

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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THE

Catholic Citizen

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

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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.

History of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society

(Now St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance).

(Abridged Edition)

By LEONORA DE ALBERTI.

On the morning of December 8, 1910, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, two young Catholic girls, strangers to each other, stood outside Holloway Goal waiting with other suffragists to welcome suffrage prisoners who were to be released that day. One of them mentioned the fact that she had been to Mass and was hailed by the other as a fellow Catholic. These two young girls, Gabrielle Jeffery and May Kendall, began then to discuss the suffrage position. At this period of the suffrage agitation various groups of women were forming special suffrage societies—apart from the two main bodies the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and the Women's Social and Political Union—to appeal to various sections of the community: religious, industrial, professional. The Church League for Woman Suffrage and the Free Church League were already in being, and the idea came to those two girls to found a Catholic Suffrage Society to enable Catholics to contribute their share to the Suffrage movement. From that chance meeting the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society was born.

From an address in Finsbury Park our two pioneers issued an appeal to Catholic women interested in the Suffrage, and put an advertisement in the Catholic and Suffrage papers. Not long after, a question was asked at one of the W.S.P.U. meetings at Queen's Hall—presumably by a friend of

theirs—'Is there a Catholic Women's Suffrage Society?'—and Miss Christabel Pankhurst replied: "there is, see 'Votes for Women.'"

The first informal meeting of the budding society was held at Miss Smyth-Pigott's flat at which among those present were, Mrs. Alice Meynell, Miss Beatrice Gadsby, Miss Christine O'Connor, Miss K. FitzGerald, Mrs. and Miss Whately, and, of course, the two founders. Miss Kendall explained the idea that had come to Miss Jeffery and herself, and it was formally agreed to found the society.

The first formal meeting was held at Alan's Tea Rooms, Oxford Street, on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, 1911. It was there decided that the Society should be non-party and constitutional, that it should be called The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, and should have as Patron Blessed Joan of Arc, now St. Joan of Arc. The colours chosen were blue, white and gold; blue for Our Lady, white and gold as the Papal colours.

The object of the Society was: "To band together Catholics of both sexes, in order to secure for women the Parliamentary Vote on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men." All Catholic women approving the object and methods were invited to join on paying a minimum annual subscription of 1s. Members were asked to

say a daily 'Hail Mary' and the invocation, 'Blessed Joan of Arc pray for us.'

Men were invited to join as associates, on the same conditions, with the exception that they were not permitted to elect, or eligible to be elected, to the Executive Committee.

Thus did the new society from its initiation explode a belief, then generally held, that Catholic women could not stand on their own feet. We may say here that all the founder members, with one exception, were "born" Catholics, they were also members of the W.S.P.U., with the exception of Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, a member of the National Union W.S.S.

The Committee elected on the 25th March was fortunately composed of women who could be relied upon to work. They were: Miss Christine O'Connor, Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, B.A., Miss Beatrice Gadsby, B.A., Miss Gabrielle Jeffery, Miss Kendall, L.L.A., Miss Smyth Pigott and Miss Monica Whately. The Committee appointed Miss FitzGerald, chairman, Miss Jeffery and Miss Kendall, Joint Hon. Secretaries, Miss Smyth Pigott, Hon. Press Secretary, and Miss Whately, Hon. Treasurer.

The society was started practically without funds, which were raised in many ways: jumble sales, special collections, and on one occasion we find the Committee going out carol singing.

Before the society was actually established a letter was addressed to the Archbishop of Westminster, now H. E. Cardinal Bourne, asking His Grace's sanction to the scheme. The reply was that "the matter of it is one on which the Archbishop is precluded by his position from expressing any official opinion." 7/2/1911. Thus leaving the foundation of the society to the discretion of the promoters.

In spite of the fact that the new society was looked at askance by many pious people, whose prejudices were shocked, it grew rapidly. When the time came to hold the first big public meeting, the society numbered several hundred adherents. The meeting was held at the Kensington Town Hall, May 10, 1911. The speakers were Mr. Joseph Clayton and Mrs. Morgan Dockrell, with Miss Kathleen FitzGerald in the Chair.

