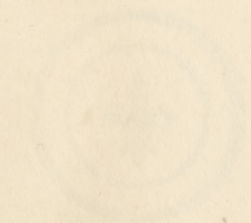


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THE
CATHOLIC CITIZEN

VOLUME XIII, 1927.



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

THE
CATHOLIC CITIZEN



INDEX.

VOLUME XIII, 1927.

	PAGE		PAGE
The Age of Marriage. By H. Douglas Irvine	64	On the Same Terms as Men. By Marguerite Fedden	17
Alberti, Leonora de		Evolution of Women. By L. de Alberti	12
A Just Demand	4	Fawcett, Dame Millicent, Fête	47
The Evolution of Woman	12	Fedden, Marguerite.	
Traffic in Women and Children	36	On the Same Terms as Men	17
Inequality in the League of Nations	46	The Good Shepherd Convent, Malta	59
The Josephine Butler Centenary	54	Hayden, Professor Mary.	
Catholicism and Feminism	74	Women Jurors in Ireland	57
The Social Catholic Movement in Great Britain	66	Inequality in the League of Nations. By L. de Alberti	46
Dinner to Dom Gilbert Higgins, C.R.L.	82	International Affairs and the Woman Voter	69
The Policy of the Open Door	90	International Congress for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women	53
Alberti, Tessa de.		International Notes. By V.M.C. and H.D.I.	84
Nursing in Haiti	9	5, 13, 31, 40, 48, 56, 68, 75,	
Aldous, Leslie R.		Irvine, M.A., Helen Douglas.	
The League's Eighth Assembly	87	News from Latin Countries	6
Amsterdam Conference	83, 91	St. Joan	38
Annual Meeting of St. Joan's S.P.A.	32	The Age of Marriage	64
Annual Report	20	St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.	
The Bach Cantata Club	61	Annual Meeting	32
The Bankruptcy of a System	55	Annual Report	20
(Dr. Mary) Beadon on India	83	Jumble Sale	77, 93
(The Josephine) Butler Centenary	54	A Just Demand. By L. de Alberti	4
The Catholic Case against Artificial Conception Control. By a Priest	29	The Labour Party and Birth Control	85
The "Catholic Citizen"	34	(Free) Legal Aid for the Poor	58
Catholicism and Feminism	74	The League of National Life	7
Children of Mary's Meeting	77	The Liquor Popular Control Bill. By M. S. Dalton	71
Christmas Sale	88	Liveing, Susan.	
Crosby Hall	55	The Report of the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorder...	1
M. S. Dalton		League of National Life	7
The Liquor Popular Control Bill.	71	Lobbying	47
Dance	85, 91	Liverpool and District Branch	7, 15, 33, 41, 49, 69, 77, 85, 93
A Dangerous Precedent	14	Look to Your Vote...	59
Dinner to Dom Gilbert Higgins, C.R.L.	82	Married Women's Right to Work	39
Dinner at the Rendez-Vous	14		
Equal Political Rights Campaign...	10, 19, 41		
Equal Franchise	13, 25, 30, 36, 57, 65, 67, 72, 73, 83		

	PAGE		PAGE
St. Marylebone Housing Association ...	36	The University Magazine ...	39
Memorial to Prime Minister ...	15	Josephine Butler Centenary ...	54
Mill, John Stuart, Celebration ...	47	The Social Catholic Movement in Great Britain ...	66
National Council of Women ...	65	The Recollections of a Convert ...	84
National Union of Teachers ...	14	Mrs. Sampson's Speech to the Prime Minister of Quebec ...	60
News from Latin Countries ... 6, 40,	68	The Semaine Sociale, Nancy ...	64
Nursing, Future of. By Nancy Stewart Parnell, B.A. ...	79	The Social Catholic Movement in Great Britain ...	66
Nursing in Haiti. By Tessa de Alberti ...	9	The Spanish Assembly ...	77
Notes and Comments ... 3, 11, 19, 31, 37, 45, 53, 67, 73, 81, 89		Suffragists in South Africa ...	39
The Oxford Liquor Control Bill. By M. Whately ...	44	Time and Tide Debate ...	7
Parnell, Nancy Stewart. The Future of Nursing ...	79	Trafalgar Square Demonstration ...	49, 52
The Policy of the Open Door ...	91	Traffic in Women and Children ...	36
Poster Parade ...	88	Traffic in Worn-Out Horses ...	47
The Recollections of a Convert ...	84	Hon. Treasurer's Note ... 7, 15, 27, 35, 41, 49, 61, 69, 77, 81, 89	
The Reform of the House of Lords ...	57	Twelfth Eve Cinderella ...	6
Reviews.		Walshe, Monsignor, Letter from ...	34
League of National Life ...	7	Whately, Monica, The Oxford Liquor Control Bill ...	92
The Evolution of Woman ...	12	Women Jurors in Ireland ...	51
Saint Joan ...	38		
The Shield ...	39		

