

# 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. XXXVII. No. 12.

15th DECEMBER, 1950.

Price Fourpence.

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.

## A Woman Surgeon

By Eleanor FitzGerald

Only members of the medical profession will fully appreciate this book\*, but to the general reader it is an absorbing life story of a distinguished surgeon. A life full of hard work, courage and an unswerving quest after more knowledge, crowned by success.

Miss Martindale's career was chosen for her by her mother, and that quite exceptional mother chose well. The relationship between these two was something far surpassing the ordinary bond between parent and child, for behind this bond there was a deep unwavering friendship.

Mrs. Martindale held strong views on the position of women and was determined that her two daughters should have the possibility of developing their powers that had been denied to herself.

In December, 1899, Miss Martindale passed her M.B. and her B.S. (Lond.). Her first engagement was as assistant to a woman doctor in Hull. There she had to take all the night work and dispense the medicines, for a salary of one pound a week, plus half a crown for laundry! At that time the B.M.A. had not issued its ultimatum that no qualified doctor should accept less than £600 a year as assistant. Dr. Garrett Anderson had made a stand years before for "equal pay."

At Hull, Miss Martindale worked day and night for, she said, Hull babies had an unfortunate taste for arriving in the small hours. She had taken her midwifery course at the famous Rotunda in Dublin, where she brought seventy-five babies into the world, instead of the twelve required for her examination. The months in Dublin working amongst the poorest of the poor, she considered some of the happiest of her medical course.

After five weeks at Hull, Miss Martindale returned to London, and the following summer, with her mother and sister, she started on a most unconventional tour of the world. They rarely stayed in hotels, preferring pensions or apartments, if they did not visit friends, so got to know the

people of the various places where they stopped. Vienna was the Mecca of obstetrics in those days, so naturally when there the young doctor took several courses at the celebrated Schaute Klinik.

They took their leisurely way through Italy arriving in Rome during the Holy Year of 1900. Rome, of course, was full of pilgrims, for the most part very dirty, she noted. Many years later she visited Rome again in the company of the Catholic friend, who lived with her for five and thirty years. They had an audience with His Holiness Pope Pius XI.

In India they spent six weeks of intensive observation, then on to Australia and New Zealand. From Auckland via Samoa and Honolulu to San Francisco. In Chicago they visited Miss Jane Addams in Hull House, but before that in Salt Lake City, they met the editor of "The Woman Exponent," who was one of the six wives. She introduced them to one of Brigham Young's fifty-two children, who discussed polygamy with Miss Martindale. One of the advantages of Mormonism was, she said, that it gave a wife so much more time for herself!

During the suffrage campaign Miss Martindale was a member of the committee of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. The committee felt that a pamphlet should be issued showing that the suffrage movement was really a moral one. The committee decided that Dr. Martindale should write a pamphlet. She hesitated at first, for the practice she had started at Brighton was growing and she was very busy, but urged by her mother she consented.

The result of much research was a small book with the title "Under the Surface." Miss Martindale published it herself, and it went into more than one edition. Copies were sent to many members of Parliament and to various philanthropic societies, and it was circulated by the headquarters of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. It dealt widely with the question of prostitution and resultant venereal disease, a grave statement of facts by

\*A Woman Surgeon. By Louisa Martindale, C.B.E., J.P., M.D., B.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.O.G. (Gollancz, 18s.)

a highly qualified member of the medical profession. In the final chapter the author suggests:

"Prostitution is only possible in a class dependent on another. Among free women, who have full liberty, who are able to earn a living wage, and who therefore are independent of all other means of support, it would not exist for a moment."

The author also suggested that there should be equal pay for equal work, and pointed out the futility of trying to check venereal disease by inspection of one sex, while leaving the other free to spread it without restraint.

