

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

PETITION

for submission to the Commission on the Revision of Canon Law

F. Mackenzie Shattock

Most members of the Alliance and other readers of *The Catholic Citizen* already know that the Alliance has recently sent a Petition to the Commission set up by Pope John XXIII for the revision of Canon Law, and that in this petition we ask that those Canons which assign to women a position of inferiority be especially considered and revised: that we ask this in the name of the Alliance's declared principle of greater service to the Church.

Beyond these bare facts probably only a few members know what the decision of the Council, taken in Freiburg, in 1963, to adopt a resolution which proposed this course of action did entail. The members of St. Joan's are not necessarily 'Canonists' and the detailed study of the Code of the Church's Laws—formulated in Latin—is not in everybody's competence. We are very fortunate that several of our members, of different countries, possess the specialist training and competence which enabled them to undertake this arduous task.

By September of the following year, 1964, the Committee charged with the study of the desired changes, was able to present to the Council of the International Alliance of St. Joan, a draft which incorporated the individual contributions. These had been received and co-ordinated at 'the Office' in London: sufficient indication that the difficult task fell mainly to Florence Barry, who was also responsible (with what assistance the Office staff could give) for the final framing of the Petition, with amendments suggested at the Council Meeting at Antwerp. As we have previously noted, this was Florence Barry's last great service to the Alliance. On the day she visited the Office to supervise the dispatch of the Petition the first signs of her short terminal illness became evident. Reluctantly she left the Office, not to return. R.I.P.

Space forbids to transcribe the Petition in full. The opening sentences here recorded supply the key to its intention and the spirit in which it was framed, the desire of women to give greater service to the Church. The wording is here somewhat

condensed and the Latin texts omitted, but nothing of importance is left out. Individual Sections will receive or have already received the full text.

*(Resolution passed at the 21st Council Meeting
at Antwerp 1964)*

St. Joan's International Alliance, encouraged by the Encyclical *Pacem in Terris*, respectfully petitions the Commission entrusted with the revision of Canon Law to amend those Canons which concern women so that these no longer assign to women a position of inferiority, which no longer corresponds with their civil and social status. The Alliance further requests that qualified women be consulted on the revision of these Canons.

With this end in view, the Alliance submits that the fundamental rights of all baptized persons be recognized as affirmed in Canon 87. (Translation of Latin text: Baptism of water constitutes a human being a person in the Church of Christ with all the rights and duties of a Christian.)

The desired changes in the Codex of the Church's legislation would give recognition to the dignity of women and accord them greater possibilities of service to the Church.

The Alliance therefore begs for the revision of certain Canons, and begs to submit the following suggestions, for instance, for the desired changes:

Canon 93-1. Domicile. Each spouse should be given the right to his or her own independent domicile. This has important consequences regarding inheritance and certain matrimonial rights. Legal domicile does not involve the matrimonial home.

Canon 98-4. Choice of Rite. Each spouse should have the same opportunity of choice.

Canon 506-1 & 2. Election of Superiors. That women religious should be enabled to follow the same procedure as men religious.

Canon 709-3. Confraternities. That women should be permitted to enrol on the same terms as men.

Canon 813-2. Serving at Mass. The deletion of this Canon, which limits service to men, is requested.

Canon 968-1. Holy Orders. That the Commission might substitute *homo baptizatus* for *vir baptizatus* (person eligible for ordination) thus permitting the extension of Holy Orders to women, should the Church in her wisdom and in her good time so decide.*

Canon 1067-1. Minimum Age of Marriage. That the minimum legal age be raised to sixteen for both sexes, as persons under that age are not sufficiently mature mentally or morally, even if physically developed.

Canon 1262. Propriety in Church. 1) The rules regarding separation of the sexes in Church and 2a) covering of the head are obsolete. 2b) Modesty in attire must apply to both men and women.

Canon 1264. Nuns' Choirs. Suggest deletion of the clause requiring the Nuns' Choir to be hidden.

