

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

*Organ of St. Joan's Alliance (formerly The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society)
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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

TOUTES A LONDRES LE 26 AOÛT — APPEL DE LA PRÉSIDENTE

J'aimerais demander à tous nos membres de relire attentivement le dernier chapitre du rapport annuel de la section britannique, paru dans "The Catholic Citizen" de Mars (p. 23). Sous le titre: "Fuller participation of women in the service of the Church", le rapporteur a présenté un remarquable bilan moral des activités de toute l'Alliance pendant l'année écoulée. Sans négliger ses activités habituelles concernant la condition de la femme en général, l'Alliance a considérablement étendu son influence sur un terrain mouvant où elle s'est aventuré depuis quelques années.

Au cours de ses cinquante-cinq années d'existence, l'Alliance a toujours fait oeuvre de pionnier: elle a su braver l'opinion, désarçonné la critique ou même la calomnie pour faire aboutir ses revendications. Le sens prophétique de notre regrettée Florence Barry nous semble tout aussi sûr dans ce domaine nouveau qui permet à l'Alliance de faire un apport original dans l'oeuvre des organisations féminines. Que nos amies pusillanimes, s'il en est! soient rassurées... Nos initiatives ont été une réponse à l'appel aux laïcs lancé par l'illustre promoteur du Concile et nous avons été providentiellement encouragées à poursuivre nos recherches et nos travaux par son éminent successeur: notre "orthodoxie" est assurée, et de doctes théologiens nous ont apporté un précieux renfort. Mais il est normal que nous devions encore nous-mêmes fournir un très gros effort, et l'étude des "voies et moyens" constituera la plus grande partie des travaux de notre prochaine Conférence de Londres.

L'une de nos collègues, docteur en théologie, nous a expliqué que les réformes les plus réussies de Vatican II étaient celles qui avaient été préparées pendant les cinquante dernières années!... Le grand mérite actuel de l'Alliance n'est pas seulement de s'être lancée dans l'arène, mais aussi d'avoir déjà réussi à transformer en intérêt, ou même en sympathie, l'étonnement, pour ne pas dire le scandale ou la raillerie, suscité par la publication de nos premières résolutions... L'ouvrage est toujours en chantier... Venez nombreuses et enthousiastes collaborer à ses futures initiatives...

M. Leroy Boy.

SUMMER PARTY

By kind invitation of Miss May and Miss Lion a Bring and Buy Sale will be held at 22 Hamilton Close, St. John's Wood, London N.W.8, on Saturday, July 9th, from 3 to 5.30 p.m. Buses 16, 60 or 59 to St. John's Wood Road or Grove End Road.

We hope there will be a large gathering of members and friends to welcome our dear President, Madame Leroy, who will be over here from India.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The President's Call

We can trust that all will read carefully and respond heartily to the President's call to the Council. Mme. Leroy is even now on her way to this country to prepare for the meeting, and is always using her journey for the advantage of the Alliance: she will visit Rome, Paris, Brussels and Geneva.

We can show our appreciation of her devotion by welcoming her at the Bring and Buy Party.

Commonwealth League Conference

The Commonwealth Countries' League will be holding its thirty-fourth Annual Conference at the Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, on July 5th, the subject being "Women of Commonwealth Countries: their role in promoting international understanding". Mrs. Margaret McKay, Member of Parliament, will open the morning discussion at ten-thirty and the afternoon session will be opened at two o'clock by His Excellency Mr. Malalasekera, High Commissioner for Ceylon.

Ecumenical Research

The Ecumenical Council of Churches has founded (in Geneva) a department for the investigation of future co-operation of men and women in church, family and society. The aim is a world-wide research project, the part assigned to woman not treated in isolation and the possibility of her equal co-operation to be sought.

"Une excellentissime réforme"

Dans sa conférence du 1er décembre Dom Helder a parlé des suites du Concile pour l'aggiornamento de l'Eglise. . . . Il voudrait que la théologie soit "vivante et vivifiante": "il nous suffit de quatre siècles d'anti . . ." une loi et une codification sont sans doute indispensables, mais "et le Saint Père le sait tout le premier, notre droit canonique actuel est fondé, pour l'essentiel, sur le droit romain . . . un chef d'oeuvre de loi païenne!"

