

# THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

*Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society),  
8B, Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford Street, London W.1.*

VOL XLIII. No. 12

15th DECEMBER, 1957.

Price Sixpence.

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*

## Asian Women Consider Their Human Rights

By Dr. Janet Robb

"Though a regional meeting, the eyes of the women of the whole world are on you", Field Marshal P. Pibulsongram, Prime Minister of Thailand, told the first United Nations Seminar on "Civic Responsibilities and Increased Participation of Asian Women in Public Life", as it opened a three weeks' session on August 5th, 1957.

The gathering in the imposing Sala Santitham at Bangkok of women representatives of Asian Governments, and of the Diplomatic Corps under the aegis of the United Nations Section of the Status of Women represented, in fact, the first fruits of the United Nations Programme for Advisory Services in the Field of Human Rights, although ground had been broken by a Preliminary Expert Working Party at Bangkok the previous year.

The Seminar was composed of delegates (each chosen from three Government nominees by the United Nations Secretariat) from Burma, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaya, Nepal, Pakistan, The Philippines, Sarawak, Singapore and Thailand. Three Governments had sent official Observers and there were representatives from four Specialized Agencies and U.N.I.C.E.F.

In addition a number of international Non-Governmental Organizations of consultative status with ECOSOC and some twenty Thailand organisations were present.

Earlier the Secretary-General had spoken of the most important purpose of such seminars as "to bring key people together for short periods of time to stimulate . . . and through their leadership to encourage greater awareness of human rights within official circles." It is axiomatic for any conference that it is the personal contacts and off-stage consultations which are likely to be of greatest value. And this seminar can have proved no exception with such key and able figures on hand in their respective fields as Mrs. Sucheta Kripalani, Member of Parliament of India and of its Constituent Assembly; Begum Zab-Un-Nissa Hamidullah of Pakistan, Editor-Proprietor of *Mirror Magazine*; Mrs. Ulfah Santos, Director of the

Prime Minister's Office of Indonesia, and so holding one of the highest positions in her country; Mrs. N. T. Takahashi, Chief of the Women's Section of the Ministry of Labor of Japan; the Seminar's President, Mrs. R. P. Bunyaprasop, of Thailand, ex-M.P., officer of its Women's Association, as well as of its Young Buddhists' Association; the Seminar's Vice-President, Madame Sam-Sary, Professor of Primary Education of Cambodia; and St. Joan's own Mrs. Jean Daly, Official Observer for the Australian Government.

The group construed its topics of civic responsibility and participation in public life in a wide sense and later analysed them successively in terms of educational, economic and health factors (the appropriate Specialized Agency supplying expert background), social and religious attitudes and, finally, community developments.

Issues of particular concern for the women of Asia, those likely to arouse their interest in political affairs, were listed as "health, social welfare, marriage laws, cost of living, educational improvement, housing, road building and atomic development."

Documentation available for the discussion of civic responsibilities included a paper prepared by Dr. Richard Corbett, formerly Director of the Canadian Association for Adult Education, drawing on such examples as the Farm Radio Forum of Canada and the St. Francis Xavier Experiment of Eastern Nova Scotia. Noted by delegates were the peculiarly deep rooted family responsibilities of the Asian women, the heavier burden for working women imposed by the disappearing joint family system, the overwhelming problem of illiteracy but the obvious need to devise short cuts for education in citizenship before any comprehensive degree of literacy can be attained.

Women were held easier to convince of their responsibilities than their civic rights. A final resolution declared that "owing to the poverty, anxieties and insecurity of women in both rural and urban areas in many countries" it was necessary to combine programmes of civics with "those of immediate economic and recreational benefit to

women". Another conclusion reached was that "it is also important that men be made fully aware of women's rights and responsibilities as citizens and that women be given the moral support of society in the exercise of their civic duties."

