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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.

International Feminism.

By VERA LAUGHTON MATHEWS, M.B.E.

Looking back on the Jubilee Congress of the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, the first impression that remains is one of human contacts, an impression that is at once praise and criticism. The value of the International contacts cannot be overstressed. Here one met women of forty-five countries, women who are in the vanguard of progressive thought, and who really care for the things which we of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance care for. One met women of the Old World and the New, women of India, Japan, China, women from Iceland and the Northern Countries, women from South Africa and Australia and one met them with open hearts and open hands, knowing that whatever external differences might exist we had a great bond in common—the love of justice and freedom and truth. And chief among the impressions of personal contacts is the memory of the friendship and kindness of the German women who were our hosts, of their intelligence and efficiency and marvellous hospitality.

There is no outstanding impression of the work of the Congress to equal this of international relationships. Perhaps that is in itself a criticism. We of the enfranchised countries are apt to forget sometimes that the women of a large portion of the globe are still voteless, and that work for Woman Suffrage is still the primary object of the Alliance. The delegates from the unenfranchised countries asked for a Session at the next Congress to be set aside for

dealing with their special problems.

The opening day of the Congress was particularly outstanding. Following Mrs. Corbett Ashby's graceful Presidential address delivered in three languages, there was an official welcome from the German Government by Herr Severing, Minister of the Interior. Later a message from Mrs. Chapman Catt, first President of the Alliance, was enthusiastically received. She spoke of "the little gathering of brave souls a quarter of a century ago," and said that "no one dreamed then that in twenty-five years the women of half the countries of the world would be enfranchised, and that Germany would lead in the number of women in Parliament and in the City Councils."

Then down the Hall came a parade of young girls, serious of face and graceful of carriage, carrying with upstretched arms the flags of all nations affiliated to the Alliance. These flags were presented to the Alliance by the U.S.A. auxiliary.

Dame Rachel Crowdy greeted the "great history makers of the world" on behalf of the League of Nations. She brought from Geneva "the hope of your co-operation always" in the cause of World Peace.

Miss Annie Furuholm of Finland, the first woman M.P., spoke on "Twenty-five years' Triumph of Woman Suffrage," and speeches followed on twenty-five years of work and progress towards Legal, Economic and Moral Equality. This last subject was dealt with by Miss Alison Neilans who said that the question was the centre and core of the

opposition to the emancipation of women. Everyone who has this question of the equal moral standard deeply at heart will rejoice that Miss Neilans has been elected to the Board of the Alliance.

There can be no doubt that the most controversial question discussed in the Congress was that of like conditions of work for men and women in industry. The delegations were acutely opposed on this point. The whole of the British delegation, and many other countries, supported the view that legislation should be based on the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker. The German and American women were outstanding among the delegations who believed in the necessity for special protective legislation for women. A huge meeting like the full Congress is not a suitable arena for fighting out the details of a controversial question. The real fray had taken place beforehand in Committee, and as it was evident that no representative decision could be arrived at, the Congress decided to refer the matter again to a Committee for scientific research.

The British Open Door Council had called a Conference in Berlin on the two days preceding the I.W.S.A. Congress. This Conference was highly successful and resulted in the formation of the Open Door International for the Economic Emancipation of the Woman Worker. Twenty-one countries supported the new International, and it may be mentioned that St. Joan's S.P.A. was the first Society to apply for affiliation.

A brief word must be said of the wonderful public meetings held in the evenings, a great Peace meeting, one on Women Police, and that memorable gathering in the Reichstag, with Mrs. Corbett Ashby in the President's chair, which was addressed by women M.P.'s. from various parts of the globe. All these meetings were crowded to the doors and almost to the ceilings and at each there were several overflow meetings. Germany must be congratulated on the enthusiasm of its young girls who flocked in hundreds to the public meetings and to the Congress itself. At the Reichstag meeting, a nun was observed in the audience, and nuns were frequently to be seen in the public galleries of the Congress listening

intently to the debates.

