

THE  
CATHOLIC CITIZEN

VOLUME XII., 1926.



ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,  
55 BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W. 1.



# INDEX.

VOLUME XII. 1926.

	PAGE		PAGE
Alberti, Leonora de.		Death of Isabel Willis ... ..	47
Sexual Offences Against Young Persons...	4	Douglas Irvine, H.	
The Pioneer Policewoman ... ..	12	The Progress of Feminism in Chile ...	59
The Justice of Equal Franchise ... ..	17	Feminism in South Africa ... ..	65
Progress in 1925 ... ..	32	The Third Inter-American Women's	
The Equal Franchise Campaign... ..	40	Congress ... ..	84
The Paris Congress ... ..	45	Equal Franchise.	
Moral Laxity ... ..	56	The Justice of Equal Franchise... ..	17
Women Under English Law ... ..	68	Equal Franchise Demonstration... ..	57
Social Theories of the Middle Ages ...	76	Why Equal Franchise Must Be Included	
International Catholic Women's Leagues		in the King's Speech ... ..	83
and the Paris Congress ... ..	81	Equal Franchise Meetings ... ..	87, 95
Protection for all Workers, or Special		Fedden, Miss.	
Legislation for Women ... ..	92	Life's Fitful Fever ... ..	34
Aldous, R. Leslie.		The Great Procession ... ..	48
The League's Seventh Assembly ... ..	89	Dinner to Miss Fedden ... ..	78
Annual Meeting of St. Joan's S.P.A. ...	33-34	Open Letter to Readers of the <i>Catholic</i>	
Annual Report ... ..	21	<i>Citizen</i> ... ..	78
A Beauty of Bath. By Mary Wall ... ..	61	Feminism in South America ... ..	69
Bierville Peace Congress ... ..	69	Feminism in South Africa... ..	65
British Commonwealth League ... ..	38, 79	Feminism, Recent Progress in Chile ...	59
Catholic Citizens' Parliament ... ..	34	Franchise Demonstration ... ..	30
Catholic Delegates at the Paris Congress	49	Girls and their Prospects. By Nancy Stewart	
The Community and the Criminal... ..	70	Parnell, B.A. ... ..	73
Correspondence.		House of Lords and Peeresses ... ..	59
Great Britain's Unequal Franchise Law	61	International Catholic Women's Leagues	
The Suffrage in Quebec ... ..	63, 78	and the Paris Congress ... ..	81
St. Joan a Prisoner ... ..	60	International Notes (V.M.C.) 2, 14, 20, 38,	
An Open Letter to Readers of the <i>Cath-</i>		58, 70, 77, 86, 94	
<i>olic Citizen</i> ... ..	78	International Woman Suffrage Alliance.	
Crawford, V. M.		Call to the Paris Congress ... ..	1
The Homes of the People ... ..	7	Programme of Congress... ..	12
The Progress of Family Endowment ...	29	Changes in the Alliance... ..	46
Protective Legislation for Women in		Jeffery, Gabrielle.	
Industry ... ..	37	Why Equal Suffrage should be Included	
The Bierville Peace Congress ... ..	69	in the King's Speech ... ..	83
A Nineteenth Century Teacher ... ..	93	Hon. Treasurer's Note 7, 15, 27, 35, 43,	
International Notes ... 2, 14, 20, 38, 58,		51, 63, 71, 79, 87, 95	
70, 77, 86, 94		St. Joan's S.P.A.	
Christmas and Jumble Sales ... ..	94	Annual Meeting ... ..	33, 34



