

THE

Catholic Citizen

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

Vol. XVI, No. 2.

15th FEBRUARY, 1930.

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.

Women and the Licensing Laws.

By ALISON NEILANS.

Some time in 1928, after a public meeting, certain tired and hungry members and friends of St. Joan's Alliance went, at about 11 p.m., to a well-known and reputable restaurant in London for some supper; it being too late to obtain a meal elsewhere. To their indignation they were told that the management could not admit them unless they were attended by a man or men. A man entering the lobby of the restaurant at the moment said promptly "Come with me, ladies, I'll take you in." One of St. Joan's members turned to the manager's deputy and said "Is that what you want—that we should have to pick up with a strange man in order to get some supper?" and again requested to enter the restaurant. The restaurant official then suggested she should send for the manager. She did so and he, most politely and in considerable embarrassment, explained that he had to be so careful not to admit women of bad character that his only safeguard was not to admit women at night at all unless they were accompanied by a man. Eventually, after the party had expressed its opinion with some emphasis, the manager said he would see that they had a table and were served, and he would, in future, have them admitted if they would ask for him.

On another occasion at a famous London restaurant, a white-haired woman, well-known to every Suffragist, together with an

aunt of some seventy years and a cousin, were refused admission to enter the Dance Hall to watch the dancing, after dining in the restaurant. Or, to take a different class of refreshment place, certain coffee-stall keepers have been refusing to serve any woman at their stalls.

Why is this? It is not because any of these license-holders want to be disobliging to women or to offer them insult. It is apparently due to special regulations and prohibitions which the law enacts concerning "prostitutes." If any license-holder (for the sale of refreshment or alcoholic liquors) knowingly allows "prostitutes," "reputed prostitutes," or "common prostitutes" to resort to and remain on his premises, for any longer time than that necessary to obtain reasonable refreshment, he is liable to a heavy fine and possibly to the forfeiture or loss of his license. It is apparently not necessary for the prosecution to prove that the women have at any time been convicted as "prostitutes." If they are "reputed" to be such it is enough. Further, there need be no proof that their object in coming to the place was prostitution. It is true that, in law, the prosecution have to prove the licensee *knew* the women were of bad reputation, that they stayed longer than just to consume their refreshment, and that they *habitually* entered the premises. Nevertheless, in actual fact, it may be difficult for a licensee to contest police

allegations in regard to these points. Consequently, the license-holder thinks it safer to exclude all women (e.g., from his coffee-stall) or to exclude all women unattended by men, (e.g., at certain popular restaurants). Then they feel they are on the safe side. The result is inconvenience and insult to a number of hard-working women whose business or public service involves them in late hours, and positive hardship is caused to some of the poorest respectable women, whose only hope of a hot drink at night is often the coffee-stall. In addition, the revelations in the Goddard case show that it may also lead to gross corruption of the police.

What is the remedy? It would not be desirable to take away from a licensee his right to refuse to admit to, or turn out of, his premises "drunken, violent, quarrelsome and disorderly persons." A section could be added giving him power also to refuse entrance to, or to turn out, "any person who by words or behaviour molests or pesters any other person to their annoyance." If further restriction is thought necessary, the law might add to those things which a licensee "shall not permit to take place on his premises" the following:

"Nor suffer the molestation or annoyance of any persons lawfully enjoying the use of his premises."

The general principle should be that no unlawful or objectionable conduct should be tolerated in a place licensed for public refreshment, and an obligation may rightly rest on the licensee to enforce this. But it is unreasonable and futile to place a special obligation on the licensee in regard to the "reputed" moral character of his women customers. It may be pointed out that licensees are under the same penalties in regard to "reputed thieves," but that is not quite the same thing. Theft is unlawful, prostitution is not unlawful. In the case of "reputed thieves," the licensee is made liable in regard to the *criminal* character of all such customers of either sex. In the case of "reputed prostitutes," he is made liable in respect of the *moral* character of his women customers only.

