

# 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.

## Women Under British Democracy

BY CHRISTINE SPENDER\*

There is a recently published book by Howard Spring called "Fame is the Spur" which describes very well the growth of the Labour Party in this country. It also describes the Suffrage Movement. The two heroines—if we may call them so—take part in the militant suffrage rising. They go to prison time after time—they hunger-strike and are forcibly fed—they suffer under the Cat and Mouse Act. It is as though we were watching friends undergo all this and the comparison with the sufferings of the opponents of the Nazi regime in the Concentration Camps of Europe, is inevitable. I hope it has never occurred to Lord Haw Haw to describe the workings of the Cat and Mouse Act over the wireless.

The granting of the vote and the struggle which preceded it seem long enough ago now. Nevertheless there still remain many inequalities between the sexes—inequality of opportunity, inequality of treatment. In writing the Annual Report for St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance for the year 1940, three main instances of unjust treatment where women are concerned seemed to rise up and confront me.

There is first the question of *equal nationality rights*. As you all know, a British woman on marriage with an alien automatically takes the nationality of her husband (with certain exceptions). But under the present British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, a British-born woman married to an alien whose country is

at war with Great Britain has the right to apply to reclaim British Nationality. However this concession was not immediately made known on the outbreak of war, as one would have expected. It was only after repeated pressure from the Women's Organisations that a clear declaration was made in Parliament—and even then there was much delay in according this right. Things have begun to move now and most British women married to enemy aliens have a fair chance of being accorded their own nationality once more. But what we really need in this country and what the women's organisations press for ceaselessly is for a Bill to be passed giving all British women the right to retain their nationality on marriage with an alien, and providing that British Nationality shall not automatically be conferred on an alien woman who marries a British subject. Where the last point is concerned a great deal of hanky panky has gone on when undesirables have gone through a form of marriage with a British subject simply in order to gain British nationality for their own, or perhaps a third person's, ends. Under the present nationality law one can imagine the state of mind of those British-born women married to aliens whose country declares war with us over-night, as was the case with Italy. Some of these women have been interned—on the grounds of enemy nationality—an ignominious state of affairs indeed.

The second instance of unjust treatment of women occurs under the *Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act* which Act provides for compensation to be paid in the case

\* Talk given to the People and Freedom Group.



of raid injury or death. When first passed the Act did not provide compensation for a woman not herself a wage-earner or Civil Defence worker, except in respect of the wages of a person to replace her in domestic labour in the home. This meant that that large section of the British public, the British housewife, did not get adequate compensation for war injury, though directly or indirectly she was contributing to the war effort. The Women's Organisations hammered at the Ministry of Pensions on this point, and also because there was flagrant sex differentiation in the compensation allowed to men and women without family responsibilities. Late in 1940 it was announced that under regulations to extend the compensation scheme (now before the House) every civilian over the age of 15 will be entitled to compensation. This of course includes the housewife who is not a wage-earner. But are the inequalities of compensation to be remedied under the new regulations? No, unfortunately not and what is more new ones are to be added to them. Here are the rates:

In the new class of the "not gainfully employed":

Men receive 21s.	} Deductions for Hospital Treatment
Women receive 14s.	

In the class of the *gainfully employed*:

*Under the old rates*

Married men received 35s.

Single men received 22s.

Women received 18s.

*Under the new rates*

Men married or single receive 35s.

Women receive 28s.

"It isn't fair," as the children say, because the cost of living is the same for women as for men, and, to say the least, it is extraordinary that the single man is to receive 7s. more than the single woman. In the group "not gainfully employed" the women get exactly two-thirds the amount the men receive and this despite the fact that when the housewife is disabled the back-bone of the home seems to go and money is needed for all sorts of adjustments including the care of the sick woman herself. It goes without saying that the risks run by women in civilian warfare quite equal those run by men. But the Government does not seem to think so. It does not even seem to consider that the life of a woman is equal to the life of a man; for first it pays its women civil defence workers two-thirds the wage given to a man, second it pays them less compensation when injured.

However women do not take these things lying down, I am thankful to say. Letters have been written, resolutions have been passed and the Minister of Pensions has been obliged to receive a deputation. I shall be surprised if the regulations extending the compensation scheme come into force in their present form.

My third instance of injustice concerns *policewomen*. These are very much needed just at the moment because the movement of population has created problems—such as children going to school near places where there are camps, etc.—which lend themselves to the intervention of a woman. Moreover men are needed elsewhere. But do these considerations dissolve prejudice? Not a bit of it. Local authorities have permissive powers in the appointment of women police but very few have used these and in literally dozens of cases, during 1940, recommendations for the appointment of women police have been turned down. The Home Secretary, after pressure from the Women's Organisations, sent a circular to police authorities throughout the country asking them to consider afresh, in the light of war-time conditions, the appointment of women for certain police duties. But the Women Police Campaign Committee believe the time has come for the Home Secretary to make compulsory instead of permissive the appointment of a sufficient number of fully attested policewomen throughout the country. Last year the March issue of the *Police Chronicle* defined the official attitude of the Police Federation as being against the general employment of women police. So it does seem about time the Home Secretary intervened.

There are of course many other inequalities of treatment meted out to women. I have only chosen you three glaring disabilities which have especially glared during the year of war, 1940.

"The new times in which we are living certainly require the spirit, initiative, acts and defences of a new kind, which opportunely assist in the renewed and daily increasing needs of this age of ours," says the Pope in the letter to Fr. Vladimir Ledochowski, S.J., the Jesuit General, on the 400th anniversary of the Society's canonical approbation.

"Daring and ready in the work as you are, do not neglect these new forms, but endeavour with every effort to see that all the inventions of modern progress bring an increasingly worthier and more suitable contribution to the strengthening of Jesus Christ's reign within its boundaries and to expand it outside of them."

## Notes and Comments

We know our members will remember in their prayers the anniversaries of our Founder Gabrielle Jeffery on March 19th and of Leonora de Alberti first Editor of the CATHOLIC CITIZEN on March 26th. May they rest in peace.

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Sir WALTER WOMERSLEY, Minister of Pensions, told Miss Ward (Cons.), that besides the various Government departments concerned, the T.U.C., the Employers' Federation, and the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations were consulted when the scales of compensation for civilian war injuries were considered. He had also received a deputation of lady members of the House and representatives of a very large number of women's organisations before issuing the revised scheme.

Miss WARD: A very pretty answer. (Laughter.) May I ask whether the Standing Joint Committee of the Industrial Women's Organisations agreed to the terms that were put before the House by the Chancellor of the Exchequer before the deputation was received? I am glad to hear that he had such success. (Laughter.)

Sir WALTER WOMERSLEY: A very pretty answer, if I may so say to a very pretty lady. (Loud laughter and cries of "Withdraw.")

Mr. MAGNAY (L. Nat.): I'll tell your wife. (Laughter.)

Sir WALTER WOMERSLEY added that the object of the consultations was to hear opinions and not to ask for decisions. He had to make the decisions after hearing the opinions.

Mrs. TATE (Cons.): Does the Minister think it right that there should have been this totally unjustifiable difference in the rates paid to men and women without this House having been previously consulted?

Sir WALTER WOMERSLEY: That is exactly what the deputation of lady members of this House and representatives of certain women's organisations said to me, and I am considering that.

Again on February 19th, Mr. MARCUS SAMUEL asked the Minister of Pensions whether he will consider increasing the allowance of 14s. per week for air raid injury payable to women which compares very unfavourably with the £1 is. payable to men.

