

THE

# Catholic Citizen

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

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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.

## Equal Rights in the League of Nations.

BY HELEN A. ARCHDALE.

An Assembly of ups and downs, of apprehension and security, terminated this autumn at Geneva. Revolution in many countries caused changes in Delegations, not only in personnel, but also in policy. The world economic crisis; the actual fighting between Chinese and Japanese military firebrands with the dramatic scenes in the Council between the diplomatic representatives; the political and financial balancings in Great Britain; the great attack made by women; all took the stage in turn. An atmosphere of uncertainty seemed to prevent clear decisions being come to on any subject.

To take the case of the Equal Rights Treaty. There is no doubt it was the world feeling of uncertainty, largely tinged with fear, that prevented the appearance of equal rights on the Agenda of the 1931 Assembly. There is no doubt that this same uncertainty prompted the promise that although not on the Agenda it should be introduced by the channel of speeches on the Report of the Work of the League and in the debate on equality of nationality. The same uncertainty, without doubt, caused the breaking of this promise and the hurried return of the maker to his crisis stricken country.

This breaking of a promise left equalitarians in what seemed a hopeless position for this year's Assembly. Already the Assembly was stopping its sittings and all work was passing to the Committees. Although the atmosphere of general uncertainty had seemed favourable for the presenting of demands from outside such as from women, all avenues seemed to have closed when Spain, the new Spain of a

Republic, with Constitution yet unmade, offered another avenue. M. Lerroux had tabled a Resolution on better collaboration of the League of Nations and the Press for the achievement and maintenance of peace. This Resolution was circulated without the following Paragraph A:

Means of associating feminine action and feminine feeling with the work of the League of Nations by an effective and direct collaboration;

but M. Lerroux inserted this in presenting the whole to the Assembly. Quick to see a possibility of benefit, the equalitarians got immediately into touch with the Spanish Delegation, as likewise did those organisations working for Disarmament. The whole Spanish Resolution was sent to the 3rd Committee who, prompted thereto by feminists, separated Paragraph A from the rest of the Resolution, which referred only to Press. Some attempt was made to limit the sphere of feminine action and feminine feeling to Disarmament, but this was successfully resisted the Paragraph A finally went back to and passed the Assembly as follows:

The Assembly

Convinced of the great value of the contribution of women to the work of peace and the good understanding between the nations, which is the principal aim of the League of Nations

Requests the Council to examine the possibility of women co-operating more fully in the work of the League.

In the meantime those groups working against the ratification of the Hague Convention on Nationality had been swinging up and down in much the same way. They finally obtained what amounts to an adjournment of the matter to the Assembly of 1932, to which Assembly Governments and the Consultative Committee of Women are invited to send observations.

This measure of success ensures the continuance of the Consultative Committee, formed by Resolution of the Council in January 1931. This continuance, combined with the Spanish Resolution, give opportunity for action in the Council of January 1932. The Council must take action in some form, and it would seem that feminists might well indicate to the Members of the Council during the intervening weeks what that action should be. The Equal Rights International is already preparing suggestions.

Altogether, equality has made great advance. It is a remarkable fact that women, in such small numbers, all paying their own expenses, with undaunted, inexhaustible energy, held without deviation, without hint of compromise, to their principle of equality and were able to influence the great mass of men delegates who have all their expenses paid, their policies rigidly laid down by their Governments. Several sittings in two of the Committees and many speeches in the Assembly have had to deal and have dealt sympathetically and seriously with the position of women, with equality. From only two countries, at least in their public speeches, did that old foolishness, facetiousness, appear: New Zealand and Italy.

To anyone who has worked for equal rights, even for ten years, this marks an enormous change. The demand for equality between women and men has passed into the realm of practical politics, and this year's Assembly fully realised and showed this fact. The political atmosphere reached also into the social sphere. The Equal Rights International, on its first birthday, gave a dinner, at which four Ministers and four Delegates spoke in favour of equality, while many other Delegates attended. The dinner was in itself a success, but most valuable in demonstrating the acceptance of the principle of the equalisation of the sexes, not by women only, nor only by individual statesmen, but its acceptance as a subject on which the League of Nations, sooner or later, has to pronounce.