(Archeveque de Recife,
Informations catholiques internationales,
December 15th, 1965)

One-eyed Concern for Virtue

While the twenty-third Conference of the International Abolitionist Federation (whose main object is the Abolition of Regulated Prostitution) was discussing, among other things, the rehabilitation of prostitutes, it is interesting to read (*The Times*) that Athens—the other noble city of the ancient world—was claiming to make its city "virtuous" by putting away for varying periods

all the prostitutes, souteneurs and other go-betweens who exploit women for their own gain. We note again the extraordinary omission to suggest taking any measures against those, the most numerous of the offenders concerned, who pay for and create the demand for this service of vice—the prostitutes' clients.

Enlightened Film Exhibitors

In an article in *The Guardian* (June 3rd) entitled "Houses of Good Repute", David Bruxner wrote about film exhibitors and cinema managers who are determined to show films of real artistic value without being principally concerned, as are the exhibitors of the "Dens of Vice" type of film, with the making of large profits.

A great deal of sordid material is shown in the provinces and even when a less objectional film is included it must still have a great deal of sex interest. It is realised that there is in the provinces a large potential audience for films of reasonable standard, and Gala Film Distributors Ltd. have decided to cater for it by opening 35 new cinemas throughout the country where they will be showing films selected for their quality. Mr. Bruxner states that there is more choice in London, but that only in two of its cinemas is the quality of the films shown of greater consideration than the "tinkle of the box office takings", that is in addition to the Everyman in Hampstead which shows revivals, and the National Film Theatre which is in a class all of its own. These are Academy One and the new Academy Two beneath it. The joint owners of both of these, Mr. and Mrs. Hoellering, have, says Mr. Bruxner, built up an audience on the strength of their own discriminating taste. There are losses on some films but the books usually balance at the end of the year. The Hoellerings do not appropriate a large slice of the profits, but after giving themselves a reasonable and sufficient salary, spend the rest on upkeep and improvements, or put it into reserve.

The Roots of Prejudice

The *Catholic Herald*, reporting a "teach-in" held recently in London on "Vatican II", quotes the sociologist, Mr. Anthony Spencer as saying, "The way the Church treats women is nothing less than scandalous".

The report goes on to state that this remark was enthusiastically received and that Mr. Spencer was later supported by Fr. Laurence Bright, O.P., who noted, "There is still sex prejudice in the Liturgy".

Then the impression is given that Fr. Bright explained the reason for this prejudice by reference to an excessive concern of clerics for sexual morality.

Surely this extraordinary diagnosis is based on a complete misunderstanding of the complex causes of sexual discrimination, and ignores the fact that it is not confined to clerics.

Women Auditors Speak on Woman's Promotion by Vatican II

"Every chapter of the Pastoral Constitution underlines non-discrimination of sexes, races and social conditions. . . . The decree on the Apostolate of the Laity recently promulgated, states that in view of woman's position in the world today it is most important that her collaboration in the various fields of the Church's life be intensified. The presence of women auditors at the Council has probably served to keep ever present problems which are related to women's new status. We have not wished, however, to over-emphasise this aspect and have stressed the collaboration everybody should give to society and the Church's life. We have considered it important that women's capacity and possibility for promoting in practice, life and experience the development of society and of the Church should be made known."

Obituary

We are sorry to announce the death of Dr. Marie Elizabeth Lüders in Germany at the age of 87. She was one of the first women to study political science at Berlin University; she was an ardent feminist, equality being her passion. In 1953 she was elected to the Bundestag as a member of the Free Democratic Party and as senior member she made fame with her speeches which were notable for moral courage and directness of challenge. St. Joan's Alliance remembers a delightful party she gave to the delegates who met in Germany.

We grieve to learn of the death of Miss Margaret Flynn—"Margaret of St. Joan"—founder of the Alliance in Australia. We send deep sympathy and prayers. A tribute will follow. R.I.P.

Florence Barry

We have sent Memorial Cards to all to whom we have had occasion to write and will gladly send one or more to anyone who sends us an addressed envelope.

Women and the Kirk

The Times reports the historic decision of the Church of Scotland to admit women as elders, thus ending a 400-year-old tradition (May 26th).

