

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

Organ of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, 55, Berners St., London, W 1.

VOL VI., No. 6.

June 15th, 1920.

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 MUSINGS OF MARTHA.

BY MARGUERITE FEDDEN.

Those who in the past told women their place was in the home spoke well and truly; their place is in the home (besides being everywhere else where they can fulfil their destiny), and that being so, it behoves the newly-enfranchised womanhood of the country to make themselves felt in the homes of the future as never before.

Those beginning to set their houses in order must approach the task on broad unconventional lines, not merely contenting themselves with accurate and efficient attention to detail. Some women begin and end their crusade by taking a few cooking lessons and purchasing a number of much advertised, more or less workable labour saving appliances.

The modern woman will educate herself to have a sound knowledge of town planning, sites, garden cities, domestic architecture, whether the houses be of stone, brick or wood, lighting, ventilation and drainage; and those who have special aptitude, will doubtless take up architecture (now no longer a man's monopoly) professionally, giving special attention to the designing of dwellings.

The homes of the future must be homes in the real sense—hygienic, restful and well arranged. No one can do good work from an uncomfortable home. Those who stay at home or those who go out to work, and use it as a base, need a well-managed and reposeful house.

A house must be beautiful as well as comfortable with a beauty depending on good lines and suitable material. Have decorated construction if you will, but not constructed decoration. Designs must be simple and true,

and appropriate to the purse of owner or tenant, rooms of suitable aspect for the purpose for which they are intended, central chimney stack, an inglenook in the living room to save coal in winter, cosy corners, window seats to save furniture, the kitchen sink of a suitable height, in a good light, and with draining boards both sides, the stove in a good light—plenty of accessible cupboards, not so low that one must kneel to reach them, nor so high that steps are required—red tiles on the kitchen floor which can be easily mopped.

The scheme of colouring must be simple and artistic, no confusing patterns and glaring colours. The basement house with its dark damp underground must be changed out of all recognition or pulled down to make room for another variety of dwelling.

The brick villa with its redundance of gables, its machine carved woodwork and coloured glass in cheap imitation of an Elizabethan house, or the stucco erection which is a miniature but false reproduction of a Renaissance mansion, must disappear; such dwellings are degrading because shams.

Our taste in furniture is largely debased by the cheap pretentious rubbish almost thrown at us by enterprising if tasteless firms who exhibit posters imploring us to furnish on the hire system and who sell ostentatious-looking suites of stained and veneered deal in imitation of dearer woods, upholstered chairs of cotton velveteen or tapestry, and jute carpets of gaudy aniline dye which purport to resemble the glorious rugs of Persia. Such firms should be left well alone until their education is complete.

At the Ideal Home Exhibition held no'

long ago at the Central Hall, a young ex-soldier, fresh from military service and reality, was of necessity belauding his employer's £35 bedroom to the crowd. The furniture was imitation mahogany, the carpet and wall paper highly patterned, the bedroom ware futurist, the cretonne hangings a delirium-provoking jumble of variegated roses in festoons, tied with true lovers' knots, the electric light fittings of copper-lacquered iron, the shades glaring in colour, fussily ruched—regular dust traps—and the ornaments imitation Staffordshire.

Such a room would drive anyone of discrimination demented if he or she were condemned to spend a day in bed.

What must this "demobbed" man have thought of it not long back from being billeted in a French farm or cottage?

Those of us who already have our furniture, let us remember the beauty of space and the sense of freedom it imparts. Let us keep useful and beautiful articles of furniture and discard unnecessary and questionably artistic bric-a-brac, tablecovers, hangings, china and glass.

A crowded room, multi-patterned and of many colours, causes disordered nerves and a kaleidoscopic mind of jumbled ideas.

People are so much inclined to hoard ugly and useless rubbish. Relentlessly take down the endless photographs from the mantelpiece or wall, give to a child the collection of Goss china, sell, dispose of, discard what cannot be stowed away in the lumber room. Remove the bob-fringed hangings, the over-loaded whatnots, the mats, useless fireirons which are only "for show" and let them follow the fans, Japanese trifles and antimaccassars of a generation ago.

Hoarding rubbish is the characteristic of the half-caste.