An international gathering such as this at Berlin impresses one anew with the importance of a Society like St. Joan's S.P.A. There were about forty Catholic women present among the official delegates, and St. Joan's now has members in nineteen countries. One of the Egyptian delegates declared that the day she discovered fellow Catholics at the Congress was the happiest day of her life. The German Catholic Women's League were present as Fraternal Delegates, the President, Dr. Krabbel, having come to Berlin especially for the Congress, and they were hosts to all the Catholic delegates at a very interesting tea party. Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes, a member of St. Joan's and part author of a book on "Catholic Married Life" was in the chair. In the course of her speech she said that "the foundation of feminist work is the doctrine of the likeness of man to God. According to the Fathers of the Church, this is not a passive state but an active germ working for the full development of the faculties of man to conquer the spiritual world—this applies to women also." The President, Dr. Krabbel, gave an interesting account of the history of the German Catholic Women's League, a very powerful body with 1100 affiliated societies. She spoke of the Church for Peace and in memory of the dead built at Frankfurt by the C.W.L., and of the medal to celebrate the 7th centenary of St. Hildegarde, which had been struck by the Mint at the request of the C.W.L. Mrs. V. M. Crawford spoke eloquently of the work of St. Joan's Alliance, and Mme. Malaterre Sellier made a moving appeal in the cause of Peace.

On the Sunday following the Congress the Catholic delegates heard Mass together at the Ursuline Convent and were afterwards entertained to breakfast by Frau Radler, wife of the Director of the Mint, and herself an accomplished musician who has translated and transcribed the songs of St. Hildegarde.

The St. Joan's delegates returned home more than ever convinced that their work is worth while, not only on account of its efforts in the cause of freedom at home, but because of its international influence, particularly in Catholic countries where women are still without the franchise.

Notes and Comments.

St. Joan's Alliance was able to add considerably to its International membership at the Berlin Congress. We were delighted to meet again such old friends as Madame Valle-Genairon from France, Dr. van der Pijl from Holland and Madame Schleimer-Kill from Luxemburg, all of whom are members of St. Joan's Alliance and take an active part in the feminist movement of their respective countries. We were glad of the opportunity of extending our friendship with the East by meeting two Egyptian Catholics, descended from a family of Syrians who had been Christians for over 200 years. We welcomed a new and enthusiastic member in Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes, one of Germany's most distinguished Catholic women, to whose kindness and thoughtfulness all Catholic delegates to the Congress were greatly indebted.

* * * *

The Council of the League of Nations, which met recently in Madrid, agreed to the extension to Asiatic countries of an enquiry into the Traffic in women and children on the lines of the enquiry conducted in Europe and North and South America, by experts under the aegis of the League. The more light that can be thrown on this shameful traffic, the greater the chance of checking it. The last enquiry definitely proved the connection between State Regulation of Vice and the Traffic in Women, which we hope may ultimately induce the government of countries which believe in State Regulation of Vice to come into line with more enlightened countries. We are not even secure from this infamy in all parts of the British Empire, though no government would dare to express a belief in it. In the circumstances it should be possible to obtain the abolition of State Regulation even in the remotest part of the Empire.

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A correspondent in Dublin sends us the programme of the Catholic Emancipation Centenary Celebrations in that city. In the first place, on an Executive Committee of 34, no women found a place; 12 sub-committees were appointed, on 10 there were no women, on each of the other two—the

literature committee and the reception committee—there were three women. In the great procession of the Blessed Sacrament, all women, whatever their civic standing, were relegated to the tail end. For this the organisers take shelter behind a rubric—so they say. But what rubric accounts for the omission of women on the committees? We are not surprised to hear that several distinguished women returned their invitations on principle. We may quote here Mrs. Kettle's protest at the Rathmines Urban District Council.

"The Council were asked to send a Catholic representative (to the Catholic Emancipation celebrations), and they did me the honour to ask me to represent them. I was horrified to find from the official programme of the celebrations that we women are not to be allowed to take part in the procession in our representative capacity. If a woman Senator or member of the Dail attends she must fall back to the rear and walk with any other women that are attending . . . I feel I would be false to my principles and to the principles of many who put me in the position I occupy to-day if I did not enter a protest. Our Irish Constitution gives us equality, and we must insist that we get it. Our Church and the Christian Churches give us equality . . . If I do not get the proper position from this Council I must absolutely decline to take part . . . I therefore send back the invitation that was tendered to me and I decline to accept it."