Three years later the then Marquis of Tullibardine, rabid anti-suffragist, started a game of question and answer in the House of Commons on the subject of "Under the Surface." He asked the Home Secretary if his attention had been drawn to an "obscene pamphlet" sold by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and if he would take steps to prohibit its sale or prosecute the Society. The Home Secretary replied that he had not been acquainted with the publication in question until his attention had been called to it. The game between the two was kept up in the House for nearly a fortnight, and finally the reply was given that: "The Secretary of State is advised that the institution of proceedings would not be warranted in the case of this book." Pressed further he would only say that he was advised that a prosecution on these lines would not be successful, and behind that safe statement he took his stand. All that happened in 1912. To-day it is almost incredible that opponents of the enfranchisement of women could have stooped so low.

In the chapter headed "The Birth of a Hospital," Miss Martindale gives an account of what she must consider the greatest achievement of her career. When she started her practice in Brighton there was a small dispensary for women and children run by women doctors. She gave her help to this, and soon larger premises had to be found and again still another house had to be added to these. Many patients needed "in" treatment, and when Miss Martindale found that the Royal Sussex Hospital, to which they had to go, refused to have a woman honorary doctor on its staff, she determined to build. Mrs. Martindale wrote hundreds of letters to collect funds. In the meantime the existing premises continued to expand, so that more patients and nurses could be taken in. People came long journeys from all parts of Sussex to be treated by women doctors; in one year as many as 8,000 patients were seen.

At last, after all the struggles and the interruption of a great war, the New Sussex Hospital, one of the most up-to-date and best equipped of Brighton hospitals was opened, free of debt, in 1921.

Miss Martindale was one of the first doctors in England to install a modern X-ray apparatus in her house and carry out treatment. She was one of the surgeons of the Marie Curie Hospital, and was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. She received the honour of a Commander of the British Empire.

Could the mother, who had so much to say in shaping the life of Louisa Martindale, speak to her daughter now as she takes her ease in the little regency house with the wrought iron gate, in St. John's Wood, she would surely exclaim, "Well done."

#### OBITUARY

With sorrow we record the death of Anne Anderson on November 11th. R.I.P. In the early days of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society in Liverpool, Miss Rodgers, as she then was, took a prominent part in the Votes for Women Campaign. In 1913, when Miss Barry left Liverpool to take up the work in London, Miss Rodgers became Hon. Secretary of the Branch. At that time was teaching in a "special school" in Liverpool. After the first World War, Mrs. Anderson's work was devoted wholly to the welfare of those handicapped in mind, particularly the defective child. She worked with the Association for the Care of the Mentally Defective (later the Central Association for Mental Welfare), and was one of the pioneers in forming Occupation Centres and in training their personnel.

We offer our deep sympathy to Mr. Anderson, whose support of the C.W.S.S. in the early days we remember with gratitude.

Mr. Anderson writes: "I shall always remember the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society in Liverpool, for it was there that Mrs. Anderson and I came together, and the happiness and joyful companionship of the next forty years was the outcome."

Mrs. Margrieta Beer, a distinguished member of the Alliance died early in November. Mrs. Beer was a member of the Alliance for over thirty years, and served on the executive committee in 1922 and 1923. She gave generous support to the Alliance, being particularly interested in the international work of the Society.

Mrs. Beer was a brilliant scholar, who valued scholarship for itself; at the same time she devoted many of her gifts to the succouring of European refugees. She did valuable work on the Trade Boards, and contributed an article on this subject to *The Catholic Citizen*. R.I.P.

We know that our members will pray for her and for Mrs. Anderson.

## Notes and Comments

We send our best wishes to Dame Vera Laughton Mathews who is at present in hospital for an operation. We know our members will not forget her in their prayers.

The Alliance feels sad at having to say farewell to Miss Margaret Flynn, who sails for Australia on December 19th. She goes with the prayers and best wishes of all our members for a safe and pleasant voyage home. It has been a great joy to have had her with us in London for the last twelve months. She took part in the Conferences of St. Joan's International Alliance held in Rome and in Aachen, and represented the Alliance in Geneva during the International Labour Conference discussions on Equal Pay.

We shall miss her cheery visits to the offices where she was ever ready to lend a helping hand. Melbourne, we know, is as happy to welcome her as we are sorry to lose her here.