Why, once the right to participate in public life is won, so few women avail themselves of it, is a well-worn query by no means confined to this region of the world. Miss Anna Lord Strauss, former President of the American League of Women Voters, was Consultant for this section to the United Nations Secretariat. The delegates reported a reasonably high proportion of Asian women to be exercising their new right to the vote (in striking contrast, one might reflect, to certain Western countries!) but a quite understandable pattern of relatively large numbers of women's public office servers and holders in the first flush of emancipation, followed invariably by a somewhat sharp decline. A notable exception would be the recent elections, both national and provincial, in India. It was brought out in discussion that "men owe their posts in public life not to diplomas but to their experience." Although some countries of this region had found Reserved Seats useful, all delegates characterised the practice as temporary at best and the goal as election "on the basis of equality and qualifications rather than of sex."

A decidedly small number of women in policy-making or senior positions in its Secretariats and as members of national delegations has characterized the first twelve years of the United Nations. Several Asian delegations to the General Assembly however, have consistently contained women members, and those often in highest position. Mrs. Pandit and Begum Ikramullah come to mind at once in this connection.

The section of the report dealing with education emphasizes a point which actually runs as a motif throughout the conference—the wide gap between the handful of educated women and their fellow countrywomen, and the crying need somehow to close it. (Those educated abroad, it was felt, too often do not put their knowledge to wide use, occasionally even fail to return at the completion of training to their own countries.) N.G.O.'s were cast by the Seminar for a strategic role here, as indeed at nearly every point throughout the session.

It is clear that the countries of Asia in background and in current scene present anything but a uniform picture. The roots of the movement for women's emancipation may go back, in the case of one country, well over a century; in another, women's organisations may be presently engaged in combating a campaign for the revival of the old family system and revision of new legislation; rich differences in social and religious alignment abound.

The seminar's discussion of social and religious attitudes, led by Daw Khin Kyi of Burma, found custom, on the whole, rather than legislation likely to be the greater restrictive factor. It was pointed out that many such customs, in reality, have no religious origin. The Seminar voiced the need for women to be members of Religious Courts, to participate actively in the process of drafting legislation, as well as the need for marriage legislation and counselling bureaus. It was agreed by these Asian women that "any kind of social injustice deprives all sections of society of the incentive to a full and proper exercise of freedom."

#### INTERNATIONAL NOTES

**Ireland.** The press in Ireland reports that the Minister of Justice has decided to appoint a women police force in Dublin. It is not proposed to extend the scheme to other cities at present. Probably not more than twelve will be appointed and they will be used for most of the routine duties performed by the civic guards, though not for directing traffic. The women's organisations have been pressing for years for the establishment of a force of policewomen.

\* \* \*

**Netherlands.** The women of the Netherlands are asking when the Government will ratify the I.L.O. Convention on Equal Pay, which it has in principle accepted. The Government has itself introduced equal pay in the Civil Service but the policy of "no further wage increases" and other measures to fight inflation are not encouraging to the introduction of equal pay in industry. Such questions are decided jointly by the employers, trades unions, the College of State Intermediators, and the Social-Economic Council and until these agree to equal pay, nothing will, it appears, be done in spite of motions accepted in the Second Chamber, the growing resentment of women and girls, the shortage of labour, the rising cost of living and the "noticeable change in public opinion." (*Endeavour.*)

\* \* \*

**Nigeria.** *Reuter* reports that the Government of Eastern Nigeria, in a recent campaign against slave and child labour had recovered in the district Abakalike no less than thirty girl children, aged between four and ten years of age, who had been sold it was stated, for £60 each. The Eastern Nigerian Ministry of Welfare had earlier warned parents to prevent their children from straying; and Local Councils to keep strict records of births and deaths and to see that the marriage age limitation was applied as child marriages were used as a ruse to perpetuate child slavery. **C. A. B.**

## Notes and Comments

### WOMEN IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

In the House of Commons on November 5th, Lady Tweedsmuir moved the address to the Queen and in the course of her speech said that for the first time "a Government has faced the awful decision of having women in the Upper House. It is, alas, true that there are some in another place who maintain that women are unsuited to politics. They use the purely intellectual argument that they do not wish to meet them in the Library." Lady Tweedsmuir said that the exclusion of women hereditary peers could not be defended.

