

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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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.

Woman Today

By F. M. Shattock, M.D., D.P.M.

If all that has been written about woman could be added together it is likely that credit and debit accounts would cancel out and that the balance would probably be nil. Virtues and vices have been ascribed to her with great liberality. What one apologist describes as her near-angelic nature strikes another as an occasion of sin. Her "tender, diffident, submissive traits" are nicely balanced by ruthless determination; sponsoring of the creative spirit of others by deadweight of passivity. Even voluptuousness, which according to a recent writer may derive from emancipation, is extinguished by the low claims of passion in this weaker vessel.

Such composite monstrosities do, of course, not exist. They can only arise when "the many" are artificially shaped into "the one," and when the processes of time, epochs and civilisations are forgotten in this urge for simplification. Woman in this sense is a myth as Man is a myth; there are only one or more human individuals, of one or other sex, differing from each other in innumerable respects.

And yet, most of the usual contradictory statements about woman are welded together by the author of "Woman Today."*

Those who know how greatly Father Fitzsimons cares for the welfare of the Girls' Young Christian Workers will wish that all his readers may read his book from cover to cover so that biased statements on one page may be corrected by those on the next page. We should say "quotations," as opinions are mostly expressed in this guise. Unfortunately these quotations are often ill-chosen, drawn from relatively obscure sources, and classics of the Woman's Movement have scarcely been consulted. It would be even better if this book could be read backwards, to save the sensibilities of those who do not care to hear the fight for emancipation described as "the aping of man."

Only on page 182 does Fr. Fitzsimons make handsome amends. Here we read: "The greatest

benefit conferred by the feminist movement . . . was the establishment of woman's position as a human person." This achievement is staggering in its magnitude when one realises that it relates to one half of the human race. It is also more than we claim: a goal yes, an achievement not yet. But Catholic feminists do know that although they are far from being the only ones, or numerically most important in the struggle, the obligation to try and achieve this measure of justice is most emphatically theirs.

Although Father Fitzsimons approves the aims of the feminist movement, he notes with regret that this advance has not given back to woman the assured social status she lost when she ceased to be the centre of a home from which her many activities (educative, or related to spinning, weaving, baking, etc.), were directed. It may be that distance softens contours and things look better in the mass, when individual distortions have been cancelled. One may wonder whether the beneficiaries of these wifely ministrations have not added their own quota of brightness, and whether those happy women of the past were occasionally disturbed by lack of individual freedom of decision. Modern discomforts and uncertainties may be a necessary accompaniment of social readjustments and it would not be fair to ascribe the responsibility for modern lapses in morals, or irresponsibility, to the acquisition of a human personality.

There are a few more points which cannot be passed over without comment.

Father Fitzsimons quotes with almost devastating frankness the statements into which prejudice led some of the holiest of human beings, including St. Jerome and the Angelic Doctor. This should indeed be a warning to those who would try their hand at a theology for the sexes. No thank you Father Fitzsimons we should prefer to renounce a Theology of Woman before it is conceived; that which is so admirably summarised in the Catechism is good enough for us. Even the name is deeply suspect.

**Woman Today*, by John Fitzsimons. (Sheed & Ward, 8s. 6d.)

We should also demur in asking for special and separate subjects of instruction for our children of different sexes. If girls do little with maths (so this book says) one is not impressed with the results obtained in the boys' division. Perhaps large classes or dull methods may be blamed? Girls do seem to make efficient cashiers and as Father Fitzsimons says, a few of both sexes are wranglers. By all means make lessons come alive by introducing personal interests, but these interests do not vary very widely. Many a small boy likes a teddy bear and many a small girl likes conkers. It is true boys are on the whole more aggressive, and this was the main difference between the sexes that emerged in testing a very great number of young U.S.A. children. There is no reason to doubt the same would apply to our children. Much has been made of supposed "bunching of female intelligence" near the centre of the scale, and greater scatter of male values. Those who are familiar with intelligence tests know also the pitfalls, the influence of learning and special abilities for instance, on the results of these tests. It would be very unsafe to base a demand for a change in the curriculum on them. As regards protecting woman's work, her long experience of protective legislation is that this is restrictive. Work should be made safe for both sexes.

