

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 Fourpence.

Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give;
Who knows the gifts which *you* shall give,
Daughter of the Newer Eve?

Francis Thompson.

The Layman's Part

By CHRISTINE SPENDER

This tautly reasoned book* brings together Count de la Bedoyere's thoughts on the role of the layman in the Church. It is too often assumed, he considers, that the layman is but a poor part of the Church, that the Hierarchy *is* the Church on earth and that, for the layman, to imitate priests, religious and nuns is the only way to true spirituality. Whereas, of course, the obvious truth is that the layman, as layman is so much a part of the Church that he could not be dispensed with and that therefore he must realise that he has his own special role to play in the life of the Church—for he is an integral member of the Mystical Body of Christ. And so it is brought home to us that Christianity is the Way and does not merely consist of individual pious practices. The importance of the liturgical movement consists in the fact that the liturgy is the prayer of the Church and it is through being members of the Church and sharing in the prayers put up during every season of the liturgical year that we follow the Way. We are not merely spectators we are participants, we are to live the life. It is from these primary thoughts that Count de la Bedoyere puts before us practical expedients and suggestions useful to the ordinary Catholic. He is forward-looking and many of his projects are reforms in parish and Church life which are, as yet, only being tentatively tried out in some countries. But one knows he has the root of the matter in him for unless people feel they are an integral part of Religion—that in fact they are as necessary to It as It is to them—it is unlikely that Religion will stick except as a habit. This may account for the leakage of Catholics from the Church for as Count de la Bedoyere points out religious goodness is "misunderstood to mean precisely the lack of balance, the artificiality, the smugness of a piety that is plastered on from without rather than grown from within in a living balanced whole."

Let anyone pick up the Daily Missal or the Book of the Day Hours or even the Little Office, open it at any page and begin to read. How impressive, how apt and how fit are the prayers, the psalms and the hymns "in sharp contrast (writes Count de la Bedoyere) with too many of the prayers of our devotional prayer-books." Yet how little known to the average Catholic who never hears them prayed or sung aloud except in Latin. But as the Count points out, just to be present at the action of the Mass is sufficient to share in a great mystery, for in the liturgy "we are taken out of ourselves in order to be the people of God, and, as we understand it all the better, we are guided to a more non-subjective type of private prayer in which, instead of over-worrying about ourselves, we are content to attend to God and let His will be done."

And so the author hammers home his theme in this tightly packed, thought-provoking book and sums it up in an inspired final sentence which I shall take the liberty of quoting:—

"That strength to be patient; to endure joyfully; to be made fit to share the light which the saints inherit; to be rescued from the powers of darkness; and finally to attain the Kingdom—that strength is acquired by living our daily lives in and with Christ. We, the lay people of His Mystical Body, His Fellowship, share His priesthood in our sacrifices, sufferings, choices, which under the guidance of the Holy Spirit are made by Him acceptable to the Holy Trinity. We share His teaching authority by witnessing, by our actions, our speech, our thoughts to the way He told us to live in love of God and our neighbours. We share his Kingship by trying to be 'other Christs' in carrying out His plan to achieve the Kingdom whose triumph He will proclaim on the Last Day. And it is from Him alone that we, with our sinfulness and stupidity, can derive the spiritual power to fulfil this priestly, prophetic and royal responsibility within His Revelation, for the peace and happiness of mankind on earth and its glory with God for eternity."

* *The Layman in the Church.* By Michael de la Bedoyere. (Burns Oates, ros. 6d.)

NOTES AND COMMENTS

In introducing the deputation of the Equal Pay Campaign Committee to the Minister of Education on February 14th, Mrs. Cazalet Keir asked him not to endorse any Recommendation of the Burnham Committee on salaries which failed to provide for equal pay in the teaching profession immediately.

There was no need to argue the case for equal pay with Sir David Eccles who had supported Mrs. Cazalet Keir's Amendment to the Education Bill of 1944, and had spoken on the platform of the E.P.C.C.

Miss Pierotti (National Union of Women Teachers) urged the Minister to use his powers to advise the Burnham Committee that they should recommend the establishment of equal pay for men and women teachers in full immediately. She further begged him to go to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer and seek their support for this.

The Minister, while acknowledging that, in justice, the case for equal pay had been made out, said that he could not undertake to suggest in advance to the Burnham Committee that it should consider proposals at variance with proposed arrangements for the Civil Service.

* * *

With the object of furthering the cause of Franco-German reconciliation, a party comprising French women deputies and leaders of women's organisations recently undertook a journey through Germany. The project was organised by the secretary of the Women's Section of the M.R.P., Germaine Fouquet, who is also a member of the l'Alliance Jeanne d'Arc. Madame Russo, president of l'Alliance was of the party and also Madame Pesson-Depret.