	PAGE		PAGE
Annual Report ... ..	21	The Pioneer Policewoman ... ..	12
St. Joan a Prisoner... ..	53, 60	Progress in 1925 ... ..	32
The Justice of Equal Franchise ... ..	17	Protection for all Workers, or Special Legislation for Women ... ..	92
Kindness to Animals ... ..	15	Public Lodging Houses for Women ... ..	87
Laughton, Lady. A Sunday in Tokyo ... ..	6	Resolutions Passed at St. Joan's Annual Meeting ... ..	34
The League's Seventh Assembly ... ..	89	Reviews.	
Letters on Equal Franchise (Read at St. Joan's S.P.A. Meeting at Caxton Hall) 42	42	The Homes of the People ... ..	7
Living, Susan. St. Joan a Prisoner ... ..	53	The Pioneer Policewoman ... ..	12
Liverpool and District Branch 7, 15, 27, 35, 43, 51, 63, 71, 79, 87, 95	95	Kindness to Animals ... ..	15
Local Government Elections ... ..	77	Life's Fitful Fever ... ..	34
Meeting on Lord Buckmaster's Resolution on Birth Control ... ..	42	A Beauty of Bath ... ..	60
Mocclair, Miss. The New Law of Property ... ..	9	Women Under English Law ... ..	68
Moral Laxity ... ..	56	Social Theories of the Middle Ages... ..	76
National Council of Women in Great Bri- tain and Annual Conference ... ..	71, 85	The Community and the Criminal ... ..	70
The New Law of Property... ..	9	Rome, Past and Present ... ..	70
Notes and Comments 3, 11, 19, 31, 39, 47, 55, 67, 73, 83, 91	91	A Nineteenth Century Teacher ... ..	93
Pageantry and Politics in London... ..	21	Sexual Offences Against Young Persons ... ..	4
Paris Congress ... ..	19, 31, 45, 57	Sixth International Congress for Peace ... ..	34
Parnell, B.A., Nancy Stewart. Girls and their Prospects... ..	73	Social Theories in the Middle Ages ... ..	76
St. Patrick's Girls' Club ... ..	86	The Suffrage in Quebec ... ..	62
Peacemakers' Pilgrimage ... ..	43	A Sunday in Tokyo... ..	6
		Traffic in Women and Children ... ..	54
		Hon. Treasurer's Note 7, 15, 27, 35, 43, 51, 63, 71, 79, 87, 95	43, 95
		Wall, Mary. A Beauty of Bath ... ..	61
		Woman Suffrage, Table of... ..	50
		Women Under English Law ... ..	68

WOMEN'S  
FILE COPY  
NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

# THE Catholic Citizen

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

Vol. XII, No. 1.

15th JANUARY, 1926.

Price Twopence.

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.

## Call to the Tenth Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, Paris, May 30—June 7, 1926.

The International Woman Suffrage Alliance calls upon its thirty-six national Auxiliaries and upon the seven new societies either provisionally affiliated or applying for affiliation, to send to its Tenth International Congress to be held in Paris from May 30 to June 7, 1926, the full quota of fully accredited delegates. It also calls upon all women's societies, both national and international, which support the object of the Alliance, to send fraternal delegates to the Congress, and promises a most cordial welcome to all individual friends and supporters of the women's movement in all countries who may wish to be present at our deliberations.

Since our last Congress in Rome in 1923, it may seem that the wheel of progress has been turning more slowly than in former years. We have, however, to record an important victory in Newfoundland, where the long struggle of the women has been crowned with success, a suffrage measure having been passed giving women the right to vote, though not on absolutely the same terms as men. In India, also, three more Provinces have enfranchised their women, the United Provinces, Assam, and Bengal; as have also the Native States of Cochin and Mysore.

Elsewhere a great step forward towards

the emancipation of women has been accomplished by the grant of the municipal vote, already in sight in Italy and Greece, and actually in operation in Spain. In France a suffrage bill is under discussion, and there is good hope that the women of France will also shortly have a victory to celebrate. In other fields covered by our programme, women are steadily advancing: consolidating their gains in the professions; reforming laws which have for centuries perpetuated injustices towards women; ceaselessly stating the women's claim to economic equality; and making their weight felt in the political life of their countries in every direction.