Finally it is a recurring taunt that woman is emotionally unbalanced and more swayed by emotional demands—and yet less highly sexed. Experience in the care of emotional crises of male and female adolescence, the testimony of everyday life and the voice of history, drama, poetry and prose do not endorse this opinion. When emotion paid, smelling-salts or black-outs were recognised tools used to avoid responsibilities, but even the dullest now recognises this for an old-fashioned *weapon*.

If one ventured to summarise one's feelings after hearing oneself discussed, reproached and exhorted, one could do it briefly under these headings:

1. One half of humanity (the male sex) cannot be excused from joining in a "mea culpa" for all the mess and horrors of this world.

2. When an injustice is recognised it is well to do something about it—if only by applauding those who do so.

3. Where adjustments are difficult a little practical aid far outweighs the blessings of protective (restrictive) legislation.

No, we definitely prefer to be left alone accepting gratefully help proffered to remove our remaining disabilities.

EXCHANGE. Austrian girl 20 wishes to come to England for some months to improve English. Family in Innsbruck would take girl or boy of about same age.—Box 3, St. Joan's Alliance.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE COUNCIL MEETING OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE, LONDON, 1952

1. Political Rights

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance congratulates the women of Greece who after so long a fight have at last obtained votes on the same terms as men. The Alliance sends good wishes to the Egyptian women for the successful conclusion of their campaign in the near future. The Alliance trusts that Switzerland and the few other countries which still deny the franchise to women will soon cease this reactionary policy.

The Alliance deplores the fact that the Constitution of Libya adopted on November 6th, 1951, confines the right to vote and to be elected to male Libyans only in flagrant violation of the principle of equality of rights for men and women contained in the Charter of the United Nations.

It further views with grave concern the proposal of a similar reactionary clause for the Sudan and trusts that this clause will be amended before the Constitution is finally adopted.

2. Equal Moral Standard

(a) In reaffirming its belief in the same high moral standard for both sexes, St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance deplores the fact that the pernicious system of State regulation of Prostitution persists in many countries. It calls upon its National Sections to urge their Governments to ratify the Convention on the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

(b) St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance reaffirms its belief that laws to safeguard public order shall apply equally to men and women; and that all measures taken to prevent the spread of venereal disease shall be free, voluntary and confidential.

3. Equal Pay and Opportunities

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance calls upon its National Sections to urge their Governments and all appropriate bodies to ensure as rapidly as possible the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work without discrimination based on sex.

It further urges National Sections to press for equal opportunities for education; for vocational and technical training; for employment and promotion; also to ensure that any Government requests for assistance from the United Nations and the specialised agencies should be for women equally with men.

It further urges that in all labour legislation, equal protection shall be given to men and women against exploitation, industrial accident or disease; that all insurance and pension schemes be based on a system of equal contributions and equal benefits for men and women.

4. Draft International Covenants on Human Rights

Sex Discrimination. St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance welcomes the fact that the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds of sex is clearly laid down in the preamble and specifically in Articles 2 and 3 of the Draft Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and in the Draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and urges the speedy completion of both Covenants.

Rights of Parents. St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance welcomes Article 14 (3) of the Draft Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights stating that:

The State Parties to the Covenant undertake to

(Continued on page 72)

Notes and Comments

On Sunday November 2nd, at 10.30, according to our tradition, Holy Mass will be offered at St. Patrick's, Soho Square, for deceased members, associates and benefactors of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. We ask members and friends in the London area to do their utmost to attend.

* * *

St. Joan's Alliance registers indignation at the latest statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer on equal pay, on September 18th. In reply to a deputation from the Staff Side of the Civil Service Whitley Council, Mr. Butler said that he could hold out no hope of introducing equal pay in the Civil Service in the near future and that the financial and economic position of the country would not allow its introduction at this stage. Could cynicism go further when one considers the many large groups of organised workers who are continuing to receive increased wages?

* * *

An anomaly which may not be well known to our readers exists in the conduct of Juvenile Courts. These are supposed to be composed of three persons and it is recommended that one of these be a woman. So far so good. But in Section 13 of the Juvenile Courts (Constitution) Rules 1933 dealing with the number of men and/or women Magistrates composing a Juvenile Court outside the Metropolitan Police Court Area, it is allowable that a Court may be composed of two men but it is not allowable for two or more women to form a court.