On November 17th, a meeting of *l'Alliance Jeanne d'Arc* was held in Paris at the home of Madame Pesson Depret, Madame Russo presiding. Madame Pesson Depret gave an account of St. Joan's International Council Meeting, and Miss Barry spoke of the resolutions passed by the Council. She congratulated France on the new Jacquinot Decree, referred to on page 85. Members were privileged to have with them Soeur Marie André du Sacré Coeur, who explained the importance of the Decree. The meeting expressed its appreciation of the wonderful work done by her on behalf of African women.

Madame Marthe Gouffé appealed successfully for subscriptions and enrolled new members. Among old friends present were Mademoiselle Lenoël, founder of *l'Alliance*, Madame Malaterre Sellier, and Madame Gemahling.

Before the close of the meeting, Mademoiselle Dolcerocca, Police Assistant, spoke of her work in helping women and children in moral danger.

We congratulate our colleague of suffrage days, Alderman Mrs. Kathleen Chambers, on the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws conferred on her by Leeds University. Mrs. Chambers has a long record of public service. For thirty-one years she has served on the Bradford City Council, and was elected its Lord Mayor in 1945. Among the many causes to which she has devoted herself are education and the care of the blind. She was first Governor's chairman of the pioneer Margaret Macmillan Training College, and she is still a member of the executive council of the National Institute for the Blind.

We send our congratulations to Miss Margaret O'Connor on her marriage to Mr. Dennis Shuldham, and wish them many years of happiness.

Both her mother and her sister, Monica, were early members of the Alliance, and at one time served on the executive committee. Margaret, herself, began her work for St. Joan's as a tiny child, carrying round the famous twopenny dips at the Christmas sales—a tradition continued by her nephews and nieces to-day. At the recent International Conferences of the Alliance held in Paris and in Rome, her willing and expert help was invaluable.

A large and representative gathering assembled on November 14th for the unveiling of the Foundation Plaque of the new Cecil Club Rooms for elderly ladies in Wedlake Street, by Mrs. Cecil Chesterton—a Home for seventy "gran-nies," where they will be happy and contented and, above all, *secure*. There should be comfort and joy in abundance if Mrs. Chesterton's plans can be incorporated in the architect's designs.

Amongst supporters present were the Mayor of Kensington, the Very Rev. Canon T. J. Fitzgerald and Lord Pethick Lawrence. Mrs. Chesterton besought those present to join in a penny drive if they could not emulate a kindred body which had given £10,000. She praised the London County Council for its generous support.

The Alliance was represented by Miss Margaret Flynn.

The Alliance was also represented at the First Gala Preview of "Zipp Goes A Million," at the Palace Theatre, organised by Miss Adeline Bourne in aid of the residential clubs for elderly gentlewomen, which are being set up by the Women's Adjustment Board.

Thanks are due to the helpers who made *The Catholic Citizen* Fair, on November 24th, so great a success. Stallholders and those who brought or sent gifts for sale or for refreshments and those who bought and helped in other ways, all contributed to the good result. Individual mention would be invidious when each was so willing and indefatigable but no one will cavil at an expression of special gratitude to Miss Noreen Carr who organised a service of most delectable luncheons and teas so efficiently.

To date, the Fair has made £123. We hope to make this up to £150 before Christmas. Those who were unable to come to the Fair may still buy their Christmas presents and Christmas Cards at the office.

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "The Catholic Citizen"

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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"The Catholic Citizen."

## Step by Step to Freedom

The French Decree of September 14th, 1951, which we publish in its corrected form in this issue of *The Catholic Citizen* (see page 85), refers to the woman still living under tribal custom. It brings such a woman a further stage towards, but does not give her complete, freedom of choice in marriage. Nor, of course, does it establish the ideal of Christian marriage, though it is a definite approach to it.

The Mandel Decree of 1939 forbade the marriage of girls under the age of fourteen (and boys under the age of sixteen); it allowed the girl over the age of fourteen to refuse the man chosen for her by her clan or guardian; it allowed the widow to leave the house of her deceased husband instead of being inherited by his next-of-kin; and it made the full and free consent of both spouses a condition for the validity of marriage. It did not mention the dowry.