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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. XIII, No. 1.

15th JANUARY, 1927.

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.

The Report of the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorder.

By SUSAN LIVEING.

The Report of the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorder marks a turning point in the tragic history of mental suffering. All whose hearts burn within them for social welfare will strive that its recommendations should be carried out. For public opinion, having demanded reforms, has still to make sure that they shall materialise. "Government is the helm, but public opinion is the wind or steam power without which the wisest helmsman is a mere lay figure."

The public mind was roused by the facts brought out five years ago by Dr. Lomax, followed up by the work of the National Society for Lunacy Reform. This great reforming document is the result. Enlightened opinion in the medical profession had been increasingly aware of the need for reform. The researches of Sir Frederick Mott, the curative results which followed the discovery of the influence of the thyroid gland on the health and activity of the brain, the after histories of sufferers from *encephalitis lethargica*, all this was slowly leading medical opinion to a totally different conception of the needs and the rights of the mentally sick. But practice lagged behind theory. It needed the pressure of public opinion, which, once roused, insisted

on enquiry. The outcome is this remarkable document, but public opinion must not be allowed to sleep until the recommendations of the Commissioners have become realities. Lunacy law and administration is still based on the principle of detention and restraint—in one word—of fear. It is easy to see the resulting abuses. Under humane and vigilant administration, the conditions of detention may be tolerable, kindly, even enlightened, but where slackness prevails, where asylums are administered with an eye to the profits of shareholders,* or the economies of rate-payers, the results to the patients may be disastrous, and the recommendations of the Commission with regard to lavatory accommodation, bathing, towels and toilet requisites, variety and sufficiency of food, speak for themselves† as to deficiencies. Conditions can but too easily become intolerable and the lives of the helpless inmates made unbearable. True, they are only too often their own enemies, but their disease is surely a sufficient burden, and they need every alleviation that good nursing, good food, reasonable comfort and decency can give them.

"The keynote of the past," say the Com-

* 1 See Report p. 132.

† 2 See Report p. 168-169.

missioners, "has been detention and restraint; the keynote of the future should be prevention and treatment."* Mental health—cure—is now to be the goal. The patient is to be removed from the prison category to the hospital category—a reform marking an epoch in the history of mental disorder. Restraint, certification—absolutely necessary in certain cases—is to be the last, not the first resort. The Commissioners go on to make a most significant pronouncement:

"The problem of insanity is essentially a public health problem, to be dealt with on modern public health lines." This is a crying reform. We make special provision for the early treatment of infectious disease, tuberculosis, venereal disease, why has special provision for incipient mental disease lagged behind? Clinics for out-patients with beds for in-patients may be provided by the local authorities, who in the view of the Commissioners, and I may add, of the thinking public, should add the care of mental cases to their public health duties, and should be invested with powers to do it effectively. If curative treatment is to be of any use, it must be easily available. And here we come upon one of the cruel anomalies (and they are many) of the present state of things. To gain admission to a rate aided mental hospital (Maudsley Hospital and the City of London excepted), the patient must be certified as insane. In other words he must be so ill as to justify detention; early treatment is precluded. He is admitted by the relieving officer to the observation ward of the Poor Law Infirmary, from which he is certified, and drafted into the London mental hospitals, or County asylums as a pauper!—a man or woman who otherwise would not come into contact with the Poor Law.

The Commissioners desire to see the treatment of mental disease freed from its present association with the Poor Law. They well may. The degradation to a sensitive patient of these proceedings may be the last straw.

