

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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THE

Catholic Citizen

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

Vol. XV, No. 2.

15th FEBRUARY 1929.

Price Twopence.

Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give;
Who knows the gifts which you shall give,
Daughter of the Newer Eve?
—Francis Thompson.

International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship.

OBJECT: To secure enfranchisement for the women of all nations by the promotion of woman suffrage and all such other reforms as are necessary to establish a real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women; and to educate women for their task as citizens, and to further their influence in public life.

Twenty-fifth Anniversary 1904-29. Call to the Eleventh Congress, Berlin, June 17-22.

The International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship warmly invites all its friends to come and celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1929. It was there in 1904 that the Alliance as "The International Woman Suffrage Alliance" started on its way. It had then but a handful of affiliated organizations, now it has grown into a great body with societies affiliated in 42 countries. What a triumphant progress is revealed in the history of these twenty-five years. When the pioneers meet together in Berlin next year—alas! that so many will be for us but a sacred memory—they will surely look back with thankfulness at the amazing fulfilment of so many of their hopes. There is not a Continent where women do not vote. There is not a profession which women have not entered, and slowly but surely the principle of equal pay advances. In the sphere of equal morals, the evil system of Regulation of Vice is nearly everywhere discredited and is rapidly disappearing, and the League of Nations counts among its greatest tasks the suppression of

the Traffic in Women. In the majority of countries the civil capacity of women has been recognised and the citizenship of the married woman is no longer merged in that of her husband. In a greater or less degree women have for the most part won the right to their separate nationality. A great measure of victory has been won for the cause of woman's emancipation: help us to make this a worthy celebration of these triumphs, and to register our earnest and continued endeavour to carry forward our great movement to its ultimate aim—full equality of liberty, status and opportunity for men and women in every walk of life.

The Alliance therefore calls upon its 42 national auxiliaries, and upon new societies either provisionally affiliated or applying for affiliation, to send to this Eleventh Congress their quota of fully-accredited delegates. A warm invitation is further extended to all women's societies, both national and international, which support the object of the Alliance, to send fraternal delegates, and the Alliance expresses the hope that

individual members, as well as personal friends and supporters of the woman's movement in all countries, will attend the Congress to show their living interest in our great cause.

If our programme will largely be a triumphant record of our twenty-five years' progress, we shall not forget the work still to be done: Suffrage still to be won in many European countries, in South America, in most of the countries of the East; problems to be faced in connection with the Equal Moral Standard; with Nationality; with the Unmarried Mother and the system of Family Endowment; with the Legal Position of the Married Woman; with the Employment of Women in the Police Forces, in the Professions, in Industry and in Public Service. Last but not least we shall report on the work done by the Committee of Peace and the League of Nations established on the instructions of our last Congress in Paris in 1926.

We have now as our chief aim to interest and educate women of all countries in the duties of citizenship, whether they have or have not the vote. Women must recognise that they have a contribution to make to the State and to Society which no man can make in exactly the same form. They must learn to free themselves from many traditional and purely masculine points of view and to emphasise their special outlook as women citizens. This business of education is—after the winning of the vote—the first duty of the Alliance. Only when women learn to work for their country and for mankind on a basis of spiritual independence will they attain freedom in the highest sense of the word. That freedom is not yet won. The co-operation of all lovers of liberty is still urgently needed and should not be diverted to new spheres of work until every vestige of subjection, every sentiment of artificial sex differentiation, has vanished into the mists of the past.

Signed by:

MARGERY I. CORBETT ASHBY,
President.

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT,
Hon. President.

and members of the Board.

Our International Responsibilities.

The first Meeting this year of St. Joan's S.P.A. was one of peculiar interest, and was very well attended. Lady Dupplin, in the Chair, drew a comparison between the position of women twenty-five years ago, and at the present day; she spoke of the League of Nations and the opportunity offered to women in connection with it.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the International Women's Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, outlined in a brilliant address the work done by the Alliance, and spoke of the Berlin Congress to be held next June. The Alliance was founded twenty-five years ago during a congress of the International Council of Women, by a group of women who considered it desirable to form an international society to work for women suffrage. Since then the work of the Alliance has grown enormously, and Mrs. Ashby enumerated the several committees set up to carry on various aspects of the work. Some of them she considered had done all they could do for the present, and might conveniently be dissolved. The need of the moment was to simplify the work. Mrs. Ashby dwelt on the responsibilities which one country owed another, perhaps more backward than itself, though every country has its own contribution to make. Sometimes the women of a so-called backward country, have achieved a position higher in some ways than the women of a country advanced in theory, but backward in practice.