Sir W. WOMERSLEY: This among other matters arising on the scheme of civilian compensation is under active consideration.

Mr. SAMUEL: Will the Minister bear in mind that trains, bus fares and food in restaurants, as well as many other items, are as expensive for women as they are for men?

Sir W. WOMERSLEY: All these matters are taken into consideration.

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On February 12th, Sir W. LYLE asked the Minister of Labour whether he has any statistics showing the number of women now employed and unemployed, respectively, who might be utilised for urgent national

work; what co-ordination exists between the different Departments in appealing for such female labour; and whether the War Office will draw its demand for 20,000 more Auxiliary Territorial Service women from the same sources as the munition factories?

Mr. BEVIN: The general statistics already available need to be supplemented by machinery for the selection of individuals; this will be effected, so far as necessary, by a system of registration applying to women as well as men. Furthermore, the various industries concerned have been invited to prepare proposals which will ensure the orderly release of workers as and when they are required. Vacancies in Government establishments and in undertakings covered by the Restriction on Engagement Order are filled through the Employment Exchange service. My department is therefore in a position to co-ordinate such demands. With regard to the third part of the question, my Department is in close touch with the War Office with a view to co-ordinating the supply of women for the Auxiliary Territorial Service with that for munitions work.

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In reply to a question from Miss Ward, Captain Margesson stated in the House on February 18th that dependants' allowances would be paid to members of the A.T.S. entitled to them as from January 27th, 1941, "or such later date as the conditions are fulfilled."

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From the *Women's Freedom League Bulletin* we note that the official organ of the Bank Officers' Guild draws attention to the fact that women already long in the service of the Banks do not readily gain promotion, despite the "ever-increasing numbers" of women again entering Banks.

... "It does seem just possible," writes the author of the article in question, "that if a Bank has thought it worth while to retain someone in its service for, say, 25 years, they may be able to cope with its business better than someone who has just come from school. One cannot help feeling that the reason for this reluctance to promote established staff is that the banks still cling to the outworn idea that women in normal times must never rise to positions of real responsibility in their service. As all the newly engaged staff is on a temporary basis no doubt the banks feel that it will be easier to revert to their old ways after the war if they do not commit themselves to a change of policy by promoting their permanent women staff."



## 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. Joan's Social and Political Alliance

### 30th Annual Report

Any accurate survey of the position of women abroad has been made impossible by the disappearance from our ken of many European countries, owing to their invasion by enemy forces. We can only guess from scraps of news and untrustworthy rumours how women are faring beyond their frontiers and all news recorded of them before invasion is now worthless. We shall therefore confine ourselves principally to a consideration of our own country.

After the many years hard struggle of our colleagues in *Quebec*, at last the Province has enfranchised its women. In spite of the work of the Swiss Suffrage Societies women have not been enfranchised in the canton of Geneva; though they secured a referendum on the question of their enfranchisement this went against them.

In *Great Britain* the King's newly created honour, the George Cross, designated as a reward for "deeds of gallantry done during these perilous but famous days," applies to both men and women and has been won by them in all walks of life.

Throughout the year the House has seen many a battle for women's rights, and the women M.P.s of all parties have nobly fought the feminist battle in conjunction with the women's organisations (see under other headings). Early in the year the Minister of Supply appointed a Committee of all the women M.P.s, under the Chairmanship of Miss Megan Lloyd George, to advise him on the collection and salvage of all waste material. Later a Committee of women M.P.s and other women, under the Chairmanship of Miss Irene Ward, M.P., was formed to assist the Minister of Labour in mobilising woman power (Woman Power Committee). Under the Churchill regime, Miss Florence Horsbrugh retained her post as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, and Miss Ellen Wilkinson was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Pensions. Later she was transferred and made Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Home Affairs and Home Security in which capacity she organised shelter accommodation. Mrs. Jennie Adamson was appointed additional Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister of Pensions, where she does special work relating to the provision of pensions for women and children. An important new appointment was that of Miss McGeachy as attaché to the British Embassy in Washington, to look after public relations in connection with the Ministry of Economic Warfare in

the U.S.A. and Canada. Miss Caroline Haslett, President of the Women's Engineering Society, was appointed adviser to the Ministry of Labour on women's training in war industry. Later Miss Verena Holmes was appointed Technical Adviser to the Minister of Labour on the training of women for engineering.

Dr. Genevieve Rewcastle was the first woman to be appointed a British Naval Surgeon.

Of interest to Catholics is the fact that the women students of Oxford University have at last been given an officially appointed Chaplain in Father Vernon Johnson.

Finally, we note with satisfaction that the maternal mortality rate was the lowest ever recorded.

### Equal Pay and Opportunities

St. Joan's Alliance sent a letter to the Joint Council for Industry putting forward certain considerations which should govern the employment of women in war-time. These included the demand for "the rate for the job," a vigorous protest against a return to the Pre-War Practices Act, and a demand that good conditions of work should obtain throughout industry, irrespective of sex. A Conference of the Women's Freedom League, in which the Alliance took part, passed resolutions asking for fair play, security, and adequate payments for women war-time workers and the appointment of suitable women to act as supervisors and fore-women in munitions and other factories.

Women have entered the auxiliary war services and the National Defence Services in great numbers, and in many cases have distinguished themselves by acts of great bravery. The Prime Minister and Minister of Labour have repeatedly called upon them to enter the war industries in their millions, but things were not sufficiently organised for their response to be adequately dealt with, though later there was re-organisation. Even in the nursing services, most necessary in time of war, there has been considerable confusion, and in the early part of the year a deputation of all the nursing associations in the country put its grievances before Miss Florence Horsbrugh, in that though there was much unemployment among state registered nurses a number of paid posts in hospitals and first-aid stations were occupied by hastily trained auxiliary nurses.

There were two important gains in the equal pay

campaign. The Industrial Court decided that women employed as bus and tram conductors in the municipal services during the war are to receive men's rates of pay; and the Engineering Employers' Federation, the Transport Union, the Municipal Worker's Union and the Engineering Union agreed that women brought temporarily into Engineering were to be paid a certain proportion of men's allotments during the probationary and training period, after which "women who require no special supervision will receive the basic rate and bonus applicable to men." On the other hand, the Amalgamated Engineering Union still refuses to allow women members.

Under the Ministry of Labour scheme, worked out by Miss Caroline Haslett, women entering munitions and engineering are to be trained for eight weeks at technical schools and in engineering works. Unfortunately sex differentiation remains in payments allowed during training. There is no upper age limit for women who can hold down the job.

Factory Inspectors were given discretionary powers to relax provisions of the Factories Act where restrictions on the working hours of women and juveniles were concerned.

In the Civil Service there is to be no sex differentiation in the war bonus to be paid to all whole-time non-industrial civil servants whose remuneration is under a certain limit. The Treasury has allowed women civil servants who have domestic responsibilities to be treated as married officers where billeting is concerned.

Despite the equal risks run by women in all branches of the civil defence services they continue to be paid only two-thirds the rate paid to a man and each increase is made on the same unequal basis. The conditions of work and pay of women agricultural workers are still very unsatisfactory as compared to those of men. Miss Ward has championed their cause in the House.

### Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act

At a Conference of the Women's Freedom League held on January 26th, the following resolution moved, on behalf of St. Joan's Alliance, by Miss Annie Somers, was passed:

This Conference protests against the scheme of Allowances put forward by the Ministry of Pensions under the Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act, on the following grounds: (a) the differentiation between men and women without family responsibilities; (b) the inadequate allowances for the wives and children of injured men. (c) the absence of any compensation for a woman who is not herself a wage-earner or Civil Defence Worker, except in respect of the wages of a person to replace her in domestic labour in her home.