The Guardian reports that at the same General Assembly great impatience was shown at the tardiness in coming to a decision about the admission and ordaining of women ministers. "We cannot class women any more as second class citizens, and we must not allow them to be victimised by this priestly apartheid," said the Rev. George Nicholson of Dunoon (June 2nd).

Reform Needs Organised Pressure

The Times has recently been giving a great deal of welcome publicity to the fight for equality. On May 5th a complete page was devoted to a summary of the present position and to the movements that have made some headway and are now fast gathering momentum.

Two maps were shown where at a glance you could see the areas of the world where I.L.O. Convention against discrimination in employment and the Equal Pay Convention have been ratified. On both counts Great Britain, Australia, South Africa, Spain and the United States are seen to be offenders, while it is interesting to note the names of some of the countries where both Conventions have been accepted: China, Egypt, Iceland, Italy, India, Madagascar, Mexico and the U.S.S.R. Altogether the Equal Pay Convention has been ratified by 48 and the Convention against discrimination by 51 countries—many of these often regarded as "backward" or "developing" by comparison with Britain.

The main article gives instances of discrimination in vocational training schemes, in day release for further study, in promotion, retirement and pension schemes, in the school curricula and in the incidence of Income Tax.

The Times writer says, "Many of the discriminations against women exist because they were framed in laws and habits evolved to suit a different kind of society"; and adds, "There is a crucial need both in the Government and in private employment to see society as it really is today and to adjust to its needs." It is shown, for example, how, given the will, firms can make a success of a part-time scheme for working mothers.

Reference is made to an article in the International Labour review which claims that housing must be planned to meet social changes and relieve women of domestic drudgery, that services for washing, mending, ironing, cleaning and child care must be provided and that housework must be rationalised.

One of the greatest obstacles to the achievement of Equal Pay in industry is the absence of sufficient collective bargaining power. Some observers at a recent T.U.C. Conference thought that the example of the 3,000 women workers at a Belgian factory who went on strike recently for Equal Pay might lead British women to unite and do the same. Miss Chipchase, secretary of the T.U.C. Women's Advisory Council, said, "If women went on strike now in this country they could bring the whole of British industry to a halt." Mrs. Mineau, of the National Federation of Professional Workers, told the Royal Commission on Trade Unions: "Somehow we have got to make women realise that only through the union organisation can they become effective enough to achieve Equal Pay." The T.U.C. Conference called upon women "actively to pursue this objective through the unions."

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

founded 1911

BRITISH SECTION OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

AND

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

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ABOLITIONISTS IN ROME, MAY 1966

The Twenty-third Triennial Congress of the International Abolitionist Federation began in Rome on May 6th with a civic welcome in the Capitol, and ended on May 10th with a special audience with the Holy Father.

Both these events were of tremendous interest and of great significance to the mixed group of people struggling to examine the outstanding problems of prostitution in the modern world. The gathering included persons of diverse faiths—Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, and some professing no faith of a religious type.

The civic welcome was impressive, in the setting of Rome's historic "Campidoglio", and the more so, to at least one delegate, on account of the presence of the On. Pia Colini Lombardi, president of the Comitato Italiano di difesa morale e sociale della donna. Among the many distinguished men was Dr. Droin, for thirty years chairman of the I.A.F. The very approach to the meeting, up one of the great marble staircases leading from the magnificent square designed by Michael Angelo, offered its own deep excitement.

After the speeches of welcome, Dr. Ferrarotti, professor of sociology in the University of Rome, read a competent paper on "Observations on Prostitution and Society".

It is the practice of the I.A.F. to provide for subsequent written "communications" on aspects of a set paper, followed by discussion. The relevant "communications" in this case were presented by Professor Shlomo Shoham, Director of the Institute of Criminology, Bar Ilan University, Israel, whose subject was "Pimps and Prostitutes", and by Dr. Adolfe Pitizel of the neuropsychiatric clinic of the University of Rome. They were read and discussed in the afternoon at the Congress headquarters provided by the Comitato Italiano.

It is not possible to give a detailed account of the many excellent papers. An outstanding contributor,

dealing with the legal side, was M. Francois Gaillardon, barrister at the Paris Court of Appeal. He carried delegates through an enthralling study of the powers conferred by the Act of Abolition of 1946 and the further ordinances of 1956 and 1960. He showed that France is legally well armed both to punish the procurer (who is liable to lose his civil rights and even the means employed for his trade, such as car, funds, etc.), and to aid the woman who wishes to return to normal life.