The journey took the party to Essen where they were given a reception by the Mayor and to Bonn where they were received by the Minister of Health. Here too they talked with Frau Brauksiepe, Member of the Bundestag and president of St. Joan's in Germany. From Bonn they went to Berlin and Madame Russo's description of the city so tragically torn in two, lends strength to her plea for a better solution than mere co-existence.

* * *

Distinguished delegates to St. Joan's International Council Meeting whom we look forward to welcoming, include the vice-presidents, Madame Pesson-Depret (France), Dr. Maria Schlüter-Hermkes (Germany), Madame Leroy-Boy (Belgium). Mrs. Jean Daly will be coming direct from attending the Status of Women Commission in New York as Australian delegate. We shall be glad to welcome for the first time three delegates from the Queensland Section of the Alliance.

Members and friends are cordially invited to the reception at the Newman International Centre on April 22nd (tickets 5s.) and also to the Public Meeting at the Holy Child Convent on April 25th, both at 7.30.

OUR LADY

Let us ask ourselves whether in the popular approach to Our Lady there is anything that obscures the true vision of her for women who believe intensely in women's equality and women's responsibility. I think there is. Let us begin by reflecting on the effect of the mauve and pink, and chocolate statues which simmer from our altars like so many out-size dolls.

To-day when commerce with Europe is again open, it should be possible to obtain at reasonable prices, plaster reproductions of real works of art which give some idea of the strength, and beauty and wisdom which her great mission entailed.

Like many other reforms the need is for a readjustment of our mental approach. A blameless young priest preaching on the Annunciation said that Our Lady was probably scrubbing the floor when the Angel Gabriel appeared. She may have been. But it is very doubtful if women will be inspired to deeper reverence by the thought of Our Lady engaged in the most menial and dirty drudgery. There is a suggestion too, more widely resented, that the good Father might imagine that all women should be solely so engaged.

The Rev. Father Lockington, S.J., that great feminist, and great worshipper of Our Lady, speaking once to a group of women, touched upon the greatness of her intellect. It is quite obvious of course, that the woman entrusted with, and created for, the greatest of human destinies should be pre-eminent in every human attribute. But it struck me as strange that I had never before heard it adverted to.

Dedicated as she was to the Temple she was saturated with the learning and culture of the Chosen People, the great Jewish literature and tradition which inspires the world even to-day.

It is seldom realised that Our Lady was a poet. The Canticle of the Magnificat, poured forth as it seems spontaneously, is unrivalled for beauty and grandeur in the whole field of human literature.

As seldom is it adverted to that she was descended from a Royal House in an age when descent conferred vastly more prestige on an individual than wealth.

Let us, reflecting on Our Lady's unique privilege, a privilege given in preparation for her unique mission, remember her pre-eminent gifts even in the human sphere, remember the intellectual, the Princess and the Poet.—

Anna T. Brennan
in St. Joan's, Australia

BOOK RECEIVED

The Priest in the World. By Josef Sellmair.
(Burns Oates, 18s.)

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "The Catholic Citizen"

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

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

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MISS CHRISTINE SPENDER, Hon. Editor.

"The Catholic Citizen."

43rd Annual Report*

For the year ended December 31st, 1954

Equal Pay

The work during the year has been chiefly concentrated on equal pay, both independently and in conjunction with the Equal Pay Campaign Committee. The Alliance has campaigned for this reform since the granting of the first instalment of the vote in 1918, and 1954 saw the first tentative steps towards its realisation. At the end of the year, negotiations for the application of Equal Pay in the Civil Service were begun between representatives of the Civil Service Staff Associations and the Treasury. Mr. Butler stated that he hoped it would be possible to introduce Equal Pay "within the present financial year." He maintained, however, that the introduction must be gradual "as the social and economic consequences of a change of this character cannot yet be forecast with any certainty."

The year's campaign opened on February 5th when the Alliance was represented on a deputation from the E.P.C.C. which once again put its case to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and made it plain that it stood firmly for the full implementation of the Government's promise and was opposed to a "gradual approach" to equal pay. The Equal Pay Petition, launched by this committee, was meanwhile gathering support, and before the closing date, February 25th, a Rally was held in Hyde Park, when many members of the general public signed the Petition.

On March 8th, useful Press publicity was gained when the Petition with 80,000 signatures (those collected by the Alliance included the names of 1,600 nuns) was driven to Parliament in a procession of three decorated carriages carrying four Members of Parliament, Miss Irene Ward, Dr. Edith Summerskill, Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Ford, and representatives of the campaigning societies. At St. Stephen's Entrance a crowd of supporters had gathered, and Miss Irene Ward, amid cheers, officially received the Petition. It was presented to Parliament by this tireless crusader on the following day, while a Petition from the main Civil Service Staff Organisations was presented by Mr. Pannell. The whole of Question Time on March 9th was taken up on Equal Pay with lively and ingenious supplementaries. On the same day the First Reading was given to Mr. Douglas Houghton's Bill to establish the principle of equal pay, a Bill which the author described as "a natural though belated postscript to the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919." Miss Ward, Lady Davidson, Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Ford, had prepared the way with a motion reminding the Chancellor of the Exchequer of his promise to pro-

* Subject to confirmation at Annual Meeting.

ceed with the application of the principle of equal pay in the Government services "when the financial and economic position warrants it," and using the Chancellor's own admissions of the improved economic position of the country to support the demand for the implementation of his pledge. The Alliance took part in lobbying in the House of Commons on March 8th and 9th. Mr. Pannell, in presenting the Civil Service's Petition on March 9th reminded the Chancellor that the Trades Union Congress had urged Her Majesty's Government to make "tangible progress" in the matter without delay.