"Injustice condoned tends to spread in ever widening circles." If women want to be treated as human beings in restaurants, as in all other places, they will have to

work for the abolition, throughout the whole of the Statutes, of all references to "prostitutes."

We very much hope that all members within reach of London will come to the Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 15, (see particulars). We are pleased to hear that some of our Liverpool members are coming, and that Miss Nancy Parnell, B.A., is among the speakers.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 15th, at 3 p.m., in St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square.

Speakers—

Mrs. V. M. Crawford.

Mrs. Laughton Mathews, M.B.E.

Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, B.A.

Mrs. Thomas.

Miss M. F. Young.

Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A., presiding.

After the business meeting is over Miss Nina Boyle will speak on "Slavery."

The business meeting is open to members of the Alliance only, but at 5 p.m. the public will be admitted. Tea may be had for 9d.

We trust that all members within reach of London will be present.

Notes and Comments.

The Shoreditch Borough Council has sent to other Councils, the resolution passed by them asking that information on Birth Prevention may be given at Maternity and Child Welfare clinics in receipt of public grants, and urging these councils to pass similar resolutions. Among other Councils, Bootle and St. Helen's have now done so, and we would urge opponents of "Birth Control" to keep a keen watch on their Councils. Had this been done in Bootle and St. Helen's, where there is a large Catholic population, surely the Councils would not have dared to pass a resolution so contrary to the convictions of a large section of municipal voters. The fact is the resolution slipped through, because the electors had not taken steps to inform themselves that it was to be discussed.

Protests have been made since the resolutions were passed, but how much more effective if the electors had been sufficiently alert to prevent them being passed.

We urge all our readers in districts where the matter has not yet been decided, to ascertain from their local press or otherwise if the question is on the agenda of any future meeting of their Council, and if so, to write at once to the Clerk of their Council, giving their views, and also to the Councillor who represents them, asking him or her to vote against such a resolution.

Mrs. Laughton Mathews' article on Birth Control in the November number of THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN, will provide the necessary information to any readers desiring to make use of it for this purpose.

* * * *

In connection with the first Codification Conference of the League of Nations, to be held at the Hague next March—of which we speak in another column—a Joint Demonstration on the Nationality of Married Women will be held on March 13th, in the same city. The Conference, as our readers will know, is to discuss the question of nationality. The Joint Demonstration is under the auspices of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, and the International Council of Women. The speakers will be from

many different countries, and the following resolution will be put to the meeting "That a woman, whether married or unmarried, should have the same right as a man to retain or change her nationality."

The Bishop of Pella and Don Sturzo are among the many distinguished supporters of the Demonstration.

St. Joan's S.P.A. will be officially represented by our member, Dr. Cato van der Pijl.

St. Joan's S.P.A. is urging the Government to appoint Miss Chrystal Macmillan as an assessor unrestricted by official instructions. She is specially qualified to put the point of view of organized women.

* * * *

We offer our congratulations to our member, Councillor Miss Fortey, of Leicester. A sub-committee had recommended the appointment of a woman, Miss W. Percy, as Head of the Hinckley Road Junior mixed school. When the question came before the Leicester Education Committee, Mr. Eastwood, one of the members, entered a vehement protest, he considered that there were already too many women head-teachers, and an injustice was being done to men. Mr. Eastwood finds it disquieting that girls of 17 can obtain permanent employment, which makes them independent of their parents, while domestic service is calling out for women. Councillor Miss Fortey rejoined that she had no wish to do an injustice to men, but where a junior school had an infant department attached, it was only fitting that a woman should be in charge. She pointed out that there were 50 men and 330 women teachers in the junior schools, and 70 men and 130 women in the senior schools, and said that women should have a certain share of the head positions. We are glad to see that Miss Percy was appointed.