The official view is, quite reasonably, that a mixed court is preferable but why may a Juvenile Court proceed if only men Magistrates are present but not if only women Magistrates are there? Surely this is to regard women as something less than human beings?

* * *

A deputation from the Status of Women Committee was received by Sayed Sir Abdul Rahman el Mahdi and the Sudanese Minister of Education at the Savoy Hotel on October 2nd. The deputation was introduced by Miss Barry in the absence of the Chairman, Dame Vera Laughton Mathews. A strong appeal was made for the inclusion of women in the franchise under the Draft Constitution of the Sudan.

The deputation was received with interest and sympathy.

Another deputation from the Status of Women Committee was received on October 7th at St. Ermin's by the leaders of the Ashigga Party of Sudan, Mr. Yahia, controller, Mr. Mubarak Zarroug secretary, and Dr. Ali Oro secretary of

the graduates' Congress. Mr. Zarroug is also the Mayor of Omdurman. They spoke of the position of women in their country and expressed sympathy with the desire of the deputation for equal franchise for men and women.

* * *

The Hon. Mrs. Emmett, United Kingdom delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations, received a deputation on October 1st from the Women's Advisory Council of the United Nations Association. The deputation was introduced by Dame Rachel Crowdy Thornhill, Chairman of the Advisory Council. Mrs. Emmett was asked for her sympathetic consideration of the various points on the Agenda of the Assembly which the deputation brought to her notice. The Alliance was represented on the deputation by Miss Barry.

* * *

We send our best wishes to Miss Maureen Boswell of Malaya who has entered the novitiate of the Good Shepherd nuns at Angers. Miss Boswell joined St. Joan's Alliance during the period of its International Council Meeting at Brussels in 1947. She trained in England for moral welfare work, on the principles laid down by Josephine Butler. After her training she returned to Malaya to work there.

* * *

A unique collection of five hundred rare or little known books on St. Joan of Arc which an American jurist and statesman, Judge Bingham, of Kentucky, spent a lifetime assembling, have been presented to the City Library in Orleans (France). The collection which includes books in English, French and Latin, covers every aspect of the life of St. Joan.

* * *

HON. TREASURER'S NOTE

"Thank you" to all members who have sent in their 7s. 6d. to the Farthing Fund. If anyone has not yet sent it will she do so as soon as possible to help with this quarter's rent, please. Another plea—if everyone who reads this would send in 1s. (stamps will do) we should have no more worries till the Sale—which brings me to an important item. The Christmas Sale will take place on November 29th in St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square. We should be glad to receive anything new for the stalls any time now. If possible will you please price your articles to help the office staff. Also, donations of money will be gratefully received and acknowledged and offers of help with selling and refreshments.

N. K. CARR

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

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"The Catholic Citizen."

St. Joan's International Council Meeting

The eleventh Council Meeting of St. Joan's International Alliance took place in London from September 12th-14th. It opened with an evening reception given by the Section in Great Britain at the Challoner Club. The Chairman, Miss P. C. Challoner, received the International President Dame Vera Laughton Mathews and numerous delegates and friends.

In welcoming the guests Miss Challoner stressed that the object of the Alliance and other feminist organisations is to obtain for women their rights as human persons—not to ape men as many think. Brief speeches were made by Dame Vera, Madame Pesson Depret and Madame Gouffé (France), Dr. Krüger (Germany), Miss Buhagiar (President of the Women of Malta Association), Miss Fenwick (Australia) and Miss Pigot (Canada).

Dr. Lüders, a pioneer in the Woman's Movement and a former member of the Reichstag emphasised the need to carry on the fight for women's emancipation. Though not a Catholic herself, she said she greatly appreciated the invitation to speak to a body of Catholic women in the vanguard of this fight. She spoke with great emotion of the part played by the British airmen in the Berlin air-lift and expressed her gratitude.

Another non-Catholic, Miss Hills-Young, ex-Principal of the Midwives Training School, Sudan Medical Service, congratulated the Alliance on its excellent work at the Status of Women Commission and at the Economic and Social Council.