Canon 1327. Preaching. Suggest the substitution of *persons* for *men*, in the clause permitting men to preach in the absence of the clergy.

Canon 1380. Selection by Bishops of Candidates for Advanced Study. Suggest eligible persons be substituted for *clericos*—eligible for the study of Philosophy, Theology and Canon Law.

Canon 1979-2 & 3. Non-Consummation of Marriage. Suggest deletion, as the proposed examination for impotence is inconclusive. Should it be retained, each sex should be given the opportunity to be examined by qualified medical practitioners.

Canon 2004. Canonisation. Suggest that women also be permitted to put forward a cause.

We have been informed that the Petition of the Alliance to the Commission for the Revision of Canon Law has been received and has now been translated. Members of the Alliance, in many countries, will eagerly expect, and pray for, its favourable consideration.

* Two of our five Australian Sections (New S. Wales and Victoria) dissociated themselves from the request for revision of this Canon, as did our affiliated society in Argentine, Centro Femenino de Cultura Civica.

ST. JOAN'S DAY

We hope that members and friends of the Alliance will attend the 5.30 Mass at Westminster Cathedral on May 30th.

* * *

Members of Commissions

Miss Rosemary Goldie and Sister Mary Luke are members of the commission appointed for the elaboration of Schema 13 (Doctrinal Basis) which is to come before the next session of the Vatican Council. Among other published names are those of P. Yves Congar, O.P., and P. Jean Danielou, S.J.

Two nuns representing religious orders are serving on Cardinal Heenan's Liturgical Commission for Westminster. They are Mother Mary Louisa of the Holy Child Convent and Sister Marie Aloysius of Sion Convent.

May we hope that the nuns appointed to Liturgical Commissions will, while co-operating with their colleagues in the whole field of Liturgical reform, pay particular attention to certain aspects of which, as experts in the 'Opus Dei' and as women, they must be particularly aware.

We have received some notes from an enclosed nun which draw attention to some instances of the point we have in mind. We have ourselves referred, at an earlier date, to the prayer invoking certain virgin martyrs: 'Deus qui inter innumerata gratiae tuae dona etiam in sexu fragile (italics ours) tua operaris magnalia'. This our correspondent quotes as an example of sex-discrimination carried to extremes i.e. into the very domain of martyrdom for the Faith.

That St. Scholastica and St. Gertrude are now expected to be honoured with Choir offices of higher rank by nuns than by monks of the Benedictine Order, shows, she says, a tendency to discrimination to which 'the attention of feminine members of Liturgical Commissions should be alerted.'

* * *

ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING AT ROME

The Villa Bassi can only give accommodation at Rome for two or three sharing. Those wishing for single rooms must make arrangements elsewhere. Please let us know on which days you intend to arrive and depart.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Basuto

On April 30th when Basuto became self-governing, men and women voted for the first time in the parliamentary elections.

The Congo

A new organisation of women for the advancement and emancipation of the Congolese woman has recently manifested a determination to influence the politicians so that peace is brought to the region. Among the banners which they displayed before the Belgian ambassador was one which read, 'We demand the support of the women of Belgium'. A delegation was received by the ambassador.

Thus the Congolese women are seen to be becoming aware of their importance and their responsibilities as citizens.

A regional group of l'Action Feminine held a reunion at Elisabethville where its leaders studied the three following matters:

1. The communication of M. the Minister Munongo published in the newspapers last October. It read, 'The elections will be by universal suffrage, but women will not have the right to vote.'

2. The declaration made at the Vatican Council by Monseigneur Malula, Archbishop of Leopoldville, requesting that the Church shall affirm in very clear words the value and eminent dignity of every person—the equality of the man and the woman.

3. The new civil code adopted on the Ivory Coast whereby enforced marriages, the bride price, the matriarchal system, and polygamy are abolished.

At the end of the discussions the leaders decided to publish the following communiqué: 'We, women of the Christian Family Movement, part of l'Action Feminine declare: "We rejoice that the Catholic Church, through the voice of His Excellency Monseigneur Malula, Archbishop of Leopoldville, demands recognition of the perfect dignity of women.'