What about the "occasional" tables we are too conservative to dispose of? Again, I say, discard and do not make a fetish of possessions which perhaps have lost their meaning and inspiration for us. The weekly turn-out of an average drawing-room is often a scamped drudgery, and its spring cleaning an overwhelming task of half a week. We lay up treasure in this world, though warned in Holy Writ to lay it up in Heaven. Are we

ways sure we hoard things even worth
ing according to the canons of this

How restful it is to enter some rooms—bare, but artistic in colouring, and choice in design where design is used. Strong, well-made furniture, even if of plain wood, pottery rather than imitation china. Plain walls of soft colouring, suitable to the aspect of the room. A few well-chosen pictures or engravings, hung on a level with the eye, a choice mirror to reflect, really comfortable chairs and couch, and a beautiful plant or a vase of fresh flowers, not half a dozen receptacles of half-faded flowers in stale water which offend the olfactory nerves as one enters the room. A room in which the owner has nothing which she does not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful.

The home ready and adorned, it is necessary to evolve a time-table of meals and work to act as a guide—not a fetter; it must not be so rigid that it cannot be changed in circumstances of need, but should usually be adhered to. Logic and order must enter into its planning. The cupboards and drawers must be well furnished with durable brushes and kitchen cloths, and cooking utensils of good earthenware and enamel provided. Disaster follows unlimited purchases at the so-called 6½d. and rd. bazaars.

The store cupboards should be arranged with covered and labelled jars and tins—cereals on one shelf, dried fruits on another, a special part for flavourings and seasonings, another for cleaning materials. One should almost be able to put one's hand on a certain thing in the dark; there should be a place for paper and string. The dresser must be well arranged, the cups and saucers in daily use easily accessible and plates and dishes arranged so that they can be put to warm without sorting.

There should also be convenient arrangements for ironing and cleaning irons.

And, for those who have the responsibility of employing domestic labour, whether the employees be educated women or otherwise, surely there should be a School for Mistresses or some training available; a maid cannot greatly respect an ignorant mistress or one who is unwilling to do, in an emergency, what she asks of others in normal times.

Maids should be treated with courtesy and consideration and given proper hours of work

Continued on page 49.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

We are very happy to announce that Monsieur le Curé of Notre Dame, Geneva, will be very pleased to receive the Catholic delegates to the Congress on Sunday, June 6th, and will say the nine o'clock Mass for their intentions. That is for God's blessing on the Congress.

* * * *

We offer our hearty congratulations to the Catholic Women's League on the success of the great St. Joan of Arc procession, organized by them. For those of us who had the privilege of walking in the C.W.S.S. contingent (the number was necessarily limited) it was a real joy to walk behind our banner to the strains of Faith of Our Fathers, and other familiar Catholic tunes.

We have so often tramped through the streets of London to martial airs—and will, no doubt, have ample opportunities of doing so again—but Sunday, May 16th, was a day snatched from our warfare against principalities and powers, a day to be remembered. We were glad to have in our contingent a member from Brighton, a member from St. Leonards, and a representative from the Liverpool Branch.

* * * *

After a full discussion of the matter, the Executive Committee have come to the decision that it is now necessary to raise the price of the "Catholic Citizen" to 2d. We greatly regret being compelled to do so, but the cost of production continually increases, and it is long since a penny covered the price of each paper. The price will be raised to subscribers as their subscriptions fall due.

* * * *

Oxford has stolen a march on the Sister University. On May 11th Convocation passed the Statute admitting women to matriculation, degrees and Convocation. Another injustice swept away!

'Tis an ill wind that blows nobody any good. Sir Park Goff's Women's Franchise Bill being ruled out of order by the Speaker on May 14th, the Plumage Bill was revived and passed its second reading, with only

eight votes against it. The promoters of the bill know that they have the women voters behind them, and we believe the Government know it too. Will they after all give facilities?

* * * *

The Bastardy Bill passed its second reading on May 7th by one hundred and seventeen votes to nine. Our readers are aware that while some of the clauses of the bill are very admirable, others are highly controversial, and to many people seem very dangerous. The policy of the Society mainly responsible for the bill is to keep mother and child together, a policy approved, we believe, by all social reformers, but the clause in this bill which makes all illegitimate children wards in Court would seem, on the face of it, to militate against this policy. If the clause is passed, the women's societies must press for safeguards both for the mother and for the child. The bill being so controversial, the Executive of the C.W.S.S. did not feel that it would be fair to take any definite action on the matter, as members no doubt hold divergent views.