* * * *

On the resignation of Mr. C. P. Scott, for 57 years Editor of the *Manchester Guardian*, suffragists can but remember with gratitude how the *Manchester Guardian* was an honourable exception in the days when woman suffrage was boycotted by the Press in general. The "cause" owed much to the support and fair-mindedness of Mr. C. P. Scott.

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We heartily approve of the resolution recently passed by the Federation of Women Civil Servants to the effect that the carrying into execution of the principle of Equal Pay

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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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St. Catherine of Siena.*

St. Catherine of Siena is as unique in her way as St. Joan of Arc is in hers. A woman, who in the fourteenth century exercised a greater influence on national and international politics than any crowned monarch, who was a saint and visionary, and at the same time most practical, she is one of the marvels of history. We can never fully understand her, and though a whole literature has grown round her name, we welcome every new biography, especially when, as in the case of Miss Curtayne's, it is written with sympathy, knowledge and love.

Her influence and personal magnetism was such that she persuaded Pope Gregory XI to leave Avignon and return to the city of the Apostles, against the opposition of the King of France and of almost all the cardinals. He stepped over the body of his father, who flung himself in his path, and followed St. Catherine to Rome. Her letters to this Pontiff and his successor, Urban VI, make strange reading. As one strong in her belief that she follows the voice of God, she commands them, in no measured tones, to follow where God leads, and yet her personal humility is stamped upon her writings. In a Saint it could not be otherwise.

"Go manfully; it is God who moves you," she writes to Gregory and to the irascible Urban: "For the love of Christ crucified, restrain a little those hasty movements of your nature."

Miss Curtayne is successful in recreating the atmosphere of the times, and gives a

touching and realistic description of the Fellowship, that strangely assorted company, of men and women, priest and laymen, who were bound to her by the link of mystical love, and looked up to her as to their spiritual mother. She has with truth been called the patron of holy friendship. St. Catherine excels, whether as saint, statesman, or friend.

When she died her dreams had not been realised, to the world she was a failure; but history has reversed contemporary judgment, and vindicated her policy.

Devotion to St. Catherine, so far from diminishing, is ever on the increase, nor are her devotees all of the same fold. She lived to the age of thirty-three only, but has left a lasting impression on the world.

In 1920, Miss Curtayne recalls, a society was formed in Siena under the title "Società Internazionale di Studi Cateriniani," which publishes a quarterly bulletin devoted to the latest literature and art concerning the Saint. The first number was published in 1923. Groups of Cateriniani have been formed in Rome, Florence, Pisa, Bergamo, Turin, Bologna and elsewhere. Through the efforts of the Society, a Chair of Catherine studies has been inaugurated in the university of Siena. The formal inauguration of the Chair was followed by the opening of a Catherine Hall, devoted exclusively to lectures, and furnished out of the offerings of the women of Siena.

Miss Curtayne ends the biography with

**Saint Catherine of Siena*. By Alice Curtayne Sheed & Ward. 7s. 6d.

a charming description of the celebration on April 30th, of St. Catherine's feast in Siena. We can visualise the splendid scene, and hear the children on their way to school "shrilling to the high heavens" her hymn:

Virgo decora et fulgida,
 Ornata Regis purpura:
 Electa, puro in corpore
 Christi referre imaginem.

L. de Alberti.

NOTES AND COMMENTS - (continued).

is not a matter for a Royal Commission, but that the Government should be pressed to take immediate action to enforce the resolutions passed by the House of Commons in May 1920 and August 1921. We note that an editorial in *Opportunity* states that "feminist organisations received the announcement that the Conservative Government intended to set up such a Commission with more satisfaction than the Civil Servants." It will interest our readers to hear that our hon. Secretary voted in a minority of one against a proposal asking for such an enquiry put forward at the Mass Meeting in support of Equal Pay in the Civil Service, held in the Central Hall some months ago. She voted against the proposal on the very grounds quoted in the above resolution of the F.W.C.S. There must have been many civil servants present on that occasion; why did they not support Miss Barry in her clear-sighted opposition?