The hall was crowded with an enthusiastic audience, and our badge, designed by Miss Jeffery, (blue, white and gold, with the fleur de lys in the centre), sold in large numbers. At this meeting Miss Beatrice Gadsby presented to the society our well-known banner, designed by her uncle, W. H. Gadsby, R.E.A., and worked by herself, bearing the inscription "Catholic Women's Suffrage Society." It was carried at the head of the Catholic contingent which walked with flying pennants in the great Suffrage Procession of June 17, 1911, usually known as the "coronation Procession," in which all suffrage societies joined. Since then, it has been carried through the streets of London on many occasions in fine weather and foul, and has always been received with respect.

We remember with gratitude all those who came forward to help in those early days. Mrs. Alice Meynell, who championed our cause in the Press, Miss Beatrice Gadsby, who acted as Hon. Secretary when Miss Jeffery was compelled to resign through illness, and who for many years kept an eye on our finances, and was the second Chairman of the Society, Miss Whately, who at one time combined the duties of secretary and Hon. Treasurer, Miss Aungier, Mrs. Whately, Miss Fedden, Miss O'Sullivan, Mrs. and Miss Christitch, Miss FitzSimons, well-known in the civic life of Manchester, Miss Christopher St. John, Mrs. V. M. Crawford, later Chairman of the Society, Miss L. de Alberti, Miss Shurmer, Mrs. and Miss E. Springett and Dr. Agnes MacLaren, (who worked with Josephine Butler, and signed the manifesto against the C. D. Acts in 1869), and many others who helped the society to take root.

Of Mrs. Meynell, who was a member of the Executive, we say in our obituary notice (*Catholic Citizen*, vol. viii, p. 87): "By the death of Mrs. Meynell, the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society has suffered a bitter loss. Others will write of the loss to the world of literature, others of the loss to the Catholic world, but to us the loss is personal and irreparable.

In the early days when our frail boat was first launched on perilous seas, Mrs. Meynell lent to a dangerous venture the support of

her honoured name. A guarantee, we may say, that the aims of the new Society were laudable and Catholic. Even those of us who most realize the dangers of those early days, even we will never know, perhaps, the full value of that guarantee."

A great feature of the Society's work was propaganda in the Press. The duties of the press Secretary were two-fold, to watch feminist interests in the Catholic Press, and Catholic principles in the feminist press. On one occasion at least the rôle was reversed, when a non-Catholic Suffragist brought to the notice of the C.W.S.S. a pamphlet on Marriage issued by the Catholic Truth Society, which suggested, or appeared to suggest, that the Church expected a higher standard of morality from women than from men. After some correspondence the C.W.S.S. was successful in getting the pamphlet amended.

The office of Hon. Press Secretary was held for several years by Miss Smyth Pigott. To quote from our Annual Report for 1913: "Miss Smyth Pigott has continued her work this year as Press Secretary, a very important office, and earned the gratitude of Catholic suffragists by the fearless manner in which she has conducted her various campaigns. Our opponents are beginning to realize that they cannot attack our Society and our cause with impunity, and during the course of the year, many a foe who light-heartedly entered the lists, has been ignominiously routed by our valiant and logical champion."

In speaking of the Press, we record with gratitude that the *Tablet*, under the editorship of the late Mr. Snead-Cox, was friendly to the society, and gave it considerable publicity, which was of great value especially in the early days. The *Catholic Times* was also friendly, and has published a number of articles from our Press Secretaries, and others, dealing with the many ramifications of the Suffrage movement. In later days the *Universe*, also, has given publicity to the society.

In February 1912, it became necessary to take a part time office at 51 Blandford Street, the work continued to increase and by June we find the Society installed at room 5, 55 Berners Street, but still the

office was available in the afternoons only. In the early part of 1913, the Society removed to its own office, room 22, 55 Berners Street.