The new Decree is evidence of the considerable advance that has come about in public opinion during the last twelve years. It gives the girl under twenty-one a further chance of freedom of choice. She may not only refuse a marriage arranged for her, but, if her parents or guardian make "excessive demands" on the man of her choice with the object of impeding her marriage, he may appeal to the tribunal presided over by the administrator, and the tribunal is obliged to grant him written permission to have the marriage performed without the consent of the parents, or guardian, or clan, and without paying a dowry. The dowry is regarded as "excessive" if it exceeds the amount fixed for the Region by the Chief of the Territory. So much for the girl under twenty-one, who has the determination to refuse the marriage arranged for her and to marry the man she chooses.

The woman of over twenty-one, the widow, or the woman whose marriage has been dissolved, may marry freely whether or not dowry has been paid, or services rendered on her behalf.

A further advance has been legalised by the Decree. In Article 5, it is laid down that a man may make a declaration of monogamy in a customary marriage, and the wife has redress if he breaks his word. She may obtain a divorce if he takes a second wife, or a substantial sum of money if he takes a concubine.

The explanatory columns in *Afrique Nouvelle* (Dakar), from which this summary is taken, is headed *La femme Africaine a (presque) fini d'être une "chèvre"*. Nearly, but not quite, for the vast majority of girls in African society are married before they are twenty-one, and only the few will be able to take advantage of the opportunity given them to protest against the man chosen for them or the "excessive demands" of the guardian.

It is a very great advance to have a legal majority for women which recognises that they are persons in their own right, but there is still need for a "matrimonial majority," considering the strength of the pressure of the clan on the girls of marriageable age but not legally free.

St. Joan's Alliance has always opposed the fixing of the dowry by law, holding that such action would write the custom into legislation and make abolition harder. Neither, of course, can Catholics accept divorce from a valid marriage, Christian or not, but "dissolution" in the text means not only death but the escape of a secondary wife from a polygamous union or of a woman from a marriage into which she has been sold as a child, or forced.

St. Joan's Alliance welcomes this Decree, which, by establishing an age of majority for women and abolishing the dowry for women over twenty-one, and for widows, paves the way for the final stage in the establishment of complete freedom for all women to marry without money, animals, or another woman being given in exchange.

P. C. CHALLONER

## THE JACQUINOT DECREE

In last month's issue we published the new French Decree relating to customary marriage in certain parts of Africa under French administration. Below we print it once again, as there were some inaccuracies in the first translation we received.

*Decree No. 51-1100 of the 14th September 1951 relative to certain forms of marriage between persons who retain their status under tribal custom in French West Africa, in French Equatorial Africa and in Togoland and the Cameroons.*

Article 1: In French West Africa, in French Equatorial Africa and in the Cameroons and Togoland, citizens who retain their status under tribal custom may contract a marriage in accordance with their own customs, provided that the provisions of the Decree of the 15th June, 1939, and of this Decree are observed.

Article 2: Even in countries where dowry is a customary institution, the young woman who has attained the age of 21 years and the wife whose preceding marriage has been legally dissolved, can marry freely without anyone being able to demand material advantage either at time of the betrothal or during the marriage.

Article 3: In the same countries, the lack of the consent of the parents, if it is provoked by excessive demands by them, cannot be a hindrance to the marriage of their daughter who is under 21 years of age.

The claim is excessive whenever the rate of the dowry exceeds the scale determined according to the region by the chief of the territory.

Article 4: The courts of first instance are competent to judge disputes arising from the application of Article 3. They are authorised each time that they find that there has been an excessive demand by the parents, to give judgment free of charge for the plaintiff.

Article 5: Every male citizen who retains his status under tribal custom can at the time of his marriage have registered by a civil officer on the marriage certificate his declaration that he will not take another wife as long as the marriage which he is contracting is not legally dissolved.