At the Congress in Berlin, said Mrs. Ashby, the whole programme of work for the next three years would be laid down. Since the foundation of the League of Nations these international congresses were vastly more important than previously. Resolutions sent to the League were of great importance and re-acted on individual governments. Mrs. Ashby appealed for help to carry on the work of the Alliance and to finance the Congress, and appealed for subscribers to *Jus Suffragii*—the International Suffrage News—the organ of the Alliance.

Miss Douglas Irvine and Miss Mason proposed and seconded a vote of thanks to Lady Dupplin and Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

Notes and Comments.

To those among us who suffered persecution some years ago for preaching the justice of woman suffrage, the words of the Archbishop of Liverpool at the Birmingham Catholic Reunion, come as sweet music. His Grace made a special appeal to Catholic women to use the vote and to make sure that their men folk do the same. He specially recommended to women the cause of Catholic schools.

We do not allude to past battles in any spirit of unkindness. Catholic suffragists did not expect to escape the fate of other pioneers. A pioneer's job is to clear the ways, and when one road is safe, to break new ground in another direction.

Almost simultaneously with the report of the Archbishop's speech, there reached us a copy of the *Mouvement Féministe*, Geneva, containing a manifesto by the Swiss Catholic Women's League, in reply to a request to the League to sign the Woman Suffrage Petition. The League repudiates woman suffrage in a manifesto which might have been written one hundred years ago. With this exception, in spite of saying it is contrary to scriptural and Christian ideals, they have not dared to say it is forbidden fruit for Catholic women. That lesson they have at least learnt, otherwise all the old foolish arguments are paraded once more, and the League stands aside from their Swiss sisters in ignominious isolation. If, however, the vote is granted, they will urge Catholic women to use their vote with zeal. The Editor of the *Mouvement Féministe* reminds the League of the fable of the monkey who pulled the chestnuts out of the fire, and thanks the League with restrained irony.

A friend sends us an article entitled "The Wife of the Home," from the January number of *Stella Maris*, and asks us what we think of it. Frankly we think it is a pity that a person so ignorant of modern conditions, as is the Editor of *Stella Maris*, should attempt to instruct women on the way to run a home, and husband. We find peculiarly repellent the veneer of senti-

mentality with which the writer in question endeavours to disguise his contempt for women. Among the manifold instructions given to the model wife in the article, there is one, however, which presents no difficulty, that is the keeping of moth out of a *linen* cupboard. In case our men readers should miss the point, let us explain that moths do not touch linen, nor yet cotton.

We congratulate our member, Miss E. C. Fortey on her appointment to serve on the Watch Committee at Leicester. This is the first time a woman has been appointed to the Watch Committee of Leicester. It is most important that women should serve on such committees, especially as they appoint the local police. Miss Fortey has already made a splendid fight for women police in the City Council, now she will have more power. Miss Fortey moved in the Council on January 29: "that no woman be debarred from permanent employment under this authority for the sole reason that she is married."

We understand that the Christmas play performed in an English version by "Our Lady's Players" at a matinée at the Chelsea Palace last month is the joint work of Señor and Señora Martinez Sierra. He wrote to an English correspondent in March 1925 that he wished it known that this and all his writings should be ascribed not to himself alone but to "Girolamo and Maria Martinez Sierra," since his wife had been his collaborator throughout.

Miss Gorry represented St. Joan's S.P.A. at the Requiem offered for Father Philip Fletcher at St. Anselm and St. Cecilia's on the anniversary of his death.—R.I.P.

We offer our sincere sympathy to our members, the Misses Cochrane, on the death of their mother, and to Miss Lucking on the death of her father. We ask the prayers of our readers for the repose of their souls.—R.I.P.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

55 BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.1. Tel. Museum 4181

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

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Human Merchandise.

In this volume Mr. Wilson Harris summarizes the Report on the Traffic in Women and Children, published by the League of Nations, being the Report of the Experts commissioned by the League to investigate the problem internationally. Mr. Harris does not intend his book to replace the Report, which should be read by students of the problem, but this volume will undoubtedly reach a wider public. All sensible persons will agree with Mr. Harris that there is nothing to be gained by secrecy. Secrecy has done incalculable harm in the past. The traffic thrives and increases on public ignorance and apathy. There is nothing to attract in the ghastly story of the sale of women and girls for prostitution. One fact stands out clearly from the investigations made by the League Experts, it is that where State Regulation exists, there the Traffic finds a market. The licensed house demands supply, and a whole system of commerce exists to supply it. Josephine Butler realised this fact in the eighties. Another fact stands out clearly, that the souteneurs and Madames who thrive on the immorality of their victims are the real criminals, and the traffic could not exist without them. They are the root of the evil.

There are certain definite "traffic routes" of predominant importance. The line runs from Europe to Latin-America and North Africa, and in particular from France,

Poland, and Rumania to Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay in the one hemisphere and to Egypt in the other." Buenos Ayres is a plague spot.