A piece of propaganda on which the Society set great store, was the attendance at the biennial Catholic Congress. The chief object of the society was to reach Catholics, and bring home to them the importance of the suffrage movement. It was the main contribution of the C.W.S.S. to the suffrage fight. There was no better means of advertising the society than by propaganda at the Congress. The policy of all suffrage societies was to preach votes for women in season and out of season. It was not a popular policy, but it won the vote. In the very first year of the society's existence 1911, Miss Beatrice Gadsby and Miss O'Sullivan attended the Catholic Congress at Newcastle. The object of the society being political it did not come within the scope of the Congress, but through the courtesy of Alderman Weidner front seats were reserved for our two delegates, who managed to distribute over one thousand leaflets. A glance at the Press Book for that year shows the amount of advertisement the society obtained from the work of Miss Gadsby and Miss O'Sullivan at this Congress. It was at Newcastle, too, that Monsignor Giesswein joined the C.W.S.S. This distinguished Hungarian prelate, member of the Hungarian Parliament, was a keen feminist, and spoke strongly in favour of woman suffrage at the Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance held at Budapest in 1913. He was a true friend to the C.W.S.S. until his death in 1924.

At the Catholic Congress held in Norwich in 1912, the C.W.S.S. made a brave show. Miss Jeffery went down a week beforehand to organise a public meeting. A very large audience—including many clergy—flocked to the meeting. Miss Abadam and Miss FitzSimons were the speakers, with Miss FitzGerald in the Chair. A great deal of propaganda was done during the Congress.

It was in the autumn of 1911 that the C.W.S.S. held a public meeting at the Queen's Hall, at which Miss Abadam was the chief speaker. The Hon. Mrs. Walter Roch—afterwards our third Chairman—was

in the chair. The C.W.S.S. was much indebted in those early days to Miss Abadam, whose eloquence was a great asset to the new society. Miss Abadam spoke for the society in London and up and down the country, and attracted many recruits.

Mr. Joseph Clayton, who also spoke at this meeting, was another friend of suffrage, to whom the society owes a debt of gratitude. He was the most prominent of our supporters among Catholic laymen. Among others whom we remember with gratitude are Mr. Blount, Mr. Raikes Bromage, Mr. James Britten, and Mr. Francis Meynell.

Among the clergy, our first supporter was Father, now Monsignor T. J. Walshe, but others came forward soon after—Canon Brennan, Father W. H. Kent, O.S.C., Father Price, O.S.M., Father Mathew Power, S.J., Father Philip Fletcher, and many others.

The C.W.S.S. did not confine itself to the West End, but held meetings in the East, such as the one at Bermondsey early in 1912.

Meanwhile the society was not without enemies, who lost no time in traducing it. On a visit to Rome, Miss O'Sullivan learnt from Cardinal Merry del Val that information had been received at Rome that the C.W.S.S. had published immoral literature. This was a calumny more easily refuted than some others. In those days the Society's publications consisted of two pamphlets—'A Word on Woman Suffrage,' by Mrs. Christitch, 'Votes for Women,' the appeal to Catholics by Mr. Joseph Clayton—and three leaflets: one giving the objects of the Society, another the opinions of Cardinal Moran and Cardinal Vaughan in favour of Woman Suffrage, and the third, a letter from the Archbishop of Hobart, in favour of Woman Suffrage, re-printed from the *Tablet*. These were immediately dispatched to his Eminence, and the matter was ended. Later on the C.W.S.S. published another pamphlet, 'Woman Suffrage and Pious Opponents,' by Leonora de Alberti, which was very useful as propaganda.

At a meeting held at the Criterion in June 1912, Miss Christopher St. John presented the society with the beautiful banner of St. Joan, designed

by Miss Edith Craig, daughter of Ellen Terry, which is to be seen at all our meetings. It has been frequently carried in our processions, and was carried in the procession at Westminster Cathedral and adjoining streets, on the occasion of the canonization of St. Joan.

From the earliest the C.W.S.S. was on friendly terms and ready to co-operate with the other suffrage societies, and was welcomed by them. We find the society in 1912 co-operating in a mass meeting of all the societies at the London Opera House to protest against the Government's policy which had occasioned a militant outburst, and to press for a Suffrage measure. Miss Abadam was the society's representative; and again at the Opera House in November of the same year, when a mass meeting was held to urge the Government to pass a Criminal Law Amendment Act for the suppression of the White Slave Traffic, (passed in 1913). We find the Society poster-parading with the Women's Freedom League, and the joining in a demonstration with the other religious leagues for women suffrage.