This problem of lunacy and mental instability is not a matter for Public Health alone. It is intertwined with our whole social fabric; our surroundings and conditions of labour. The anxiety neuroses haunting so many of our wage-earners to-day has its

* 3 See Report p. 22.

roots in insecurity. "If you could give that girl some sense of security she would not be here," the superintendent of a great mental hospital said to us only the other day. Economic insecurity is, I believe, one of the basic causes of mental breakdown; spiritual insecurity is another.

It is impossible in a short paper to touch on the problems of classification, the training of nurses, the necessity for women physicians and inspectors, the addition of psychiatry to the medical curriculum, diet, employment, after-care, all needing articles to themselves. We should like to refer to the need, emphasised by the Commissioners, for hospital visitors, whose interest and sympathy not only may help the patients, but encourage the staff, and we would draw attention to the recommendations as to the appointment of women on Visiting Committees, as Commissioners, and to the appointment of a woman on the new Board of Control, reforms urged by the Suffrage Societies.

There is no doubt that this report marks a great step in advance. The treatment of lunacy once brought within the scope of preventive medicine, will enter a new phase. And prevention, to be effective, must dig down to the roots of our social problems.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Annual Subscriptions to St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance and the "Catholic Citizen" fall due this month. By sending subscriptions in good time subscribers and members can save much labour at the Office. Subscription to "Catholic Citizen," 2/6; minimum subscription to the Alliance, 1/-. Members are asked to increase their subscriptions to the maximum possible. To work effectively we must have money. Remember if Equal Suffrage is not won this year, the struggle may go on indefinitely.

Notes and Comments.

The Government's attitude towards the question of Equal Franchise continues to be quite unsatisfactory. Meanwhile women's organisations continue to remind the Prime Minister of his pledge, and call upon him to fulfil it. Parliament re-assembles on February 8, and women expect the Government to show that they are of good faith by including Equal Franchise in the King's Speech. We expect a simple equal franchise measure conferring the vote on women of 21 on the same terms as men. As we have already stated, it is extremely urgent for such a bill to become law by June 1 of this year, otherwise some millions of women will be again excluded from the 1927 register, and from all possibility of voting for a further twelve months.

* * * *

As an outcome of our meeting held in St. Marylebone on December 6, to demand Equal Franchise between men and women, Sir Douglas Hogg, the Attorney General and member for St. Marylebone, has agreed to receive on January 13 a deputation of his constituents which the meeting resolved to ask him to receive, in order to impress upon him the urgency of immediate legislation on the subject.

* * * *

We call attention to the Public Meeting to be convened by the Women's Freedom League at the Minerva Café, 144 High Holborn, W.C. 1, Thursday, January 20, at 7-30 p.m., to demand that the Government shall include an Equal Franchise measure in the King's Speech at the Opening of Parliament, which will give the parliamentary vote to women at the same age and on the same terms as men. The speakers will include The Rev. W. C. Roberts, Rector of St. George's Bloomsbury, Sister Annie (West London Mission), Miss Erica Butler-Bowdon (St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance), Miss Edith Rodgers (League of the Church Militant), Mrs. Godfrey (London Labour Party) and others resident in the Holborn Parliamentary Division. Sir James Remnant, M.P. for Holborn, will be asked to receive a deputation from members of various organisations co-operating in this Campaign and who live in Holborn, to discuss with him the

urgency of an early settlement of the Equal Franchise problem.

* * * *

The Catholic Relief Bill has now become law, and all disabilities suffered by Catholics have been removed with the exception of three: A Catholic may not succeed to the Throne, nor be Lord Chancellor, nor present to an Anglican living of which he may be patron. We hope that the second disability, at least, will be removed later on, when public opinion has progressed.

* * * *

The Legitimacy Bill, after a stormy passage, has reached the Statute Book. As it now stands those children, one or both of whose parents were married at the time of their birth to a third party, are excluded from the benefits of the Bill. It was over this clause that controversy raged, nor have we heard the end of it, for many people are not satisfied that the exclusion of these children is in accordance with justice.

* * * *

We beg the prayers of our readers for the repose of the soul of Mother Augustine, F.C.J., Head Mistress of Bellerive Convent, Liverpool, where she died on December 30. In her the Alliance has lost a good friend, whom we shall always remember with gratitude. She was a constant reader of *The Catholic Citizen*, and though not an actual member of the Alliance, may surely be counted among our benefactors. Besides sending gifts for our Christmas Sales, she continually prayed for the success of the Alliance and never lost an opportunity of making its work known. We hope she will continue to help us.—R.I.P.