* * * *

On the other hand, the Executive felt no hesitation in supporting the Bishop of London's Bill, which raises the age of consent for girls from sixteen to eighteen, abolishes "the defence of reasonable cause to believe," that is that the girl was of legal age, and protects boys under seventeen from women of mature years. Many of us would have liked the age of protection for boys to be fixed at eighteen.

* * * *

The great mass meeting at the Kingsway Hall on May 23rd gave the British delegates to Geneva a splendid send off. The meeting was a good omen for the future of the International Suffrage Alliance. There were women from India, Japan, France, Iceland, our Colonies, etc. Madame Naidu, the Indian poetess, carried the audience away by her eloquent message from Eastern women.

Next month we shall give a report of the proceedings at the Geneva Congress.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

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

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

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THE WOMEN'S VICTORY AND AFTER.

To those of us who have worked in the suffrage movement some ten years, a little more, a little less, and who feel, may be, that it is time we had a rest, there can be no more invigorating occupation than to reflect on the pioneers, who have been bound up with the movement since its birth over fifty years ago. Whatever work may have come our way, we late arrivals are reaping the fruit of the labours of those great pioneers. Many have passed away, others, thank God, still remain with us. It is with some such feelings of gratitude and respect that we read Mrs. Fawcett's book, "The Women's Victory—and After" (Sidgwick and Jackson, 2/6). It is the continuation of her book, "Women's Suffrage," published in 1911. In this later book Mrs. Fawcett brings her story up to the passing of the Representation Bill. It is the story of the constitutional movement only, but of the militant agitation and of all that led up to it we have a very able record in Miss Metcalfe's "Woman's Effort," published a few years ago. Mrs. Fawcett did not approve the policy of the militants, but by her fine tribute to Emily Davidson she shows that she understood their courage and devotion to freedom.

The National Union, on the outbreak of war, devoted all its energies to the service of England. In her message, published in the "Common Cause" in August, 1914, Mrs. Fawcett wrote:—

"In the midst of this time of terrible anxiety and grief, it is of some little comfort to think that our large organization, which has been carefully built up during past years to promote women's suffrage, can be used now to help our country through this period of

strain and sorrow. 'He that findeth his life shall lose it, and he that loseth his life for My sake shall find it.' Let us show ourselves worthy of citizenship, whether our claim to it be recognized or not."

Nevertheless, when an occasion presented itself of obtaining woman suffrage during the war, the National Union, and the other suffrage societies (some of which, like ourselves, had continued their propaganda), had the courage to be true to their own cause. And courage was needed, for feelings ran high, and lack of patriotism was a charge freely bandied about. When it became clear that a new parliamentary register would be required before a general election could take place, the women were indeed in a difficult position. They were ready to stand aside if it was merely a question of replacing on the register men who, through service to their country, were disqualified as electors, but they could not betray their trust if the basis of the franchise was to be altered. When the leaders were asked if suffragists would stand aside if the period of residence required of male voters was reduced from twelve to three months, they definitely replied, no!

All this part of Mrs. Fawcett's book, dealing with the last phase of the fifty years' suffrage war, is of much interest. We live over again those thrilling days, when the Speaker's Conference was sitting, and the Suffrage Societies met in conclave to discuss a resolution which could be endorsed by suffragists of every shade of opinion. No one who had the privilege of attending those Conferences is likely to forget them.

Mrs. Fawcett concludes her book with an appendix, giving a list of Acts specially affect-

ing the welfare, status or liberties of women passed in the United Kingdom between the years 1909—1914, and 1918—1919. She ends with the phrase: "This is the 'difference' the vote has made." If any man doubts that it has made a difference let him compare the lists.

L. DE ALBERTI.

ST. JOAN'S DAY.