The Chancellor's Budget Speech drew from the Alliance a resolution which noted that for the first time Equal Pay had been mentioned in a Budget Speech but pointed out that, "nothing beyond an offer of exploratory talks for a possible gradual approach to Equal Pay was foreshadowed." Two days after the introduction of the Budget the Alliance co-operated in a public meeting at Central Hall, Westminster, under the auspices of the E.P.C.C. which was addressed by M.P.s. A resolution was passed deploring the Chancellor's refusal to commit himself to introducing Equal Pay in the Civil Service.

One small victory may be recorded: the only woman Hansard reporter was granted equal pay with her men colleagues, chiefly owing to Miss Ward's persistency.

The Alliance has continued its battle for equal pay in the Press. It thanks its champions, not forgetting *Sacerdos*, whose letter to *The Catholic Herald* was not published, and Mr. Gilbert Harding, who spoke at the opening of St. Joan's Fair. The Equal Pay Campaign Committee kindly allowed us to publish in *The Catholic Citizen* (December, 1954) the Memorandum on Equal Pay sent by them to the Status of Women Commission.

Equal Opportunities

Women's right to freedom of choice of employment was upheld by Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Hill in the House of Commons, and by Lord Selkirk in the House of Lords, when the Mines and Quarries Bill was before Parliament. An amendment to the Bill which would have forbidden any further recruiting of females for work at the pithead, was happily withstood by the Government. The Alliance made representations to the appropriate authorities on this amendment. It also protested against the continued classification of women with young persons in the Bill, and asked that the clause providing protection for women against risk in lifting heavy loads likely to cause injury, should be amended to cover all workers.

Political Rights

Peeresses are still debarred from the House of Lords. No progress can be reported.

The Alliance keeps a vigilant eye regarding the franchise for women in those countries which are achieving independence within the Commonwealth.

Public Morality

In May the Home Secretary announced the setting up of a committee to "examine the question of homosexual offences and the parallel problems of the law relating to prostitution and solicitation generally." The Alliance sent in for consideration by the Home Secretary the names of persons whom they considered suitable to serve on this committee. None of the nominees of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, nor of the Alliance, nor of other Women's Organisations were appointed. The Alliance has agreed to submit evidence to the committee jointly with the A.M.S.H. regarding prostitution and solicitation, as it did before the Street Offences Committee in 1928.

The Alliance was represented at a Conference convened by the A.M.S.H. to consider the principles upon which the evidence before the Departmental Committee should be based.

Members of the Alliance had the pleasure of hearing a delightful talk, given under the auspices of the A.M.S.H., from Mr. Andrew Butler, grandson of Josephine Butler, on his book "Portrait of Josephine Butler."

Status of Women Committee

The Alliance is a constituent member of this Committee, of which Dame Vera Laughton Mathews is chairman.

The work has included consideration of the subject of domicile, on which Mrs. Earengy, J.P. prepared a valuable memorandum for the information of M.P.s and others. This was published in *The Catholic Citizen* (October, 1954). Prompt action was taken on the Mines and Quarries Bill and protests were sent to the appropriate authorities on anomalies in Income Tax regulations with regard to married women, and against the unequal age of retirement for men and women under National Insurance. The General Election Manifesto was amended and brought up to date, and is supported by the Alliance.

United Nations

Early in the year, a letter was sent to the Minister of State concerning various points in the U.K.'s Observations on the Draft Covenants of Human Rights. The Alliance commented particularly on Equal Pay, Medical Experimentation and the redundancy of special mention of sex equality in certain clauses of the Covenants, in view of the over-riding principle that the rights enunciated in both Covenants shall be "without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex," etc.

The chairman and hon. secretary had a valuable interview at the Foreign Office to discuss the resolutions passed at the Eighth Session of the Status of Women Commission.