Mr. Gaitskell, in the course of the debate on the address, said that the Labour Party was opposed to the idea of heredity as a qualification for membership of the Second Chamber, but it was also against discrimination between the sexes.

Miss Jennie Lee said that if she believed in building up the attractions of the House of Lords, she would decidedly want to have women there. The House of Lords was a duller place without them, and she was content that it should remain so, though naturally she was in favour of women coming into the elected chamber.

Mr. David Llewellyn said that it was arguable that the House of Lords should not be there, but, while it was there, we ought to have the best possible House of Lords and in his opinion this was not possible without the inclusion of women.

Colonel Glyn, in a maiden speech of November 6th referred to the last time women sat in the House of Lords, which was in 1306, when four abbesses were summoned to Parliament. They appeared and took their seats but evidently were not invited again, history does not record why.

Miss Elaine Burton said she would like to see women in the House of Lords, but if it was a question of admitting women while the hereditary principle was maintained she would prefer not to see women there, as she thought the hereditary principle should disappear first.

Mrs. Emmet referred to the position of women in foreign affairs and urged that the qualities which women could bring to these should be put to better use. She welcomed the suggestion in the Queen's Speech that women should be included among the holders of life peerages.

The House of Lords had already discussed the question on October 30th and 31st, before the Queen's Speech, on a motion put down by Lord Teynham, asking the Government to make known its proposals for reform. He proposed "short steps only", a limited number of life peers (but not women) and voluntary limitation by Standing Orders of numbers of hereditary peers eligible to attend.

The Government spokesman, Lord Home, Lord Hailsham and the Lord Chancellor all agreed that women, as well as men, should be included among life peers.

Thirty-seven Peers spoke in the debate, fifteen approved the admission of women, but of these only three urged the inclusion of hereditary peeresses i.e. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Lord Gifford and Lord Coleraine.

The Life Peerages Bill which provides for life peerages to be conferred on women passed its Second Reading in the House of Lords. (*See also Twenty-Five Years Ago in this issue.*)

\* \* \*

On the motion of Lork Pakenham the Wolfenden Report was debated in the House of Lords on December 4th. We shall report the matter in our next issue.

\* \* \*

The Government has now introduced the Bill to attach earnings when Maintenance Orders are in arrears. Wife and child maintenance, alimony, affiliation and guardianship orders are all covered.

\* \* \*

By request of the people of Uganda and at the expense of the Protectorate and Buganda Governments, the remains of Mother Kevin rest now in the land of her labours. Her body was flown from Dublin to Entebbe, thence to Nsambya, Kampala, the headquarters of the Mill Hill Fathers, with whom the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Africa are working. From thence she was taken to Nkokonjeru and buried in the cemetery of the Little Sisters of St. Francis, the congregation of African nuns which she founded.

\* \* \*

Our Annual Christmas Sale took place on Saturday, November 23rd at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square, on a brighter day than usual. It was a pleasure to meet so many members and friends in such a happy atmosphere and profitable too. To date, we have made £120 5s. 6d., there are still a number of goods for sale at the office for those who want to buy last minute Christmas presents. Thanks are due to the many helpers and to those who sent gifts for the stalls and those who manned them, to those who bought and risked their shillings and sixpences on the tombola and raffles, most particularly, on behalf of everyone, to Miss Carr and her splendid team who supplied and served the most delicious lunches and teas.

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "The Catholic Citizen"

8<sup>B</sup> DRYDEN CHAMBERS, 119 OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.1. Tel. Gerrard 4564

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ex-officio DAME VERA LAUGHTON MATHEWS, D.B.E., *President, St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance*

MRS. SHATTOCK, M.A., M.D., D.P.M., *Chairman.*

MISS F. A. BARRY, *Hon. Secretary.*

MISS PAULINE M. BRANDT.