It urges the Government to amend the scheme so as to give benefits on the same lines as in the existing scheme, to those engaged in unpaid domestic work.

This Conference further resolves to ask the Minister of Pensions to receive a deputation on the three points (a), (b), and (c).

On March 1st the deputation was received by the Minister of Pensions. It was introduced by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, representing the W.F.L. Miss Somers, our representative, dealt ably with the second and third points. The Minister promised to give careful consideration to the matter, but afterwards, in a written reply, he gave no satisfaction on any of the points though he disclosed that allowances would be given to all dependent children under 15. In a later

letter the Minister wrote, stating that Article 20 of the new Personal Injuries Civilian Scheme had been amended so that "in any case in which the circumstances justify it, the Minister now has power to make the payment granted in respect of an injured housewife direct to that housewife instead of to the householder."

Under regulations to extend the scheme, at the time of writing still before the House, but which will operate from December 24th, 1940, every civilian over the age of 15 will be entitled to benefits if injured by enemy action. This of course includes the housewife. There are flagrant inequalities between men and women in this scheme and the Alliance, in common with other women's organisations and together with the women M.P.s, is working hard to get these inequalities remedied before the scheme passes into law.

### Pensions and Unemployment Insurance

Under the new Royal Warrant for Pensions it is satisfactory to note that there is no limit to the number of children to whom allowances may be made.

Under a revision of old age pensions the pensionable age for spinsters has been lowered from 65 to 60 and the same for married women whose husbands are over 65. Feminist organisations have consistently opposed "spinster's pensions" as not being in the best interests of women.

During the debate in the House on Unemployment Insurance, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., made a plea for the married woman, while Mr. Buchanan pleaded that women's unemployment benefit should be raised to equal that of men. The new Unemployment Insurance Bill was presented to the House on June 19th, when it was announced that the benefit was to be raised by 3s. for both men and women, and 2s. for younger workers, the contribution rate being likewise raised equally for both sexes. Black-coated workers earning up to £420 were included in the scheme without differentiation of sex.

### Nationality of Married Women

The position in this matter is still very unsatisfactory. Throughout the year the question has been to the fore and Members of Parliament have been industrious in asking the Home Secretary questions regarding the right of "all British-born wives of enemy aliens to apply to regain British nationality." In consequence of this persistence and that of the Women's Organisations many British-born wives of enemy aliens have regained their British nationality. The status of women married to friendly aliens has not yet been considered, and St. Joan's Alliance has many times called upon the Government to pass an Emergency Bill giving all British women the right to retain their British nationality on marriage with an alien, and providing that British nationality shall not be automatically conferred on an alien woman who marries a British subject.

In November representatives of the Alliance attended a Conference of the W.F.L. on this subject when a Memorandum prepared by Mrs. Donzé for the Nationality of Married Women's Committee was discussed and it was decided to ask the Home Secretary to receive a deputation in order to submit the Memorandum and urge the immediate introduction and passage into law of the Nationality of Married Women Bill. At a Conference on Women and War Conditions organised by the W.F.L. earlier in the year, we were represented, and a resolution calling upon the Government to adopt an Emergency Bill, as above, was passed.



### Women Police

Much work has been done in demanding the provision of more women police, and members have been asked to write to their M.P.s on this subject. An emergency ad hoc Committee was formed which included St. Joan's Alliance and at the end of June a deputation of women M.P.s approached Sir John Anderson. The Committee decided that in the present state of urgency the moment had come to press for the direct intervention of the Home Secretary to summon a Police Council and amend the Regulation on Strength, making it obligatory for police-women to perform certain duties. Later the Home Secretary sent a circular to police authorities throughout the country asking them to consider afresh, in the light of war-time conditions the appointment of women for certain police duties. In August a letter was published in the *Times* signed by the Hon. Mrs. Home Peel, Chairman of the Women Police Campaign Committee, on behalf of 19 Organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance, saying that "the time has come for the Home Secretary to make compulsory, instead of permissive the appointment of a sufficient number of fully attested policewomen throughout the country." The Women Police Campaign Committee asked, in addition for the appointment of a Woman Inspector of Constabulary at the Home Office to co-ordinate the work of policewomen in provincial boroughs, etc., and also asked the Police Federation to give a definite ruling as to the representation of women on the Federation.

At a Conference of the Women's Freedom League in November, when St. Joan's Alliance was represented, a resolution was proposed by the Hon. Mrs. Home Peel asking the Home Secretary to take immediate steps to make it obligatory upon every local authority to secure the appointment of a suitable number of attested women constables, under conditions of pay, promotion and responsibility identical with policemen. The resolution was unanimously adopted by the Conference.

Nearly 40 police authorities throughout the country have definitely decided against the appointment of fully attested policewomen despite the Home Secretary's circular. In other cases women auxiliary police have been appointed for clerical duties only. In eight districts there have been appointments of police-women; these include Bristol, Hull and Northampton. In Glasgow, Sheffield, and Manchester there have been extensive appointments of W.A.P.C. to patrol with full powers of arrest and with prospects of further training.

In detective work an increase of ten women officers of the Metropolitan Force was authorised by the Home Office, making this branch assume the number of 150 women receiving exactly the same pay and allowances as men detectives.

### Equal Moral Standard

Our French President had important correspondence with His Eminence Cardinal Hinsley when she begged him to use his influence in getting the existing maisons tolérées in France put out of bounds for British troops and prevent fresh ones being opened for them. His Eminence assured her that he would make "further efforts" with the Military Authorities for "closing these dens of wickedness" and he sent her a copy of the letter which he sent to the Prime Minister, together with her appeal. Members were begged to back this effort by writing to their M.P.s, the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for

War, also the Adjutant-General, G.H.Q., B.E.F., France.

At the request of our Alliance the late Cardinal Verdier of Paris graciously received Miss Neilans, Secretary of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, together with our French President. His Eminence was most sympathetic.

The Alliance took part in a crowded meeting of protest against the opening of Maisons Tolérées to British troops in France. It was organised by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, the chief speakers being Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Alison Neilans and Doctor Maude Royden.

On January 24th a deputation of M.P.s, led by Viscountess Astor, discussed with Mr. Oliver Stanley the rights of the legal wife in cases where the Army allowance was allotted to the "unmarried wife," since the position bore heavily on the legal wife if she was dependent on her husband. Later in the year a Royal Warrant for Pensions payable in consequence of the present war was issued, under which, if two women were dependent on the soldier at the time of his death, together they cannot get more than a widow's pension of 22s. 6d. weekly, the general rule being that the married wife comes first.

### African Women

At the beginning of the year the Secretary of State for the Colonies presented his Statement of Policy to Parliament which included a proposal to replace the Colonial Development Fund by a Government grant reaching an annual maximum of £5,000,000, part of this to be devoted to certain new objects such as agriculture, education, health and housing in order "to protect and advance the interests of the inhabitants" of British Colonies and Protectorates and also all mandated territories. In the debate on March 20th on the first reading of the Colonial Development Welfare Bill the Statement was described as "a good deed in a naughty world." During this debate the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies said:

"I earnestly hope that a great proportion of this money will be given over to the education of women. I am almost certain in my own mind that it was a great mistake when we started to educate Africa that we did not start with the women. . . . In a place like Africa where the women play such an enormous part in the social life of the community, it is absolutely essential that their education should be taken in hand, and taken in hand in no lackadaisical spirit."