A member sends us an article, from the *New York Magazine*, on the new President of Hunter's College, the largest college for women in the U.S.A. Dr. Kieran, the new President, is a Catholic, and a firm believer in equality of education opportunities for men and women. "Women," says Dr. Kieran, "should receive to-day, exactly, the same academic training as men, because all the world is open to women, theoretically, despite prejudice still existing in some fields. The higher positions in the business world especially are accessible." In addition to the same academic training as men, Dr. Kieran thinks women should have special training for the domestic field, in fact he does not think it would hurt men to have such training for their part in the home,

especially training in economy. The new President has been connected with Hunter's College for twenty-five years, and his appointment has given great satisfaction.

We note in the *Month* for June, an editorial comment on the Election Address issued by the Equal Rights General Election Campaign Committee, and published in the *Catholic Citizen* in May. The Editor is not altogether unfriendly in his comments, but sees difficulty in the demand for economic freedom for married women. "In demanding perfect equality in the economic sphere, the Committee for Equal Rights seems to ignore woman's dignity as wife and mother."

On the contrary, it is because the Committee, in common with all feminists, do believe in the dignity of women that they consider that she is capable of judging for herself whether she is better able to fulfil her duties as wife and mother by engaging in paid employment or by staying at home. We note that our Catholic contemporary, *The Little Flower Magazine*, U.S.A., agrees with us in considering that to dictate to women about such a personal thing as what job they can take is to foster a sort of serfdom.

The promised Factories Bill was included in the King's Speech. St. Joan's S.P.A. hopes, in co-operation with other feminist societies, to be received on a deputation by the Home Secretary, to lay before him their views as to equality of treatment for men and women in all the provisions of the Bill.

We regret that there was no mention in the Speech of the Public Places (Order) Bill.

We trust that women will be appointed to the Royal Commission which we note is to be set up to enquire into conditions in the Civil Service, and that equal pay and opportunities for women will be included in its terms of reference.

We offer our cordial congratulations to Dr. Elizabeth Higgins on the birth of a son, and to Mrs. Parsons on the birth of a son; and to Miss Mollie Cleary on her marriage to Mr. Vaughan Hamlett; our congratulations go to the bridegroom likewise.

Little Girls in Dublin in Mid-Victorian Days.

By PROFESSOR MARY HAYDEN.

Sometimes, when in reflective mood, I figure myself as talking to a modern child, who asks me about the days of my own childhood, and as starting to reply by a series of negations. "We hadn't any motor-trams, or motor-buses, or motor-cars, or aeroplanes, or gramophones, or 'wirelesses,' or cinemas." Then little Miss of 1928 would open astonished eyes and inquire "What had you?" Well, I could truthfully say that in the late 60's and early 70's of the last century, we, the little Dublin girls of those days, had many pleasant things and did not miss what did not exist then, even for the grown-ups.

We had toys, of course, cheaper and simpler than the toys of to-day, but just as good to play with. Dolls took the first place and of them there were many kinds. There was the wooden Dutch doll, whose resemblance to humanity was remote, but whose legs and arms were jointed, so that she could sit down and could gesticulate. There was the little china doll, a couple of inches high, incapable of any of these things, but bathable, and rather attractive of face, although unable to stand without support. I saw a couple of them in an out-of-the-way shop the other day, and bought them for the sake of auld-lang-syne. Best of all was the French doll, with wax face and flowing hair. She had, however, the drawback of being rather frail, and her complexion was apt to "run" if she were exposed to brilliant sunshine. Sometimes a doll, whose clothes "could come off and on," as we phrased it, was bought for a child who had made some progress in sewing, and she was required to make for it another set of garments, copying those which it wore. This was done for me, and I regarded it as a grievance that the doll selected had a muslin skirt ornamented with rows of dreadfully narrow tucks. What misery! I endured copying those tucks!

Nurses were a special class. Generally, they remained in a family from the time that the eldest child was a few weeks old till

the youngest had passed nursery age. They were known to us and to each other by the names of their employers, as "Nurse Murphy," "Nurse Kelly" and so on. They wore ample shawls and severely plain bonnets, making no attempt at finery.

We, their charges wore no finery either, nor, I think, did we, as a rule desire to wear any. Where to-day I read in the fashion papers how "Little Miss Five Years' Old" "insists" on having a hand-embroidered frock or a parasol to match her hat, I wonder whether it is the parents or the children who have changed. We were not consulted regarding our clothes, and were generally satisfied with those provided for us, if, that was very important, they were not of a material or of a fashion to excite the comments of our play-mates.