"But," commented M. Gaillardon, "France stands at the parting of the ways as far as procuration is concerned. She has forged for herself laws permitting effective combat with the traffic in women, but as the result of former usages these laws receive only rare and timid application. Are we going to strike out a new line . . . or are we going to recede from that indicated by the law? . . . It still remains to undermine the obscure pacts by favour of which the lords of the pavement continue to live and prosper on the traffic in women."

Methods of undermining the "obscure pacts" and of building up the strength of the law were thoughtfully put forward in various papers, with emphasis on the present-day problems of family life, and the new "individualism" produced by the new "human collectivisation" in work, school and housing. Another approach was made to the problems of rehabilitation, with repeated emphasis on the proportion of young prostitutes who come from broken homes.

Two other aspects of the Congress merit special mention. The first was the welcome change in routine introduced by Dr. R. D. Catterall, M.R.C.P., Director of Venereology at Middlesex Hospital, London. He requested all delegates to read beforehand his more technical paper, and then provided, with the aid of strikingly illustrative slides, a summary of his more definite conclusions.

IN PARLIAMENT

The newly-appointed women Ministers have found their jobs no sinecures. To Mrs. Judith Hart, Minister of State for Commonwealth Relations, fell the highly responsible task of leading a Government delegation of nine to Lusaka for urgent talks with President Kaunda and senior Zambian officials on means of meeting the crisis now developing over the Rhodesian-Zambian trade and rail traffic.

All this will appear in the final official report of the Congress which should be read by all concerned with the growing problems of promiscuity.

The second interesting point is the substance of the excellent papers provided by Mrs. Phoebe Asiyo, Superintendent of the Women's Prison, Nairobi, Kenya, on the prostitution problems peculiar to countries in process of development. Mrs. Asiyo's work emphasised the loss of parental control over young people, and dealt with the effects of the economic difficulties encountered where a husband cannot afford to bring his wife to live in the town where he finds work and the results of the educational advance of young people who disregard both their less educated parents and their tribal customs. Then there is the unemployment of many girls who drift into towns only to find economic refuge in prostitution, the break up of family life due to new and strange ways of living, and the familiar desire of young girls for money to buy luxuries.

Finally, Mrs. Shakuntla Lall, General Secretary of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene in India, presented two most significant summaries of the struggle against prostitution in India. It was interesting to note the importance which the Indian members assigned to the lack of proper sex education.

From the discussions there emerged a comprehensive picture of the conditions which in all parts of the world tend to develop the present-day situation. A striking point is the similarity seen everywhere in the sources of temptation, the restlessness of the young, and the lost grip of the older generation.

There emerged also the recognition of the need for a belief in, and concern for, the fostering of the old teaching of a high and equal moral standard for both sexes.

After the formal closing of the Congress a presentation was made to Dr. Droin to mark his retirement. In his place the British nominee was elected as the new Chairman.*

The special audience with the Holy Father took place in the Vatican. The Pope gave an address and shook hands with the delegates, and his final blessing of the cause made a profound impression. Unfortunately no copy of his address was available, nor had it appeared in the Vatican news medium up to the time the delegates left Rome, but we still hope to get copies. The Pope presented commemorative medals to the On. Pia Colini and to Dr. Droin. The background of wonderful decoration enhanced the general splendour of the occasion but it was the demeanour and gentle courtesy of the Pontiff that makes an unforgettable memory.

M. Chave Collisson

* Miss Collisson herself accepted this onerous burden encouraged by the memory of the work and hopes of Florence Barry.—[Ed.]

On May 25th, Mrs. Margaret Herbison, Minister of Pensions and National Insurance, moved the Second Reading of the Social Security Bill, which abolishes the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance and the National Assistance Board, and sets up in their place a Ministry of Social Security. Under the Bill a Commission of eight people will be appointed, two of them women. This Bill aims at relieving poverty, especially in the case of old people, the chronic sick and fatherless families, through the provision of a guaranteed minimum income. On May 23rd, Mrs. Shirley Williams, as Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour, moved the Second Reading of the Docks and Harbours Bill, which sets up a system of licensing of port employers and deals with the provision of welfare amenities in ports.