This declaration constitutes the special act mentioned in Article 339, paragraph 2, of the Penal Code applicable in French West Africa, in French Equatorial Africa, in the Cameroons and in Togoland.

Article 6: The Minister of France Overseas is responsible for the execution of this Decree which will be published in the official Gazette of the French Republic as also in the official bulletins of the territories interested and inserted in the Official Bulletin of the Ministry of France Overseas.

## REVIEW

**Teresa of Avila.** By Kate O'Brien. Personal Portraits Series. (Max Parrish, 7s. 6d.)

Kate O'Brien has written "notes for a portrait" about one who was a genius among women and among saints. It is a kind of appetiser which should whet our desire for acquaintance with St. Teresa's Autobiography and the mystical works. Whatever walk of life Teresa had chosen she would have been remarkable because of her clear mind and her witty, ready tongue. Her

powers of organisation and her talent for expressing herself in writing were developed when she undertook the reform of Carmel. It is her warm and lovable humanity which attracts the ordinary person and which has attracted Kate O'Brien, for this was co-existent with her sanctity and with her close walk with God—Whom she regarded as her Personal Friend. With a body that was always ailing, and at an age when most people would not even consider starting a new career, Teresa launched her campaign for the reform of Carmel and founded house after house to practise the reformed rule, ending with a men's foundation. She travelled, she argued, she prayed, she scribbled, she scrubbed and she sang; she made enemies in high places and many friends—but her desire being merely to do the will of "His Majesty" she went on fighting till she fell in battle. And so great was the strength of her spirit that what was still wanting was afterwards achieved by others.

This book contains interesting illustrations, and is well produced. It will be valued by lovers of St. Teresa. C.S.

## DON LUIGI STURZO

Great celebrations in Rome marked the eightieth birthday of Don Luigi Sturzo on November 26th. Pontifical High Mass, attended by his friends and disciples, was offered at the Chiesa Nuova. All Italian radio stations broadcast a message from Don Sturzo.

In the municipal hall on the Capitol, President Einaudi and members of the Italian Political Parties held a celebration, when Signor de Gasperi paid tribute to the work of this great priest-statesman.

St. Joan's Alliance has a very special affection and admiration for Don Sturzo, whom it has been proud to count as a member since he came to England as an exile from Mussolini's Government. When he founded the *Partito Popolare* in 1919, woman suffrage was one of the planks of the Party programme, and it was Don Sturzo's advocacy of women's emancipation that first brought the Alliance into contact with him. He wrote a notable article for *The Catholic Citizen* in 1930, on the Subjection of Women. The Alliance has always been proud of his friendship and support, tokens of which were received during the International Conference held in Rome last year.

Those now in office in Italy have recognised their indebtedness to their leader. President Einaudi and the Premier Signor de Gasperi head a committee which plans to set up a Don Sturzo Institute and Library and a publication to carry out social studies—under the direction of Don Sturzo himself.

## The Month in Parliament

The fortieth Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the tenth in which women have sat, opened on October 31st with seventeen women Members, the lowest number since 1935. Satisfaction at Miss Horsbrugh's appointment as Minister of Education is tempered with regret that she is not to be in the Cabinet, but she will attend meetings at which education is discussed. Miss Patricia Hornsby-Smith is the third woman to be given the office of Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, inheriting a position previously held by Miss Horsbrugh herself, and by Miss Susan Lawrence.

Almost immediately on taking office, Miss Horsbrugh left by air to serve as one of the British delegates to the General Assembly of the United Nations. On November 19th, the Prime Minister gave the names of the British delegates to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, among whom is included Lady Tweedsmuir. Mrs. Hill has been made hon. secretary of the Conservative Health and Social Security Parliamentary Committee, and she and Miss Elaine Burton are among the seventeen Members composing the Select Committee on House of Commons Catering.