Among the distinguished guests were Mrs. de Silva (Ceylon), Mrs. Asakai (Japan) and Mr. and Mrs. Kiwanuka (Uganda).

The next morning Holy Mass was offered for the success of the Council Meeting.

By courtesy of Dame Vera the work of the Council Meeting took place at her flat in Westminster, where she hospitably provided lunch and tea for the delegates.

Those present at the Council Meeting were the President Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, D.B.E.; Vice-President, Madame Pesson Depret (France); Hon. Treasurer, Madame Marthe Gouffé; Hon. Secretary, Miss F. A. Barry. *Delegates: Great Britain, Mrs. Shattock, M.D., D.P.M., Dr. Isabel Powell Heath; France, Madame P. Archambault, Madame Malaterre Sellier, Mademoiselle Voidet, Victoria, Miss Brandt (proxy); New South Wales, Miss Aline Fenwick; Malta, Miss Buhagiar; Germany, Frau Hildegard Krüger; Transvaal, Miss Challoner (proxy). Observers: Queensland, Miss June McNamara; Ceylon, Mrs. de Silva; Canada, Miss Patricia Pigot; Miss Christine Spender, Editor of The Catholic Citizen.*

The President welcomed the delegates, after which messages and apologies were read from: Mademoiselle Lenoël, first Vice-President; Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes, Vice-President (Germany); Madame Leroy, Vice-President (Belgium); Miss Flynn, Vice-President (Australia); Madame Russo (France); Frau Brauksiepe (Germany); Dr. Klompé (Holland); and from the following National Sections: Brazil, West Australia and South Australia.

Business included the consideration of the formation of new Sections and accounts of the work achieved by each Section.

Miss Barry gave a detailed report of the work done during the year in connection with the United Nations. She stressed the added work and responsibility entailed by consultative status. The Council Meeting expressed its appreciation to the Status of Women Commission for the sympathetic consideration given to the question of female circumcision at its Sixth Session and for the prompt and courageous action taken. The Meeting expressed satisfaction at the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourteenth session, inviting "all States to take immediately all necessary measures with a view to abolishing progressively

in the countries and territories under their administration all customs which violate the physical integrity of women and which thereby violate the dignity and worth of the human person." Satisfaction was also expressed that the Trusteeship Council has included in its questionnaire requesting reports from Administering Authorities, a question regarding the violation of the physical integrity of women.

It was agreed to send letters of appreciation to ECOSOC, the Status of Women Commission and to those Governments whose delegates had sponsored the resolutions, as also to the Secretariat for their generous help.

The two new draft covenants on Human Rights were considered and amendments to certain articles proposed.

A lively discussion took place on the question of part-time work. On the proposal of l'Alliance Jeanne d'Arc (France) it was agreed to ask National Sections to collect information on the subject. By request of the German Section Dr. Krüger brought up the idea of an International Convention providing that Mothers of illegitimate children be enabled to obtain affiliation orders from service men in times of war.

In connection with the discussion on the Equal Moral Standard, conditions in the Netherlands Antilles had been brought to the notice of the Alliance, as a system of registration of prostitutes was in force there. A letter had been sent to the Governor and the Alliance reaffirmed its resolution on the Equal Moral Standard. This, with other resolutions, will be found on page 66.

There were heartening reports from the National Sections, and a particularly rousing speech from Dr. Krüger regarding an important piece of work being undertaken by the German Section on the question of family law. Australia and Great Britain reported hard work on Equal Pay, which still continues. Madame Gouffé in a racy speech woke the meeting to the inadequacy of funds for the amount of work to be done.

After the Meeting delegates and friends adjourned to the Festival Hall for dinner and an evening at the Ballet which was much enjoyed.

On Sunday an expedition to Ken Wood was arranged to see the exhibitions of pictures at Ken Wood House and to walk in the grounds. A tea party was given at Holly Place and to judge by the noise of conversation there was not a person present who was not having a good time.

It was with much regret that the British Section said goodbye to the delegates from overseas. Year by year contacts do much to refresh those who meet together on behalf of St. Joan's International Alliance and one gains the impression

that delegates return to their countries with renewed vigour for the fight for equality between men and women.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Italy.—It gives us great happiness to offer our congratulations to Don Luigi Sturzo on his appointment by the Italian Government as a life Senator. Don Sturzo founded the Popular Party in Italy which was the forerunner of the Christian Democrats.