## International Notes.

### POSTPONEMENT OF THE ATHENS CONGRESS.

The Board of Officers of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship announces, with deep regret, that owing to the difficulties of the international economic situation, it has been found necessary to cancel the arrangements for holding the Twelfth Congress in Athens in 1932. This decision has been taken with the concurrence of a two-thirds majority of the societies forming the Alliance, to whom the matter was referred. In view of the uncertainty as to the future, it was considered desirable to postpone the Congress to no definite date, but the Board hopes that a rapid and material improvement in the economic situation will make it possible to take up plans for the next Congress within a reasonable period.

The young women of Chile showed themselves very practical feminists during the revolution, which overthrew the dictator last summer. When the funeral was celebrated in Santiago of Señor Alberto Zañartu Campino, a champion of constitutionalism, who was killed during the disturbances, more than forty thousand people attended his mortal remains to the grave. The danger that there might be a counter-demonstration on the part of the supporters of the ex-dictator, was considerable, especially after the military police, the Carabineros, had been withdrawn from the streets. But complete order was maintained and traffic successfully regulated by the students, among them many girls who played their part as valiantly and efficiently as the youths.

We are glad to see that a Cingalese woman Mrs. Molamure, has been elected to the State Council of Ceylon.

"The Woman," (Melbourne), tells us that it is freely admitted that Mrs. Irene Longman, M.L.A., the only woman in the Parliament of Queensland, has more than justified her election. She is held in high esteem and her opinions respected by M.P.'s. on both sides of the House. It is entirely due to Mrs. Longman, it is said, that women police are established in Queensland.

Continued p. 96.

## Notes and Comments.

Next month we will report on the party held in honour of the Founders of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society (now St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance) which celebrates its majority on the 25th of March next.

The "Catholic Gazette" for December has an article, "Thoughts on Feminism," which might be taken as a joke, but which is probably intended as a serious contribution to a controversial subject. The title is a misnomer, since there is little trace of thought in the article, and the author has manifestly no acquaintance with feminism. Indeed it is a sad jumble, which reads like a half forgotten nightmare, padded with quotations from all and sundry, whether revelant or not. If Father Rope fears that feminism is a danger, why not make a study of the subject, and give us a reasoned challenge. But let us warn him in the first place that feminism is not connected with Hollywood, nor lipstick, nor yet with the male perverts who infest Piccadilly.

We offer our sincere congratulations to Sir Robert Newman on the Baronetcy recently conferred on him. We shall now have his help in the House of Lords.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance was among the nine societies which signed a letter to the "Times" regretting that no women have been given a place in the new Ministry. We do not ask that women as such should be pushed into offices for which they are unfitted; but we do sincerely believe that the ability of certain M.P.'s. would not have been overlooked, but for the fact that they were born women.

Mlle. Lenoël represented St. Joan's S.P.A. at the International Conference on Disarmament recently held in Paris. Mme. Archambault represented the French Section of St. Joan's S.P.A.

We are very glad to see that H.M. Government, after consultation with the Governor of Burma, has appointed Miss May Oung as a delegate to the Burma Round Table Conference. St. Joan's S.P.A. was among the

societies which urged H.M. Government to appoint Miss Oung. She is the only woman delegate to the Conference.

St. Joan's S.P.A. supports the following resolution adopted by the Disarmament Committee of the Women's International Organisations:

"The great international organisations of women, assembled at a meeting of their special Committee for united action in support of Disarmament, beg to express their whole hearted support of the forthcoming Disarmament Conference, and their earnest desire for its success. Further, they pledge themselves by every means in their power, to help in organising the vast and growing public opinion in favour of the Conference, and the realisation of the world-wide cry for Disarmament and security."

St. Joan's S.P.A. has written to the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary asking that Mrs. Corbett Ashby should be appointed as one of the delegates to the Disarmament Conference.

A resolution moved on behalf of the Alliance asking that a woman should be sent as fully accredited delegate to the Disarmament Conference was passed at the Annual Meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, held on December 1st. St. Joan's S.P.A. asked that Mrs. Corbett Ashby's name should be sent up to the Government, this was agreed to, the name of Dame Edith Lytton being also added by the meeting.

We must regret that the efforts of the Medical Women's Federation for the removal of the ban on the employment by the L.C.C. of married women doctors did not meet with success. The matter was discussed on December 1st, but in spite of reasoned arguments for the retention of married women doctors, the motion to refer back the Standing Order, which provides that married women shall be ineligible for employment under the L.C.C. was defeated.

We have a long way to travel before women get fair play.