We place our trust in those who carry their political responsibilities according to the degree to which they seek the well-being of the whole population.

We are in agreement with the new constitution which grants us the right to vote for the next legislature.

We note the fact that the communication which informed us that we shall not have the right to vote contains no explanation of the motive for this exclusion.

We demand the right to vote and to be eligible now to vote at the next election.

We shall not cease to point out that the Congo, which claims to be a modern nation, will remain

backward politically, socially, economically and culturally so long as those who hold power prevent women from playing their true rôle and from bringing the treasures of their womanhood into every sphere of the national life."

They gave notice that, while being in no doubt as to the difficulties of the tasks they were undertaking, they would do their utmost to give a great number of women the formation necessary for these diverse activities. They declared that they had already enlightened hundreds of Congolese women as to what should be expected of them as women, wives, mothers and citizens. They would work in collaboration with women's associations, social groups and girls' schools, for the advancement of women and the happiness of Congolese families. In all these things they sought the understanding and support of the civil and religious authorities.

We warmly congratulate Mesdames Mwilambwe Stephanie, Barbiert Micheline, Mumba Irène, Ngongo Renée, Mulanda Romani, Garcer Louise and Kafumbila José, the leaders of the group, for their stand.

France

The Daily Telegraph reports that General de Gaulle has approved the new matrimonial régime in France. We look forward to hearing details from our French section.

Mali

In recent elections three women have been returned to the National Assembly.

Senegal

The first woman to be elected to Parliament is Mrs. Demba Diop.

Spain

The statutory insurance premium for women drivers aged 21 to 25 is fixed at a lower rate than that for men of the same age, a statistical study having proved them to be more responsible and careful at the wheel.

Switzerland

Swiss women are slowly gaining ground in their fight for emancipation. Dr. Ruckstuhl describes the election of Frau Emma Kammacher to be the first woman president of a Cantonal Parliament (Geneva Grossrat) as an historic event in the struggle.

Malaya

A correspondent in Malaya writes, 'I wish you could send a representative of St. Joan's to see all the women's activities in this country. Women are certainly playing their part in society. I recently found a young woman training in quantity surveying. Teachers, nurses and police-women abound as well as social workers.'

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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UNITED NATIONS

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION YEAR

Message of Secretary General to Non-Governmental Organisations

'In November 1961, Prime Minister Nehru of India suggested that one year should be devoted to emphasize the vast scope of international co-operation, especially for peace and in the interest of peace. Two years later the General Assembly decided to designate 1965, the twentieth year of the United Nations, as International Co-operation Year. It was envisaged that the Non-Governmental Organizations would play an important role in realizing the aims and objectives of the International Co-operation Year. In their everyday operations, they are already engaged in implementing the idea of international co-operation, and with their world-wide resources they are certain to play an ever-increasing role in areas where governments and other official organs cannot perform an adequate function. It is my hope that the Non-Governmental Organizations during this year will seize with enthusiasm the opportunities opened up by the General Assembly action, and further broaden and intensify their activities within their particular sphere of action.'

* * *

U Thant on 'Pacem in Terris'

In an address to the *Pacem in Terris* Convocation at U.N. Headquarters on 20th February, 1965, the Secretary General U Thant, pointed out that the spirit and aims of the United Nations Organization had been given eloquent expression by Pope John XXIII who, in his encyclical *Pacem in Terris*, appealed to all peoples to support U.N. and make it 'ever more equal to the magnitude and nobility of its task.' This recognition of U.N.'s important role in the world was subsequently reiterated by Pope Paul VI when he added his 'good wishes for the true prosperity of the great Organization of the United Nations and for the happy success of its activities.'

The 115 nations who have accepted the U.N. Charter possess both the means and the general desire to secure peace and justice for all. Yet peace on earth is still a distant objective which can be reached only if all men will abjure the state of mind which has so often led to war—the nationalistic urge to expand and dominate others by force on the one hand, and on the other the feeling of fear, resentment and suspicion of the less developed countries against the wealthier nations who find it difficult to live up to their professed ideals of equal rights and non-discrimination.