MISS NOREEN K. CARR, *Hon. Treasurer.*

MISS P. C. CHALLONER, M.A.

MISS MARGARET C. CLARKE, B.Sc.

MISS VERA DOUIE.

MISS GUESSARD, B.A.

MRS. ISABEL POWELL HEATH, M.B., Ch.B.

MRS. JACKSON, B.A.

MISS MARY PARNELL.

MISS W. M. PRICE.

MISS CHRISTINE SPENDER, *Hon. Editor,*

MRS. WILLIAMS, B.A. "The Catholic Citizen."

## "And In Prison"

In her most interesting account\* of her work in the Prison Service, Miss Size refers to the great reformer Elizabeth Fry who started from the principle that "punishment is not for revenge but to lessen crime and reform the criminal" and who visited Newgate Prison and put her principles into practice in the most daunting and terrifying conditions. She advocated "plenty of useful work, education, religious instruction, and a supply of books", and to these she added the need for unremitting care and personal influence.

Miss Size points out that a good deal of what Elizabeth Fry preached and practised lapsed after her death, and indeed that is all too true and the average person interested in prison reform feels that perhaps we still have a long way to go before Mrs. Fry's belief that prisoners should be treated as human beings with human feelings, able to co-operate willingly in their own reform, and taught to learn responsibility through a measure of self-government, is fully implemented. Nevertheless Elizabeth Fry's principles are gradually being adopted in this country, and find their culmination in the experimental system of open prisons. Askham Grange in Yorkshire is one of these and in 1947 Miss Size was recalled from retirement and appointed Governor of Askham Grange, the first women's open prison.

Elizabeth Fry proved that her principles worked: "I have never punished a woman during the whole time, or even proposed a punishment to them, and yet I think it impossible in a well-regulated house to have rules more strictly attended to." This, says Mary Size, was the method adopted at Askham Grange and it was a method which succeeded.

Mary Size is too modest to surmise that doubtless a large part of the success of the new venture was due to her personality and experience.

Miss Size entered the prison service in 1906 in Manchester Prison as a Prison Officer. Her object

\* **Prisons I Have Known.** By Mary Size. (Allen & Unwin, 18s.)

was to be employed as a teacher, but it was not till several years later that she was appointed school mistress in the Borstal Institution attached to the Women's Convict Prison at Aylesbury. Miss Size had already served at Manchester, Aylesbury and Leeds in incredibly dreary and sad conditions, and had shown much courage and originality in her dealings with individual prisoners. There was not, however, much scope for rehabilitation methods under the existing prison system and it must have come as something of a relief to her to be employed in an experiment which needed constructive work to make it a success. This was in 1912. By 1923 Miss Size was serving under the late Dame Lilian (then Miss Lilian) Barker who had been appointed Governor of Aylesbury prison. Miss Barker introduced many innovations, notably she modified the penal system considerably and insisted on the teaching of handicrafts to each girl.

In 1925 Mary Size was asked to fill the vacant post of Lady Superintendent of Liverpool Prison. She accepted. In the chapters dealing with Liverpool Prison, Miss Size pays tribute to the band of voluntary prison visitors and she describes the system of preventive detention as it affected women prisoners. Her term of office was marked by progressive innovations in the educational line, and, too, marked by a spirit of compassion exemplified in the anecdotes of prisoners she relates.

Miss Size's next appointment was as Deputy Governor of Holloway Prison in 1927. She states her aim was to make Holloway Prison "the best women's prison in the country" and during her time there the hospital amenities were improved out of recognition; the laundry was reorganised; various courses of training were introduced and the handicrafts classes were put on a much improved basis which, later, paid its way; girls were employed on gardening and a canteen was opened at which the women could spend their small earnings under the new earnings scheme. Besides cigarettes, sweets and food the women were allowed

to buy cosmetics, which was much appreciated. During Miss Size's term of office the Prison Commissioners ordered the replacement of the old wooden bed-boards with iron bedsteads and the tin toilet ware with enamel utensils. Last but not least Miss Size's inspiration led to the building of a Catholic Chapel for Holloway Prison—"that little bit of paradise in the middle of a house of many tribulations" as an Austrian internee put it.