These Joint Demonstrations of the Religious Leagues for Woman Suffrage were a great feature of the pre-war suffrage campaign. The proceedings were opened with silent prayer, the audience and speakers standing. A series of these meetings held in the Autumn of 1913 and Spring of 1914 culminated in an open-air demonstration held in Hyde Park in June 1914. This was the society's first appearance in the Park, although it has frequently met there since. To quote from our Annual Report for 1914: "There can be no doubt that the sight of Catholic and Jew, Anglican and Free-churchmen meeting on the same platform demanding the enfranchisement of women, makes a strong impression on the public mind. No one could doubt this who had the pleasure of witnessing the demonstration in Hyde Park at a time when suffragists, non-militants and militants alike, were being subjected to ill-treatment by hooligans, stirred up the Press, the demonstration of the religious leagues met with the greatest sympathy. We began and closed our meeting with the 'Hail Mary,' which was

received very reverently by our audience, by no means all Catholic."

Our speakers on this occasion were Mrs. Merivale Mayer, Miss Fedden, Miss Lynch, Mr. Harford Worlock, with Mr. Joseph Clayton in the Chair. At this time Poster-parades of the Leagues were held monthly; many posters bore the device "Freedom to serve." We find the Leagues on one occasion calling a National Week of Prayer for Woman Suffrage, from November 1 to 8, 1913. During the week our London members attended Benediction twice at Westminster Cathedral, and our Liverpool Branch had Mass offered at the Pro-Cathedral, when a sermon on Woman Suffrage was preached by Father Walshe. An evening reception and mass meeting of the Leagues was held at Caxton Hall on November 6, when Alice Meynell acted as hostess for the C.W.S.S., and Miss Abadam spoke as the C.W.S.S. Representative.

We have had many proofs that one result of the work of the C.W.S.S. was to break down many prejudices and much misapprehension existing among our fellow countrymen regarding Catholics. Indeed, this was publicly acknowledged by a clergyman of the Free Churches at one of the Joint meetings.

The very existence of the Society caused reverberations in various parts of the globe. For instance, an Italian paper, reproving certain priests for condemning suffrage—which they could only do as individuals—pointed to the existence of a Catholic Suffrage Society in London—which had not been condemned—as a proof that woman suffrage could not be contrary to Catholic teaching.

POLITICAL WORK.

While ready to work with all societies, the C.W.S.S. took direct political action from the first. At every meeting resolutions asking for a suffrage measure were passed, and sent to the authorities. At first the C.W.S.S., like other societies, asked for Government support for private members' Bills, and when the futility of that had been proved, demanded a Government Bill. The C.W.S.S. has frequently circularised Catholic M.P.'s. asking for support for suffrage, and other measures for which women societies were pressing. The society joined in deputations to the Premier and others; signed a petition to be heard at the Bar of the House; took part in processions, demonstrations in Trafalgar Square, peaceful picketing, etc.

(To be continued).

Our Latest Venture.

St. Joan's Alliance is about to bring to fruition a scheme that we have long cherished: the publishing of a history of the woman's movement throughout the ages, a history which might serve as a text-book for our secondary schools and which might be read with profit by our younger members. To serve the purpose we had in view, the book had to be at once historical and propagandist.

The task of producing such a book has proved by no means an easy one, for it needed knowledge, research and enthusiasm. But to-day, thanks to the self-sacrificing labours of two of our members, Miss Challoner and Mrs. Laughton-Mathews, the book is in the hands of the publishers, Messrs. P. S. King, and in the course of next month should be in the hands of our members. Miss Challoner has written the historical chapters, tracing from the very earliest times, the efforts of women to win their freedom of action, with special reference to the position in the early Christian centuries and again through the Middle Ages.

Mrs. Laughton-Mathews takes up the story at the moment when the political struggle for the vote began in England, and gives a vivid sketch of what to the older among us is still contemporary politics, but to the younger generation is already a matter of history.