May we not then claim when calling our Tenth Congress that, if the flood of spectacular victories has somewhat abated, the rising tide is with the women of the world, and no obstacle can for long stem their progress towards that equality of freedom and opportunity which is the vital principle of the Alliance? Moreover, the creation of the League of Nations has opened to us a vast and hopeful field of work. It is significant that in this first effort towards world peace, women should have been placed on an equality with men, so that it lies with them to help in the achievement of this mighty aim and thus to demonstrate their



fitness for great responsibilities. The story of their endeavours and the details of their work will be among the most interesting features of the Congress in Paris.

As from period to period our Congresses increase in size and importance, so also does the complexity of the problems considered. At the Paris Congress, we shall have first to deal with that most important subject, which is the very foundation of our programme: the enfranchisement of women in countries which have not yet attained this necessary reform; then will come the questions of the economic situation of women in the professions, in business, and in industry; of the equal moral standard for both sexes, with its concomitant fight against the infamous traffic in women; of the responsibility for the illegitimate child; of the nationality of the married woman, and finally of the study of the system of family allowances.

These questions have indeed been discussed at our former meetings, but they are not static questions—they present a constantly changing front, and problems which call for all our courage and perseverance if they are to be solved in accordance with our ideal. Finally, it is impossible for the women of so many different nations to meet without discussing the greatest of all problems, on which alone our constructive programme can be built up: Peace and Good Will among the Nations.

This Call to our Congress is not a Call to ease and personal satisfaction with work already done. Rather is it a Call to all those who, conscious of the value of steadfastness and co-operation, wish to press forward with set purpose and high heart to the conquest of the Promised Land of justice and goodwill. We know our friends and fellow-workers will not fail us, and, full of hope, we summon them to come from near and far to Paris, City of Light, to send forth the message which shall help the great women's movement all over the world to advance yet further on its predestined road to Victory.

Margery I. Corbett Ashby, *President*.

Carrie Chapman Catt, *Hon. President*.

Anna Lindemann; Paulina Luisi; Margherita Ancona; Cornelia B. Pinchot; Frances M. Sterling; Emilie Gourd; Avra Theodoropoulos; Adele Schreiber Krieger; Julie Arenholt; Germaine Malaterre Sellier.

## International Notes.

*Equal Rights* expresses regret that once more, at their Annual Convention held in Washington in November, the National Council of Catholic Women pledged itself to offer vigorous opposition to the policy of the Equal Rights Party, mainly on the ground that by it "the unity of home and family life is seriously menaced." *Equal Rights* recalls with satisfaction the support accorded to their policy by St. Joan's Alliance, and asserts that all through the States numbers of Catholic women, acting as individuals, are to be found among their supporters.

The same issue reports a new practical development by one of their members, Tiera Farrow, who has opened a women's law-school in Kansas City. It will give "short, practical, non-technical courses in business procedure and in law affecting business, for housewives and others needing just enough law to attend to their business and property interests. It would be well," adds the paper, "if she would give a course on the disabilities of women under the laws of their country, so that women would know exactly their legal status."

The December number of the N.C.W.C. *Bulletin* is, naturally, largely devoted to the doings of the Catholic Women's Convention, which appears to have been a great success. From the report of one of the discussions we gather the interesting fact that four Sisters of the Maryknoll Missionary Congregation are now studying Medicine at Marquette University, with the intention of practising. The new President for the year of the N.C.W.C., in succession to Miss Loeber, is Mrs. Arthur Mullen, of Omaha.

Mme. Charaoui Pacha, the brilliant edress of *L'Egyptienne*, with her companion, Melle Nabaraoui, has just returned from her four months' trip to Europe and the United States, and the November issue of her paper is full of her travel reminiscences. It is interesting to learn that Mme. Mahmoud Sami Pacha, the attractive young wife of the Egyptian Minister at Washington, is a daughter of Mme. Charaoui. Another topic dealt with is the position of Egyptian women in the earliest days, as revealed by recent discoveries, from which it may be concluded

(Continued on p. 5.)