A meeting between representatives of the Alliance and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the forced marriages of African women, took place at the Colonial Office on January 10th, 1939. In February, 1940, Mr. MacDonald informed us of replies received from enquiries made to the Governors of Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast and Nigeria in consequence of the discussion at that meeting and of (our) subsequent letter of 17th January, 1939.

Roughly the results of the enquiry denied the bona fide existence of forced marriages, and Mr. MacDonald stated that "the Governors are unanimous in agreeing that legislation on the lines proposed is unnecessary." Mr. MacDonald declared that "after careful consideration" he came to the conclusion that the attitude of the Governors was reasonable, and

that he would not be justified in putting any pressure on them to take action. He wished to make it clear, however "that the Governors are ready at all times to receive from any source reports of any cases of forced marriage which can be supported by evidence, and will ensure that such reports are fully investigated."

Following Lord Lloyd's statement in the House as noted above, we sent him two detailed cases of forced marriages of Kenya girls submitted to us by Archdeacon Owen of Kavirondo.

In March we were honoured by a visit from His Lordship Bishop Myers, accompanied by Father Keldany of the A.P.F., who brought a special message from the Cardinal, saying how much he "approved and appreciated" our work on behalf of African women. An informal discussion took place on the education of African women in which the Chairman, Editor and Secretary took part.

### St. Joan's Alliance

The year started with joy and thankfulness, for on January 15th the CATHOLIC CITIZEN reached its Silver Jubilee. The event was celebrated by a lunch at Pinoli's Restaurant, when Mrs. Laughton Mathews presided, and the other speakers were Father Gerald Vann, O.P., Viscountess Rhondda, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Helen Douglas Irvine, Mr. Ernest Oldmeadow, Miss Mary Hickey (Liverpool Branch), and of course, Miss Christine Spender. Our good friend Canon Reardon said grace and prayer for the Pope. Fourteen other Societies were represented at the lunch, which was distinguished by "a pleasant element of spontaneity and cheerfulness." Despite war conditions nearly a hundred people were present. Tributes were paid again and again to our former Editor, Leonora de Alberti, and the Chairman asked those present to stand for a moment in remembrance of her.

All too soon the death of our Founder, Gabrielle Jeffery, turned our joy to grief and the rest of the year was overshadowed by her loss. She died in the Royal Free Hospital after receiving the last Sacraments, on March 19th. Until she went into hospital on February 19th, Gabrielle Jeffery continued to work for St. Joan's as a Committee member. To the Annual Meeting, held three days before her death, she sent a message from her bed in hospital: "Tell them St. Joan's peace terms, full political, social and economic equality between men and women," to which the meeting sent in return a greetings telegram: "St. Joan's Annual Meeting sends love, profound thankfulness for better news, thanks for message St. Joan's peace terms." She had undergone an operation which she seemed to have stood well, but complications set in, and after twice rallying she died suddenly. She was buried on Holy Saturday beside her mother at Hove, and officers and members of the Alliance were present, as well as her family. The Alliance sent a laurel wreath, tied with our colours, with the inscription: "In love and gratitude to our founder. The just shall spring as the lily; and shall flourish for ever before the Lord." Wreaths of flowers in our colours came from the Australian, Brazilian and French Sections and from the Liverpool Branch of the Alliance and on the flowers sent by Mrs. Laughton Mathews was the inscription: "Gabrielle Jeffery, true follower of St. Joan: in love and admiration." "True Follower of St. Joan," was afterwards used in the CATHOLIC CITIZEN to head the tributes which poured in, unsolicited, from all who had known Gabrielle Jeffery

or who had in any way been connected with her work for St. Joan's Alliance or her professional work on the Middlesex County Council.

No words can really express the inestimable loss to the Society which the going of Gabrielle Jeffery has proved and will continue to prove, but the following minute was passed by the Committee at its meeting on April 3rd.

The Alliance expresses its sorrow at the irreparable loss it has sustained by the death on March 19th of its Founder, Gabrielle Jeffery. R.I.P. It desires to place on record its deep appreciation and gratitude to her to whose wise counsel and constant help the Alliance owes an immeasurable debt. It is due to her vision and courage in founding the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society that Catholic women have won their rightful place in the vanguard of the feminist movement, both in this country and internationally.

The two guiding principles of Gabrielle Jeffery's life were: "Uncompromising feminism and unswerving loyalty to Holy Mother Church."

A Requiem Mass (Month's Mind) was said for the repose of her soul on April 20th at St. Patrick's, Soho, at which members of her family were present and many Societies were represented. Colleagues of the Middlesex County Council were there and personal friends and many members of the Alliance. His Lordship the Bishop of Pella gave the address, which was afterwards printed in the CATHOLIC CITIZEN, and "Praise to the Holiest in the Heights" was sung by the Congregation. The catafalque was draped with the two banners of the Society, that of St. Joan and the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

A memorial fund for Gabrielle Jeffery was immediately started, its objects being paid office help and a personal remembrance of her for the Society—to take the form of a portrait. (See Treasurer's Report. See CATHOLIC CITIZEN for memorial number, etc.).

The 29th Annual Meeting was held on March 16th at St. Patrick's Club Rooms, Soho Square, Miss P. C. Challoner presiding. The meeting was held under a cloud owing to the grave illness of our Founder, who sent the message given above and £5 for the funds. Greetings telegrams were read from the Liverpool and Oldham Branches, members of which were unable to be present, and from Mrs. Laughton Mathews also unable to be there.

The Annual Report was read by Miss Billing; Miss Douglas Irvine moved its adoption, which was seconded by Miss Neilson. The Financial Statement was presented by Miss Billing, moved by Miss Eleanor Fitzgerald and seconded by Miss Pat Harrington. The Chairman's address followed, after which Canon Reardon spoke in support of our campaign against the Maisons Tolérées. Mrs. McFadyen then made a most successful appeal for funds which resulted in £33. With the unanimous consent of the meeting a Greetings Telegram expressing sympathy and best wishes was sent to Miss Jeffery in hospital. Resolutions on the various points in our programme were put to the meeting and carried. (See CATHOLIC CITIZEN, April, 1940.)

Two vacancies were caused on the Committee by the resignation of Mrs. Garrard, due to work with evacuated children, and Mrs. Laughton Mathews on account of her work as Director of the W.R.N.S. Only two nominations were received, namely, for Miss Helen Douglas Irvine and Miss Neilson, both of whom were therefore elected to fill the vacancies. Miss Billing was, later in the year, co-opted to fill the further



vacancy, and Miss Organ succeeded to the post of Hon. Treasurer. We offer warmest thanks to Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Mrs. Garrard with whom we parted most reluctantly. We welcome their successors.