Thanks to the great procession so ably organized by the Catholic Women's League on Sunday, May, 16th, the London public was able to take part in doing homage to the Maid of Orleans. Long before the hour appointed for the procession, vast crowds thronged the precincts of Westminster Cathedral, nor were they drawn by curiosity only, their attitude was reverent, and no jarring note was heard on any side. The centre of attraction naturally were the two young girls who impersonated the maid. Joan the Warrior rode on horse-back, wearing a suit of mail lent by Mrs. H. B. Irving, and carrying a standard a facsimile of the one carried by St. Joan. Joan triumphant was on foot, she was dressed in white, and wore a laurel wreath, and carried the martyr's palm. Both young girls had been admirably chosen, and performed their roles with a simplicity which was very appealing. It is estimated that about three thousand persons took part in the procession. Besides the clergy and nuns of various orders, there were boy scouts and girl guides, school girls in white, little French girls in peasant dress followed by a large number of French men and women; there were contingents from the Catholic Women's League, wearing blue veils and gold bands, university students in cap and gown, etc. The C.W.S.S. was represented by a contingent and both our banners were carried, our name banner, and the banner of St. Joan of Arc carried by Miss Jeffery, one of our founders, and Miss Brady. Our members wore white veils and our colours and carried our blue, white and gold pennants.

The proceedings closed with a service in the Cathedral and the adjacent grounds. Our contingent was at Benediction in the grounds. It was a most impressive ceremony. Joan the

Warrior with attendant squires, and Joan Triumphant faced the altar, the processionists were grouped round them. Father Bampton preached an eloquent sermon on The Ancient Wrong which had that day been righted, and the ceremony closed with Benediction. The shrine of St. Joan of Arc in the Cathedral was decorated with wreaths, amongst which was a laurel wreath tied with our colours, from the C.W.S.S. The sword and breastplate of the Maid were laid before the shrine on Saturday and Sunday.

We had a very excellent sale of our special number, and we offer our hearty thanks to all our gallant papersellers.

REVIEWS.

TIME AND TIDE.

The new weekly "Time and Tide," which, as we have said, is entirely staffed by women should have a prosperous career, judging by the merits of the first numbers. The literary standard is excellent, and paper and print of the best. The permanent features are in the hands of prominent women writers, Miss Rebecca West takes the drama, Miss Christopher St. John music, and Miss Viola Meynell art. Mrs. Meynell contributed an essay on "Evelina" to the first number. We wish the new paper every success.

THE SHIELD.

The March-April number of "The Shield" contains some very valuable information. The Editorial deals with the two Criminal Law Amendment Bills, and other important matters. The Bishop of London's bill has the support of women's organizations, the Government's Criminal Law Amendment Bill will arouse keen opposition, just as it did a year or two ago. It has the compulsory rescue clause, and regulation 40D. applied to persons instead of women. Miss Turner gives a summary of laws in various countries respecting illegitimate children, which is of particular interest at this juncture, when the Bastardy Bill is under discussion.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

We much regret to note that the *Osterreichische Frauenwelt*, an admirably edited women's monthly, has been compelled to cease publishing, owing to the crushing conditions of life in and around Vienna. We join with it in the hope that its suspension will prove only temporary, as its disappearance is a sad blow to the cause of Catholic womanhood in Austria.

* * * *

An important article in *La Femme Belge* (April) urges that there can be no real, effective and moral colonisation of the Belgian Congo until Belgian women make up their minds to go out there with their husbands. The country, it is asserted, is quite healthy for normal people, and women "whose health is usually less affected by drink and excesses than that of men" have no serious risks to run. The writer appeals to Belgian women to follow the excellent examples set by English and Dutch women, who accompany their husbands as a matter of course to the colonies. Unfortunately, Belgium hitherto has followed the example of France in trying to colonise with white men only, cut off from all lawful domestic ties, with immoral and anti-social results that are universally admitted.

* * * *

It will be remembered that Belgian women now enjoy the communal and municipal vote, though they are not yet eligible for election to administrative bodies. We now learn (*Le Féminisme Chrétien*, April) that the *Ligue Patriotique des Femmes Belges*, a strong and progressive organisation of women, founded during the war, has undertaken to organise the social education of the new voters. The fact that Melle. Louise van den Plas is the General Secretary of the *Ligue* is the best assurance we can have that the educational work will be drawn up on sound and broad lines.

* * * *

A request comes to us from Washington—to which we gladly accede—to forward copies of the "Catholic Citizen" to the newly-formed National Council of Catholic Women in the United States. We understand that the Council hopes shortly to start its own Bulletin, a venture to which we send our heartiest good wishes.

An account reaches us from the Rev. Father Basilio Massari, Toungoo, Eastern Burma, of a three-days' religious celebration to meet the Bishop, Dr. Sagrada, when over 5,000 native Christians gathered together with great enthusiasm and piety. Needless to say, the Rev. Father begs for alms for his arduous missionary labours. V.M.C.