It has always been an honour to count Don Sturzo among the members of St. Joan's Alliance and we are indebted to him for his kind help on several occasions when he was living in exile in this country. He also gave us greatly valued help during the Triennial Conference of St. Joan's International Alliance held in Rome during 1950.

We have been glad to count Don Sturzo among contributors to *The Catholic Citizen*.

* * *

N.G.O. Conference. — At the Conference of International non-Governmental Organisations sponsored by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations, held in New York in October, St. Joan's International Alliance was represented by Madame Wanda Grabinska, Mrs. Hedstrom Quirk and Mrs. Magda de Spur.

* * *

United Nations. — The Secretary General's report lists fifty-seven countries where women have equal franchise. This includes an increase of one more country than that listed last year, this country being Greece. Unfortunately on the debit side it has to be noted that the newly-created State of Libya does not give women the right to vote or to be elected although the new Constitution was sponsored by the United Nations who is thus contravening the tenets of its own Charter.

The report lists the following fifteen countries where women have no political rights: Afghanistan, Columbia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Honduras, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Lichtenstein, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Saudi-Arabia, Switzerland, Yemen. In Ethiopia and Saudi-Arabia men have no electoral rights. In Nicaragua although women have no electoral rights, they are eligible for public office equally with men, save as excepted by the Constitution or the laws.

The first United Nations **Commemorative stamp** will be issued on United Nations Day, October 24th, in five cents denominations.

THE NAPLES CONGRESS

Delegates from twenty-six countries, fraternalists from fourteen groups, Mrs. Margaret Bruce (Human Rights Commission of U.N.), Mrs. Parimal Das (Unesco), Mr. Humphrey (F.A.O.) and Madame Cingolani, first woman to become a member of the Italian Government, as distinguished guests, met in Naples, September 14th-19th for the Sixteenth Congress of the International Alliance of Women, which was preceded by Board and Commission Meetings from the 11th-13th September. Colour was added by the picturesque groups among delegates from Pakistan, Haiti, Ceylon, Tobago and Trinidad, Egypt, Turkey, the Philippines, Iceland, though the absence of those from Iran (prevented from attendance by their Government), Japan and Finland was much regretted.

Among the resolutions passed, three at least are of special interest to St. Joan's. The first:

"The International Alliance of Women urges the Governments in all territories where female circumcision is practised to work through education and by appropriate measures of prohibition to eradicate this practice, which is a violation of Human Rights."

This resolution was put through by the Equal Moral Standard Commission. Italy asked, through the same Commission, for the following, unanimously agreed:

"The International Alliance of Women warmly applauds the action of the Italian Senate in passing both the Merlin Law for the closure of tolerated brothels, and the law relating to fuller facilities in Italy for the confidential, voluntary treatment of venereal disease, but deplors the delay in placing these laws on the Statute Book so as to put Italy amongst the forward looking nations of the world in regard to the equal moral standard."

The Congress unanimously agreed a resolution proposed by Norway and seconded by Australia:

"This Congress noting with satisfaction the efforts of the Australian women to implement the ILO Convention on Equal Remuneration for men and women and to achieve 'the rate for the job,' warmly supports the Australian Federation of Women Voters in its efforts to prevent any lowering of the basic wage rate for women from 75 per cent. to 60 per cent. of the wages paid to men."

This refers to the struggle now preparing in Australia to combat an appeal by employers to the Arbitration Court which settle wage rates for the lowering mentioned.

The Commission on Civil and Political Rights put through a Resolution regretting that in the newly-drawn Constitution of certain countries women are denied the vote. The Congress recognised that at present there may be few, if any, women who could exercise their vote, but it was strongly of the opinion that the right to do so should be embodied in the Constitutions of their countries. It deplored the fact that when the inevitable awakening of these women comes,

they should have to struggle, as had the women in some other countries, for this elementary right of citizenship.

Space forbids the reproduction here of many other resolutions covering peace, equal education and other special points of interest.