For "parties" white frocks, generally of muslin, were the almost invariable wear. The only variety was in the colour of the sashes.

First Communion was a great event in the life of a Catholic child. Few were admitted to receive it till at least 11 years old, and sometimes it was delayed till 13 or 14. On the great day we were, of course, dressed in white, with wreath and veil, but the frocks were simple, of inexpensive material and with little trimming, and no ornaments were worn.

One hears much now-a-days of the severity of the Victorian parent and the repression of the Victorian child, but my recollections do not show much of either severity or repression. Corporal punishment was rarely inflicted, on girls at any rate, except perhaps in the form of a casual slap from mother or nurse. Our parents certainly exacted readier obedience and more outward respect than parents generally receive at present. Politeness, especially to our elders, was more carefully inculcated, and when "visitors" were present we were expected to remain quiet and not interrupt the conversation. To "answer

back" to a parent when corrected was a dire offence.

Our upbringing was, in several respects, rather spartan. Cold water to wash in, fireless bedrooms and plain food were the rule. Sweets and cakes were rare treats. On the other hand, teetotal principles were not common. In most families, the children were given a little glassful of wine or perhaps of whiskey punch, very weak and very sweet, on festal occasions, so as to drink the health of Papa or Mamma on a birthday, or a Christmas.

In several respects the Victorian parents were certainly less indulgent than are the parents, and especially the mothers of to-day. They expected their children to make the best of things, and had little sympathy with complaints or "tale telling." When we went to school, we had to put up with its hardships and inconveniences, the crossness of teachers, the difficulty of lessons, perhaps an occasional injustice. We discussed these things and grumbled about them amongst ourselves, but we would have regarded it as a breach of honour to ask our parents' intervention, or even to mention the matter to them at all.

This feeling shows, I think, one of the points of difference between us and the juveniles of the 20th century. We lived more in a little world of our own and were governed, to a considerable extent, by our own standards of behaviour, depending for their sanction on the public opinion of our companions. While revering the "grown-ups," we never dreamt of comparing ourselves with them, or of imitating their doings or their dress. Their affairs and their amusements did not interest us much.

Parents were perhaps not given so much of their children's confidence as they are to-day. But there is a certain danger, it seems to me, in the modern comradeship between them, if it is carried too far. The child may grow, and sometimes certainly does grow, to regard his father and mother as merely children of larger size and rather eccentric—possibly even foolish—ideas. He does not consult them, having no confidence in their wisdom; regards their orders as mere capricious interferences with his liberty, and demands tacitly a round of amusements and distractions closely resembling theirs.

In my childhood, regular amusements,

beyond what we contrived for ourselves, were rare. Juvenile parties were given only at the Christmas season, and a child was held to be lucky who had attended three or four in any one year. At Christmas too came the pantomimes. We never entered a theatre at any other time. I remember hearing a circle of mammas severely criticising a friend who took her little daughter to a play. It was bad for the child in every way they said. The light would injure her eyes and keeping her up till such an hour at night was most injudicious. Now and then, we visited a circus or a conjuring show, or perhaps an afternoon concert, if our tastes were supposed to be musical. We looked forward to such treats for days beforehand, and discussed them for weeks afterwards.

In the summer, most families went to the seaside for a month or more. When there we bathed every day, whether we liked it or not. Mostly the little ones disliked it very much indeed, and the bathing-place used to resound with the yells of the infant victims. It was, however, vain to resist. After a futile struggle, the little boy or girl was carried into the water by Mamma or Auntie or, failing them, by an Amazonian bathing woman clad in blue flannel, and plunged down three times ("in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost" as my nurse explained to me) and then handed back, gasping and spluttering, to the attendant who waited on the brink. Older children paddled about by themselves, wearing the knee-long tunics and mid-leg-long knickers which had begun to supersede the shapeless garment of an earlier day, but of which the more particular mammas still disapproved. Boys, if more than seven or eight years old, were not allowed to bathe with the girls. Regular mixed bathing was, of course undreamt of.