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception members gathered at St. Patrick's, Soho Square, when the 12 o'clock Mass was said for peace and for all those fallen in the war and for the repose of the soul of Gabrielle Jeffery, the preacher being Canon Reardon, who referred to the inspiration our Lady must be to those women who strive for social and political freedom for their sex. After Mass the *De Profundis* was said for Gabrielle Jeffery. Members and friends then proceeded to the Berners Hotel for the unveiling of the portrait of Gabrielle Jeffery, painted by Mr. Lee Hankey, R.W.S., R.O.I. At lunch, Miss P. C. Challoner presided, and the guest of honour was Madame Wanda Grabinska of Poland, first woman judge. All stood in silence in memory of Gabrielle Jeffery, Canon Reardon said a prayer, and Miss Challoner unveiled the beautiful portrait. A vote of thanks was proposed to the speakers by Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, B.A., and seconded by Canon Reardon. Mrs. and Miss Sowerby, sister and niece of Gabrielle Jeffery were present on this occasion and other guests from Austria, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

As a gift to the Alliance Father Jerome O'Hea, lately returned from S. Rhodesia, offered three Masses for us on the 29th, 30th and 31st of May, one of these being offered for the repose of the soul of Gabrielle Jeffery, at our request. He wrote saying he was proud and pleased to be asked to say Mass for us. On May 30th, anniversary of the burning of St. Joan, a laurel wreath tied in our colours was placed on the shrine of St. Joan in Westminster Cathedral. The annual Mass for the repose of the soul of members, associates and benefactors of the Alliance was offered at St. Patrick's, Soho, on November 4th. As has been the custom since the beginning of the war, every second Sunday of the month Mass is offered at St. Patrick's at 9-30 on our behalf, for Peace and for all those fallen in the war. The Alliance has continued to take part in Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Horseferry Road.

#### Co-operation with other Societies

The Alliance is represented on the Committee of the following Societies: The Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union; the ad hoc Status of Women Committee; the British Commonwealth League; the Nationality of Married Women Committee; the Australian Sub-Committee of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society; and the Women Police Campaign Committee. We are also affiliated to the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

The Alliance took part in the following Conferences and Meetings, etc.:

Subject.	Organiser.	Representatives
Women and War Conditions	Women's Freedom League	Misses Barry and Somers, Mrs. McFadyen
Twenty-First Birthday	Women's Engineering Society	Misses Barry and Spender, Mrs. McFadyen
Closing of Maisons Tolérées	A.M.S.H.	Misses Barry, Harrington, Spender, Mrs. Talbot
Annual Meeting	O.D.C.	Misses Barry and Spender
Married Women's Nationality and Women Police Suffragette Lunch	Women's Freedom League Suffragette Fellowship	Misses Barry and Challoner Misses Barry, Jeffery, Spender, Mrs. McFadyen

Many representatives of the Alliance were present at the Dinner in honour of Mrs. V. M. Crawford, organised by the Plater Dining Club in July. On our behalf Miss Barry paid a tribute to Mrs. Crawford's work for the Alliance, of which she was at one time Chairman.

To celebrate the anniversary of Mrs. Pankhurst's birthday in July, together with representatives of other Women's Societies, our representative, Miss Graham placed flowers on the statue in Victoria Gardens. Afterwards at an informal gathering, on behalf of the Alliance Miss Barry paid a tribute to the work of Mrs. Pankhurst.

#### Letters and Resolutions

"Towards a Christian Social Order."—A correspondence was carried on between the Alliance and Captain T. W. C. Curd on the subject of a scheme promulgated by the latter with the object of establishing a Christian Social Order. We pressed for a specific declaration that throughout the programme the word man should include woman and for certain other alterations in the feminist sense, notably that Equal Pay between the sexes should be included in the programme. Captain Curd considered our suggestions favourably and states that these points will be "duly covered" when the Programme comes to be set out in a more extended form.

A letter was sent to the B.B.C. in reply to their letter asking for suggestions for talks for *women citizens and housewives*.

In co-operation with the N.U.W.T., the O.D.C. and the W.F.L., we wrote a joint letter to the *Chancellor of the Exchequer* dissociating ourselves from a request sent by other organisations for a woman to be appointed as additional Under-Secretary to the Minister of Labour, charged with the responsibility in the matter of woman power during the war and post-war readjustment. We stated that while approving of the addition of women to the Government we "are of the opinion that it is the Government policy as a whole, and not the personality or sex of any particular Minister which is the matter of fundamental importance in connection with the just and effective use of the woman-power of the country, both during the war and afterwards."

By request of one of our members in the A.T.S. enquiries were made as to the provision of spiritual assistance, and advice and aid in any difficulty for *Catholic Women in the Forces*. It has been substantiated that all chaplains to the Forces are instructed that men and women are equally their charge.

#### Press Report

In the past year St. Joan's Alliance had its triumph and its sorrow; each in its way was well recorded in the Press. From contemporaries, religious and feminist came expressions of congratulation and genuine appreciation when the CATHOLIC CITIZEN attained its Silver Jubilee. We express our thanks to the *Catholic Times*, *Catholic Herald*, *Universe*, *Catholic Gazette*, *Blackfriars*, *Woman Teacher*, *Women's Freedom League Bulletin*, *Opportunity*, and overseas to *The Dawn* and *The Horizon*, both of Melbourne; also to *Le Mouvement Féministe* of Geneva.

All too swiftly upon this event came the death of our loved and honoured Founder; her gentle and heroic personality drew tributes from many journals. We are indebted to *The Times*, *Manchester Guardian*, *Evening News*, *Catholic Herald*, *Catholic Times*, *The Tablet*, *Universe*, *Women's Freedom League Bulletin*, *Woman Teacher*, *Opportunity*, *Horizon* (Melbourne);

and several local papers also noted facts about her career and death.

*The Yorkshire Post*, *The Manchester Guardian*, *Reynolds News* and the weekly Catholic press all gave prominence to our correspondence with Cardinal Hinsley re the placing of "maisons tolérées" out of bounds for British troops in France, and the Cardinal's letter to the Prime Minister on the subject.

In correspondence columns St. Joan's has broken many a lance this year in defence of women's rights. There have been letters in the *Catholic Herald* on Married Women's Work (points from this letter were thrice re-hashed in local newspapers), Army Morals, A Christian Social Order, Spinsters' Pensions, and St. Joan's Alliance was joint signatory to a letter published in *The Times* pleading for the compulsory appointment of Women Police. *People and Freedom* published a letter on the right of women to a vote in the Democratic State.

In the columns of the *Indian Social Reformer* appeared the correspondence re "maisons tolérées" mentioned above, copied from the CATHOLIC CITIZEN. From our paper, also, *The Medical Missionary* copied an article on African women.

Liverpool and Birkenhead papers gave prominence to the campaign of the Liverpool Branch for the appointment of women police, more especially to the August meeting on this subject when Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Miss Douglas Irvine were the guests of honour.

An interesting section of our Press Book is labelled "Woman This and That," where we collect all the usual, and the new charges which thoughtless people still levy against women; their logic is wonderful! For instance, women go to church wearing lipstick, therefore they are immoral; women wear trousers and are therefore responsible for the evils and disasters of the present day. But the Pope's pronouncement should be blazoned across the world by women: "Modes and modesty must go together."

The personal columns record the death of several members and friends of whom we can here mention but a few; Alice Abadam, a brilliant speaker in the early days of the C.W.S.S., Mr. George Lansbury, the sturdy Suffragist of the Labour Party in the days of the struggle for the vote, and Dom Gilbert Higgins, C.R.L., long and ardent supporter of St. Joan's Alliance. An appreciation of the latter sent from the Alliance appeared in the *Universe* and *Catholic Herald*.

Despite the war, St. Joan's Alliance has had its activities noticed in the Catholic and feminist papers of France, Switzerland, Africa, Australia and India, and in the *International Women's News*.

We thank the *Catholic Herald*, *The Women's Freedom League Bulletin* and the *Woman Teacher* for so faithfully recording our activities and for the publicity they have given to the CATHOLIC CITIZEN. We also thank Miss Brigid Devine of the *Universe* "This and That" column for quoting tit-bits from our paper.