At this moment when Equal-Franchise has become a reality and when three millions of "under-thirties" will vote next year for the first time, we feel sure that many will want to know how and why they have suddenly won their political enfranchisement, and this little book has been specially written to enlighten them. We venture to think that nowhere else will Catholic women find just what they need to know on this enthralling subject. The title of the book is TOWARDS CITIZENSHIP: A HANDBOOK OF WOMAN'S EMANCIPATION; the price is 2s. net, and we look to all our members to ensure for it a rapid sale. Dame Millicent Fawcett has very kindly written a Foreword, and we hope to have one also from His Lordship the Bishop of Pella.

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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International Notes.

L'Action Féminine (Luxembourg) informs us that two women candidates were put forward by the independent party for the parliamentary election in the grand-duchy last June. One of them, Frau Schleimer-Kill, secretary of the "Action Féminine," an organisation mainly of Catholics, secured second place on the list with 4,255 votes, but only the one candidate who obtained a yet larger number was elected. We hope Frau Schleimer-Kill will be successful next time, and that the three other parties will then also put forward women candidates.

We are glad to learn from *Le Féminisme Chrétien* (Brussels), and from *Questions Féministes* (Paris) that Mademoiselle Marie Maugeret, who in 1896 founded *Le Féminisme Chrétien*, the first Catholic feminist journal in France, and was a pioneer of women's suffrage among Catholic Frenchwomen, was the central figure at the recent jubilee celebrations in Paris of the "Fédération Jeanne d'Arc." The gathering was honoured by the presence of His Eminence Cardinal Dubois and Monsignor Baudrillart, and a message was read from Cardinal Gasparri conveying the blessing of the Holy Father on Mademoiselle Maugeret.

We congratulate the Victorian Women Citizen Movement on the decision, announced in *The Dawn* (Perth, Western Australia),

of the Government to establish a chair of obstetrics in Melbourne University. The Citizen Movement obtained this decision through the medium of the university council.

We congratulate the *Alliance nationaliste de Sociétés féminines Suisses* on the prominent part they have taken in the *Saffa*, otherwise the Swiss Women's Work Exhibition, which was held at Berne from August 26 to September 30. *Le Mouvement Féministe* (Geneva), which had its stall in the exhibition, describes the suffragist contribution to the inaugurating procession: the huge snail dragged by women wearing the colours of the cause was all too truly representative of the slow march of these valiant Swiss women to their goal of political freedom. May the snail soon be changed into a racehorse! The same paper notices in another issue the stall of the *Verein Katholischer Lehrerinnen der Schweiz*, (Union of Catholic Women Teachers of Switzerland), at the exhibition, and remarks on the "strong and honourable place" occupied by convents among the Catholic schools of Switzerland, and on the advantage it is to Swiss women in general to be afforded a glimpse of the convent schools which form "an integral and important part of the country."

H. D. I.

Notes and Comments.

We publish this month the first instalment of the history of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, now St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. The Committee felt that members, new and old, would be glad to have the history of the society, while it is still fresh in the minds of the actors. We have called it an abridged edition because it is considered expedient to omit various paragraphs during the life of certain persons.

* * * *

Three prominent suffragists have recently come forward as parliamentary candidates: Miss Eleanor Rathbone has consented to stand as Independent candidate at the request at the Universities of Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield and Leeds; our member Miss Monica Whately has been unanimously adopted as prospective Labour candidate for St. Alban's; and Miss Mary Grant has been adopted as prospective Liberal candidate for West Salford. Miss Grant and Miss Rathbone have fought elections before. We hope other well-known suffragists will fight and win.

* * * *

As a result of her European tour, the Queen of Afghanistan is now fostering the woman's movement in her country. Schools for girls are being opened and a preliminary party of women have been sent to Turkey to be trained as doctors, chemists, etc., etc. It is reported that women are to be given equal rights with men, and all Government posts are to be thrown open to women. If this proves to be true, Afghanistan will lead and we trust the British Empire and other nations will follow. The Queen held a meeting for women at Kabul, gave a lecture on the need of education, and explained her scheme—approved by King Amanullah—for the opening of girls' schools. Well done Afghanistan!

Annual Mass.

The Annual Mass for deceased members, associates and benefactors, will be offered at St. Patrick's Church, Soho, on Sunday, November 4, at 10-30. We hope to have a good attendance of our members.