In spite of little drawbacks—compulsory bathing; pretty frequent "powders," horrid things which peeped out of the corners of the blob of jam meant to conceal them; occasional punishments and tiresome daily lessons to prepare, we were, on the whole, very happy. As happy, probably as the children who have taken our places and who live in a world in many respects different from ours. "The young pass, but youth remains," says an Irish proverb.

The Open Door International

for the Economic Emancipation of the Woman Worker.

Supported by 21 countries, a highly successful Conference was held in Berlin on June 15th and 16th, which resulted in the formation of a new international organisation with the title of

THE OPEN DOOR INTERNATIONAL for the Economic Emancipation of the Woman Worker having for its OBJECT:

To secure that a woman shall be free to work and protected as a worker on the same terms as a man, and that legislation and regulations dealing with conditions and hours, payment, entry and training shall be based upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker; and to secure for a woman, irrespective of marriage or childbirth, the right at all times to decide whether she shall engage in paid work, and to ensure that no legislation or regulations shall deprive her of this right.

The Chair was taken by Chrystal Macmillan, Great Britain, an Original Member of the British OPEN DOOR COOUNCIL, which called the Conference.

In her introductory address she pointed out that while in politics and the professions woman's freedom had come by a process of removing age-long restrictions, the disabilities of women in industry are the work of the last few decades. The attack on Woman's right to earn had come chiefly in recent years from the International Labour Organisation, and an international body was necessary to combat this mass production of restrictions.

The Conference adopted a Constitution for the new organisation, and issued a Manifesto and a Working Woman's Charter of Economic Rights, and nine Resolutions, dealing with the constitution of the International Labour Organisation, the Conventions of that body which have attacked woman's right to paid employment (night work, childbirth, lead paint) and calling on the International Labour Organisation to propose an Equal Pay Convention, to carry into effect the Seventh General Principle in the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation.

The following *Board of Officers* was

lected: President: Chrystal MacMillan, Great Britain; Hon. Secretary: Winifred Le Sueur, Great Britain; Hon. Treasurer: Ruth Vandeer Litt, U.S.A.; Acting Hon. Treasurer: Florence M. Beaumont, Great Britain; Elizabeth Abbott, Great Britain; Gertrud Baer, Germany; Louise de Craene van Duuren, Belgium; Thyra von Beetzen-Ostman, Finland; Helen Clay Pedersen, Denmark; Frantiska Plaminkova, Czechoslovakia; Ingeborg Walin, Sweden.

It was agreed that the General Council should meet every two years, while the Board will meet every year. Its meeting next year will take place in Geneva at the time of the session of the International Labour Organisation. The Headquarters of the Open Door International will at present be in London at 3 Bedford Square, W.C. 1.

The Conference was followed on Wednesday, June 19th, by an equally successful PUBLIC MEETING in the Meistersaal, Berlin, addressed by Speakers from eleven countries. The Hall was packed with a very attentive audience, which listened with interest for three hours to a point of view which many of them had never before seriously considered.

Members of the Conference from Great Britain were interest to note that the Working Woman's Charter of Economic Rights was adopted on the anniversary of the signing of Magna Charta.

WINIFRED LE SUEUR,
Honorary Secretary,
Open Door International.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

PUBLIC LUNCHEON

in honour of the WOMEN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT is being held at the Holborn Restaurant, July 18th, at 1 p.m. Tickets (6s.) on application to the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

International Notes.

The May number of the Bulletin of the *Acción Católica de la Mujer* (Madrid), gives a summary of the Hispanic-American Congress of women held in Seville recently. The Congress opened under the presidency of the Queen of Spain and the Infantas. Lectures were given on the legal position of women in Uruguay; Catholic women and maternity insurance; divers aspects of women's social work, etc., etc. Señor Moran dealt with the desire of the Holy See that the laity should take part in the social apostolate; and called upon all Spanish and American women in obedience to this mandate to form branches of the *Acción Católica de la Mujer* in their respective countries.

The Cardinal Archbishop of Seville, the Bishops of Madrid—Alcala, Tenerife, Pasto,—and various civic dignitaries supported the Congress.