During the Second War, Holloway Prison was more or less evacuated to Aylesbury, to take up quarters in the Borstal Institution. The empty Inebriate Reformatory had to be taken over to provide extra housing for prisoners and Borstal girls. Though Miss Size does not complain and merely dwells on the wonderful war effort contributed by Holloway prisoners, this must have been a very trying time for her. Her health broke down, and in August 1942 she was reluctantly obliged to retire, after thirty-six years' service.

By 1943 Mary Size was intrepidly back in full-time work as Commandant of a Civil Defence Rest-house. There she remained till 1946, and in 1947 she was called to Askham Grange, retiring only in 1952 when she had passed the Civil Service retiring age.

This is only a very brief out-line of the account of a most interesting career which amounted to a real vocation. Mary Size has very wisely illustrated her story by one true-life anecdote after another, often heart-breaking, often witty and amusing. Our interest never flags, and without realising it we acquire a great deal of knowledge of prison administration and prison life and of reforms already made and those which should come. It is a pity I have no space in which to quote some of these anecdotes—the girl of sixteen, sentenced for forgery, who smashed everything within sight, young "Jock" who posed as a boy and worked on a mine face for several months—but what runs through their telling is always the same thing—a great and Christian compassion combined with infinite patience.

"In my long association with all sorts and conditions of women," writes Mary Size, "I have found, in what was reputed to be the worst of them, that spark of gratitude and affection, which, if it had been properly developed early in life, might have saved them from a career of crime."

Christine Spender

### HERE AND THERE

**Medical Service.** The official organ of the Catholic Hospitals Association—India, Pakistan, Burma, Ceylon, makes a plea for a better supply of adequately trained medical personnel and for the hospitals. It says "Congregations of Mission Brothers particularly have given next to no thought to the apostolic possibilities of higher medical study and practice."

### I.T.A.A.

The International Travellers' Aid Association was formed in 1956 as a result of the grave concern expressed by many societies with regard to the welfare of travellers, especially young foreign girls, arriving in London. The bustle and noise of a London railway terminus when the boat train comes in, is probably only a matter-of-course to the experienced traveller, but it can be a most alarming experience to young and inexperienced foreign travellers with no knowledge of English, very little money and perhaps only the vaguest idea (or none at all) of how to get to their final destination. Such people could become easy prey to undesirable characters and in any case, they are anxious, worried and frightened and need help.

The I.T.A.A. comprises representatives of British and Foreign welfare associations and Church societies. The initiative in launching the scheme was taken by the British Vigilance Association and the International Catholic Girls' Society and many societies have responded splendidly to the appeal for voluntary helpers. These helpers wear a yellow, white and red armband when on duty and meet the boat trains at Victoria and Liverpool Street Stations. Later the work will be extended to include all London railway termini and eventually the ports.

Generally speaking, the help given consists of finding the employers or friends, who may have mistaken the day or time of arrival, telephoning to them, helping with money problems, escorting travellers across London, sometimes finding accommodation if it is too late to catch connections, and generally giving a helping hand and a welcome.

Another most important part of the work is that of trying to bring the young girls into touch with friends in their new localities. The helpers take their addresses and letters are written to the parish priest, clergyman or welfare worker so that contact may be made.

Thursday, November 7th, was a red letter day for I.T.A.A. for that morning, a fine Kiosk was officially opened on Platform 8 of Victoria Station. This was greatly needed. It is not easy to interview people who are already anxious and worried on a crowded platform, and to be able to interview them in the Kiosk is an immense help. The opening ceremony was performed by a prominent British Railways official who paid a tribute to the work of the I.T.A.A. The Mayor and Mayoress of Westminster were present, together with many representatives of interested societies. St. Joan's was represented by the Hon. Secretary. That very afternoon the value of the Kiosk was proved. A bewildered Italian family—grandmother, mother and children—arrived and needed much advice and comforting and the helpers were able to give this in the quieter atmosphere of the Kiosk. **D.M.R.**

## THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

The discussion on Women in the House of Lords which has occupied considerable time in Parliament is dealt with in another column.