## Notes and Comments.

The campaign for Equal Franchise is starting in real earnest. The Freedom League have organised a public meeting on the question on Tuesday, 19th inst., at Caxton Hall, at which Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., will be the chief speakers. The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship are organising a Mass Meeting on Equal Franchise at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Friday, February 26, at 8 p.m., at which Dame Millicent Fawcett, Miss Maude Royden, and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., will be the speakers; the chair will be taken by Miss Eleanor Rathbone. Other meetings are being held in the provinces—all leading up to the demonstration in Hyde Park in June. Suffragists have always stood for Equal Franchise, and it is to be hoped that the Government will realise that women are determined to get the law altered. St. Joan's S.P.A. is co-operating with the N.U.S.E.C. in the meeting of February 26, and we trust members and readers will keep the date free, and do their utmost to attend. A block of 2s. 6d. seats will be reserved for members at the special rate of 1s. each, but applications for reserved seats should be sent immediately to the Hon. Secretary, St. Joan's S.P.A., 55 Berners Street, W. 1. St. Joan's S.P.A. will hold a meeting for Equal Franchise in the near future; particulars will be given later.

We have recently had an agreeable proof that Governments and Government Departments bow to public opinion, in the fate which befell the notorious Circular 1371, issued by the Board of Education. The proposal to cut down grants for children under five, and for the training of teachers, aroused a storm of indignation, and the danger is, anyway for the moment, averted. The National Union of Women Teachers issued an admirable protest.

We offer our hearty congratulations to our member, Miss E. Sullivan, who is this year's President of the Catholic Teachers' Federation. In her inaugural address, Miss Sullivan spoke of the teaching profession as the Cinderella of professions, and said no other profession was so inspected, cor-

rected, admonished and suspected, and said that the constant changing of the Minister of Education and educational policy was a great evil, permanent authority and a definite programme would tend to a better and more economical administration.

The New South Wales Legislative Council recently passed, without a division, the Bill to provide pensions of £1 per week for widows with dependent children, and ten shillings for each child under fourteen. The Pensions' Act in our own country came into operation on January 4.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance has sent a letter to the Secretary of the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorder, calling attention to the urgent need for more women to be appointed on the Board of Control; for Women Doctors to be appointed to all public Hospitals having women patients; and for women to be appointed on the Visiting Committees of Public Mental Hospitals.

It will be remembered that there are two women members on this Commission: Miss Madeline Symons and our member, Mrs. C. J. Mathew, J.P.

We learnt with deep regret of the death of Mrs. Ellen Chapman, J.P., of Worthing. Mrs. Chapman was one of our earliest members, and at one time a member of our executive committee. She stood by the Society in its dark days and early struggles, when suspicion, and we may say calumny, made our path difficult. Mrs. Chapman was Mayor of Worthing on two occasions, an Alderman five years, and fifteen years a member of the Worthing Town Council. For many years she had taken an active part in public life, and always displayed great interest in the woman's movement.—R.I.P.

Feminism has also suffered another great loss in the death of Dame Louisa Aldrich Blake. She was a great surgeon, and the first woman to obtain the degree of Master of Surgery at the University of London. Dame Louisa was always a staunch supporter of what, for want of a better name, is called Feminism. Her death will be widely mourned.—R.I.P.



## 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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 MISS ISABEL WILLIS, Hon. Press Secretary.

## Sexual Offences against Young Persons.

The Report of the Departmental Committee on Sexual Offences against Young Persons (H.M.S. Stationery Office, 2s.), will be read with the deepest interest by Women's Societies, and many others. The inadequate penalties inflicted for these offences, the difficulty in obtaining a conviction, the feeling that this kind of offence is on the increase, have for long caused great anxiety to all interested in the protection of children and in public morality.