Again we congratulate Miss Fortey and other women of Leicester on the fact that at last a policewoman is to be appointed in the city. The Chief Constable of Leicester has applied to the Women's Auxiliary Service for candidates for the post.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

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

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

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The Nationality of Married Women.

The question of the nationality of married women has claimed the attention of organised women for many years, not only in this country, but all over the world.

At the moment it overshadows all other questions among feminists. The first Conference on the Codification of International Law will be held at the Hague in March, under the auspices of the League of Nations. The Conference is to discuss nationality; it may be a boon to women, or it may be a disaster. Women's societies in many lands are urging their respective governments to deal fairly by women, and to include in their delegations women who know the situation, and may place before the Conference the reasons why a married woman should be given the right to retain her nationality if she pleases, or choose her husband's if she prefers so to do.

It would be more correct to say that the right to retain their nationality on marriage should be restored to women, since they were deprived of it in 1870 only, as far as Great Britain is concerned. In certain other countries, they have never lost the right.

The importance of women being included in the Delegations sent to the Hague Conference was recognised by the Assembly of the League of Nations in 1927. The Belgian Government has given a lead to other countries by including Mlle. Marcelle

Renson among the Belgian delegates to the Conference.

If a 'full' delegate is necessarily handicapped by official considerations, then it would be better that a woman assessor be sent, who may put the case unhampered by governmental restrictions.

The Prime Minister expressed his sympathy with the claims of women, when he received a deputation from the Equal Rights Committee and the N.U.S.E.C. before the General Election. Mr. MacDonald agreed that a British woman should not automatically lose her nationality on marriage with an alien; that a foreign woman marrying a British subject should not have British nationality conferred upon her, without an application on her part; and that a married woman should no longer be classed with minors and lunatics as a person under a disability, but that she should be deemed competent to apply for and be admitted to British nationality in her own right.

On January 13th, 1930, Mr. Clynes received a deputation organized by the National Council of Women (upon which St. Joan's S.P.A. was represented by Miss Fedden), which laid before him a Memorandum on the Nationality of Married Women. It cannot be said that the Home Secretary was as sympathetic as Mr. MacDonald. It is true that he assured the Deputation there was no lack of sympathy with a woman

deprived of her nationality, and suffering in her own country, all the disabilities of an alien; but we are not asking for sympathy, we demand justice. No imperial considerations should be allowed to stand in the way of justice. That a woman should be in the position of losing her nationality without her consent, and having an unwanted nationality thrust upon her, belongs properly to the time when she was her husband's chattel, and is wholly out of keeping with her status to-day. We want to see Great Britain in the van of progress; at present many a country which might be considered backward, is ahead of our country in this respect. Let England give a lead to the Conference, not lag behind.

L. DE ALBERTI.

International Notes.

La Française gives a report of a recent public meeting when French women taxpayers declared their intention to pay no taxes till they are enfranchised. "Qui ne vote pas, ne paie pas" is to be their motto. Every class of women was represented. The Duchess d'Uzés, speaking in the name of women landed proprietors, called attention to the fact that she had to pay taxes on the farms owned by her, but her farmers alone had the vote. Good luck to the tax-resisters of France; we hope that before long they will be paying their taxes like good citizens.

We are glad to learn from the same paper, *La Française*, that Mlle. Elizabeth Lisitzen has been appointed attachée to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Finland.

We offer cordial congratulations to our colleagues in Czechoslovakia on the result of the elections in that country. Fourteen women M.P.'s. were successful, including, we are glad to say, Mme. Plaminkova, who is again elected to the Senate.

The current number of *Questions Féminines et Questions Féministes*, Paris, is entirely devoted to the memory of Marie Maugeret, who died last July at the age of

84. This remarkable woman was the pioneer among Christian feminists, and founded, in 1896, a paper entitled "Le Féminisme Chrétien." She was an ardent Catholic, and a great force for good. Founder of the Fédération et des Congrès Jeanne d'Arc, she died in harness; her last work being the organisation of the twenty-fifth Congress of the Federation.