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

The Annual Meeting will be held on March 19; the place will be announced later. Resolutions for the Agenda and Nominations for Committee, duly proposed and seconded, should reach the Secretary not later than February 7. No nominations can be accepted unless the consent of the nominees shall have been previously obtained. Will members please take this as the official notice.

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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 MISS MARY WALL.

A Just Demand.

As our readers are aware, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance stands for the repeal of the Solicitation Laws; we are glad, therefore, to note the reception given to the Public Places (Order) Bill when Lord Balfour of Burleigh moved the second reading in the House of Lords. This Bill, which was drafted for the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene by the late Mr. George W. Johnson, was introduced in the House of Commons by Lady Astor in July 1925. Its purpose is to repeal provisions in the existing law, which refer to solicitation by common prostitutes, and other provisions which do not explicitly refer to solicitation, but are sometimes used for dealing with such conduct; to substitute a simple provision, substantially covering the same ground, but applying to all persons alike; and to enact that proceedings shall only be taken on complaint by or on behalf of the party aggrieved. As Lord Balfour said, it is a question of common justice, since, as is well known, the present law works unjustly between men and women, and indeed between women themselves. Lord Balfour does not believe, nor do we, in the fear expressed by some of the opponents of the Bill, that solicitation will become rampant if the Bill becomes law. Public opinion will not tolerate the old condition of the streets in this or in any other country.

The best defence, said Lord Balfour, is the defence of a higher and equal moral standard—not one law for the man and another for the woman. If the Bill becomes law it will no longer be possible for a woman to be brought before a magistrate and as a common prostitute convicted for solicitation, on police evidence only; in every case it would be necessary for evidence to be given by the person annoyed.

The Government did not oppose the Second Reading of the Bill, and Lord Desborough assured the House of Lords that the importance of the matter is fully recognised, but that the Home Office, through pressure of work, had not been able to deal with the question, but hoped to set up an inquiry in the early part of 1927.

We sincerely trust that the Home Office will appoint a Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament, the reason why such a Committee is preferable to a Departmental Committee of the Home Office, is clearly stated in the following extract from a letter to the Press issued by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene:

"My Committee's reasons for this preference may be briefly stated as follows:

We think an inquiry into such matters as the law and the administration of those laws by the Courts and by the police,

which would include also questions of the protection of the lawful rights of unconvicted prisoners, ought to be made by persons who sit as quite impartial and disinterested judges. The Home Office, by the very nature of the case, could not be altogether impartial and disinterested in matters which touch it so closely.

We feel too, very strongly, that the evidence given should be fully reported and should be available subsequently, *verbatim*, for study by social workers. Publicity is necessary to form a right judgment and also to educate public opinion.

My Committee is glad to have been instrumental in calling attention to the grave injustices of the existing law and procedure on those matters, and earnestly asks for your support in obtaining an equal law and equal administration.

ALISON NEILANS,

Secretary,

Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.
 Orchard House,
 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1."

The request of the A.M.S.H. is reasonable enough, and we hope that the Home Secretary will accede to it.

L. DE ALBERTI.

International Notes.

L'Egyptienne continues to fill a high place in the ranks of feminist magazines. It is full of admirable illustrations and contains a remarkable variety of articles dealing mainly with the life of Egyptian women in all its manifestations from the earliest centuries up to the present. A striking article in the November issue goes to show that the highly placed women of ancient Egypt enjoyed a much more honoured position than those of either Assyria or Greece.

* * * *

The *Woman Citizen* (November) is largely devoted to urging on American women to agitate for a renewal of the Sheppard-Towner Act which was to come before the Senate this winter, and through which an immense amount of infant-welfare work has been carried on in the States during the last five years. None the less, a number of people are strongly opposed to it. It is

pleasant to know that the life-saving movement for mothers and babies that produced the Act was initiated by a woman doctor, Dr. Meigs, who published a revealing paper on maternal mortality in 1917.