We offer our sincerest sympathy to our member, Miss Fedden, on the death of her mother, for whom we ask the prayers of our readers.—R.I.P.

St. Joan's Alliance.

MEETINGS.

We remind our readers of the Special General Meeting to be held at St. Patrick's Club, Soho, on Saturday, October 27, at 3 p.m., to discuss the future work of the society. We hope members will make every effort to attend.

* * * *

The Alliance re-started open meetings on Monday, October 1, at St. Patrick's Club, Soho. The subject was to have been "The Nationality of Married Women," but the speaker, Miss Fedden, was unfortunately unable to attend owing to the death of her mother. Mrs. Laughton-Mathews spoke on the women of Japan, at a moment's notice. The meeting was very successful. These monthly meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 6 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 5, at St. Patrick's Club, Soho, at 6 p.m. Miss Froud, of the National Union of Women Teachers, will speak on "Education—Equal Opportunities still to be won." Miss Smiley, M.A., in the Chair. Admission free. Tea may be had before or after the meeting.

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The Alliance is co-operating with the Equal Political Rights Campaign in their Victory Celebrations on October 24, both in the luncheon, Hotel Cecil, and the evening reception at Caxton Hall. Members should apply to the Office at once for tickets.

* * * *

Members and friends are cordially invited to an American Tea, at the office, 55 Berners Street, on October 31, All Hallow's Eve. Bring a gift, and buy a gift, and have tea.

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We remind members and friends that the Alliance will have a Stall, as usual, at the Women's Freedom League Fair at Caxton Hall, November 13 and 14. Please send gifts to the office—or donations as soon as possible.

Messages of Congratulation.

AUSTRALIA.

Hearty congratulations on the final suffrage victory from Mrs. Hunter and myself. May St. Joan's be represented in the next Parliament. We rejoice with you in your great achievement and trust that the fruits of victory will be shown by measures placed on the Statute Book in the interests of humanity. With kindest remembrances to members of St. Joan's whom I was privileged to meet.

M. McMahon.

POLAND.

We heartily congratulate our dear sisters and co-religionists, members of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, on their great victory and most sincerely wish them every success in their future work.

"La Femme Polonaise": Mrs. Emily Grocholska, Publisher. Mrs. Wanda Peczynska, Editor. Miss Zofja Bogórska, Secretary.

Miss Bogórska adds that she knows from English papers and International feminist reviews very much about the splendid work of the Alliance, and is happy and proud of it, as a Catholic.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Miss A. L. P. Dorman sends her heartiest congratulations on the Franchise Victory. She wishes she had been present at the Mass of Thanksgiving. She trusts that the Alliance and the *Catholic Citizen* will continue—there are so many things to be done—which the Alliance and the *Citizen* must do.

NEW ZEALAND.

"This being election year with us, my thoughts turn naturally to the women of Great Britain who will exercise their votes for the first time at the next General Election. Their long struggle for their rights in the face of such musty prejudice makes one proud of the pioneers of the movement and of those who followed on . . . May I, a New Zealander, keenly interested in your problems and deeply appreciative of your splendid women, congratulate you all on the realization of your desires.

From Miss Henderson.

Borough Council Elections.

In view of the importance of electing women to Borough Councils, we appeal to members to help the women candidates, of all parties, or of none, who are standing at the forthcoming elections in November. Two of our own members are London candidates, Mrs. Crawford (Labour), St. Marylebone and Miss Monica Whately (Labour) St. Pancras. We appeal especially for helpers for the six women who are standing as independent candidates for St. Charles' Ward in Kensington: Dr. Constance Beach, Miss Beaumont, Lady Horsley, Mrs. Houston, Dr. Arthur Kenward Matthews, Lady Maurice.

They are all good feminists and we understand that better Housing will be one of the chief points of their programme.

At present, out of a total of 1,366 Councillors, there are 162 women serving on London Borough Councils.

St. Joan's Alliance.

Miss Butler-Bowden is having an exhibition and sale of her water-colour landscapes at the Graham Gallery, 72 New Bond Street, from October 22 to November 5. Proceeds to go to the funds of the Alliance.