It is imperative that we work towards a world order where aggressive nationalism and fanaticism are banished and where unity and diversity may co-exist happily. Just as the great religions, after centuries of bigotry and violence, have come to understand and respect each other, so all nations must co-operate in every sphere of life and adapt themselves to changed circumstances. In spite of its current problems and present uncertain authority, U.N. does provide the necessary forum for discussion and the machinery for international co-operation for keeping the peace. As the Organization gains in world respect, and as nation states become politically more mature and thus more willing to alter their course of action for the common good, U.N. should serve as a centre for harmonizing national policies within a wider interest. This is the main reason why U Thant advocates that the United Nations should be preserved and strengthened and the disagreements among the greatest Powers should not be allowed to disrupt and stultify the Organization's growth.

A great debate is now going on about the division of functions between the Security Council and the General Assembly. The manner in which the issue is resolved will profoundly affect the future organic growth of U.N. A spirit of compromise and adaptation should prevail in the

paramount interest of maintaining peace. To achieve this the smaller Powers are playing an important role as the spokesmen of moderation and the common good. No governments, great or small, can by themselves face the great and shifting problems of our age in isolation. They are dependent on each other and on the peoples they represent who, because of the progress in communication of all kinds, can form an enlightened world opinion that will revolutionize our political and social thinking. This constitutes a moral challenge to intelligent men and women everywhere. It is up to us to learn and understand the past and the present so that we may rid ourselves of prejudices and irrational attitudes and face the future together with wisdom and the hope that our ideals will ultimately become a working reality. '*Pacem in Terris*', U Thant concludes, 'gives us an inspiring lead towards that change of heart which our great aims so urgently require.'

It is indeed a measure of Pope John's transcendent greatness that his inspiring lead was hailed by all alike, believer and atheist, capitalist and communist, for did he not base his plea for peace on earth on the often unrecognized fact that the human person has an intrinsic worth regardless of sex, creed or colour? We in St. Joan's Alliance have special cause to rejoice that at long last a Pope has publicly come down on the side of the angels and put paid to the niggling doubts of so many in the Catholic Church about the equal value of women in the world.

Mun Wah Bentley

* * *

U.N. General Assembly

It was indeed unfortunate that the Nineteenth General Assembly was unable to hold a full, normal session to deal with its heavy and important agenda. The impasse was due to the failure of one of the Great Powers to pay its assessment for the Congo and Middle Eastern peace-keeping operations. A Member two years in arrears may not vote in the General Assembly (Article 19 of U.N. Charter). Only those items which were assured non-vote approval were considered by the Assembly. Had a formal vote been demanded the right of the Member in default to cast a vote would have been challenged. Such a challenge, it was feared, might result in irreparable damage to the Organization. Among the items not considered was one of especial interest to St. Joan's: Draft recommendation on consent to marriage, minimum age for marriage and registration of marriages.

UNESCO Report

UNESCO issued in January 1965 a most interesting report on 'The Access of Girls to Secondary Education' (E/CN 6./433). Prepared for the Eighteenth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (Teheran, March 1965), the report is based primarily on replies received from Governments in reply to a UNESCO questionnaire. The report reveals that the over-all enrol-

ment of girls in secondary schools has increased markedly during the past decade. The rise is noted in general as opposed to vocational and teacher training education. Although in no countries are girls denied 'de jure' access to secondary education there remain 'de facto' obstacles: economic and socio-cultural factors, 'the conception of woman's present and future role in professional life'. The designations 'feminine' and 'masculine' occupations appear frequently in replies of many Governments. Certain countries report sections for 'general, industrial, commercial, agricultural, and female education'. UNESCO comments on this classification: 'The use of the word "female" to describe a branch of education parallel to "general", "industrial", "commercial", or "agricultural" education shows the strength and persistence of tradition; if anyone were to suggest the establishment of "male" education, it would certainly give rise to some astonishment!'