To procure young girls, false birth-certificates, forged passports and bogus marriages are common in many countries.

All reports show that there is an extensive migration of foreign women to other countries for the purposes of prostitution, ten per cent of the women are below the age of 21. Many of the girls only partially realise what is in store for them, and some are completely ignorant. Engagements for cabarets, cafés, theatrical tours, etc., are an unflinching means of recruiting girls for the traffic.

Latin-America is the market of the world, but in Uruguay efforts are being made to stamp out the traffic, and licensed houses have been closed. Mr. W. Harris gives extracts from the speech of the President of the Republic when introducing a Bill for this purpose. "These houses of prostitution," he said, "need procurers, since vice demands a perpetual supply of victims, and the existence of this class of person is justified while the law tolerates these establishments and even regularises them, since they operate under official supervision. The keeper of a brothel or similar establishment, notwithstanding the regrettable tolerance with which he is viewed by the public authorities, is

just as much a procurer as the trafficker who sells him the pitiable merchandise he has brought from foreign lands, or as the local souteneur who hands over the women he has violated or seduced to be exploited for their common benefit. . . . Regulation turns the keeper of a brothel into little less than an official. It allows him to benefit by the appearance of a moral guarantee and an equally illusory hygienic guarantee at the cost of the liberty of the prostitutes in order to exploit the needs, the vice and the moral perversion of men by letting out women." (p. 211).

May these words reverberate throughout Latin-America, and other countries which still tolerate State Regulation of Vice. Certain Governments are very sensitive on this point, they smart under criticism from other nations. Some, like France, claim that it is a domestic question, but since the League has made an international enquiry, with the result that there is overwhelming evidence that licensed houses are the centre of the traffic, the question can no longer be a domestic one. This is realised at Geneva, and the Eighth Assembly, 1927, unanimously adopted a resolution by which it "requests the Traffic in Women and Children Committee to examine as soon as possible the question of the desirability of recommending to all Governments the abolition of the system of licensed house."

The Body of Experts advocated the raising of the age of consent and the age of marriage. As to the latter, Great Britain, as we have frequently stated in these columns, is on the black list. The marriage age for boys is 14, for girls 12. We believe that the publicity given to this by women's societies, including St. Joan's S.P.A., will bear fruit.

We note that Mr. W. Harris approves of what is known as the Sokal proposal—that pending the abolition of state regulation no foreign woman should be employed or carry on her profession as a prostitute in any licensed house. The proposal received no support from women's societies in this country, it being considered a tinkering policy, it was felt that the opponents of State Regulation should not amend the system, but only demand its abolition. We

trust that "Human Merchandise" will have a wide circulation.

L. DE ALBERTI.

Human Merchandise. By H. Wilson Harris.
 Messrs. Ernest Benn Ltd. 6s. net.

The Report on Medical Education of Women.

The report of the Committee on the Medical Education of Women, appointed by the London University, has now been published. The question is particularly urgent owing to the recent exclusion of women students from certain London hospitals. As was expected the Committee can find no valid argument against co-education. "We are of opinion that no valid objection can be maintained against the system of co-education for men and women medical students; and that is the only system by which the general policy of the University can be effectively carried out. In our opinion adequate facilities for the medical education of women could not be provided in any hospital or medical school unless resident medical and surgical appointments were open to men and women on equal terms." As was also expected the Report contradicted the argument sometimes put forward that the training of women is wasted by their subsequent marriage.

So far so good. The opinion of the committee is no doubt useful, but there the matter seems practically to end. If the University has no power—or does not intend to use power—to enforce its opinion, it is questionable, as *Time and Tide* suggests, whether it was after all worth while to set up a committee.

White Press Luncheon.

The White Press Luncheon given by the Six Point Group at the Criterion on the 24th January, was a very enjoyable function. Among the guests of honour was the Editor of the *Catholic Citizen*, and the editors of the other feminist papers. Lady Rhondda presided. The Editor of the *Nation* responded for the Press.

International Notes.

The *Little Flower Magazine* (Oklahoma), is to be congratulated on its courageous and progressive ideal of the Modern Home. It is only fair, it says, that now that so many wives are in business, the husbands should take their share in the responsibility of the home. More business training for women—more home training for men, while the bringing up and care of the children should devolve on both equally. "Thus family standards will be raised, and man and woman will be real partners in a more complete and finer sense than before."

Very different was the attitude of the Congress of Christian Workers, held in Munich, in September 1928, and which showed itself desirous of the absolute suppression of wage-earning work by married women, and the *Correspondance Internationale* (Paris), in reporting this resolution criticised it only on grounds of immediate expediency!