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, from the Opposition Front Bench, covered herself with glory in a brilliant and entertaining speech in the Budget Debate on May 5th. Attacking the payroll tax, she wished Gilbert and Sullivan could have been alive at this hour to make an opera out of its more lunatic provisions, she also drew attention to the hardship inflicted on married women and widows who went out to work in having to shoulder an additional burden of 12s. 6d. a week for the necessary domestic assistance required in looking after their children. Later, on May 25th, she also stressed the hardship to charitable institutions which this tax would cause.

The death of Lady Megan Lloyd-George on May 14th was a sad loss to the House. Elected in May, 1929, as Liberal Member for Anglesey, she held the seat till 1951, and was Deputy Leader of the Liberal Parliamentary Party from 1949-51. In 1951, she lost her seat to the Labour candidate, and in 1955 she herself joined the Labour Party. The House welcomed her back in 1957. When in 1949, the women M.P.s of all parties presented her with a gift book, they referred to her as "a true daughter of the Welsh Wizard: she bewitches friend and foe alike". Her fluent Welsh endeared her to her constituents both in Anglesey and later in Carmarthen. She will be sadly missed.

The Abortion and Sexual Offences Bills are again making their way through the House of Lords, and Mr. David Steel will present a Private Member's Bill on the former in the House of Commons on June 15th. This Bill has the support of two women Members—Dame Joan Vickers and Mrs. Renee Short.

On April 28th, Dame Joan Vickers asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he would seek to amend the Street Offences Act, 1959, to do away with the special laws against common prostitutes. This would include repealing Section I (1) of the Act and replacing it by a clause applicable to all citizens, whether men or women, who cause annoyance or nuisance by loitering or soliciting in the streets or public places. To this the reply was that no such amending legislation was contemplated. Dame Joan also, on May 2nd, elicited the information from Mrs. White that there were now no general limitations on the employment of women in the Diplomatic Service, the only appointments reserved for men being in the Security Guard Branch. In reply to a Supplementary Question, Mrs. White revealed that in the Diplomatic Service as a whole about 30 per cent of appointments were held by women, but in the administrative grade there were only 27 women, which was roughly 2.4 per cent of the total.

On May 6th, Mr. Gunter in a written reply, informed Mrs. McKay that he had had preliminary talks with the T.U.C. and C.B.I. on equal pay, and now proposed to arrange a joint meeting under his chairmanship to discuss the problems of implementation.

Vera Douie

Review

"RAPIERS AND BATTLEAXES: THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT AND ITS AFTERMATH"

By Josephine Kamm (Allen and Unwin, 37s. 6d.)

In 1866 the first Women's Suffrage Committee was set up in London, primarily to collect a hundred signatures to a petition for John Stuart Mill to present to Parliament when the Reform Bill was brought before it in April of that year. The centenary of this event has passed almost unnoticed so this book should be welcomed.

The first part of the book gives a brief but lively survey of some events which led to the birth of the women's movement—the story of Caroline Norton's fight for access to her young sons, which gave rise to the Infants' Custody Act, 1837; of Mary Carpenter and her "ragged schools"; of Louisa Twining and workhouse reform; the charitable works of Angela Burdet-Coutts, and the stories of other women whose stirrings of conscience and resistance against the lives they had to lead, forced them to find outlets for their energies and capabilities, though they might say with Caroline Norton "I never pretended to the wild and ridiculous doctrine of equality".

Then came the women who, believing in equality, planned and worked for the higher education of

girls, and for the opening of the professions to women, and finally those who advocated, first by "constitutional" and then by militant methods, the enfranchisement of women. It is here, in the story of the actual fight for equality that the odd omissions occur.

Admittedly, a full account of the emancipation of women cannot be contained in some 230 pages; it is odd to write about Josephine Butler's great work without referring to her Association (the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene) which is continuing her fight today as the Josephine Butler Society; and to write of Lady Rhondda's petition in 1922 for admission to the House of Lords as an hereditary peer, without mentioning her later campaign in the Women Peers Committee, or of the tremendous work she undertook as Chairman of the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee which resulted in the extension of the franchise to women on the same terms as to men. Indeed, that hard-won victory in 1928 is dismissed as "the gesture of equality for which the women's societies had been working and waiting".