With 118 of the newly-returned Members pledged to give active support to equal pay, the subject was brought forward without loss of time. A group of Labour Members has tabled a motion calling on the Government to announce a date by which a beginning will be made in the application of the principle in the Civil Service, and on November 13th, the Chancellor of the Exchequer was called upon to answer three Questions on the same topic. While declaring that he had never underestimated the importance of the subject, Mr. Butler merely reiterated the hope that during the life of this Parliament the country's financial position would have improved sufficiently to enable an advance in that direction to be made. On the same day, lobbying was carried out by teachers. Criticism of the rough handling of one of their number by a policeman led to a surprise ten days later, when women civil servants, going on the same mission, found two policewomen on duty with the men in the Central Lobby. This is an historic innovation, for it was the first time women police had been on duty within the precincts.

The Pope's widely misrepresented words on mother and child had some repercussions. On November 15th, Mr. Sorensen asked the Minister of Health whether, in view of "existing disquiet" he would take steps to enable pregnant mothers to change their doctors for religious reasons, and was told, in reply, that there was

nothing in the existing arrangements to prevent them from doing so. Mr. Reeves enquired on the 22nd what directions had been issued to doctors and midwives employed in the National Health Service when they were required to make a decision as to whether to save the life of the unborn child or the mother in cases of complications in confinement, to which Mr. Crookshank replied, briefly: "None."

On the introduction of the Home Guard Bill, the first Clause was found to read: "There shall be established a force to be called the Home Guard consisting of such male persons as may voluntarily undertake to serve therein. . . ." This precluded the recruitment of women, who had won the right to serve as auxiliaries during the war, and had proved their usefulness. At the Committee stage, however, on November 27th, Mr. Shinwell moved an amendment, the effect of which would be to permit women to join. This was seconded by Sir Thomas Moore, who remarked that he supposed it was the first, and probably the last, time he would second an amendment proposed by Mr. Shinwell. Mr. Head, the Secretary for War, accepted the amendment, but made it clear that it was not intended to register women in the initial stages, though at a later stage it might be found useful to include some women in the force. In any case, it was not contemplated that women so recruited should bear arms.

Speaking on November 13th, Mr. Macmillan, Minister of Housing and Local Government, said the Conservative target of 300,000 houses a year still stood, but that, owing to shortages of material, they would not reach it in 1951, nor, he feared, in 1952. On the 27th, he announced the Government's decision to increase from one-fifth to one-half the proportion of each local authority's housing allocation which might be built by private enterprise, and to permit the sale, under safeguards, of municipally-built houses.

Warm tributes were paid, on November 15th, by the Prime Minister and the leaders of the other Parties to the late Speaker, Colonel Douglas Clifton Brown, who retired at the end of the last Session. Colonel Clifton Brown was a faithful friend to the women's cause, and, as will be remembered, in 1935, raised the question of equal pay on the Adjournment, on which occasion an important Debate took place.

VERA DOUIE

**Books Received:** *If I Be Lifted Up*. A Passion Play. By the Very Reverend Canon J. I. Lane. (Burns Oates.)

## INTERNATIONAL NOTES

**Basutoland.** On November 8th, the President of St. Joan's International Alliance and the British Chairman had the privilege of an interview with the Paramount Chieftainess of Basutoland during her visit to London. The Chieftainess is the widow of the deceased Chief, and rules the Protectorate. This she explained was the custom among the Basuto—for "where two have ruled together it is only right that whichever partner survives should carry on the authority of Chief." The Chieftainess, who is a Catholic, showed a keen understanding of the aims of the Alliance, and said—through her interpreter—that women are free to marry as they wish in the Protectorate, that child marriage, which existed of old, has been abolished. She expressed her willingness to receive *The Catholic Citizen*, but laughingly pointed out that her interpreter and adviser—a man—might not read the "important bits" to her.

Few who saw the film of the Royal visit to South Africa will forget the striking and beautiful shots of the Basuto Chiefs riding their small Basuto ponies through the night from the hills down to meet their Sovereign Protector—nor those of the King receiving their homage in the person of their Paramount Chieftainess. From a press report of 1947 we learn that she had the courage in 1946 to make an attempt to deal with the "medicine murders," which still exist in parts of South Africa. An estimate of the courage needed to deal with this type of witchcraft may be made from the fact that her request to the Chiefs asking for advice and help in a campaign against it received not a single reply.