The National Insurance Bill was discussed on November 18th, 19th and 20th. Mr. Crossman raised the question of non-contributory pensioners who were to be paid an increase of only 2s. 4d. He and Mr. Prentice had put down an amendment to this which had been ruled out of order. Mr. Prentice said that half of these pensioners were over eighty years of age and three-quarters of them were women. Dame Irene Ward was bitterly disappointed at the Government's decision. On the question of raising insurance contributions, she spoke of the hardship of the lower income groups in having to meet the full burden of contributions to the National Insurance Fund. She considered the income tax relief given in respect of National Insurance contributions to those who pay income tax should be abolished as they were in a better position to pay than those who paid no income tax. When accused by Dr. Horace King of supporting a Government who were increasing the burdens of the lowest income groups, Dame Irene replied that, in this case, she would not be supporting the Government as she intended to abstain from voting.

On November 18th, Mr. Frederick Havers, member for Croydon N.W., raised the question of the protection of children. He said that his constituency was very disturbed over recent child murders and Petitions to the Government were being launched calling for the establishment of an institution where sexual offenders against young children could be detained and treated. Mr. J. E. S. Simon said that while these murders filled us with horror and revulsion the problem must be viewed with perspective. It had been stated that there had been a great increase in child murders since the Homicide Act had become law. This simply was not true and it did no service to parents to alarm them by exaggerated stories. Some five thousand people were convicted of sexual offences annually. Of these four-fifths were convicted for the first time and of those first offenders, only one in ten was subsequently reconvicted. It would clearly not be right to put under prolonged supervision, still less detention, the many persons who will not be convicted again. He would however remind the House that the Courts had power to sentence the more serious sexual offenders to preventive detention if they have the necessary qualifying sentences. At several prisons there were psychiatric units which had a high degree of success.

On November 21st, Mrs. White asked the Home Secretary what proposals he had to deal with the thousands of men now serving prison sentences for failure to meet maintenance payments due under court orders to their wives and children. Mr. Butler

replied that the Government proposed to introduce during the present session a Bill to provide for the attachment of earnings to satisfy maintenance orders on which payments had fallen in arrears. He hoped that it would significantly reduce the number of men who go to prison for failure to meet their maintenance obligations.

On the same day, Mrs. Jeger asked the Home Secretary how many persons were prosecuted in the last convenient annual period for carrying out, or conniving at attempts to procure abortion; what were the results; and how many of the persons charged were registered medical practitioners, nurses or midwives. Mr. Butler gave the figures for 1956. Fifty-one persons were tried for offences under Sections 58 and 59 of the Offences against the Person Act, 1861, fourteen males and thirty-seven females. Of these five males and twenty-three females were imprisoned, three males and two females were acquitted, the rest were put on conditional discharge, recognizances, probation or fined. No information was available about the professions or occupations of the persons concerned.

In the debate on the Adjournment on November 25th, Miss Joan Vickers spoke on the need of more education for the women of Tanganyika, which she had visited under the auspices of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Miss Vickers said that in Tanganyika the Africans appeared to her an unbalanced society. The men had far more education and tended to drift to the towns, leaving their wives and children in their shambas. In an attempt to keep their families together, many women resort to witchcraft which means that instead of going forward, the African women looked backwards. It was dangerous both politically and economically for one sex to be more advanced educationally than the other. Mr. Profumo in reply said that there was no sort of restriction by local legislation upon facilities for the education of girls. Unfortunately, however, in common with other parts of Africa, there has been in the past, a prejudice against girls' educations on the part of the people and the native authorities in some parts of the territory. The facilities provided in the girls' schools were in no way inferior to those available for boys but the schools were fewer because of the need to use expatriate staff. Training facilities for teachers, including female teachers, were being increased as rapidly as possible. In secondary education academic subjects were the same for girls as for boys but whereas boys were taught handwork and agriculture, at girls' schools emphasis was laid upon domestic and homecraft subjects. He was sure that the Governor and the Government of Tanganyika agreed in recognising the importance of girls and adult women's education in family and homogeneous society.