It is odd also to write of Chrystal Macmillan's plea in the Lords in 1908 for Scottish women graduates to have the Parliamentary vote, and of her concern with "women's rights both at home and overseas", without stating that the societies she helped to found, the Open Door Council and Open Door International are still working for the economic emancipation of the woman worker.

Women were always quick to pay tribute to men who helped in the fight for the vote, so it is unfortunate that no mention is made of the Men's League for Woman Suffrage, or of George Lansbury who risked his political life in the cause. Perhaps most surprising of all is the omission of any reference to St. Joan's Alliance which, from the time of its formation, continued to work for equality, even through two world wars, and is still doing so today. It should be added that St. Joan's Alliance, like the Women's Freedom League, was from the outset democratically controlled by the membership.

Miss Kamm writes that the legitimate heir of the women's movement is the Fawcett Society; but surely it is a misunderstanding of the whole purpose of the women's movement to claim this on behalf of one Society, however worthy, among the many which in their own way have worked and are still working for the full emancipation of women. One cannot but think that, if the writer had had a wider knowledge of the women's movement, some of the omissions and errors in this book could have been avoided. Nevertheless, it may well serve as an introduction for a generation which has not known personally what is involved in the claim for equality for men and women.

A. M. Pierotti

"THE STRUCTURE OF THE THOUGHT OF PIERRE TEILHARD DE CHARDIN"

A brilliant lecture was given by Mrs. Croose-Parry, Honorary Secretary of the Teilhard De Chardin Association and one of our members, at Maria Assumpta College, on April 26th. A "multum in parvo" treatment cannot do justice to our lecturer and we crave her indulgence for any discrepancies.

The first half of the lecture was devoted mainly to science and palaeontology but the second part had, perhaps, more general appeal.

To Teilhard, all things were created for Christ, and it is towards Christ that all things (man and matter) are proceeding. All is in a state of "becoming" and "being perfected" in Christ, who immersed himself in our Noosphere (the state of human collective thought) so that we could begin to realise the Christosphere, which is his, and to which all are called.

Man, unique in creation and in the middle of space time, can look two ways; backwards to the beginning and forwards to the end. With Christ at the Alpha and Omega points, man is able to see more and more clearly the pattern of the universe. Man is ever pushing forwards to perfection, but only in Christ can this perfection be fulfilled. It is not by despising the world but by sublimating it that man will reach his destiny. This sublimation is love. The Church is the phylum of love springing from Christ, the source of all matter. From the Sacraments, and especially from the Eucharistic Christ, we receive the energy and power to love. Through love all will be perfected.

To Teilhard, Christ and science are inseparable. He held that scientific hypotheses cannot fail to modify themselves phylogenetically and so produce rungs for climbing to the truth—to Christ the pole of truth. So, from the Alpha of cosmic gas to the Omega of the Parousia, all is for Christ and cannot fail. Christ Evolver is the heart of matter. With Christ lifted to the Omega point of evolution, the texts of St. John have, indeed, poignant meaning: "And I, if I be lifted from the earth, will draw all things to myself", Jn. 12, v. 32—"That they may be one, as thou Father in me and I in thee", Jn. 17, v. 21.

Kathleen Gabb

YOUNG PROSTITUTES SEEN UNDER A MAGNIFYING GLASS

Two interesting studies on young prostitutes under 18 years of age, have been recently written by Paul Le Moal and Magdalena Jasonska, and are reported in the *Revue Abolitionist*.

Dr. Le Moal has worked for 20 years at a "Centre d'Observation". The girls stay in the centre from 3 to 6 months or more, and many of

them find it possible, in the atmosphere of confidence created by all the staff, to talk about themselves and to want to lead a better life. Rarely are these young prostitutes working on their own. More often they are the victims of a procurer. They fall into prostitution because of unfortunate home backgrounds which have helped to give them a perverted outlook on sex. Dr. Le Moal is convinced that had their homes been different they could have become normal young women. The author of this study hopes that we shall be better able to combat this social evil, which is even more deplorable when it involves the exploitation of minors.