* * * *

The N.C.W.C. *Bulletin* urges that a great effort should be made by Catholic women to get the Immigration laws amended, especially with a view to preventing the long separation of families, now so common, and to give a better status to American women who, having lost their nationality by marriage with a foreigner, are treated as foreigners by the harsh Immigration laws.

* * * *

Stri-Dharma reports a great concerted movement throughout India to agitate for better educational facilities for Indian girls. A very successful Educational Conference was held in Madras last October, presided over by Lady Goschen, the wife of the Governor, and this is being followed by similar conferences in all the big cities of India.

* * * *

The *Mouvement Féministe* points out very forcibly to its Swiss women readers that in the recent referendum on the wheat monopoly they alone were unable to vote, although the question was one that certainly intimately concerns women both as agriculturists and house-wives.

* * * *

Die Christliche Frau has been publishing a serial life of Mary Ward, who, by her educational apostolate, belongs almost as much to Germany as to England. Another article (November) by Dr. Klara Fasbinder, advocates very strongly the absolute need, in the new democratic Germany of to-day, of a far wider and freer education for girls than has obtained till now. Above all she must be taught to take her place in the national life and stand for peace and morality and a true German culture.

* * * *

The Horizon (Melbourne) describes the success of the Catholic reference and lending library in that city, due to the efforts of Fr. Hackett, S.J., assisted by the Catholic Women's Social Guild. It already has 500 regular subscribers.

V. M. C.

News from some Latin Countries.

The *Acción Católica de la Mujer* (Madrid) announces that the Women's School of Sociology in Madrid, founded by the Association of which that paper is the organ, was opened on the 15th of November. Its object is to provide for Spanish women "the social culture demanded by the present age, to enable them to fill posts in the public service and in private businesses, and, above all, to direct social and charitable work." The course includes religion and ethics, social economy, and law as it affects women and labour.

* * * *

The same paper gives interesting figures regarding women in Spanish universities. Up to the end of the nineteenth century, only eleven licentiates and doctorates were granted to women in Madrid university, six of them in Philosophy, three in Pharmacy and two in Medicine. In the year 1913-14 there were still only 36 women students in the Central University of Madrid, but in 1924-5 this number had increased to 533. In all the Spanish universities, taken together, there were 746 women students in 1922-3, Madrid having the majority of them, and Barcelona, Granada and Santiago, most of the others. The faculty which women prefer is that of Pharmacy, and next to it Letters in which their favourite subject is History. In the Faculty of Science they show a preference for Natural over Exact and Physical Sciences. In Medicine they still constitute only two per cent. of the whole number of students. Two women have been admitted to be advocates by the Faculty of Law of Madrid.

* * * *

The same paper also gives a report of the Second National Assembly of the Catholic Working Women's Confederation of Spain, which was held in Madrid in the autumn. It passed resolutions in favour of the Saturday afternoon holiday for needlewomen, the observation of the law which enacts the Sunday holiday, an annual summer holiday of one fortnight, the employment of women only in shops selling articles of women's dress, and the representation of the Confederation in the National Consultative Assembly.

* * * *

Vida Femenina (Barcelona) reports that the supreme Court of Justice in Argentina

has decided that foreign women shall obtain Argentine naturalisation on the same terms as men.

* * * *

We learn from *La Nacion* (Buenos Aires) that a delegation of Argentine members of the Women's Federation for American Peace invited the President of Argentina, the members of the corps diplomatique, delegates of the provincial governments, and others, to take part in a demonstration in the Teatro Colón, in Buenos Aires, on the 21st of November, in connection with the movement for the fraternity of the nations of the American continent.

* * * *

Alma Femenina (Lisbon), the organ of the National Council of Portuguese Women, publishes certain memorials in favour of the abolition of legalised prostitution, as part of the Council's contribution to the work of the National Abolitionist Council organised by the Portuguese Abolitionist League. The subjects of the papers are the ages at which women become legally responsible, pornography in books, the theatre and the cinema, co-education as a preventive of prostitution, the single moral standard, and women police.

H. D. I.

Twelfth Eve Cinderella.

A most successful Dance, organised by Miss Monica O'Connor, was held at St. Patrick's School, Great Chapel Street, on January 5. The rooms were prettily decorated, the floor well polished, and the band excellent.

It was a pretty sight to see the young couples, the girls in dainty light frocks, tripping it under the shaded lights.