P. M. Brandt

## REVIEWS

**Thérèse Martin.** Written and illustrated by Rosemary Haughton. (Longmans, 12s. 6d.)

Rosemary Haughton wrote this life of Sainte Thérèse of Lisieux because she could find no suitable life of the Saint to give to a girl of fifteen. She has done a very good job of work and brought startlingly to life this young Norman Saint. The illustrations are unexpectedly charming. They have an authentic touch which calls back a past way of life with tenderness and they completely lack sentimentality.

Miss Haughton has made use of every avenue of information, but at the same time each episode is set down with freshness as though she had seen and heard it yesterday.

The last chapters, narrated with admirable simplicity and directness, are almost unbearable in their revelation of stark heroism. No wonder people want to sentimentalise the "Little Flower". But the fifteen-year-olds who read this book will not want to sentimentalise. They will know that Sainte Thérèse showed as much heroism as St. Joan of Arc, and later they will look further and understand the quality of her sanctity. C. M. L. S.

**Crown of Glory.** By Alden Hatch and Seamus Walshe. (Heinemann, 18s.)

A Protestant, educated in America and a Catholic educated in Ireland and England have collaborated to produce a life of Pope Pius XII which while "incorporating the Protestant view of the Pope . . . nevertheless bears the imprimatur of the Roman Catholic Church". The book bears witness to the careful research its authors have brought to the study of the life and character of the present Holy Father for whom they have an evident and deep admiration. It is full of a restrained enthusiasm and gives a picture of a life of utter dedication and of power beyond the natural.

Unfortunately, the pleasure of reading is marred by a style which tends to drop into the colloquial, and the obvious reverence with which the Holy Father is regarded by the authors is belied by the habit of speaking of him as "Pacelli" or "Pius", a familiarity which offends more than the ear.

P. C. C.

**Obscure People.** A Saga of Victorian and Edwardian Times. By Marguerite Fedden. (Burleigh Press, 7s. 6d.)

A lively account of several generations of family history, some of it undoubtedly autobiographical. Perhaps it is too slight for the mass of detail, which nevertheless throws considerable light on past customs and times.

C. M. L. S.

**Memories of a Catholic Girlhood.** By Mary McCarthy. (Heinemann, 21s.)

Mary McCarthy and her three younger brothers were left orphans when she was six and in this brilliant book she gives an account of her girlhood which at least in part explains her anti-religious bias. To lose both beloved parents at a stroke and never to be told what had become of them is surely enough to set up a complex in any child's mind, and when the memory of those loving and indulgent parents is succeeded by years of repression and even cruelty, it is perhaps understandable that the grim rather than the gay should loom largest in the mind of the woman.

Miss McCarthy adds notes to each chapter pointing out where she is uncertain as to what is fact and what is fiction. What is curious is that while anti-religious almost to the point of blasphemy, she does pay tribute to her Catholic upbringing for giving her some advantages in the understanding of literature and history, and she does acknowledge the kindness of the nuns and the fact that it was the parish priest who persuaded her rigid grandmother to let her brave the dangers of a college career.

More psychological awareness might have helped both nuns and priest in dealing with a young girl so determined to make an impression that she could stage a loss of faith—and its recapture—within the space of a School Retreat. One feels that the little girl—longing for notice and the love she dimly remembered and had lost so tragically and never re-found, is still as a grown woman not entirely freed from her obsessions.