## 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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## Feminists and the Crisis.

The feminist societies have been criticised in certain quarters, because they presented questionnaires, dealing with their own particular aims, during the recent election. They remain unrepentant, since in so doing they were but carrying out the policy which is the sole object of their existence. Long years of work have ensured them to the disapproval of critics, to whom it is never opportune to do justice to women.

The very nature of the crisis through which the world is passing makes it an imperative duty to watch, lest women be sacrificed to lessen unemployment among men. Already suggestions have been made that to curtail the employment of women, especially married women, is a solution, or part solution, to this question of unemployment. Not long since a Belgian Association of men workers appealed to the International Labour Office for help in "suppressing" married women's work.

Our fears then are not fantastic. St. Joan's S.P.A. upholds the right of a married woman to judge for herself whether she shall engage in paid employment or not. It upholds her right to unemployment pay, if she is a bona fide worker; and when we read that the claims to unemployment benefit of thousands of married women have been rejected, we cannot but wonder whether the claims were set aside because these women were married, and not because they were unable to show that they were genuine workers.

That there have been abuses, both among men and women, in claiming unemployment pay is clear, but in view of the prejudice which exists against married women in industry, and

not only in industry, the high figures quoted by the Minister of Labour are startling. Out of 81,716 married women whose cases were considered by the Courts of Referees, 71,567 were disallowed. One newspaper had a headline, "Married Women off the Dole." Is this what the Government intend? As we do not know the reasons given by the Courts, our fears are not surprising. We note, moreover, that they are shared by Miss Rathbone, who raised the question in the House. The attack on a married woman's right to work is world-wide, and in some instances restrictions are placed on the work of all women.

It is no time then to haul down our flag, indeed it is more than ever necessary to stand firm in our demand for equal pay and opportunities for women in the Civil Service, in industry, in agriculture, in every walk of life. It is here that the economic crisis may be used as an excuse for keeping women in an inferior position, in making it harder than before for her to earn a livelihood.

We need scarcely remind our readers that St. Joan's S.P.A. stands likewise for an equal moral standard, and loses no opportunity of urging that demand. It is, however, the economic position of women which is endangered by the crisis.

We do not minimize the greatness of the issues at stake, but we repeat that at a time when the whole financial economic and industrial position is under review it is essential that any scheme of reconstruction should be founded on justice and equality between men and women.

L. DE ALBERTI.

## Reviews.

**Saint Patrick: His Life and Mission.** By Mrs. Concannon, Litt.D. (Longmans, Green & Co., 6s. net.)

This life of St. Patrick, though intended to appeal to the general reader, is none the less a learned work. Dr. Concannon does not underrate the intelligence of the average reader, and her story of the great Apostle of Ireland should have a wide appeal. St. Patrick, a native of Britain, as is believed, had a deep love of Ireland and the Irish people, although his first acquaintance with Erin was as a slave in his early boyhood. But the little slave-boy had learnt to commune with God, and "Christ had come to him, changing the world—making cold, and hunger, and loneliness, and the exile's heartache unfelt because 'the Spirit was burning' within him. He remembered days that were one long union with God, and wintry dawns wherein he 'felt no hurt,' even amid snow-storms and iron frosts, and tempestuous winds and rains, so dear the delights of prayer to which the Spirit had roused him." And so in later life the Holy Spirit brought St. Patrick back to bring Christ's message to the Irish people, and to "walk once more amongst them."

Dr. Concannon tells us that a very remarkable feature of St. Patrick's mission to Ireland was the part played in it by women, and she devotes a special chapter to these holy women. She tells us that a modern historian of the seventeenth century Missions of the French Jesuits in Canada has claimed as a triumph of missionary foresight and organisation the employment of women, and specially of nuns in the Canadian Missions, but says that they were but following in a path blazed by St. Patrick exactly twelve centuries earlier. May we not say with safety that it was the Founder of Christianity Who made manifest to all times, the value of the spiritual help of women? They ministered unto Him, with Mary they stood by the Cross when His Apostles had fled, and did He not send the message of His resurrection by Mary Magdalen to these men who had run away?

L. de A.

**Nullity of Marriage.** The Roman Rota and the Law of England. By F. J. Sheed, B.A., LL.B. (Sheed & Ward, 2s. 6d. net.)

This is a clear exposition of the law of the Church governing nullity of marriage. It is of

special interest since some misunderstanding exists on the point. The author states the facts quite impartially, and shows that the English law of nullity is very similar to ecclesiastical law. The Marlborough Case is given in full, and should remove any misunderstanding of the Church's action in the matter.