Prior to the following session of ECOSOC, the support of the U.K. delegate was asked for the resolution passed by the Status of Women Commission regarding "ancient laws and practices affecting the human dignity of women." (See *The Catholic Citizen*, May, 1954.) Regrettably, the U.K. abstained from voting on the resolution at ECOSOC on the plea that the matter was being dealt with under Slavery next Spring. In the autumn representations were therefore again made to the Minister of State asking for the support of the U.K. delegate for this resolution at the General Assembly. The Alliance pointed out that the resolution was a valuable means of education and far from being redundant would prepare the ground and strengthen the case when the matter was discussed under Slavery. The Minister sent a detailed reply and courteously sent the

text of the U.K. Draft Supplementary Convention on Slavery, hoping that the Alliance would find that its terms covered the essential aims of the resolution referred to above. Again a vote of abstention was given by the U.K. delegate at the General Assembly. The Alliance is still actively engaged in this matter.

Women's Advisory Council of the United Nations Association. The Council to which the Alliance is affiliated received reports from the Hon. Mrs. E. Emmet, U.K. delegate to the Eighth Assembly of the United Nations, and Mrs. J. Warde, U.K. delegate to the Status of Women Commission.

At a meeting for Mrs. Walter Elliot, prior to her departure as U.K. delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Alliance asked for support for the resolution of ECOSOC referred to above. Mrs. Elliot promised to "do her best to see that some of the opinions of the Council were voiced during the course of the debate." Mrs. Elliot was unfortunately obliged to return home before this point on the agenda was reached.

Representatives of the Alliance also attended a meeting to welcome Mrs. Lord, U.S.A. delegate to the Status of Women Commission.

The Alliance was glad to attend the meeting convened by U.N.A. to thank Sir Gladwyn Jebb for his work as U.K. permanent representative at the United Nations.

SCESWUN. The Alliance has withdrawn from membership of the Standing Conference on the Economic and Social Work of the United Nations as so much of the work of the Conference is outside the scope of the Alliance. Moreover the Alliance works with a number of national organisations, some of which are not eligible for membership of SCESWUN, and so continuance of membership seemed to involve a certain duplication of effort.

Events of the Year

The 43rd Annual Meeting was held at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho, on March 20th, Miss P. C. Challoner presiding. The Annual Report was agreed and its adoption supported by Lady Muir, Lady Wijeyekoon, Mrs. Elvira Mathers, and Miss Shirley Catlin. Mrs. Margaret Morgan wished well to the Alliance on her departure for Malta, where she hoped to work for the cause. Miss Christine Spender, editor, presented *The Catholic Citizen* report, and Miss Jameson read the financial report in place of the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Carr, who was regrettably absent through illness. Miss Carr's appeal for funds was also read by Miss Jameson and brought in nearly £45.

Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, International President, then gave a brief survey of the work of St. Joan's International, stressing the work on Slavery and "customs analogous to Slavery" that lay before the Alliance. The Chairman urged on members the need for individual propaganda as the work was too important to remain so little known and so inadequately supported.

Resolutions were passed on Equal Pay, Equal Political Rights, Slavery, Marriage, Domicile, Taxation, National Insurance, Solicitation Laws, Education, and Juvenile Courts. These resolutions were sent to the appropriate authorities and their text will be found in *The Catholic Citizen* of April, 1954.

The result of the ballot for the new Executive Committee was announced: the names will be found at the beginning of this Report. The Executive Committee re-elected the former officers.

Mass was offered in March at St. Patrick's Soho, for Gabrielle Jeffery, founder of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, and for Leonora de Alberti, first editor of *The Catholic Citizen* whose anniversaries occur that month, and on November 7th for deceased members, associates and benefactors of the Alliance.

On St. Joan's Day, May 30th, Mass was offered for the Alliance by the Rev. Philip Moclair, C.P. and a laurel wreath, tied with the colours of the Alliance, was

placed on the shrine of St. Joan in Westminster Cathedral.

Lectures. A new venture was an attempt to interest the younger generation in the Woman's Movement. This was successfully undertaken by Miss P. C. Challoner, M.A. During the year a lecture was given at the F.C.J. Convents at Gumley House and Poles; at Mill Hill O.S.F.; the Ursuline Convent, Ilford; and the Training College, Bedford. On March 25th Miss Challoner lectured on "Women in Public Life" to a group of West Africans, members of local bodies in their own countries, who were studying local government in this country under the auspices of the Colonial Office. She attended a reception at Church House, held for them at the end of their five months' course.

The Alliance held two meetings jointly with the Women's Freedom League at the Minerva Club, one for Madame Poinso-Chapuis, a member of *l'Alliance Jeanne d'Arc* and Deputy for Marseilles, who gave a brilliant survey of the work done in the French Parliament by women members; the other, when Mr. Greenidge, Secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society reported on his work with the Economic and Social Council, on the proposed new Slavery Convention.

Members had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. McGrath, President of the Transvaal Section of St. Joan's International, and of entertaining her at a party kindly given for the Alliance on St. Joan's Day by Miss D. J. Collier, F.R.C.S.

Thirty new members joined the Alliance during the year, several as a result of correspondence in *The Catholic Herald* on Equal Pay and on Married Women Graduates, to which the chairman and other members contributed.