A recent number of *Die Oesterreicherin* (Vienna), has an article on the ten years of parliamentary work done by women members. There were ten women in the National Assembly of 1919. Mme. Burjan, a Catholic, began her parliamentary career, by asking the Government to bring in a Bill for the compulsory insurance against sickness of all women-earning their living, with various other clauses dealing with maternity insurance. The Bill was considered too drastic. Mme. Burjan was more successful with her demand for State schools for Girls. To Mme. Proft is due laws to improve the conditions of women workers. To Mme. Redel-Zeyneck, another of our co-religionists, and Mme. Stradal is due the law giving wives the right to maintenance. Indeed all the women members devoted their efforts to the improvement of the position of women in the home, and in industry, and the professions.

The writer of the article says that when we compare the progress made with the results of our efforts before women were enfranchised, it is easy to see that we have travelled with seven-league boots.

On Thursday, June 6th, a petition for Women Suffrage was presented to the Swiss Senate and Second Chamber by numerous

women societies. The petition was signed by a quarter of a million people.

Many feminist societies in Belgium have joined with the *Fédération Belge pour le Suffrage des Femmes*, in a vigorous protest against the defeat of the bill to grant the provincial vote to women. Belgian politicians once in power seem to behave in the same cynical fashion as our politicians behaved, when the suffrage campaign raged.

In France, also, women are still in the wilderness, though the Chamber of Deputies has passed several bills in favour of women suffrage, the Senate now refuses even to discuss the question.

The first, object of the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship has not yet been won even in all European countries.

Mlle. Idola Saint Jean, President of the Canadian Alliance for Women's Vote in Quebec, sends us the good news that the Provincial Government will not interfere in the question of the admissibility of women to the Senate, which is being argued before the Privy Council. The Government of Quebec intended to send lawyers to plead against the women's claim. Owing to the protests organized by the Canadian Alliance the Government will not interfere. We congratulate our colleagues of Quebec.

L. de A.

League of Nations.

Two women—Mrs. Swanick and Mrs. Hamilton—will be included in the British Delegation to the Tenth Assembly of the League of Nations in September.

The question of illegitimate children was considered at the last session of the Committee for the protection and welfare of children and young people. The Committee were agreed that more effective protection for these children is needed, and that in all questions of protection and assistance the illegitimate child should be as well treated as the legitimate child, due respect being paid to the rights of the family.

Reviews.

"*The People's History of Catholic Emancipation*," by John Quintan, 5s. net. (Williams and Norgate).

An interesting and readable survey of the struggle for Emancipation from 1800 to 1829, showing that the men's agitation had many analogies to the women's endeavour a century later.

It is said Mrs. Pankhurst founded her plan of campaign on the tactics of Parnell and the methods of the Salvation Army, but from this book it is obvious she had learnt a lesson from Daniel O'Connell.

On page 131 we read: "... scarcely any great measure of relief or reform has ever come from the British Government solely out of consideration for the justice of the cause. Always has there had to be some minor incident of what we may call brute force to compel it to surrender that which it should have granted."

Moral. Feminists must go on with the good fight. Much remains to be done in the Sphere of Equalitarianism.

M. F.

The Woman Worker and Restrictive Legislation. (One shilling net). Prepared for the London and National Society for Women's Service. By J. Blainey.

This is a most useful book, coming at a moment when the question of the position of the woman worker, and the effect of restrictive legislation on her chances of good work, is agitating the public conscience here and in other lands. Mrs. Blainey writes in a detached spirit, which adds greatly to the value of her enquiry into a question which is apt to arouse heated controversy. There where the old battle has been won, the question of special restrictive legislation for women has taken the place of woman suffrage in the feminist world.

Mrs. Blainey notes the effect of the war upon woman's work; women, to a large extent, took the place of men in industry, and their competence to do work hitherto considered unfit for them, undoubtedly aroused fear of their becoming dangerous competitors. After the war a reaction set in, and their war work has not brought about the beneficial change in the position of women in

industry which had been expected. In fact, the "Restoration of Pre-War Practices Act" has made the employment of women in certain processes actually illegal, and has made the position worse.

"The need for a wider opportunity for women to work still holds good, and it is unfortunate that the general economic pressure tends to make any change in this direction difficult. Those who do not understand the working of economic laws believe that by keeping women out of work and limiting their opportunity of wage earning, they are helping to reduce the unemployment of men; so that the old prejudices seem to the general public to have received a fresh sanction. But it cannot be too strongly emphasised that the recovery of trade and industry is hindered and not helped by this means." In this belief that women's work is a danger to men lies the key to much of the opposition to the woman worker, and unless the fallacy is exposed, the fight for women's economic freedom will continue to be a hard one.