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**Ireland.** Professor Frances Moran, Regius Professor of Law at Trinity College, Dublin, spoke last month at Queen's University, Belfast, at a public meeting promoted by the Standing Committee of Women's Organisations in Northern Ireland, to inaugurate a campaign for Equal Pay for Equal Work. She said that the biggest task was the conversion of public opinion to the belief that equal pay was a valid claim based on social justice, and she advocated education of public opinion "to cure the extraordinary feeling that there is something superior about a man. . . . This idea of superiority is fostered in the home, and in this respect many Irish mothers are really a menace, spoiling their boys and paying very little attention to their girls."

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**Japan.** A statement was presented early this year to Mr. John Foster Dulles, signed by a large number of representative Japanese women, many of them leaders of public-welfare organisations, and nineteen of them Members of Parliament.

The statement repudiated re-armament, and urged the United States and Japan to adhere to the disarmament clause of the post-war Constitution. Four hundred women in eight States of the Far West signed a letter expressing solidarity with the Japanese women's statement.—(*World Interpreter*.)

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**South Australia.** St. Joan's Alliance is taking up the subject of women on juries. The Government thinks that the inclusion of women on juries is not to be recommended, because it would bring women into contact with many unsavoury matters!

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**United Nations.** In his yearly report to the General Assembly on the franchise of women, Mr. Trygve Lie gives a summary of the political rights accorded to women throughout the world. Since his last report, El Salvador and Haiti have received new Constitutions, which include clauses on the political rights of women.

There are now fifty-six countries where women vote on an equality with men. Guatemala, Portugal and Syria, require additional qualifications. In Guatemala, women must be literate in order to vote, voting is compulsory and secret for literate men, optional and secret for women who have the required qualifications, and optional and public for illiterate men. In Portugal, women are subject to higher educational requirements, or, when fulfilling the same tax qualifications as men, they must be heads of families in order to have the right to vote. Syrian women must have an elementary school certificate, a condition not required of men.

In Bolivia, Greece, Haiti, Mexico, Monaco and Peru, women may vote in local elections only.

According to the report, women have no political right in Afghanistan, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Honduras, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, and Yemen. Men also have no electoral rights in Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen.

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Miss Barry, hon. secretary of St. Joan's International Alliance, Madame M. J. Russo, president of the French Section and Miss Inez Sexton, of the Victoria, Australia, Section, attended sessions of the General Assembly as accredited observers.

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At the recent Conference in Paris of International and Regional National Non-Governmental Organisations called by the Department of Public Information, Mademoiselle Lenoël represented St. Joan's International Alliance, and Madame Pesson Depret, l'Alliance Jeanne d'Arc.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Leonora de Albeŕti in "The Catholic Citizen,"  
December 15th, 1926.

Lord Dawson stated that, in his opinion, it is very doubtful whether there is a case from the medical point of view for excluding women from the painting trade. He pointed out that lead poisoning in the husband produces abortion as well as lead poisoning in the wife. He declared that if the regulations under Clause 1 (Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning Bill)) are adequate and dust is prevented, and that if the regulations are good, and he believes they are, then both men and women will be protected, and if not, miscarriages will not be prevented by excluding women, for the father will transmit the poison. The chief aim, then, should be to make the industry safe for all workers.

The fact that feminists, in claiming equality for men and women in industry, are anxious for better conditions for all workers, was again emphasised in the resolution dealing with the Factories Bill, moved by Mrs. Abbott and seconded by Miss Cicely Hamilton. Right through Clause 2 of this Bill women are coupled with young persons and prohibited from doing a variety of things. It is surely clear that while special restrictions exist, it is impossible for women to claim equality of status and pay, and while woman is considered a child, needing protection—other than the protection all workers should have—she is not likely to be given a fair field and equal opportunities, but must necessarily remain something of an intruder in the factory or workshop, and at times a blackleg.—*Protection for all Workers or Special Legislation for Women.*

## BULLEN'S TRAVEL SERVICE

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