Members of the Alliance who knew Fr. Vincent McNabb, O.P. were glad to sign the Petition for the introduction of the cause for his canonisation. Fr. Vincent was a friend of long standing who, on many occasions, spoke for the Alliance and wrote in *The Catholic Citizen*.

Conferences and Meetings

Representatives of the Alliance attended the Annual General Meetings of the A.M.S.H., the Open Door Council, and the Anti-Slavery Society; Mrs. Pankhurst's birthday celebrations; and the unveiling of a plaque erected by the L.C.C. outside No. 2 Gower Street and inscribed "Dame Millicent Garrett Fawcett, 1847-1929, pioneer of Woman's Suffrage—lived and died here."

The Alliance took part in the British Commonwealth League Conference at County Hall on "Women in Political Life throughout the Commonwealth and Empire" and attended the Reception given to the delegates by Mrs. White, M.P., at the House of Commons. St. Joan's representatives were glad to entertain their co-religionist, Miss Barbara, member of the Maltese Legislative Council.

The Alliance was also represented at the Conference of the Open Door International at Oxford.

Members of the Alliance serve on—The Catholic Committee for Overseas Students, the British Commonwealth League, the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child, the Vigilance Society, and the Women's Council co-operating with the Women of India, Pakistan, and Ceylon.

Many gatherings under various auspices have been attended by our representatives to meet distinguished visitors from abroad, including Srimati Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and afterwards High Commissioner for India in London; Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur, Minister of Health for India; Mrs. Bertha Solomon, M.P. South Africa; Begum Anwar G. Ahmed, Pakistan; Mrs. Shafiq, from Egypt; and other interesting personalities. It was a particular pleasure to meet old friends at the reception given by the British Auxiliaries to the International Alliance of Women on the occasion of its Board Meeting in London. Representatives of the Alliance attended a show of films on life in the Overseas Territories arranged

by the Colonial Office, and an illustrated lecture on the Aborigines of Australia by Dr. Duguid.

Visitors from Abroad

Officers of the Alliance were happy to meet Mrs. Tenison-Woods, Chief, Section on the Status of Women and former Vice-President of the New South Wales Section of the Alliance. From Australia came Miss Burns and Miss Campbell (Melbourne); Dr. Duguid (Adelaide); Miss Lilian Foley (Canberra); Mrs. Hegney (Perth); Mrs. Kinsella and Miss Merrick (Sydney); from Canada—Dr. Aileen Noonan; from France—Madame Poinso-Chapuis, Madame Pesson-Depret, and Mrs. Del Souriau; from Germany—Dr. Gertrud Meyer; from Ireland—Mrs. Dixon, Miss Horne and Miss Moclair; from Malta—Miss Buhagiar; from Nigeria—Chief Elizabeth Adekogbe and her husband; from Sweden—Mrs. Anna Lenah Elgström.

Congratulations

The Alliance sent respectful congratulations to His Excellency Archbishop O'Hara on his appointment as Apostolic Delegate. Representatives attended the Solemn Reception of His Excellency at Westminster Cathedral. Congratulations were also sent to the Rev. Christopher Laughton Mathews on the occasion of his ordination to the priesthood and his first Mass (the High Mass at Westminster Cathedral on Trinity Sunday) when several members of the Alliance were privileged to be present; to Dr. Shattock Harper on the birth of her third child, Andrew; to Miss Patricia Horne on obtaining her medical degree; to Miss Monica Munro on her marriage to Mr. George Clynes; and to Miss Anne Whittles on entering the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Obituary

The Alliance mourned the death on March 11th of Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence, one of the last remaining and most loved leaders of the Woman's Suffrage Movement. The Hon. Secretary represented the Alliance at her funeral at Woking. Lord Pethick-Lawrence's moving tribute to his wife on that occasion was published in *The Catholic Citizen*, as were tributes by Dame Vera Laughton Mathews and Mrs. Anna Lenah Elgström.

The Alliance is grieved to record the death of the following members during the year: Miss Ursula Buckmaster, Miss Ruth Crosse, Dr. Gertrud Haas, Miss J. Hayes, Miss M. G. Keenan, Miss Mackey, Miss M. A. O'Callaghan, Miss M. E. O'Sullivan and Miss M. E. Walsh. R.I.P.

The Catholic Citizen

Subscriptions to and sales of *The Catholic Citizen* are slightly lower than last year but advertisements show a welcome increase. A subsidy of some £80 made up of donations and grants was necessary to cover the cost of production and no money has been available for indexing or binding this year. Many subscriptions to *The Catholic Citizen* are taken out by members abroad, particularly by our Australian Sections and we feel that the circulation in England could be increased if each member would take responsibility in the matter of finding a new subscriber.