**Charlotte Carmichael Stopes.** Some Aspects of her Life and Work. By Frederick S. Boas, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S.L.

The many friends of the late Mrs. C. C. Stopes will be glad to have in lasting form this paper read by Dr. Boas before the Royal Society of Literature, of which she was an Honorary Fellow.

She is best known for Shakespearian researches, but a glance at the bibliography of her writings, compiled by Miss Gwendolen Murphy, which forms an appendix to this pamphlet will show how varied were her interests. Her book, "British Freewomen," and her other writings on Woman Suffrage, were a gold mine to speakers and writers during the Suffrage Campaign. She was herself an indefatigable speaker on the subject.

Mrs. Stopes was a familiar figure at the British Museum and Public Record Office. Alert and progressive, she was characterised none the less by an old time grace and charm of manner untouched by the rush of modern days. We welcome this tribute to her.

L. DE ALBERTI.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

**Britain's Economic Illness.** By Henry Somerville. Harding & More, Ltd., 3s. 6d.

**The Future of Capitalism** (The Catholic Social Year Book 1931). By Lewis Watt, S.J. 1s. The Catholic Social Guild, Oxford.

**Christianity and the New Age.** By Christopher Dawson. 2s. 6d. Sheed & Ward.

**Some Questions and Answers concerning Women and Priesthood.** By E. Louie Acres. 2s. H. R. Allenson, Ltd.

**The Passion of SS. Perpetua and Felicity Martyrs.** By W. H. Sherwin. Sheed and Ward 3s. 6d.

**Principle of Catholic Sex Morality.** By Dr. Rudolph Geis Joseph F. Wagner New York and B. Herder London. 5s. net.

## MEETINGS.

The New Joint Committee of Women Civil Servants (Federation of Women Civil Servants and the Association of Women Clerks, and Secretaries, Civil Service Section) held a mass meeting on November 21st, at which a resolution was passed calling upon the Government to insure that women are in fact afforded a Fair Field and no favour within the State Service. In answer to an inquiry the chairman stated that the Joint Committee is definitely opposed to the Marriage Bar.

On November 22nd the Women's Advisory Council, League of Nations Union on which St. Joan's S.P.A. is represented, held an interesting and successful Conference on the Twelfth Assembly of the League at the Livingstone Hall, Westminster.

In the absence of Lord Lytton, Sir Arthur Salter gave a survey of the chief work of the Assembly. Every year he said delegates went to Geneva to discuss certain problems and Fate invariably played a joke on them, and the Assembly was dominated by subjects which arose unexpectedly.

This year the joke was more serious than ever. The Assembly found itself confronted by the situation in Manchuria; by Signor Grandi's proposal for an armament truce, and the economic problems were complicated by Great Britain going off the Gold Standard. Sir Arthur dealt with the serious position created by the trouble in Manchuria. In his opinion it was still possible for the Council of the League to save the situation. Dame Edith Lyttelton dealt with the Social and Humanitarian work of the League. In speaking of the Nationality of Married Women Dame Edith mentioned the manifesto of the International Catholic Women's League and said since the constituent societies had not been consulted, it could not be said to represent the opinion of all the members of the League.

Dame Edith Lyttelton was also the speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations and advised women's societies to be ready with suggestions as to how the co-operation of women may be best utilised in the work of the League. This subject is dealt with in our leading article.

On November 28th a conference on Women and the International Labour Office, convened by the Women's Freedom League was held at Caxton Hall. A number of women's societies, including St. Joan's S.P.A., sent representatives. A resolution was passed deploring the

increasing tendency of the I.L.O. to frame regulations governing industry which place special restrictions upon the work of women and stating the opinion that in all conventions the principle of equality between the sexes should be incorporated, and that all legislation should be based on the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker.

Another resolution asked that British factory laws should be amended where necessary to give equal industrial safeguards to all adult workers, so that Great Britain may be in a position to give a lead to other countries represented on the I.L.O.

Miss Monica Whately, for St. Joan's S.P.A. moved a resolution dealing with the economic disadvantage to women of being excluded from industrial processes in which lead paint is used, and stating that no investigation had been made to ascertain whether or not women are more susceptible to lead poisoning than men.