Attention was called to the matter in a debate in the House of Commons in 1923, especially by Lady Astor, Mr. Frank Briant and Mrs. Wintringham. As a result, two Conferences were convened at the Home Office in March 1924, at which persons representing societies interested in the subject were present, at the invitation of the Home Secretary, then Mr. Arthur Henderson. It was there urged that a Committee should be appointed to investigate the actual prevalence of these offences in England and Wales, and to consider any measures that might be taken to prevent their occurrence.

The Committee, set up in July 1924, has now published the Report referred to above. It is a long document, showing how carefully they have studied every aspect of the subject.

On the question of the prevalence of offences the Committee find:

1. That there are many more sexual offences committed against young persons than are reported.
2. That when proceedings are taken the proportion of acquittals is high.
3. That there is a considerable decrease

in sexual crimes accompanied by violence.

4. That there is a distinct increase in indecent assaults on boys and girls under 16, as shown in the Criminal Statistics.

5. That owing to the practice of reducing charges, mainly in the interests of the child or young person, the statistics of indecent assaults now include a proportion of more serious sexual offences, and this is an additional ground for viewing their increase with concern.

Among their chief recommendations the Committee ask:

That the age of consent be raised to 17. (This is opposed by Mr. Priestley, Mr. Fry, and Sir Guy Stephenson, for various reasons; and Miss E. H. Kelly considers that the raising of the age of consent for a girl cannot be considered apart from the raising of the age of criminal responsibility for a boy. She believes that a case can be made out for raising the age in both cases to 18.)

That in the Act of 1922, the clause shall be abolished which provides that in the case of a man of twenty-three years and under, reasonable cause to believe that the girl was over the age of sixteen years, shall be a valid defence on the first occasion on which he is charged with seducing a girl.

That twelve months shall be the time limit for taking proceedings under the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

The Committee recommend that properly trained women should take the statements of girls, but that where this is not possible, a woman should be present while the policeman is taking the statement; that examina-

tions should be made by women doctors; that a solicitor should assist the prosecution; that separate waiting rooms should be provided in all Courts. That wherever a woman is entitled to sit as a magistrate, she should be asked to attend on the Bench when girls are concerned in an act of indecency.

They urge that there should be better supervision in parks, fairs, cinemas, and in the precincts of schools.

We note with particular pleasure the testimony given to the value of Women Police. The Committee say:

"Many witnesses have testified to the value of women police in combating the particular evil with which we are concerned, and we feel convinced that in many respects a woman can perform certain tasks in a way her male colleagues find impossible.

"Women police give invaluable assistance in protecting girls in their teens. They can offer them a friendly caution when it is most needed; they can gain the confidence of mothers, who are sometimes aware of wrongs in their children's lives, of which they shrink to speak openly; they can supervise children in public places and cinemas, and be of special assistance in many other ways."

"We welcome the recent increase which has taken place in the number of women police in London, but we regret that the number employed in the provinces is still small. We are impressed by the value of the services of police women in dealing with the protection of girls and with matters relating to sexual offences against young persons, and we hope there will be a large number of women police appointed for these and other services."

While they cannot recommend that definite teaching on the subject of sex should be given to children in school classes, the Committee suggest that student teachers in training colleges should receive instruction as to dealing with problems of undesirable conversation and conduct, which may arise in schools. They should also be trained to give general guidance on personal conduct, incidentally, in the course of lessons on such subjects as hygiene and citizenship, and they should be advised how best to give help individually on matters of sex to older children.

We have no space to deal with the many other valuable recommendations contained in

the Report, but advise all interested in the question, to read and study the Report for themselves: it will pay them to do so.

L. DE ALBERTI.

## INTERNATIONAL NOTES.—(Continued.)

that in many ways their social and domestic position was far higher than it has been until quite recent years.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Stri Dharma* reports an important Conference on the re-marriage of widows, held recently at Jullunder, in the Punjab, at which some 2,000 delegates attended, with many women among them. The Conference considered that re-married widows and widowers should have the same rights as other married people; it strongly condemned the selling of virgin girls to elderly widowers, and recommended that boys should not marry before 25 nor girls before 16.