#### "Catholic Citizen"

This year has been an important one for the CATHOLIC CITIZEN, since it marked the Silver Jubilee of the foundation of the paper. The Jubilee number appeared in January and was characterised by special articles by Mr. Joseph Clayton and Miss Christopher St. John, and there were several pages of tributes to the paper from individuals and Societies in England and many parts of the world. Portraits of the late Editor, Miss Leonora de Alberti, and of Miss Christine Spender were included, and as we said in our editorial the occasion was primarily a time

of rejoicing and thankfulness. In a subsequent issue appeared an account of the Jubilee Dinner and further tributes.

The year saw the sad necessity of a further special issue in the Memorial number to our Founder. This was the April number when there appeared a special biographical article and many pages of tributes to Gabrielle Jeffery, besides a photograph of her. Tributes overflowed into two other issues and the December number included the reproduction of the beautiful portrait painted by the artist, W. Lee Hankey, R.W.S., R.O.I.

Owing to the kindness of the *Catholic Herald* we were able to reproduce an interesting engraving, "St. Joan of England," by George Buday in the November issue.

Throughout the year appeals have been made for new subscribers, and a new subscription slip was specially issued for the Jubilee year.

A feature of the paper has been "Twenty-five Years Ago." Each month we have chosen a telling passage from the equivalent issue of twenty-five years since; often the quotations have been from Leonora de Alberti's pen.

With our censorship permit the paper is still sent to many parts of the world, despite war conditions.

We are again most grateful to Miss Eva Barry for undertaking the arduous task of addressing CATHOLIC CITIZEN wrappers every month.

It goes without saying that we are most grateful to all those who have contributed excellent articles to the CATHOLIC CITIZEN. We thank Miss Douglas Irvine, more especially, who has spent much time on making many numbers of the CATHOLIC CITIZEN excel, and who has written us many beautiful articles.

#### Obituary

Dom Gilbert Higgins, C.R.L., ever our good friend and member, died on November 18th. We shall always hold his memory in gratitude and affection. An early and keen member of the Catholic Woman's Suffrage Society, he never missed an opportunity of backing by voice or pen the cause of women's enfranchisement and was, right to the end of his long life, our staunch supporter. He upheld Votes for Women during the most stormy days of that agitation. He wrote articles for us in our paper and sent us many beautiful and encouraging letters besides attending our functions whenever he was able and reading the paper from cover to cover.

On March 31st Miss Alice Abadam died. During the Votes for Women campaign she placed her fine gifts of oratory at the disposal of all suffrage societies and was one of the original members of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society for which she did incalculable service in its early days.

Mr. George Lansbury, M.P., died on May 7th, and in him the Woman's Movement lost a great champion. It may be recalled that on the question of Votes for Women he resigned his seat at Bow as a test of public feeling, in 1912, and was not re-elected till 1922. He went to prison for the cause. Miss Barry and Miss Rochford were our representatives at the funeral service.

The Alliance has lost several good friends this year. His Grace Archbishop Kelly of Sydney signed the Petition of Catholic men and women presented to the League of Nations, asking for equal Nationality rights. Mr. H. S. L. Fry was a member of the Men's League for Woman Suffrage and subscribed to the CATHOLIC CITIZEN until he became blind. Mr. George Eliot Anstruther was an early member of the



C.W.S.S. and always gave us a good word in the papers with which he was connected.

On September 27th our well-loved member, Miss Marie de Courcy Hall Bain was killed in an air raid. Miss Bain, an early and enthusiastic member of our Society, will be much missed. Generous as a subscriber and in giving her time to the Alliance, she never missed any function if she could possibly help it and her unfailing kindness, cheerfulness and courage will ever be remembered by us. At the Requiem at St. James', Spanish Place, many members were present, and the Alliance was represented by the Misses Barry, Gadsby, Spender, and Mrs. Laughton Mathews. Mass was offered on behalf of the Alliance for the repose of her soul.

We also regret to record the deaths during the year of the following members: Miss C. E. Buckley; Rev. Joseph Dobbelaers; Mrs. Freeman; and Mrs. Huggett, a very early member of the C.W.S.S. and keen campaigner for votes for women.

#### Personal

We offer our congratulations to the following members of the Alliance: Mrs. Acres on the birth of a daughter, Margaret Mercy; Miss Ruth Barry on her marriage to Dr. J. O. E. Apthorp, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G., of Cape Town; Miss Anna Brennan (Australia) on her election as President of the Lyceum Club, Melbourne; Dame Constance D'Arcy (Australia), who has received a papal honour; Dr. Letitia Fairfield, C.B.E., on her appointment as woman medical adviser to the War Office and on being appointed a member of the A.T.S. Council with the relative rank of Lieutenant-Colonel; Miss C. M. Gordon on her appointment to the County Agriculture Committee, North Argyllshire; Miss Norah Lane on being co-opted to the Advisory Committee of the Cardiff Education Committee.

We offer grateful thanks to the following who have given us welcome help in the Office during the past year: the Misses Bodenham, Eleanor and Kathleen Fitzgerald, Harrington, Jabloner, Lowe, Mills and M. Parnell and to Mesdames Harrington and Maxfield. We thank Miss K. Davis who has given us invaluable help both in the Office and reporting; and Mrs. McFadyen, who with the greatest regularity assisted us twice a week till obliged to leave London. Miss Billing has our gratitude for careful upkeep of the Press Book, and Mrs. Ellingworth for helping us at the Christmas Sale.

#### Treasurer's Report

This year's accounts unfortunately end with £22 14s. 4d. deficit, £13 10s. owing on the general fund, £10 17s. 3d. on the CATHOLIC CITIZEN. There was a drop of £46 in the usual subscriptions but owing to the ready response to the Gabrielle Jeffery Memorial Fund, which amounted to £105 15s., the total amount subscribed reached the sum of £246 3s. Of the Memorial Fund £50 15s. was devoted to the expenses of the Requiem and Portrait; the remainder, together with all future subscriptions is being invested in the Post Office to be used for the provision of regular clerical assistance in the Office. The Barrow and Office Sales brought in over £54. If only we had had our usual Christmas Sale we should probably have ended the year with a profit instead of a deficit. We thank those members who so generously replenish our Barrow. There is now such a ready sale for second-hand clothes that we trust our members will keep us well supplied.

Subscriptions to the CATHOLIC CITIZEN and sales show an increase of £5, and the advertisements an

increase of £9. Nevertheless the cost of producing two special numbers and the extra postage has resulted in the deficit mentioned above.

The death of two of our most generous subscribers, Miss Bain and Miss Jeffery, means a heavy financial loss to the Alliance, which members might not realise unless we mentioned it here.

All those Office helpers mentioned under personal have spared us considerable expense, more especially Miss K. Davis, who has undertaken all our duplicating throughout the year.

Lastly we thank Mrs. Benjamin for so generously undertaking the auditing of our accounts.

#### Liverpool and District Branch

Hon. Secretary: Miss Bowden, 22 Fern Grove, Liverpool 8.

Owing to the absence of Miss Bowden, the Hon. Secretary, who was in charge of evacuated children, Mrs. McCann, our Chairman, took on the main work of the Branch at the beginning of the year. At the end of January Miss Bowden returned and was able to resume office.

