degree of physiological activity of the regulating glands, and the age group of the individual. The trend of natural science is pointing therefore to a less rigid sexual differentiation and one that is subject to the influence of several factors tilting the balance now in one direction now in another. To the student of art and literature this conclusion is not surprising. The artist portrays one of the infinite number of types that interests him at the moment, without considering if this particular person approaches the popular prototype of masculine or feminine characterisation. There is great variety within the limits of the normal.—*Reconstruction and Sex-Morality.*

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

At the meeting of the Alliance on October 22nd, Miss E. D. Price presided. An interesting and extensive account of the discussions and resolutions of the Antwerp conference was given by Dr. Shattock with her usual clarity. Those who had been unable to attend its sessions were particularly grateful to her for putting them in the picture so thoroughly.

The next speaker, Miss Pelzer a new member from Belgium, gave us her views on her first contact with the Alliance at the Antwerp conference. She was impressed by the atmosphere of enthusiasm and of fraternity in which the debates were held, and by the considerable amount of useful work which was achieved there.

Miss Price completed the picture on a humorous note. Her talk about the gracious hospitality of the nuns, the delegates' brief taste of convent life, the discovery of this beautiful city, the receptions in the Town Hall and in the homes of our Belgian friends, was a delight, not least her description of the mysterious invitation from an unknown Jesuit Father!

Members and friends will be glad to know that St. Joan's Fair held in St. Patrick's Schools, was a great success, the takings to date amounting to £113 17s. 6d. A few goods are still on sale at the office, 119 Oxford Street, and we hope to increase this sum before Christmas and so be able to pay our *Catholic Citizen* bills by the end of the year.

We are grateful to all those whose efforts brought about such a satisfactory result; those who gave in cash or kind, those who came and bought and those who manned the stalls. We would particularly like to thank Miss Katherine Dickson who acted as hon. sale secretary and Miss E. D. Price who with her team of helpers produced delicious lunches and teas which were highly appreciated and a great help to the funds.

Italy. Efforts to abolish the law by which adultery is a criminal offence when committed by a woman, but not by a man, have been rejected by the Italian Senate. Two women deputies protested that, contrary to the Constitution, the law discriminated between the sexes. They urged that the penalty for adultery—one year's imprisonment—should be abolished.

* * *

Only six of the fifty candidates in the recent examination for the Italian diplomatic service were successful, two of them women. They are the first women to be admitted to this service.

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