\* \* \* \* \*

In accordance with the decision of the Council of State, all the *maisons de tolérance* in Geneva were closed at the end of November, and the women residing in them left the town. The whole question, however, so we learn from the *Mouvement Féministe*, has been referred to a referendum, the result of which will not be known for some weeks.

\* \* \* \* \*

In describing a visit to Peru in the *Bulletin* of the I.C.W., Louise van Eeghen refers to a visit she paid to the women's prison of San Tomaso at Lima. It is a prison without bolts or bars, and with shrubs and flowers and cages of birds to make it gay, and it is entirely officered by Catholic nuns. No woman prisoner has ever tried to escape, and none has ever returned for a second period of detention.

V. M. C.

## FOR MEMBERS OF ST. JOAN'S S.P.A. ONLY.

The Annual Meeting will be held on March 13; the place will be announced later. Resolutions for the Agenda and Nominations for Committee, duly proposed and seconded, should reach the Secretary not later than February 1. No nominations can be accepted unless the consent of the nominees shall have been previously obtained. Will members please take this as the official notice.



## A Sunday in Tokyo.

BY LADY LAUGHTON.

We go to church by 'rikisha'—it is quite a pleasant way of progression, and the novelty continues to thrill us. There was, at first, the natural dislike to being pulled along by a human being, and a self-consciousness of *avoirdupeis*; but the beaming smiles and repeated bows of our 'rikisha' men have convinced, or deluded, us into believing, that they really like the job, and that, perhaps, we are not very heavy.

It is not a fashionable church, so we leave the main road, and dive into narrow streets, which are far more interesting. The little shops and houses are opening out for the day, and the cleanliness is what strikes one first. The vegetables are all washed and piled up neatly; the fish looks spotless; the cakes and sweets are all in glass jars and boxes. The barbers' shops are full of men being spruced up for the day, and in one shop we saw a young mother having her little son's head shaved in the approved style.

The children are playing everywhere, and our 'rikisha' men keep up a sharp cry of: "Op! Op!" which has the desired effect, for they scuttle from under their feet like rabbits! One supposes that it is good for our insular conceit, to find ourselves in the unaccustomed rôle of 'foreigners,' and as such to be stared at as freaks. We try to believe, that a Japanese, in native dress, would not be stared at in the same manner in the by-ways of Fulham, for instance; but, we are not certain. As we catch the covert smiles of the elders and the uncontrolled giggles of the youngsters, we feel no desire to see ourselves as others see us at the moment.

The church is just a wooden structure, with sliding doors—*shoji*—"une petite chapelle de tremblement de terre," as the French missionary told us—put up after the great earthquake. The floor is covered with thick matting—*tatami*—and we leave our shoes in the outer room, having provided ourselves with felt slippers. The congregation is entirely Japanese, we are the only two foreigners. The men are on one side of the aisle, the women on the other, and most of them have white veils over their

heads. They all kneel on the matting in their socks or bare feet, but we have chairs near the doors.

Is the proverb—Time was made for slaves—of Japanese origin? 'Time' seems to have no meaning for them. Mass is nominally at 9 o'clock. It is well past the hour, when the priest waves his penitents away from the screen, behind which he is hearing confessions. He then makes leisurely progress down the middle of the chapel, moves his flock up into closer rows, comes to wish us "bonjour," and to hope he sees us in good health, and, finally, returns to the sacristy, and having vested, Mass begins.

The precept: "Suffer little children to come unto Me," is put into practice in this Japanese chapel. They come—the wee ones on the backs of mothers, or big sisters; others sit about on the matting; while the toddlers are everywhere. Children are both seen and heard! No one objects, no one even seems to notice. The mothers come to church, so the children must come also—these are not of a class to keep nurse-amahs! Mothers have been seen at the communion rails with toddlers grasping their skirts, or infants on their backs.