Articles and Reviews have included Equal Pay by Marian Reeves; Two Loves—Two Cities, by Margaret Monro; The Income of a Married Woman by Beatrice Pearson; The Authentic St. Joan by Christopher St. John; The Superiority of Women? by F. Mackenzie Shattock; and Child Adoption by M. E. Edwards. Miss McGillicuddy wrote from the U.S.A. an account of the United Nations General Assembly and later a Report of the Eighth Session of The Status of Women Commission and Dr. Janet Robb gave a first-hand Report of The Tenth Session of the Human Rights Commission. In French we published a most interesting analysis by Marie Lenoël, of the *Directoire des Prêtres Chargés de Religieuses*.

We are indebted to Miss Shirley Catlin for International Notes and to Mrs. Halpern and Miss Douie we owe continued gratitude for the regular feature, The

Month in Parliament, Miss Phyllis Challoner has contributed articles, reviews and many notes during the year which are much appreciated. We owe an immense debt of gratitude to Mrs. Coast, Mrs. Morison and Miss Blackburn for their addressing of wrappers and to Miss Graham and Miss Hope Robson for their invaluable help in regularly sending out the paper month by month.

Hon. Treasurer's Report

Subscriptions show a slight increase from last year. Collections are down, mainly owing to the fact that few meetings were held, the time being given to organising money-making Sales. £40 was allocated from the General Fund to *The Catholic Citizen*, £5 less than in 1953, as the proceeds from the Bring and Buy Sale had already been allocated for printing.

Much thought and effort was given to raising money by means of Sales. A Bring and Buy Sale held at Ealing (by kind permission of the Misses Challoner) brought in over £20 for *The Catholic Citizen*. In July a Jumble Sale produced £40 towards the initial expenses of St. Joan's Fair. This was held in November at Westminster Cathedral Hall, and realised £230.

Special mention must be made of the work done by the sub-committee set up to organise the Fair, namely, Miss Blackburn, Miss Carr, Mrs. Mathers, Miss Price and lastly Miss McGovern who as Hon. Secretary put in many hours of hard work. We wish to thank the stallholders and their helpers and those who lent their cars, both for the Jumble Sale and the Christmas Fair. The Alliance is particularly indebted to Mr. Gilbert Harding for giving up his Saturday afternoon to open the Fair and whose presence attracted so large a crowd. Thanks are also due to the Refreshment Department for hard and efficient work behind the scenes.

The Alliance is grateful for the generous help of its voluntary workers, particularly to Miss Jameson for her regular and untiring contribution to the efficiency of the work of the office. We are also indebted to Miss Gadsby for her generosity in auditing the accounts; to Miss Cave and Miss Graham for occasional help in the office, and to Miss Sheila Hynes for her care of the Press book.

Merseyside Branch,

Chairman, Mrs. McCann, 15 Greenheys Road.

Liverpool, 8

Several meetings were held during the year; Miss Chave Collisson of the A.M.S.H. gave an inspiring talk on Josephine Butler at the Chairman's house; in May, Miss Herbison, J.P. a member of the Committee, spoke to us on the work of the Liverpool Standing Conference of Women's Organisations, of which she is Chairman; in July, Dr. Isabel Powell Heath gave a masterly address on Equal Pay at the home of the Hon. Treasurer. The members were afterwards hospitably entertained by Mrs. Brady. In September, by kind invitation of the Misses Barry, members met in Birkenhead to hear a brief account of the work done at Headquarters.

Holy Mass was offered for the Alliance on St. Joan's Day, and for deceased members on November 2nd. Mass was also offered for Miss M. O'Callaghan, a founder member of the Branch and one time Chairman, who died on February 27th, to whom the Branch owed much in the way of help and support. *The Catholic Citizen* published some vivid "Suffrage Memories," sent by Mr. Charles O'Callaghan, her brother.

Congratulations were sent to the Rev. Christopher Laughton Mathews on his ordination and Mass was offered for him on that day. Congratulations were also sent to Miss Mercer who has entered the Poor Clares.

The Branch is a member of the Standing Conference of Women's Organisations (which comprises 54 societies) and has taken part in work concerning Family Allowances, Road Safety, Housing and Hospitals. Mrs. de Rouffignac represents the Alliance on the Liverpool and District Hospital Management Committee.

ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

It is gratifying to recall that Resolution 547H (XVIII) of the Economic and Social Council concerning the abolition of customs, ancient laws and practices affecting the human dignity of women, was passed by the General Assembly on December 17th. This is a marked victory in the long struggle, with whose initiation as long ago as the Versailles Conference of 1919, the name of Nina Boyle is associated. It is a cause which the Alliance has for many years made its own. In 1937 it presented a Memorandum to the 18th Assembly of the League of Nations in which it recommended the abolition of the practices referred to in the present Resolution.

This Resolution was initiated by the Eighth Session of the Status of Women Commission in New York in March, on the intervention of the representative of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations. In July, before the Committee of the Economic and Social Council on Non-Governmental Organisations in Geneva, the representative of St. Joan's International Alliance, Madame Leroy-Boy, was given a "Hearing" on the Resolution.