Exit the Lord and Master.

To the Editor of THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN.

So much is being written and talked of just now regarding a phase in women, called reactionary or revolutionary, and many overlook one of the primary and simplest causes.

When the men went to the front, they left, necessarily, power of attorney and other powers in the hands of their womenkind. During the short intervals of leave, when they were home, the men were filled with surprised pride and pleasure at the way women had carried out their trust. But when they came home for good, the situation changed, and there were faults on both sides; the woman had grown accustomed to taking the lead, and found herself quite capable of doing so; perhaps, she was even a trifle masterful; the man, on the other hand, returned to assume his former position and rights. The nerves of both were on edge after the prolonged strain, and where, in ordinary and normal circumstances, a little tact and forbearance could have smoothed over and adjusted difficulties, the absence of it worked serious harm. It is hard for "the mere man" to realise to what an extent women have found themselves during the last five years, and how, never again, can they revert to past conditions. Men being very conservative, fail to grasp this, and hence the cry of revolting women. Time may, and will, do much to straighten out matters, but both men and women must do their share.

Men have to learn that women will not lay down either the liberty or responsibilities they have acquired, and women must make it easier for the men, by gradually and unaggressively showing that henceforward it is a case of standing shoulder to shoulder, and that the terms "lord and master" are obsolete and unmeaning.

EVERILDA MOORE.

42, Addison Road, W.14.

Hon. Treasurer's Note.

Subscriptions and Donations to General Fund, Geneva Delegates' Fund, "Catholic Citizen," St. Joan of Arc Wreath, etc., April 1st.—May 22nd, 1920.

	£	s.	d.
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*Geneva Congress Fund. £37 7 6

I offer my warmest thanks to all above, who have contributed so generously towards the funds. The amount realised to date for the expenses of our elected delegates to Geneva, Miss L. de Alberti and Miss F. Barry, is £26 19s. 2d.

We have now to prepare for the Catholic Congress at Liverpool, opening July 31st.
GABRIELLE JEFFERY.

Continued from page 44.

and recreation and all reasonable requisites for their work.

Let us ask ourselves a few very straight questions. Have we personally performed at some time every duty in the house? Have we personally supervised the kitchen and scullery arrangements and tested their convenience. Have we ever washed up? Is the sink suitable? Do its draining boards slope satisfactorily? Is there a horse for drying towels, a plate rack, a sink basket? Did our new maid find the kitchen free from mice, cockroaches, etc.

Forgive the catechism, but many of us need such an one.

If only domestic service could be put on a new level, really satisfactory women would enter its ranks!

Many attempts have been made to train educated women for household work and to attempt to put Domestic Work on a par with Nursing. Who will be the pioneer of the Domestic Arts and the Florence Nightingale of Household Duties?

An attempted answer was given by more than one enterprise. The Dames of the Household, St. Martha's College of Housecraft, The Women's Industrial Council Scheme, etc.

But the public were not ready and educated up to the idea of trained uniformed women, peripatetic or otherwise, who claimed reasonable salaries and suitable conditions.

Let us hope that the new Domestic Workers' Union will go further in instituting the reform of domestic service conditions, also the scheme of the Women's Legion.

It is useless to tinker at the surface, to reform we must dig deep and well the foundations if we wish to build

" Jerusalem

In England's green and pleasant land."

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

Office—55, Berners St., Oxford St., London, W.
Patron: Blessed Joan of Arc. Colours: Blue, White & Gold
Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 1d. 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.

METHODS.

1. Strictly non-party
2. Active propaganda by political and educational means.

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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WEEKLY LECTURES

Wed., 16th June, 8-15 p.m. Informal Talk. **The Rev. Father Bernard Vaughan, S.J.** Chairman—**Mr. J. Y. Kennedy.**

Wed., 23rd June, 7-15 p.m. **HOUSE DINNER.** "Prohibition versus Anti-Prohibition."

Wed., 30th June, 8-15 p.m. "International Woman Suffrage Alliance Congress" (held in Geneva). By a Member of the Alliance attending the Congress. Chairman—**Miss M. Pollock Grant.**

Wed., 7th July, 8-15 p.m. "Divorce Laws." **Mr. Percy Handcock, M.A.** (Barrister-at-Law).

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