Other resolutions dealt with women in agriculture, the I.L.O. Childbirth Convention, etc.

## International Notes.

(Continued from p. 92.)

"Le Féminisme Chrétien, Belgium, devotes the greater part of its issue, August-October, to the discussion of the problem of married women's work, and amongst other items, gives a translation of the article by Miss Douglas Irvine, published recently in the CATHOLIC CITIZEN. It seems that even those who disapprove of married women working outside the home, are agreed that it is not possible to prohibit them by law from engaging in paid employment. That is all to the good.

\* \* \* \*

Our member, Miss McEntee, draws our attention to an article in Scribner's dealing with American laws relating to sex. There has been considerable agitation and indignation of late aroused by the treatment of women in New York City. Miss Helen Buckler, writer of the article, shows that if no woman is safe in New York, neither is she safe in almost any other town or city in the States. It is the old story of the woman tempted me, a man may accuse a woman of an act, to which he was partner; as a result of his testimony she is sentenced to imprisonment, he goes free, to manufacture more "woman criminals" we may suppose. But America is not alone in putting all blame on the woman; has any country clean hands in this respect? Certainly not Great Britain.

A. A. B.

## TREASURER'S NOTE.

The Christmas Sale realised the sum of £28 8s., and in addition we received £6 5s. in cash donations. There are still a few articles for sale in the office, and we also have a supply of Christmas cards at 2s. 6d. a dozen.

Our grateful thanks are due to the following who sent us gifts:

Miss L. de Alberti, Mrs. and Miss Anderson, Miss Bain, the Misses Barry, Misses Bate, Borton, Butler-Bowdon, Brandt, Bumpstead, Barclay-Carter, Mrs. Dixon Davies, Mrs. Ellingworth, Misses Fedden, K. FitzGerald, Forbes-Robertson, Gordon, Mrs. Hand, Mrs. Hughes, Misses Hynes, Jeffery, Keogh, Lowe, Meredith, Merrifield, Dr. Morice, Misses Morson, Northcote, O'Farrell, Perry, Mrs. Prister, Mrs. Saint George, Mrs. Shorto, Mrs. Smiley, Miss Smith-Rewse, Mrs. Sowerby, Miss Stack, Messrs. Francis Tucker & Co. Ltd., Mrs. Wickham, and Mrs. Willis.

And also to those who helped to sell at the bazaar.

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There will be a report of the Jumble Sale in the next issue.

May I again ask those who have not sent their annual subscription to do so as soon as possible.

P. M. BRANDT (Treasurer).

## LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

Hon. Sec., Miss N. Parnell, B.A.,

45 Falkner Street, Liverpool.

At our monthly meeting on November 26th at 30 Bluecoat Chambers we had an unusually interesting address from Mr. Granville Roberts of the Mersey-side Hospitals Council. Taking as his subject "The Part Played by Women in the Development of the Voluntary Hospitals," he maintained that the voluntary system has only worked with success when women have been closely identified with it, and he pleaded for a deepening of our interest in its present day developments. In the course of the brief discussion that followed, the speaker informed us that one large voluntary hospital here had recently engaged a trained woman dietician, and that there were now some 130 women on boards of management in the city—reforms for which the women's societies have long contended. A vote of thanks to Mr. Roberts was proposed by Miss Parnell and seconded by Miss Davies.

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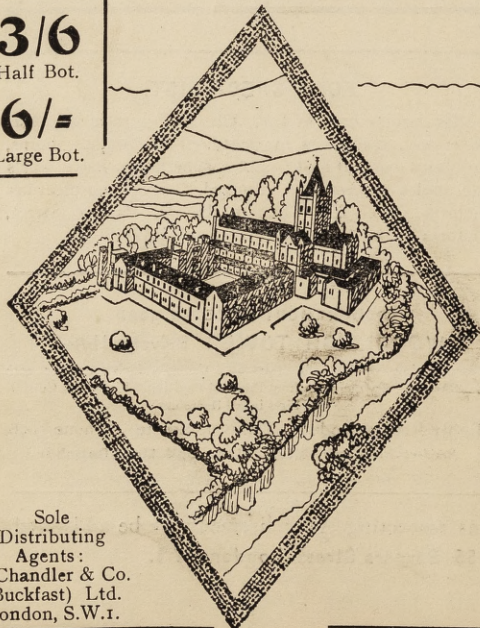
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