The Branch has been represented on the Liverpool Women's Organisations Committee set up to deal with matters affecting women arising out of war conditions; the Liverpool Council of Social Service and the Liverpool Archdiocesan Special Emergency Committee (for the erection and running of huts for the soldiers). The Branch co-operated with other societies doing children's curfew and canteen work. The Women's Organisations Committee requested each of its constituent societies to pass a resolution pressing the Liverpool City Council to appoint women House Property Managers and a resolution from the Branch was forwarded to the Chairman to be sent in with the other resolutions. Mrs. McCann was present at the opening of the new C.W.L. Canteen at Huyton and with Miss Bowden she represented St. Joan's when the Renshaw St. C.W.L. Canteen was opened by His Grace the Archbishop of Liverpool. In both these Canteens members have been willing helpers and have also given their services at the Soroptimists' Club, Angel Hotel, Dale Street, etc. In June Mrs. Hart very kindly gave a Bridge Party on behalf of the Branch and the proceeds were handed over to the C.W.L. Diocesan Huts Committee.

In May letters were sent to the Prime Minister and local M.P.s begging that the Maisons Tolérées should be placed out of bounds for the B.E.F. in France.

The Annual Garden Party was held, by the kindness of the Misses Barry, at Birkenhead, on August 17th. The subsequent informal Meeting was opened by the Chairman, Mrs. McCann, asking all present to stand and say the *De Profundis* for Gabrielle Jeffery. Miss Florence Barry moved a resolution urging the Government to make it compulsory on all Watch Committees and Standing Joint Committees to appoint an adequate number of fully attested policewomen. This was passed unanimously and sent to the Home Secretary and the local M.P.s. Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Miss Helen Douglas Irvine, who were the guests of honour, then spoke, Mrs. Laughton Mathews on her work as Director of the W.R.N.S., and Miss Douglas Irvine in memory of Gabrielle Jeffery. Miss Mary Hickey moved a vote of thanks to the Misses Barry and the speakers which was seconded by Miss Bowden. The meeting had a very good Press, especially as regards the resolution concerning women police, a burning question in Birkenhead.

The Branch sent a telegram of good wishes to the General Annual Meeting, regretting that it was unable to send a representative. It sent a Mass offering and wreath in our colours on the occasion of the death of Gabrielle Jeffery. R.I.P.

It is with much sympathy and sorrow that we record the fact that our Chairman, Mrs. McCann, was obliged, with her family, including her mother, who is of advanced age, to leave their beautiful home which was severely damaged during one of the raids. Mrs. McCann displayed amazing cheerfulness in the face of sad ruin and is an example of invincible British pluck.

We were represented at the CATHOLIC CITIZEN Jubilee Dinner by Miss Mary Hickey, who spoke expressing the congratulations of the Branch. Spring flowers were sent on behalf of the Branch to be laid by Miss Spender's place.

#### Oldham Branch

Hon. Secretary: Miss Agnes Walsh, 33 Hillside Avenue, Clarksfield, Oldham.

The Annual Meeting was held on April 19th at the Lyceum, Oldham. Mrs. Kilcoyne, President, was in the chair and expressed the sorrow felt by the members at the loss they sustained by the death of their Founder, Gabrielle Jeffery. R.I.P. The Meeting passed the following resolution which was sent to the Prime Minister, the Secretary for War and the Air Ministry.

"The Oldham Branch of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance urges you to take all possible action to protect the men of the Home and British Empire Forces by insisting that in France and in any other countries where the system of licensed brothels exists, these houses shall be immediately declared out of bounds to every member of the British Forces."

The resolution also urged the provision of suitable social centres for the Forces. The correspondence between His Eminence Cardinal Hinsley and Madame Pesson Depret, Chairman of the French Section of the Alliance, was read, and it was resolved that this should be sent to the Press.

Since the above meeting the injustices contained in the War Injuries Compensation Scheme have been brought to the attention of the Minister of Pensions and local M.P.s, who have been urged to do their utmost to have the same abolished and to substitute equal rates of compensation for men and women.

Owing to war conditions our social gatherings have been few, but members have been kept in touch with activities at headquarters through the circulation of the CATHOLIC CITIZEN.

Mass was offered on behalf of the Branch for the repose of the soul of Gabrielle Jeffery and a wreath was sent by the Branch.

We were unable to send representatives to the Annual General Meeting, but we sent a telegram of good wishes and we sent flowers for Miss Spender to the CATHOLIC CITIZEN Jubilee Dinner through there also we were unable to send a representative.

The Branch offered its services in connection with refugees expected in the town from Holland and Belgium.

#### Australian Section

General Secretary: Miss M. M. Flynn, c/o Catholic Central Library, Collins Street, Melbourne.

Since mails are so bad it is impossible to get the usual Annual Report from the Australian Section, but we have pieced together the following from accounts sent from time to time during the year.

Both an air mail message and a further tribute from the Section were published in the CATHOLIC CITIZEN on the death of our Founder.

The Annual Meeting was held on April 22nd in Melbourne, the General President, Dame Enid Lyons, presiding. Miss Flynn paid a tribute to Gabrielle Jeffery and Miss Anna Brennan, deputy president, gave an address on the aims and objects of the Alliance. The Chairman's address followed, after which an aboriginal girl presented a posy from the aboriginal girls of Melbourne with their greetings and good wishes. Three resolutions were moved and carried unanimously, one placing on record profound regret and sense of loss at the passing of Gabrielle Jeffery and extending sympathy to the officers and members of the mother organisation; the next regretting the death of the Lieutenant Governor of Papua who did so much for the welfare of the aboriginal people there; and the third congratulating the Commonwealth Director of Native Affairs on the establishment of travelling courts for the Northern Territory.

Holy Mass for the soul of Gabrielle Jeffery was offered on behalf of the Branch on April 29th, in the Church of the Blessed Sacrament; also for the repose of all deceased members.

The corporate Holy Communion and celebration of St. Joan's Feast (May 30th) took on international significance as it was given over the air as the first item of international news. On the second Sunday of each month special Mass has been offered for the Mother Country and many members have attended. The Section participated in an Australian-wide week of prayer, arranged by the National Council of Women. Dame Enid Lyons, Miss Margaret Flynn, and Miss Anna Brennan appealed to women, in a statement issued to the Press, to attend their churches and pray for "the guidance of our leaders and the triumph of Christian principles." His Grace Archbishop Mannix gave his sympathetic approval to "this movement to promote additional prayers in these difficult days."

Mr. Street, M.P., was approached re the issue of Prophylactic packets for the troops for the so-called prevention of venereal disease, and other organisation were influenced to protest. Representatives attended a Conference with Sir J. Harris, Minister of Health, re amendments to the V.D. Act, and Miss Anna Brennan spoke on the subject at several meetings. In August she gave an address on the Australian Nationality Act to the National Council of Women.

In August a social meeting was held to raise money.

In September the renowned Father Lockington, S.J., gave a lecture on "The Women of the Old Testament" (afterwards published in the CATHOLIC CITIZEN.)

At the November meeting Mr. R. F. O'Sullivan, M.B., F.R.C.S. (Eng.), leading gynaecologist in Melbourne, gave a lecture on "Birth Control and the Moral Law." He made use of the correspondence between Cardinal Hinsley and the Alliance on the subject of "Maisons Tolérées" for the troops, and also of leaflets published by the A.M.S.H. Many organisations were represented and there was hardly room in the hall for all who attended. The Alliance initiated the Australian protest against Maisons Tolérées, a protest followed up by other organisations.

The last meeting of the year took the form of a Christmas party held at the home of Mrs. B. Johnson, Committee member, when more than 120 people were present, including guests from other organisa-



tions. Dame Enid Lyons arrived and made a beautiful speech as also did Miss Anna Brennan. There were striking decorations and musical entertainment. (For fuller description see this month's paper.) This party received mention in *The Advocate* and *The Tribune*.