We are glad to receive *Il Piccolo*, a paper published in Jerusalem, in Arabic, Hebrew, French, Italian and English by the Jerusalem branch of that rapidly growing body, the Opera Cardinal Ferrari. We are particularly interested to read of the Women's Club, founded by the "Opera" as an educational and social centre for young women of all races, nations, and creeds; classes are given not only in housewifery and the care of children, but in hygiene, pedagogy, languages, music, arts and crafts and business training. Our best wishes for the success of the "Opera."

L'Egyptienne (Cairo), has an interesting article on the extraordinary progress of education among girls of all classes in Egypt. Three years ago the State opened a secondary school for girls identical to those for boys; this year eight pupils not only passed matriculation examinations, but six of them have entered the Faculty of Medicine, the first women students to do so, in the year that the Faculty itself is celebrating its centenary.

Egyptian feminists have also won another victory—their protests against the easy evasion of the law of 1923, which raised the age of marriage to 16 for girls and 18 for boys, have borne fruit; a Cabinet circular makes the presentation of formal proof of age obligatory in the drawing up of the marriage contract. When will England follow suit?

This month's number of *Frauenland* (Germany) reports in full the speech made in the Reichstag by Frau Helene Weber, the able Catholic Member of Parliament, on behalf of the unmarried mother, with that of Frau Agnes Neuhans on the rights of the illegitimate children.

The Alliance can offer proud congratulations to Nancy Stewart Parnell on her Irish tour of Belfast and Dublin. She spoke at eleven meetings in nine days on such subjects as the right use of the vote, equality of opportunity, peace, and Charles Dickens, (she is the first woman President of the Liverpool Dickens Fellowship). Our member Dr. Delia Moclair, took the chair for her big meeting in the Dublin Mansion House, and another of our members, Miss B. Stafford, held a most successful reception in her honour.

From the Irish press we gather that Miss Parnell caused great enthusiasm, both among the old and the new voters.

B. B. C.

A Statue to Mrs. Pankhurst

The Prime Minister has consented to unveil a statue to Mrs. Pankhurst at Westminster. It is a fitting tribute to a great woman, and we hope it will be erected in the vicinity of the House of Commons, which witnessed so many of the demonstrations led by her.

Emmeline Pankhurst was ready to lay down her life for the cause of justice, and she takes rank among the great heroines of the world.

As we go to press we hear of the election of Mrs. Dalton for Bishop Auckland. We offer congratulations to the new M.P.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

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

Our Annual Meeting, held on February 1, was remarkable for the record attendance of members—a happy augury, we hope, for the future. The accession of sixteen new members during the year and the comfortable balance of £10 11s. 4d. to our credit in the bank were the chief features of the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports respectively, which were unanimously adopted. The elections resulted in the return of all the members of the old committee. When the business was over we had, as has now become usual at our annuals, the pleasure of hearing Miss Barry on the work accomplished by the women's organizations in general, and by St. Joan's in particular, during the past year. Refreshments and some delightful songs sung by Miss Hudson and Miss McCordle and Mrs. Murphy then followed, and the meeting concluded with votes of thanks to Miss Barry, who had journeyed especially from London to be among us, and to those who had contributed to the social part of the evening.

Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 16th, at 3 p.m., in St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Sq.

After the business meeting is over Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A., will speak on "What we can do at the General Election."

The business meeting is open to members of the Alliance only, but at 5 p.m. the public will be admitted. Tea may be had for 9d.

We trust that all members within reach of London will be present.

Women in Business.

The next open meeting of St. Joan's S.P.A. will be held on Monday, February 18, at 6 p.m., at St. Patrick's Club, Soho Square, when Councillor Helen Fraser (Managing Director of British Booklet Matches Ltd.) will speak on "Women in Business." Miss Eleanor Fitzgerald will take the chair. We hope to see a large

number of our members and friends at this important meeting.

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TREASURER'S NOTE.

We have again to thank Mrs. Kerr very heartily for another £10, which she has handed over as the result of her New Year's Eve Dance; also the following whose help on that occasion contributed to the success of the evening: Miss Kerr, Mr. Norman Kerr, Mrs. Chandler, Miss Doris Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Ellingworth, Miss Fedden, and Miss Stammers.

Those members who have not yet sent their subscriptions are reminded that we should be very glad to receive them before the Annual Meeting on March 16.

G. JEFFERY.

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**ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND
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OBJECT.

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

MEMBERSHIP.

All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of 1s. Men are invited to join as Associates, on the same conditions, with the exception that they may not elect or be elected to the Executive.

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Speaker:—COUNCILLOR HELEN FRASER, Managing Director of British Booklet Matches (1928) Ltd.

Chairman:—MISS ELEANOR FITZGERALD.

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Tea may be had before the Meeting.

TOWARDS CITIZENSHIP.

A HANDBOOK OF WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION.

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

for

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

With forewords by MILLICENT GARRETT
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