The *Port Elizabeth Advertiser*, South Africa, gives a full account of the recent Annual Meeting of the Woman's Enfranchisement League. The W.E.L. never loses heart, but gallantly pursues its way. General Hertzog has introduced a Bill on Woman Suffrage, and it is hoped South Africa will before long come into line with the rest of the British Commonwealth. The W.E.L. should soon be transformed into a citizen or voters' League. Our member, Miss Dorman, is Hon. Treasurer and Secretary of the League.

Miss A. L. Peterson, Assistant Director of the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labour, Washington, has been employed in collecting official statistics on women engaged in paid work outside the home. *The Evening World*, New York, publishes some of the conclusions she has come to, which are of considerable interest. It appears that of the total number of women in the U.S.A., 21.1 per cent. are engaged in paid labour outside the home. Of 31,481 women in a special list, 27.1 per cent. were the bread-winners in the family, and 21 per cent. sole contributors. Among the single women, one in eleven was the sole bread-winner in her family. Miss Peterson has come to the conclusion that unmarried daughters contribute a greater share of their earnings to the economic life of the family than their unmarried brothers. The report is calculated to arouse much controversy.

L. DE A.

In connection with Miss Neilan's article, our readers will be glad to hear that St. Joan's S.P.A. is organizing a protest meeting on the injustice on which she writes. Particulars will be given next month.

Review.

RABIA THE MYSTIC. By Margaret Smith, M.A., Ph.D., Cambridge University Press (10s. 6d. net).

This interesting book is the first complete biography of the Moslem saint, Rabia of Basra, who lived in the eighth century. She is sometimes claimed as the founder of Sufism, the mystical development of Islam, and her grave was the goal of many pilgrims in the Middle Ages. Miss Smith traces Rabia's progress along the dark road of renunciation, in her quest for union with the Divine. She gives us many quotations from the saint, and compares them with the sayings of Catholic saints and mystics. When sought in marriage, she replied that in her case "existence has ceased, since I have ceased to exist and have passed out of self. My existence is in Him, and I am altogether His. I am in the shadow of His command. The marriage contract must be asked for from Him, not from me."

Rabia had many disciples and friends, chiefly men who sought her spiritual advice in difficulties. Miss Smith tells us that among the saints of Islam, there was complete equality between the sexes, and there was no distinction of sex, among the friends of God."

We gather that Arab women before the Moslem era enjoyed a certain freedom; according to the author the present degradation of woman "is due to Islamic teaching which has prevailed since the second and third centuries of the Muslim era to keep her in a position of almost complete subordination to the male sex." And so the evils of the subjection of woman is proved once more.

L. DE ALBERTI.

Mrs. Laughton Mathews spoke on "The Price of Citizenship" at the Annual Meeting of the Wolverhampton Catholic Women's League last month. The Archbishop of Birmingham, who was in the chair, said in the course of his remarks, that he could "forecast a great future for St. Joan's Alliance among Catholic women."

Meetings.

A meeting was held at Stoke-on-Trent on January 31st, under the auspices of the North Staffs Branch of the N.C.W., to discuss the resolution on Birth Control passed at the N.C.W. Conference at Manchester.

Mrs. Tamplin, of the N.U.S.E.C., spoke in favour; Mrs. Liveing, of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, spoke against. Mrs. Liveing, put the case for the opposition in an able speech. She made no apology whatever, she said, for opposing birth prevention on moral grounds for they were the crux of the matter. Opinion was divided on medical and economic grounds, it ought not to be divided on the question of right and wrong. They who opposed it did so as a matter of conscience, because it was wrong. It was against the natural and moral law. Opponents were fully alive to social evils, but birth control did not go to the root of them. The State could not give its sanction to a practice against the moral law.