It is fascinating to watch the children. One is inclined to make shameless love to an animated golly-wog doll, with a black tuft of hair on the crown of a shaven head, looking round with bright, button eyes, while he drops the crumbs of a biscuit down his patient mother's neck. There is one little maid, about four years old, whom we have called the Suffragette. Her attire is a bright red kimono, covered with large variegated flowers; her wee feet are in scarlet velvet socks, or bootikins—*tabi*—and her thick black hair is bobbed. She wanders from her mother to the men, as she pleases; possibly she has male relatives there, anyway, she goes on their side of the aisle at her pleasure. A pioneer—for equality of the sexes!

Our prayers may not be as orthodox as they should be, but the whole atmosphere of that little church tends towards an unconscious act of faith, which, maybe, the Recording Angel will recognise as prayer.

*THE HOMES OF THE PEOPLE.* By Averil Sanderson Furniss, J.P. With a foreword by the Bishop of Pella. (C.S.G. Oxford. 3d. net.)

In "The Homes of the People," Mrs. Furniss has made a most valuable addition to the well-known series of brown-covered booklets issued at intervals by the C.S.G. Within the short space of 50 pages she has not only summarised the various Acts that bear upon the subject, but she has put the whole problem in its true light as one of profound importance to the health and moral welfare of the nation. It is, as she urges, only when this is thoroughly realised by the people at large, that enough pressure will be brought to bear on administrative bodies to use to the full the powers conferred on them by Parliament. The present shortage would never have been as acute as it is if local Councils had not been so scandalously remiss during the prosperous years before the War. To-day the whole nation suffers from existing conditions, but it is the women and the children who suffer the most, and Mrs. Furniss rightly emphasises the problem from the point of view of the mother and the housewife. She also has an excellent section on Garden Cities and Town-planning.

V. M. C.

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Annual Subscriptions to St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance and the "Catholic Citizen" fall due this month. By sending subscriptions in good time subscribers and members can save much labour at the Office. Subscription to "Catholic Citizen," 2/6; minimum subscription to the Alliance, 1/-. Members are asked to increase their subscription to the Alliance, as one shilling does not really cover even postage of notices in the year.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

1st December—31st December, 1925.

	£	s.	d.
Anderson, Mrs. and Miss	...	2	0
*Barry, Miss F.	...	8	0
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	£10	14	6

\* For "Catholic Citizen."

With the above list of subscriptions, which however contains several for 1926, we close the Old Year—Already the New Year calls us to two important pieces of work, national and international—the first is the Equal Suffrage Campaign in our Country and the second the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance in Paris in the Spring. St. Joan's Alliance must have money if it is to pull its weight with the other societies in these movements. I hope to have a long and heavy subscribers' list for next month.

G. JEFFERY.

### LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

Hon. Secretary—Miss Jervis, 99 Edge Lane Drive, Liverpool.

Our Christmas Sale held by kind permission of Miss Sevenoaks at 78 Huskinson St. on December 11th was a great success, a profit of £13 been made. Our best thanks are due to all members and friends who helped so generously.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on January 4th and a report of it will appear next month.

With very deep regret we have to record the death of Miss Mollie Short, at one time our Hon. Secretary.—R.I.P. Mass was offered, at our request, for the repose of her Soul, on Sunday January 10th, at the Oratory of St. Philip Neri.

On January 1, 1926, the new Administration of Estates Act, 1925, came into force, and by it the preference of males over females in the descent of real estate is abolished. Sons and daughters are to rank equally in the distribution of real property in the case of an intestate. A father and mother are placed on an equality in the case of a man dying intestate and without issue during the lifetime of his parents. We hope to deal with this more fully later.



**ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND  
POLITICAL ALLIANCE.**

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