Human Rights

Observations on the Draft International Covenants on Human Rights, based on Resolutions passed by the 12th Council Meeting of the Alliance held in Paris in 1953, were published in United Nations Document, E/CN.4/702, February 2nd, 1954. These observations dealt with amendments to Articles on Marriage, Medical and Scientific Experimentation, Regulations of Prostitution, Employment of Young Persons, and the Right of Petition, and were before the 10th Session of the Human Rights Commission. Document E/CN.4/CR23, January 21st, 1954, contains the substance of the Resolutions passed at the Paris Conference, on the Draft International Covenants on Human Rights, on the Status of Women and the Trusteeship Council, Slavery and Equal Educational Opportunities (see *The Catholic Citizen*, October, 1953).

Non-Discrimination

The Alliance agreed to take part in the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations interested in the eradication of prejudice and discrimination, to be held in Geneva in March 1955. The following brief statement was sent for submission to the Conference: "St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance, believing in the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man and therefore in the dignity and worth of the human person, necessarily opposes any discrimination which violates the rights of human personality.

"In particular, St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance supports equal rights for men and women as laid down in the Charter and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and works for the abolition of sex discrimination, regardless of marital status, race or creed."

By request of the Secretariat, which was preparing a Working Paper as a basis of discussion at the Conference, the Alliance submitted detailed information regarding its methods in work to eliminate prejudice based on sex.

Status of Women

In response to requests from the Status of Women Commission, detailed information was sent regarding methods which have been found useful in creating a favourable climate of opinion on the need for equal pay for equal work for men and women. Brief replies were also sent concerning women in the public service, and education of women for citizenship.

The Alliance has Consultative Status on the Register with the Economic and Social Council. Its representatives in New York are Mrs. Wanda Grabinska (alternate Dr. Magda de Spur); and Madame Leroy-Boy, in Geneva. The Alliance is particularly grateful to Madame Leroy-Boy for representing the Alliance at ECOSOC

where her "Hearing," referred to above, was of great value. Madame Leroy also represented the Alliance at the Conference of Consultative NGOs in Geneva, in June; Mrs. Grabinska represented the Alliance at the NGO Conference held at the United Nations headquarters in December. Miss Merrick attended some of the Sessions of the Status of Women Commission in New York.

Representatives of the Alliance had the advantage of attending informal meetings with the Secretary-General of the United Nations during his visit to London, and with Mr. Charles Hogan, Director NGO department ECOSOC Secretariat, whose technical help and advice was most valuable to the Alliance in its approach to ECOSOC.

The Alliance is a constituent member of the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations and is represented on its Committees in London, New York, Paris, Geneva and Australia.

Greetings were given from the Alliance at the Conferences of the International Council of Women in Helsinki by Madame Leroy-Boy; of the International Women's Guild in Paris by Mademoiselle Marie Lenoël; of the Open Door International at Oxford, by Mrs. Anna Lenah Elgström. At the Congress of *l'Union Feminine Civique et Sociale* held in Paris, Miss Norah Fahie gave a highly appreciated account of the methods used in the United Kingdom to interest young people in citizenship.

The first Inter-State Conference of the Alliance in Australia was held in Melbourne in January. This very successful Conference was reported in full in a souvenir issue of *St. Joan's, Australia*, the organ of the Alliance in Australia.

No Council Meeting was held this year. Reports of National Sections will be presented to the Council Meeting to be held in London in April, 1955.

Congratulations have been sent to Dr. Maria Schlüter-Hermkes, vice-president of the Alliance, on her election to the executive board of UNESCO, the only woman among twenty-two members representing their Governments; to Mrs. Jean Daly, former president of the Alliance in New South Wales, on her appointment as Australian delegate to the Ninth Session of the Status of Women Commission; to Dr. Aileen Noonan on her re-election to the Town Council of Mount Forest, Ontario, to Frau Gertrud Meyer on her election to the Welfare Committee of the Karlsruhe Town Council.

THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

During February, the main debate of interest to us was that on Colonial Development and Welfare on February 2nd and 7th. During the Second Reading, Mrs. Harriet Slater, member for Stoke-on-Trent, North, made a most eloquent speech emphasizing the importance of co-operative help and, in particular, help and education for the women in these areas. She said: "It has been said, 'If you teach a man you teach one person, but if you teach a woman you teach a family' and I think that is very largely true . . . because once the woman becomes convinced of what she has been taught, she tends to extend that teaching to her family and to people around her." She went on: "If we could encourage and help to develop the co-operation of the womenfolk in the work which we are trying to do, and sympathy with it, we should probably make very much greater strides than we are making at present. Of developments in Pakistan in particular, someone has written that if, in the early development of underdeveloped countries, it is realised that women can contribute to the social and economic life, we should then assign to them a due share of the work, and, as a result, we should go a long way towards solving many of the problems which confront us. I therefore ask that some of the money which we plan to spend on the educational side should be so used that we can give