* * * *

On Monday, February 3rd, at St. Patrick's Schools, Great Chapel Street, W., Miss Pressley-Smith gave a most interesting lantern lecture, on the medical mission at Labrador. The slides illustrated life in the Labrador wilds, and gave her audience some idea of the magnificent work done by Sir Wilfrid Grenfell, and his colleagues, and nurses on those inhospitable shores. Miss Pressley-Smith is the Director of the Industrial Department. Lord Morris, who presided, spoke of the nursing profession as one of the most important professions, man depended on nurses from the cradle to the grave. Miss C. M. Gordon moved a vote of thanks to chairman and lecturer, seconded by Miss Barclay-Carter.

In co-operation with the Equal Rights Committee, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance will submit Evidence to the Royal Commission on the Civil Service regarding Equal Pay and Opportunity for men and women, drawing special attention to the opening of the Diplomatic and kindred services to women.

National Union of Women Teachers.

The following resolutions on Equal Pay and Equal Opportunities were among those passed at the recent Conference of the N.U.W.T.

1. "This Conference of the National Union of Women Teachers calls attention to Article 427, Clause 7, of the Peace Treaty, 'that men and women should receive equal remuneration for work of equal value.' It deplores the custom of paying a double standard of salaries to men and women teachers, and, in view of their equal professional training and duties, calls upon the Government, the Local Education Authorities and the Burnham Committee to establish the principle of equal pay for men and women teachers of the same professional status without further delay. Believing that the State should set an example of rectitude to other employers, this Conference further calls upon the Government to put into force the principle of equal pay for work of equal value in the Civil Service, as has been approved by large majorities of the House of Commons on two occasions."

2. "This Conference declares it to be of vital importance to future educational progress in this country that all avenues of promotion in the teaching service should be open to women equally with men and that the best candidate, irrespective of sex, should be appointed to the headships of all mixed schools, to all administrative posts, and to the Inspectorate.

Conference calls the attention of the Board of Education, the Local Education Authorities, and the general public to the fact that the present policy of refusing to consider the appointment of women to many of these posts automatically debars candidates from two-thirds of the whole profession from exercising in the service of the community their acknowledged powers of organisation and administration. . . ."

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

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

At the Annual Meeting held on January 7th, the Hon. Sec. was able to report that the year just passed had been one of the most successful in the recent history of the Branch. The Treasurer's Statement also gave cause for satisfaction, since, in spite of the change from members' drawing-rooms to hired premises for meetings, and in spite also of a donation of £10 to Headquarters, we closed the year with a balance in hand of £6 12s. 7d. Once again we had the pleasure of welcoming Miss Barry and being encouraged and stimulated by her account of St. Joan's activities in the year gone by and its hopes and interests in the year to come.

The elections at the meeting to the Committee, and to offices at the subsequent committee meeting resulted as follows: Chairman, Mrs. Murphy; Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Johnstone; Treasurer, Miss Johnstone; Secretary, Miss N. S. Parnell; Assistant Secretary, Miss Fox Taylor; ordinary members, Miss Crawford, Miss McCardle, Miss M. Parnell, Miss Noonan, Mrs. Graham.

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Butler-Bowdon, Miss E.	5	0	0
Butterworth, Miss	2	6	
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Welch, Miss J. R. V.	7	6	
Wilkinson, Miss M. E.	1	6	
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TREASURER'S NOTE.

Many members have not paid their annual subscriptions yet, and we should be very grateful if they would send them along without delay. We have a lot of expenses to meet, and in addition, the punctual payment of subscriptions saves work to our already overworked Hon. Secretary. Please make it more than the minimum shilling if you can.

VERA LAUGHTON MATHEWS,
Hon. Treasurer.

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

NON-PARTY.

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

OBJECT.

To band together Catholics of both sexes, in order to secure the political, social and economic equality between men and women, and to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens.

MEMBERSHIP.

All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of 1s. Men are invited to join as Associates, on the same conditions, with the exception that they may not elect or be elected to the Executive.

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