P. C. C.

**Memories of Olive Schreiner.** By Lyndall Gregg. (Chambers, 8s. 6d.)

This charming book gives an attractive picture of Olive Schreiner as seen through the eyes of her niece, Lyndall Gregg (Dot Schreiner). The reader gains a vivid impression of the many-sidedness of her subject's character, her ardent feminism and pacifism, her hatred of discrimination of colour, nationality or sex. A life-long sufferer from asthma, she faced life with courage and humour. There are many amusing stories in the book and its publication should stimulate a fresh interest in this remarkable personality.

P. M. B.

**History of the British Federation of University Women 1907-1957.** (B.F.U.W., 3s. 6d.)

**Opportunities for Girls and Women in Science and Technology.** (B.F.U.W., 2s. 6d.)

The British Federation of University Women was founded fifty years ago in Manchester by a group of women who had profited from the work of the pioneers of women's higher education and intended to help other women to promotion to higher

posts and academic chairs "which seemed made to fit only the masculine frame." This they hoped to achieve not only by propaganda, but by seeing that capable women had the opportunity for research. This object has never been lost sight of in the ever-widening Federation, and foreign scholars as well as British, and professional women refugees from totalitarian states, have had reason to thank the Federation for its practical help.

In the course of its work the Federation, though not avowedly feminist, found itself inevitably supporting equal pay and the abolition of the marriage bar—and it has encouraged young women to read science and technology at the University and to interest themselves in careers in industry and science.

In connection with this last extension of work the British Federation has produced an admirable pamphlet on opportunities for girls and women in science and technology. There are chapters on every kind of career which is open to girls with details of qualifications, training etc., put together by a working party whose names are a guarantee of the comprehensiveness and accuracy of the information supplied.

The pamphlet does not say anything of careers and trainings that are still closed to women (except that girls are eligible in Ministry of Supply establishments only at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough). The restrictions on training and apprenticeship in Trade Union Regulations do certainly affect girls' and women's opportunities in science and technology, though not perhaps so much at the level of the University graduate, for whom the pamphlet is primarily written.

P. C. C.

#### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From "The Catholic Citizen", 15th December, 1932

We have long been promised changes in the House of Lords. A joint Committee of Peers and Members of the House of Commons under the Chairmanship of Lord Salisbury, have been considering reform, and have recently presented a unanimous report for the consideration of the Government. This report suggests that the House of Lords should be partly hereditary, and partly elected or nominated. It agrees that sex should be no disqualification to a seat when both sexes are available; that would be, at any rate, in the outside element. This leaves untouched the question of the position of Peeresses in their own right.

There is no sense at all events why Peeresses in their own right should not have a seat in the House of Lords, nor is there any reason why titles should not be bestowed on women for the same or similar reasons that they are bestowed on men. We do not think that the Order of the British Empire is always adequate to the achievements of some women. They can still conquer the air, if other spheres have been conquered; and we may suppose that women may render some great political, or other service to the Nation.—Notes and Comments.

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

NON-PARTY

Office—8B, Dryden Chambers, 119, Oxford Street, London, W.1.

Patron: Saint Joan of Arc. Colours: Blue, White and Gold

Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 6d. 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 £1 which includes *The Catholic Citizen*. 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.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST BOOKSHOP

**FOYLES**  
• FOR BOOKS •

FAMED CENTRE FOR

**Catholic Books**

JOIN THE CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB!

Members buy Books published at 10/6, 12/6, 15/,-, 18/- for ONLY 4/-

Write for details.

119-125 CHARING CROSS ROAD, W.C.2  
Gerrard 5660 (20 lines) \* Open 9-6 (inc. Sat.)

Nearest Station: Tottenham Court Road

Catholic Funeral Upholders

**JOHN HUSSEY Ltd.**

2 Berkeley Gardens  
(Adjoining 104) Kensington Church St., W.8

Valuers for Probate

**A SUITABLE MORTUARY CHAPEL**

can be placed at the disposal of families

Tel. BAYswater 3046.

Telegrams: Requiem, Kens., London.