Admission of New Members

Three countries: Malawi (formerly called Nyasaland), Malta, and Zambia (formerly called Northern Rhodesia) were admitted to U.N. membership. On March 1st, Indonesia—the first country to do so—withdraw from the United Nations. The present membership is 114.

United Nations International School

The General Assembly accepted the Ford Foundation's offer of a grant up to 7.5 million dollars to build and equip the United Nations International School which is at present housed in a New York City school building no longer in use.

F. M. McGillicuddy

STATUS OF WOMEN COMMISSION

We regret that there was not space in last month's *Catholic Citizen* for more than a brief report on the Status of Women Commission in Teheran. It was good to know that the representative of Guinea brought up the subject of ritual mutilations saying, in an intervention on education, that this custom weakened the personality of women. Mme. Leroy followed with a quotation of the Resolution passed by St. Joan's Alliance at Antwerp last year: 'St. Joan's International Alliance trusts that those States in which the practice of mutilation still survives will take the necessary steps to bring about its early abolition. It further requests the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to give its attention to this matter.'

CAMBRIDGE UNDERGRADUATES

At last it seems that what the Alliance has fought for for so many years is about to be realised. At the annual dinner of the Fisher Society in Cambridge (which has refused to admit women) Cardinal Heenan said that the Catholic chaplaincy must be rebuilt. Mr. John Oliver added that an amalgamation of the Margaret Beaufort Society (the Catholic women's undergraduate society) with the Fisher Society seemed not to be far off.

THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

On April 6th, the Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced his Budget, awaited by tax-payers with some trepidation. Luxuries, such as tobacco, drink and cars, will all cost more, and an end has been put to tax-free entertainment, except of potential oversea buyers. Certain concessions have been made in regard to income tax. Exemption for single persons over sixty-five has been raised from £360 to £390, and for married couples from £575 to £625. Single person's allowance, marriage allowance and the maximum of wife's earned income allowance have all been raised by £20. The most important change, however, is the promised introduction of a capital gains tax. In the White Paper published with the Finance Bill, it is laid down that for purposes of assessment the capital gains of husband and wife will in general be aggregated.

On the previous day, Mr. Crossman moved the Second Reading of the Rent Bill, designed to give protection to some eight hundred thousand tenants of privately-owned houses, and to provide for the fixing of a fair rent. The latter would necessitate the recruitment of rent officers, and these would not need to have legal training. 'I am looking', said Mr. Crossman, 'for practical men and women who can size up the problems of human beings as well as being prepared to go out and see for themselves the condition of the properties with which they are dealing.'

Dame Joan Vickers on April 7th sought leave successfully under the Ten Minutes Rule to introduce her Guardianship of Infants Bill. This would give the mother equal guardianship rights with the father. Dame Joan pointed out that she was pleading especially for the deserted wife, whose need of full guardianship rights was greatest. The Bill had the support, among others, of Mrs. Braddock and Mrs. Thatcher.

Another private member's measure was Mrs. Jeger's British Nationality Bill, the object of which was to give to the wives (now often stateless) of some one million 'British subjects without citizenship' scattered throughout the world the same national status as their husbands. Both Bills were virtually killed in a general massacre of the innocents, when Hon. Members, in a thoroughly unco-operative frame of mind, shouted 'Object' to these and 19 other Bills coming up for Second Reading on Friday, April 9th.

On April 13th, Mr. John Parker received leave to introduce his rather oddly named Strengthening of Marriage Bill, the object of which would be to enable a further marriage to be contracted by either spouse when a separation had persisted for five years. This, too, is unlikely to go far in the present session.

The Prime Minister on April 15th gave the names of the delegates from the United Kingdom Parliament to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe. Among the eighteen chosen are

two women, Lady Megan Lloyd George from the House of Commons, and Baroness Burton of Coventry from the House of Lords.