The Polish study has the same end in view. Lack of stability in the home is also found to be the prime cause of young girls falling into prostitution. In some cases, the Polish girls were found to have changed their "home" as many as ten times in their young lives, after the early break-up of their original home.

There are three distinct categories of young Polish prostitutes: (i) the ones who do not walk the streets but find their clients in smart restaurants and big hotels; (ii) the street-walkers (who are the largest group), and (iii) the country girls who have either run away from home or come out of remand homes, and who are looking for work in the big city.

Very few remain any length of time in any employment. Each group is very clannish and despises members of the other groups. The man who lived solely on immoral earnings is tending to disappear in Poland, and although he still exploits women, he is obliged to be registered in some employment or other. These part-time procurers often do their nefarious work in casinos or at seaside resorts, especially at holiday times.

There is a very strong link between prostitution and other forms of delinquency. The lack of effective methods of rehabilitation for these young prostitutes is another factor which makes the whole position worse. If, according to the old adage, "prevention is better than cure", one must admit that prevention is all the more difficult in these days of greater sexual licence among the young. Nowadays prostitution is often a part-time employment, and many girls pursue a normal job to cover up their other activities.

Very little is said about the clients of these prostitutes. A study of these might well show how the demand for prostitution could be reduced.

M. Guessard

St. Joan's Day

The traditional wreath was laid at the shrine of St. Joan in Westminster Cathedral to celebrate her feast day. We are grateful to Father Patrick Joy, S.J., for offering Mass for us on May 30th.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

Germany

Frau Aenne Brauksiepe has been elected as a member of the presidency of the Christian Democratic Party in Germany. Frau Brauksiepe is one of the first members of St. Joan's Alliance in Germany and was its president for a long time. She is one of the outstanding parliamentarians of the Bundestag: deputy since 1949, vice-president of the parliamentary party-group of the C.D.U., president of the Women's Union of C.D.U. and national president of the European Women's Union.

Top Executives

The number of women registered as top executives by their international union is steadily increasing. The department of Sociological Research of Munster University reports that 12 per cent of the total number of these higher rank executives in the Federal Republic are women; that over 1,000 of them employ 100 workers, and 100 employ 500 or more.

South Africa

Helen Suzman has been re-elected as parliamentary representative of the Opposition, South Africa's United Party. Since 1953 she has stood almost alone in defence of human rights and against racial segregation. She represents Houghton, which is—strangely enough—one of the well-to-do suburbs of Johannesburg.

(*Schweizer Frauenblatt*, May 20th)

Cameroons

Mgr. Zoa, Archbishop of Yaoundé, asked the parishioners of Emaná to give serious consideration to the abolition of the bride price (la dot). The village chiefs and municipal councillors would only agree to its reduction to a maximum of 5,000 francs CFA, 17 goats and minor presents, while the members of "pious associations" proposed that it should be reduced to one goat for the man and one pig for the woman. Mgr. Zoa, in his concluding remarks deplored the elders' hardness of heart.

The Bishops of the Cameroons, at their general assembly under the presidency of Mgr. Zoa (April 19-25th) solemnly declared their opposition to the bride price, as practised in the Cameroons, as damaging and degrading to a person created in the image of God.

(*I.C.I.*, May 15th)

Continued from p. 43

Human nature being as it is the presentation of the reason and justice behind the demand for reforms, or the great need for them, is not enough: you may get a hearing, you may get sympathy, but in order to get *action* you must be prepared, as Nancy Astor used to say, "to make yourselves a nuisance". And this applies in all spheres of life.

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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Christine Spender in *The Catholic Citizen*
15th June, 1941

We have shown the possibility of men and women co-operating in business. It remains true that many women find their fulfilment and their vocation in home life, and in it their best service to humanity. But it is just as true that they should not narrow themselves to this one aspect, for to do so is good neither for husband, children, nor themselves. Even the largest family grows up and then where is mother if she has cultivated no outside interests? Indeed, if she has not done so, where is she to-day, in this war-time world of scattered homes? . . .

When this war is over women will probably rush back to the vocation of homekeeping, for there is no doubt that many will find relief and solace in a more varied occupation after the monotony of factory work. But the majority will probably always remain grateful for a widened outlook on human affairs.—"*Women and Work*"

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