opportunities for women to be trained, educated and organised. We should then find that women would be very useful in the development of societies, mainly of the cottage industry type. They would help, too, on the marketing side. The ability of women to organise would help considerably in thrift and good management." This point was also supported by Mr. Marquand, during the Committee stage of the Bill, when he said: "The education of women or of girl children is bound to contribute an almost untold quality of value to ensuring social stability and a progressive outlook in these developing communities. Its importance cannot be exaggerated economically as well as socially." Mrs. White, too, accused the Government of not spending as much as was necessary on education, particularly female education, in Kenya. Money had been asked for, she said "particularly for education in rural areas of Kenya, including the education of women. I am certain that anyone with a superficial knowledge of Kenya and of the Kikuyu country in particular, will agree that until the women there are better educated, we shall not get the economic incentive which we need, among other things, to improve the standard of life." The Government had not been able to find the £6 million asked for, but the people on the spot had felt that it was so important that: "They have gone across the Atlantic to ask for it, and I hope they will get it. They are laying particular emphasis on this matter of the education of women. I believe that discussions are now going on, and I very much hope that they will be successful." In his answer Mr. Hopkinson (Minister of State for Colonial Affairs) stated that the Colonial Office was well aware of the need for improved education in the areas concerned. He did not, however, take up the special point of education for women.

Equal Pay was pursued with special reference to those Civil Servants due to retire during the next seven years of gradual adjustment. On February 15th, Mr. Willey asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer "Whether in the scheme for the implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work in the Civil Service, he will provide for the pensions of women now within seven years of retirement to be reassessed on the basis of equal pay." Mr. Butler replied: "Under the scheme which I announced on 25th January, older women will advance to equal pay at the same rate as their younger colleagues. This scheme was produced by a Committee of the Civil Service National Whitley Council after long and sympathetic consideration of the possibility of including in it specially favourable treatment for older women. It has been recommended by the Staff side to the executive committees of the several staff associations for their concurrence. I could not contemplate a scheme which increased the salary bill more steeply than it will be increased under that now holding the field, or one which departed from the principle of basing pensions on pay received." On February 22nd, Mr. Willey further asked the Chancellor: "What he estimated would be the cost of providing full equal pay to women civil servants aged 57 years and older." Mr. Butler replied: "The extra cost of giving equal pay to this category at once instead of gradually over a period would be about £1½ million in the first year, and about £4½ million over the whole period."

On February 23rd, Mr. Morley asked the Foreign Secretary: "When Great Britain proposes to sign and ratify the Convention on the Political Rights of Women." Mr. Turton replied: "It is not proposed that the United Kingdom should become a party to this Convention." Mr. Morley continued: "In view of the fact that this country was a pioneer in the granting of political rights to women, is it not rather regrettable that we have not signed this Convention when a number of other nations have done so?" Mr. Turton replied: "It is not our practice to sign conventions unless we expect to be in a position to ratify them within a reasonable time. This particular Convention has certain articles in it which prevents us being able to conform to it."

A rather charming example occurred on February 10th of the extent to which the women M.P.s watch over the detail of women's interests as well as the larger picture. Mrs. Mann—and one can imagine her tone of voice—asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer: "Why ladies' shopping bags with zips are taxed 33½ per cent. whilst gentlemen's brief cases with zips are free of tax . . . why a step ladder suitable for women is taxed and the larger, over six steps, is free of tax . . . and when he will end these anomalies." Mr. Brooke admitted, in so many words, that the situation was, in fact, fraught with anomalies, and promised to "bear in mind" those mentioned by the hon. Lady when next reviewing the tax. Miss Ward too, sailed into battle at this point and said: "Will my hon. Friend bear in mind that we are getting rather tired of the phrase 'bear in mind'? Instead of bearing in mind we should like him to 'bear' more in action."

B. M. Halpern

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

The General Assembly of the Permanent Committee of International Catholic Organisations is to meet at Scheveningen on March 15th, for a Conference on the contribution which the Permanent Committee can make to the United Nations Organisations. At the opening session, Dr. Marga Klompé, Member of the Dutch Parliament will speak on International Co-operation and Catholic Responsibility. Dr. Klompé has been Netherlands delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations and has taken a prominent part in the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe. Dr. Klompé is a member of St. Joan's International Alliance.

Mrs. Jean Daly writes from Manila where she attended the Regional Meeting of the International Federation of University Women to whom she gave the greetings of St. Joan's International Alliance. She also attended the Pan-Pacific Women's Conference and sends a delightful account of the hospitality afforded the delegates, particularly of the reception by the First Lady, Mrs. Magsaysay, at the Malacanana Palace. Interesting exhibitions were on view organised by most of the countries represented, in particular one of Philippine life and culture.

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