After examining the question, Mrs. Blainey comes to the conclusion that the true lines of advance for industrial women would appear to be protection based on the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker.

L. de A.

TOWARDS CITIZENSHIP.

A HANDBOOK OF WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION.

Compiled by PHYLLIS C. CHALLONER, M.A. and VERA LAUGHTON MATTHEWS, M.B.E.,

for

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

With forewords by MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, G.B.E., L.L.D., and the RIGHT REV. W. F. BROWN, BISHOP OF PELLA.

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LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

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

The monthly meeting of the Branch was held on June 28, at 153 Upper Parliament Street, and was well attended. Mr. Edwards, Lecture Secretary of the Liverpool Branch of the Proportional Representation Society, gave a very interesting address on "Proportional Representation," with blackboard illustrations, the blackboard and easel having been very kindly lent to us for the occasion by Messrs. Philip, Son and Nephew.

Earlier in the month those of our members who had participated in the deputations to Parliamentary candidates, organised by the Women's Peace Crusade attended a very successful meeting to hear and discuss the reports of these deputations.

Several of the Committee also attended by special invitation a meeting at the Link Club on June 13, convened by the C.Y.M.S. to give Lord Iddesleigh an opportunity of appealing for the establishment of a centre in Liverpool of the Catholic Council of International Relations. No definite decision was come to in the matter, but the creation of such a body representative of the leading Catholic societies seems likely in the near future.

TREASURER'S NOTE.

The winner of the Prize Competition is Miss Fedden. Unfortunately very few entries were received so only one prize is awarded. Twenty-two shillings was received, of which 4s. 6d. has been sent to the prize winner. The missing words were as follows:—Germany, summer, entitled, undoubtedly, important, inauguration, tremendously, enfranchisement, successful, ultimate, goal, status.

Who among our members will have the distinction of coming forward to promise the last £5 needed for the Rent? It would relieve our minds of a great anxiety if the whole Rent were guaranteed, and we earnestly hope that some generous member will respond to this appeal.

Will those members who are going on their holidays remember our Christmas Sale if they have any leisure time in which to make articles? Perhaps those who are going abroad will bring us back a present for our stall.

A Jumble Sale will be held in October, so will everyone please bear this in mind.

VERA LAUGHTON MATHEWS,
Hon. Treasurer.

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Women Police.

An Editorial in the *Policewoman's Review* recalls the undertaking given before the General Election regarding women police. Mr. Macdonald promised that if the Labour Party was successful he would advocate an increase in the number of women police, and would confer with women's societies as to the best way of carrying out this scheme. The Editor points out that the subject has been thrashed out by representative committees, and all that remains to be done is to put their recommendations into force.

Conferences may prove to be obstacles instead of a help.

We would call the Prime Minister's attention to the report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the working of Police Courts and Juvenile Courts in the Metropolitan area. The Committee say: "Women have special qualifications for work in Juvenile Courts, and we think that if at any time a woman should be appointed to be a Metropolitan Police magistrate, she would be specially suitable to act as President of one or more of the Juvenile Courts."

Here is a chance for Mr. Macdonald.

Berlin Congress.

On July 8th, St. Joan's S.P.A. held a meeting at St. Patrick's Club, Soho, when Mrs. V. M. Crawford, and Mrs. Laughton Mathews gave an account of the Congress of Berlin, which they attended with Miss Barry and Miss Butler-Bowdon, on behalf of St. Joan's S.P.A. Mrs. Crawford dwelt on the social side of the Congress, on the many receptions given by the German authorities and the German women to the delegates. Mrs. Laughton Mathews gave a summary of the work done, more especially of the discussions on the Equal Moral Standard, and the question of like conditions of work for men and women. The latter proved highly controversial, but the British Delegation was solid in favour of freedom for women in industry.

Miss Douglas Irvine, who took the chair in the absence of Miss Gordon, pointed out that the Berlin Congress had proved once more the great importance internationally, as well as nationally, of a society like St. Joan's S.P.A.

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