Fox-trots and waltzes and "Paul Jones" were the order of the evening, while a few couples performed the modified 'Charleston.'

The refreshments were choice and much appreciated. It is to be hoped a goodly sum will be raised for St. Joan's exchequer and that this dance may be the first of a series of successful Cinderellas.

Grateful thanks to all the kind helpers, and particularly to Miss Monica O'Connor and Miss Wall, who worked so hard to ensure the success of the undertaking.

League of National Life.

The newly-formed League of National Life held its first Annual Meeting on October 29 last. All Catholics must view its objects with sympathy—the upholding of the moral law against the attacks so vehemently assailing it. We have been waiting too long for such a League. As Dr. Fairfield pointed out in her admirable speech, we now had to work against the flowing tide—as Barrie had said—to dam the flowing tide, and sheer hard work was necessary to counteract the fallacies put forward by enthusiasts on the other side.

Dr. McCann gave an address on the medical aspect of the question. Dr. Halliday Sutherland spoke of the need for expert knowledge, which he hoped the League was going to provide, and of the danger to the Empire, in the rapidly diminishing birth-rate, but neither of these speakers, so it appeared to us, laid sufficient stress on the real difficulties which confront the mothers of to-day in the middle and working classes, and the necessity of fighting them. Nor did any speaker suggest that, after all, fathers had some responsibility, or point out that the Church's remedy, the practice of self-control, should be inculcated amongst men. It was Dr. Fairfield who pointed out that the battle would be fiercest on the hard cases—on the good motives which prompted parents to limit their families—the wish of the mother to give her children a chance. It was not so much love of pleasure, or the wish to shirk maternity, that had created the desire for birth control, as was implied by the other speakers, but the lack of sheer material needs. Motherhood must be made more possible. The League must fight for better social conditions. Good might even come out of evil. Yet the horrors of contraception forced us to work for a higher and purer ideal, a more sympathetic understanding of the difficulties of motherhood.

S. L.

TIME AND TIDE DEBATE.

One of the events of January to which we are looking forward is the Time and Tide Debate at Kingsway Hall on January 27, between Lady Rhondda and Mr. G. K. Chesterton, on the Menace of the Leisured Woman, with Mr. G. Bernard Shaw in the chair. The debate is the result of the articles by Lady Rhondda (Candida) in *Time and Tide*, which aroused much interest.

TREASURER'S NOTE.

Thanks to the good efforts of our Finance Sub-Committee and individual members, the year 1926 closed with a more hopeful outlook financially. It leaves us able almost to balance our general account, but with a debt still

upon the *Catholic Citizen*. We look to 1927 to bring to us the crowning victory of Equal Franchise, but to this end we must build up a substantial fund to ensure that St. Joan's S.P.A. shall play no mean part in the final struggle.

G. JEFFERY.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

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* *Catholic Citizen*.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

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

In order to stimulate interest in the subject a discussion was held on "Equal Franchise and How We May Attain It," on December 13, at 13 Elizabeth Street, by kind invitation of Mrs. Murphy. It was opened by Miss Hall, B.Sc., followed by Miss Johnstone, two of our under-thirty members. We hope that it has prepared the way for an energetic campaign in the near future. After the discussion a resolution was unanimously passed urging the Prime Minister to introduce an Equal Franchise measure at the earliest possible moment. An account of our Annual Meeting, held on January 3, will appear in the next issue of the paper.

We learn from *The Universe* that the Semaine Sociale, to be held in Paris in 1927, will discuss the subject of "Woman in Modern Society," from the point of view of education and the role of woman in every day life, the professions, in religion, etc. It should be interesting, and we trust that it will have relation to actual facts, and not to a state of society which has long since passed away.

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

NON-PARTY.

Office—55, Berners St., Oxford St., London, W.
Patron: Saint Joan of Arc. Colours: Blue, White & Gold
Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 2d. monthly.

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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The Monthly Organ of

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FOR SUFFRAGE AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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**TIME AND TIDE
DEBATE.**

The Menace of the Leisured Woman.

Mr. G. K. CHESTERTON

will debate with

LADY RHONDDA

At Kingsway Hall, W.C.2., on Thursday, Jan. 27,

at 8 p.m. Doors open 7-30 p.m.

Chairman—Mr. G. BERNARD SHAW.

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