Mrs. Margaret Harrower, one of the foundation members of the Section has died and is very much missed. She left a three weeks' old baby, who is being brought up by another member of the Committee. R.I.P.

The Section is now affiliated to the N.C.W., sending two delegates to their meetings.

Cigarettes, literature and games are contributed each month to the Catholic Welfare Organisation for the Troops.

#### Brazilian Section

Owing to difficulties of communication, not much news has been received from our Brazilian Secretary, Miss Lisboa, but one letter during the year gave us Brazilian feminist news which we were glad to publish in the CATHOLIC CITIZEN.

#### French Section

We feel profound grief that our French Section and its officers have suffered so bitterly with the rest of the French nation. We feel assured that l'Alliance Ste Jeanne d'Arc will rise again when France once more resurrects. Besides the work already recorded under the heading *Equal Moral Standard* we received a message from our French President after the fall of France. It says: "Much love, all wishes, faithful thoughts and friendship."

#### A Woman's Creed

**Australia.** In the *Dawn* (Melbourne) appears "A Woman's Creed" drawn up by Mrs. Linda P. Littlejohn, well-known to English feminists. Here it is:

We do not believe in the supposed inferiority of women.

We believe women have needs—gifts—rights as humans, quite apart from sex.

We believe that a civilised state of society must recognise the right of women to satisfy these needs—exercise these gifts—the same rights as are accorded to adult males.

We demand the right to earn on the same terms and conditions as our male competitors.

We demand the right to equal pay for work of equal value. And further, we demand the right to Do the equal work. We demand the right to marry and earn; to decide for ourselves whether we desire to earn.

We resent the suggestion that women workers do not desire the best for their children, and we claim that women themselves are best suited to decide for themselves what that standard shall be.

To-day we are persons, not someone's belongings; thus we demand the rights and duties and responsibilities together with the freedom of choice allowed adult male citizens.

We ask respect, not pity; a fair deal, not protection as infants; equality, not philanthropy.

## International Notes

**U.S.A.** A survey by the Washington League of Women Voters shows that 140 women were elected to the legislatures of 29 states last November. This is a definite increase on the last election two years ago when 130 women were elected in 28 states. Women State Senators, however, have dropped from 11 to nine. Eight women took seats in Congress on January 3rd and 12 women are being sworn into major state offices before the winter ends.

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**France.** "Le Mouvement Féministe" (Geneva) reports that French women are now admitted to the Town Councils. These Councils must have been completely re-organised for, according to a law recently made public by Marshall Pétain, in urban districts their members are no longer to be elected, but nominated by the central power, the Mayor and corporation to be nominated also. Women may be nominated equally with men, and on each Council must be one woman qualified in social assistance.

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The Corps Féminin of the Forces Françaises Libres is now an independent unit of the A.T.S. Till recently an English member of the A.T.S. had been attached to the corps as liaison officer between the War Office and the French organisation. Volunteers must be French women by birth or by marriage between the ages of 18 and 43 and they are trained for three weeks at an A.T.S. depot when they receive their khaki uniform. After this nearly all of them work at the London headquarters of the Corps Féminin of the depot. They replace "man for man" soldiers employed as clerks, drivers, cooks and orderlies.

#### Twenty-Five Years Ago

Miss Christopher St. John in the *Catholic Suffragist*, March 15th, 1916:

I have been very much struck by the fact that whenever the present war is discussed among women in this country, sharp differences of opinion are at once manifested. There are women who are pacifists, and refuse to bow submissively before war as before a natural calamity. There are women who say that that they were pacifists—before the war, but that this is not the time to discuss the prospects of a permanent peace. There are women who believe that this is a war of liberation, a war to end war, and women who do not see beyond "crushing" Germany and hanging the Kaiser. —Do Women Hate War?

## St. Joan's Alliance in Australia

**Hon. Secretary:** Miss M. M. Flynn, 65 Grange Road, Melbourne.

The Australian news will be found in the Annual Report, under appropriate heading, but here is a fuller account of the party mentioned there. Miss Flynn writes:

"Our last meeting for the year took the form of a Christmas party held at the home of our Committee member, Mrs. B. Johnson. Mrs. Johnson and her family of three girls and a boy rose to the occasion and did St. Joan's proudly. More than 120 people were present, including invited guests from other organisations. The Johnson children had a beautiful poster of the Australian badge (enlarged of course) made and it occupied a central position on the wall of the billiard-room, where the afternoon tea was served. The room was decorated with gold, white and blue streamers. Table decorations were bowls of blue, white and gold pansies and serviettes to match. Miss Hurley one of the artists sang 'St. Joan's Farewell' among several beautiful items. We had verse speaking and very good music and as a finale the General President, Dame Enid Lyons, arrived. She made a beautiful little speech equalled by Miss Anna Brennan's, which followed, both in the vein of reconstruction and the place of the Alliance in it.

"All our thoughts and remembrances are with the dear Mother Organisation in her martyrdom and this the president and deputy expressed beautifully."

We do congratulate the Alliance in Australia on its many activities, not least the above party and we are most grateful for their continual remembrance of us.

## Women Over Forty

A correspondent draws attention to the state of affairs where the employment of women over 40 is concerned. She writes: "Although the call for women becomes louder every week, those over 40, with few outstanding exceptions, are turned down by most Government officials, and by the Services, as being too old, no matter what qualifications they may have, and are debarred in most cases from paid employment."

She goes on to point out that this seems "an extravagant waste of so much valuable woman power when every ounce of national service is needed" and when these older women have "years of experience behind them." Moreover, in many cases, paid work would be a great help to these women in making family ends meet.

## Reviews

**The Legion of Mary**, by Cecily Hallack. (Catholic Book Club, 2s. 6d.)

An inspiring account of an organisation which, though started only twenty years ago in Ireland, has spread into every continent and now embraces men, women and children of every race, nation and colour. The work it does is as varied as its members; starting with workhouse visiting in Dublin, the Legion now visits workhouses, prisons, hospitals, lodging-houses, and from house to house all over the world; it also befriends gypsies, and runs retreat-houses, hostels and clubs, book-barrows and libraries. There seems to be nothing to which it has not turned its hand (can Legions turn hands?!) successfully, no situation with which it cannot cope, no person it does not befriend and help, from the old slum lady who, when given a picture of the Crucifixion said, "He had no right to do what He did: to send that lovely young Gentleman to die on a cross for the like of me," to the tiny First Communicant who, when asked what she had said to Jesus on that great occasion, replied, "I said to Him that I loved Him, an' I said I had waited a long time for Him, an' then I told Him my A.B.C." B. Lowe.

"It is the responsibility of both parents to make the home life. Alas, it is so often left to one of them, generally the mother, to do everything."—*Lenten Pastoral of His Lordship Bishop Poskitt of Leeds.*

Mrs. Benjamin, our Hon. Auditor, writes:

It is absolutely essential that members now make every effort and, if necessary sacrifice, to improve the financial position of the Society. I feel that our first duty is to wipe out the debit balance, and in order to do so, I would suggest that 50 members give 10s. each over and above the amount they would normally subscribe. Naturally, any reduction in the usual subscriptions would be useless. Perhaps members, who were unable to attend the Annual Meeting, would like to co-operate in this scheme. In memory of Miss Jeffery I would give £2.

Owing to the increased postage the annual subscription to the CATHOLIC CITIZEN is now 3s. per annum and the minimum subscription to the Alliance is 1s. (4s. for both). Some members have misunderstood and sent 3s. or 3s. 6d. to cover both.

E. BENJAMIN.



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