In the Upper House, on April 7th, Lady Summer-skill interceded for Mrs. Lily Ince, who had been in prison for six months for contempt of court for failing to give her husband a share of the house-keeping savings, which she contended were savings from moneys given her over the years by her children for their keep. The Lord Chancellor outlined the steps already taken by the Official Solicitor and the Married Women's Association to help and advise her in this complicated case. (Mrs. Ince is now out of gaol, having agreed on April 14th in the Blackpool County Court, pending an Appeal, to hand over his alleged share to her husband.)

Vera Douie

* * *

International Labour Organisation (Africa)

The Second I.L.O. African Regional Conference held at Addis Ababa from 30th November to 11th December, 1964, was attended by 181 delegates and advisers representing governments, employers and workers from 35 I.L.O. member states. Among the resolutions adopted were two dealing with the employment and conditions of work and the status of African women. The first one concerned the status of women in economic and social life together with the part they can play in developing the region by assuming greater responsibilities. The second urged the I.L.O. to intensify its work on behalf of women on the African continent. While it is true that the traditional inferior position of women in the world means that special measures have to be taken to overcome prejudice before equal opportunities can be guaranteed, it has to be remembered that anything done, such as a wages policy, that affects men as human beings also affects women who are no less human.

M.W.B.

Slavery

Amongst the evils condemned by the African bishops attending the Vatican Council (see Conciliar Harvest, C.C. Jan.) as affecting the dignity of women, was the dowry system. This is not to be compared with the Western custom by which a girl brings (or used to bring) her dowry or dot with her to her new home. The African bride price or dowry (not confined to Africa) consists of gifts in kind or cash which a prospective husband gives to the parents or guardian of the girl he hopes to marry—often many years before the marriage takes place.

This dowry may often be so burdensome as to prevent young men from marrying and it certainly leads to 'problems facing thousands of women who are forced into polygamous unions.'

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Britain's Second Woman O.M.

Dr. Dorothy Hodgkin, F.R.S., who won the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1964, has now been appointed a member of the Order of Merit. She is the second woman to be so honoured. The first was Florence Nightingale, who was made a member in 1907.

* * *

Woman Coroner

Dr. Patricia McHugh has been appointed coroner for the southern district of Greater London. This is the first time in Britain that a woman has been given this office. She has been a deputy coroner since 1962. Before that she worked as a police surgeon. She also studied law, being called to the Bar in 1959. Dr. McHugh is a graduate of Birmingham University and has three children.

* * *

The Evolution of Christian Teaching on Social Matters

'The dignity and rights of the human person have emerged more and more strongly in Catholic teaching until they found one of their finest expressions in Pope John XXIII's encyclical letter *Pacem in Terris*.'

So writes Archbishop Beck in an article in *The Tablet*.

* * *

'Equal but Different'

In a review,* under this title, of Josephine Kamm's book, 'Hope Deferred', Miss Marghanita Laski writes: 'Mrs. Kamm ends by considering the future, and the ways in which the education of girls should differ from that of boys, and here, in one surely accidental sentence, she sells the pass—when she speaks of widening the scope of honours schools at universities to include subjects "more suited to women's particular intellectual gifts". Do women have particular intellectual gifts? This, surely, is what the whole dispute is now about, and as vehemently as I would deny their exclusive possession of the loving virtues, so would I deny this. We know nothing whatsoever of women's specific intellectual and emotional potentialities, and whether, apart from social conditioning, they differ from men's. But I do think it unjust that boys learn nothing at school about how to be householders, husbands and fathers.'

We are pleased to be able to express our complete agreement with the opinions quoted here.

* *New Statesman*, 30th April, 1965.

* * *

I.L.O.

The 49th session of the International Conference meets in June at Geneva. Discussions on Item V of the agenda, 'The Employment of Women with Family Responsibilities' will continue, with a view to the preparation of a recommendation on the subject.