The social functions arranged were magnificent; a splendid party, with local guitar music, given by the Italian society; gala receptions by the Municipality of Naples in the Royal Palace, and by the Chamber of Commerce with free entry to the wonderful exhibition of Italian work arranged in the modern and elegant exhibition buildings, with glorious displays of coloured fountain lights, buildings, and a modern theatre; special evening visit to illuminated Pompeii; a trip to Solfatara, former home of the Cumæan Sybil, whose oracles could be repeated today by ingenious use of volcanic fumes excited by burning torches. Visits to Capri and Herculaneum gave untold pleasure; and at every function, the wonderful refreshments were certainly a pleasure of a special kind.

The setting of the Congress was the Royal Palace, and if the many marble steps to be mounted were a little tiring in the heat, the splendid rooms, wonderful pictures, and remarkable library opened to Congress delegates were unforgettable. While Mrs. Pujadas McShine was warmly welcomed as fraternal delegate from St. Joan's International Alliance, the absence of the delegation from St. Joan's was deeply regretted, and many enquiries were made for the well-known representatives of previous days.

One very remarkable and hopeful outcome of the Congress is an understanding between the Egyptian delegation and the delegate from Israel to seek the agreement of their home groups to inaugurate a round table conference on the problems of the refugees which have in the past provoked bitter feeling. This is but a first step, but if some measure of reasonable discussion can be reached between these groups, much might come of their action.

Miss Esther Graff of Denmark was elected as the new President on the retirement of Dr. Hanna Rydh. M. CHAVE COLLISSON

BOOKS RECEIVED

The Convert. By Hebe Elsna. (Robert Hale, 9s. 6d.)

The Twelve Apostles. By Teresa Lloyd. (Paschal Press, 3s. 6d.)

The Catholic Diary, 1953. (Burns Oates, 4s. 6d.) Burns Oates produce their annual pocket Catholic diary, this year bound in an attractive red limp cover. It has useful reference lists and a quotation for each day in the year.

REVIEWS

Steward of Souls. By S.M.C. (Longmans Green, 12s. 6d.)

Written by a Dominican nun, this book is the life of Mother Margaret Hallahan who founded the English Dominican Congregation of St. Catherine of Siena. Born in the London slums, of a poor Irish family, she endured a cruel and unhappy childhood and was orphaned at the age of ten. From an early age she dedicated herself to God. With the little band of companions that she had gathered around her, she founded a hospital, poor schools, orphanages and later convents all over the Midlands, and in the South.

Gifted and beautiful, with tremendous love of God and a driving energy, she became renowned both in England and abroad: among her contemporaries were Newman, Archbishop Ullathorne and the other great figures in the Catholic revival. Not only does this book give an excellent word-picture of a very great and saintly woman, but fills in a rather blank page in the history of the part played by women in the Church at this time. Mother Hallahan's work is still growing today, and we are told in this book that the Informative Process on her life, virtues and miracles has been begun.

The author has used hitherto unpublished material from Archbishop Ullathorne's book on Mother Margaret, and also extracts from her own letters. A very welcome addition to the bookshelves of the lives of holy women.

ANN WHITTLES

Adoption. The Parent, the Child and the Home.

By Cecil J. Barrett, C.C. (Clonmore & Reynolds, Dublin. Agents Burns Oates, 6s.)

"There are no laws governing the adoption of children in the Republic of Ireland," writes Father Barrett. Though he states at the end of this interesting study that the introduction of legal adoption by the Irish Republic would remove the fear that the adopted child might be taken from the adoptive parents, his primary concern is "to show that adoption is a task that requires infinite care: to help those who are arranging adoptions and to guide persons who have adopted or intend to adopt a child." He presupposes the existence of what he describes as "adoption agencies" and "adoption workers" by which he means agencies and personnel specially qualified for adoption work and regarded in the same light as our important Child Adoption Societies in England. Step by step he takes us through the normal procedure undertaken by an experienced adoption society of finding the right parents for the right child. He devotes a special chapter to "the parent" (i.e. the Mother) of the child offered for adoption who

is, as he points out, practically always illegitimate. This is one of the most sensible chapters in the book, more especially in its advocacy of the patience that would try to persuade the mother to keep and care for her child whenever possible, and in its recommendation that the putative father be interviewed by the social worker helping the mother, if he can be persuaded to come forward. The remarks which reflect on "the efforts of non-Catholic social workers in other countries on behalf of the unmarried mother" are un-understanding in a work of such compassion and depth. Honour where honour is due!

It is not of course (as things are) always possible for the Mother to keep her illegitimate child and of her own free will she may wish him to have the advantages of adoption, without the baser reason of wanting to get rid of a burden. It is in these cases that the adoption societies step in with their excellent help and advice to the would-be adopters and their manifold experience in investigation to guide the happy issue of so important a step. This book could not be bettered in its exposure of the principles (Christian in their very essence) which underly a successful adoption, nor in its initiation into the practical side of the matter.

One last word, however. Surely legal adoption safeguards the interests of the child (paramount as the author points out) as well as of the adoptive parents. A written agreement has not the same binding force as the law and in the case of difficulty or confusion arising after the time of probation, while no doubt the parents would consult the adoption agency, they would at the same time feel doubly loth to disown a child legally their own. C.S.

The Imitation of Christ. By Thomas a Kempis.

Translated and with an Introduction by Leo Sherley-Price. (Penguin Books, 2s. 6d.)

This is a new translation of a well-known spiritual classic. The introduction includes a life of Thomas a Kempis and the translation is in modern prose the purpose of its author being to introduce the work to a wider public. It is reasonably priced and well produced and above all things easy to handle for a journey or for reading in bed. Let us hope many new readers will be attracted by this popular edition of a beloved book. C.S.

History Today. (Illustrated Monthly, 2s. 6d.)

The August number of *History Today* (72, Coleman Street, E.C.2) contains an article of interest to feminists entitled "Paul and Thekla." Its author is Mr. Seton Lloyd who describes how modern research into early Christian history has shown the foundation of truth contained in

an Apocryphal story. Other articles of great interest to Catholics are "Lord Acton" by Roland Hill and "Savonarola, the Unarmed Prophet" by L. F. Marks. C.S.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Leonora de Alberti in "The Catholic Citizen,"
15th October, 1927.

This being the first occasion that the Catholics of France have come together to discuss the problems of feminism (*Semaine Sociale*) the speakers seem to have shown themselves better feminists than, perhaps, one would have expected. When, speaking more or less officially, and laying down Catholic principles, great caution is necessary, and some Catholics too often, with undue anxiety, are apt to confound principles with prejudice. The speakers at Nancy seem to have escaped the pitfall, and this in spite of the fact that, with two exceptions, the problems of feminism had been entrusted to men. We hope should this interesting experiment be repeated, by any set of Catholics, that we shall hear women speakers expounding the nature of woman, the feelings of woman, the capacity of woman. Men, however learned, wise and broad-minded, must necessarily suffer from preconceived notions of woman, and some of the speakers at Nancy cannot be exonerated from this failing.

For ourselves we part company with our French colleagues on the subject of protective legislation for women in industry. Give us protection for all workers, and women will judge for themselves what work is best suited to them. Nor do we see eye to eye with Fr. Gillet on the question of the leadership of men, his opinion being an instance of those preconceived notions of which we have complained.—*Catholicism and Feminism.*

Resolutions (Continued from page 66).

have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians, to choose for their children schools other than those established by the public authorities which conform to such minimum educational standards as may be laid down or approved by the State and to ensure the religious education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance calls upon its National Sections to urge their Governments to press for:

- (i) *Right of Petition.* In the measures for implementation of the Covenants, the right, not only of States, but of groups and individuals, to petition the United Nations in respect of violations of Human Rights.
- (ii) *Marriage.* An article on marriage, similar to article 10 (3) in the Draft Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights be included in the Draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- (iii) *Medical.* That article 6 of the Draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights be amended to read:
No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment. No one shall be subjected to medical or scientific experimentation without his free consent.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

NON-PARTY

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Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 4d. monthly.

OBJECT

To band together Catholics of both sexes, in order to secure the political, social and economic equality between men and women, and to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens.

MEMBERSHIP

All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of 10s. which includes *The Catholic Citizen*. Men are invited to join as Associates, on the same conditions, with the exception that they may not elect or be elected to the Executive.

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