REVIEWS

'The Holy See at Work'

This book, first published in 1962, describes how the Catholic Church is governed. It is an invaluable work of reference, and is particularly opportune for those who wish to follow the Vatican Council and to understand the working of the Curia and the various Congregations and offices of Vatican City. The author, as Vicar-General to His Holiness for Vatican City, has unique knowledge of the whole complex organisation of the Church, and it is easy to understand the apparent delays in decisions when one realises the care with which the innumerable questions that come to the Vatican are examined by the appropriate body. It is of course also easy to appreciate the frustration that must be encountered by those who attempt to change the order established by custom and usage if not by immutable law.

The author describes the various permanent commissions that have been set up by the Pope to study the new problems that have arisen, so as to 'relieve the functionaries of the Curia for their proper labours'. The latest of these set up in 1962 were the Preparatory Commissions for the Ecumenical Council of which the Commission on the Apostolate of the laity and for all questions, religious and social, regarding Catholic Action, touches the Alliance most nearly. The author gives a list of more than thirty international Catholic organisations which are 'pillars which support the Temple of God'. He says, 'The foundation and development of the new Catholic organisations are the most tangible sign of the apostolate of the laity in the international life of the modern world.'

* * * P.C.C.

'The Potential of Women', edited by Seymour M. Farber and Roger H. L. Wilson (McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc.) 58/-.

This book is a record of a symposium held at the University of California Medical Center in January 1963. The contributors deal with their subject, firstly, from a psychological and secondly, from a social angle. Starting with 'The Female Primate', we learn that over 70 per cent of the life of monkeys is occupied with motherhood. Interesting, but scarcely, one feels, relevant to the potential of women. The next paper is by a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, who comes out with the startling suggestion, not, one hopes, to be taken entirely seriously, that 'perhaps women just live too long! Maybe when they get through having babies they have outlived their usefulness'.

There follows a discussion on differences in the psychological make-up of men and women with which we need not concern ourselves here, except to mention that in an excellent paper Dr. Ethel Albert distinguishes between what is innate and what is due to social environment. 'For the study of sex differences', she says, 'we may say that

nature . . . makes us male or female; the values and norms of the society in which we develop make us men or women. Being fully human', she concludes, 'is a high enough ideal for all.'

The most interesting part of the book, however, deals with the contemporary social position of women in the United States. The contributors, all with distinguished professional careers, present a depressing picture of the difficulties encountered by women not content to follow exclusively the role of the happy housewife laid down for them by the women's magazines. 'While most civilised countries', writes Marya Mannes, 'from Britain to Scandinavia to the Soviet Union are incorporating more and more women of high intellectual attainments into their major professions and positions, the United States is plunged into an orgy of domesticity and child-bearing.' More women than ever are working at some stage outside their homes, but not in important jobs. The proportion of women physicians is no greater than it was in 1910. The Civil Service Commission a few years ago reported that 94 per cent of the requests they received from Government agencies for top management jobs specified men. Nor are many opportunities offered them in political life, while their status in trade unions is even lower than in this country. As is well known, women own about 70 per cent of the wealth of the United States, but it transpires that they only actually manage from 15 to 20 per cent.

V.D.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

*
From 'The Catholic Citizen',
15th May, 1940

Women employed as bus and tram conductors in the municipal services during the war are to receive men's rates of pay. This was laid down by the Industrial Court in an important award published on April 24th. The Transport and General Workers' Union had demanded 'the rate for the job' and cited evidence as to the fitness of women for the job in opposition to the claims of the employers (the local authorities). The Court has decided that women conductors employed to replace men shall be over eighteen years of age; that for the first six months and until a woman conductor is twenty-one years of age, not less than ninety per cent of the adult male conductor's commencing rate should be applicable to women. We do not like the proviso that the guaranteed week for women may be reduced to forty hours, providing that all time worked in excess of forty hours is paid for at overtime rates. This may lead later to a denial of the principle of 'equal pay for equal work'. The Industrial Court's acceptance of the principle of 'the rate for the job' is expected to have important influence in negotiations elsewhere—particularly in engineering and munition work.

The trade unions will demand the same principle when the question of replacing men with women arises in London Transport and with company-owned buses.

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

NON-PARTY

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