* * * *

Mrs. Kerr is organizing a Social to be held at Westminster Cathedral Hall, on Monday, November 12, 7-30 to 12. Tickets 2s. 6d. from the office. We hope members and friends will patronize the "Social," which will be particularly enjoyable.

* * * *

We congratulate our member, Miss Dorothy Howell, on her brilliant overture, *The Rock*, which was enthusiastically received at the Queen's Hall on the last night of the Promenade Concerts. It was quite one of the most interesting of the novelties played this season, and it was finally performed by the only first-class orchestra in the country which includes women players. May they long be heard under the baton of the only English conductor who gives women a chance!

To Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst.

Wherefore dull speech so backward to redeem

The priceless moments, and the soul to bless

Itself with utterance? Daily we repress

Realities, to live the outward dream.

Easy the winds, the currents to esteem

That sport with shallow craft; but who shall guess,

'Mid silence far from sound and sight, the stress

That drives the berg, borne by the Ocean stream?

Champion of Womanhood and Freedom!
Strong

To forge from fetters, in white fires of pain,

Weapons to smite the old insidious wrong!

Accept this recognition of the sum

Of obligation endless—we remain

Thy debtors, for this world and worlds to come!

Gertrude E. Metcalfe-Shaw.

Suffragists in South Africa.

The Women's Enfranchisement Association of South Africa recently held its Annual Conference, to which the Press gave considerable publicity. A resolution to work against any Government not introducing a Franchise measure, caused much discussion. The resolution was amended as follows: "That the W.E.A.U. should adopt the policy of working against any Government which does not within one year of its coming into power, introduce a Bill to enfranchise women." Our member, Miss Dorman, moved a resolution urging the International Woman Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, not to give special attention to peace questions, since special societies exist for the purpose, and since it is not an essentially feminist question, as are for example, equal moral laws, equal opportunities and pay, equal parental rights, etc., etc. The resolution was lost by two votes. Miss Dorman, who is a keen feminist, feared that energy might be diverted from the many inequalities still existing.

French Women and the Vote.

La Française reports that French feminists have been holding protest meetings since the Senate's negative vote. Over 300 women have sent in their names to demonstrate in front of the Senate, in spite of recent arrests. It has been decided to undertake a tax-resisting campaign this Winter.

The same paper publishes a letter from the Duchess d'Uzès calling on French women not to be discouraged, but on the contrary, to unite in energetic action. What would the senators think, she asks, if women, upon whom duties are imposed, but no rights, refused to pay taxes.

"Victory-and-After-Day."

The Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee are having a "Victory-and-After-Day" Celebrations on Wednesday, October 24. Lady Rhondda and members of the Committee will hold a reception in the evening at the Caxton Hall. There will be three minute speeches from members of "The Old Guard"; Miss Nina Boyle, Miss Nancy Lightman, Mr. Victor Duval, Lady Rhondda, and from "The New Guard"; Miss Gimingham, Miss Winifred Holtby, Miss Dorothy Woodman and our own member Miss Monica O'Connor. A special attraction will be a production by the Actresses Franchise League of "How the Vote was Won," a play by Miss Cicily Hamilton and our member Miss Christopher St. John, produced by Miss Winifred Mayo and Miss Kitty Willoughby. The caste and costumes will be the same as those of the original production at the Royalty Theatre in 1908. This most amusing play will be well worth seeing as it is of almost historic interest. There will also be music by the Roslake Orchestra and light refreshments. A luncheon is to be held at the Hotel Cecil at one o'clock, for particulars of which see our advertisement columns. Tickets for the luncheon 5s., and Reception 2s. 4d., including tax, should be obtained as soon as possible from Miss Barry at the office.

The Paris International Congress on Social Service.

A few impressions gleaned from the International Congress on Social Service recently held in Paris (July 1-13), may be of interest to members of St. Joan's Alliance. It was thronged by social workers from every country and covered a vast field of subjects, the mere enumeration of which would show the strides made within the last few years by this youngest of the professions. For this was the first impression that I carried away—that social service is now a profession. There will always be room for the voluntary worker, but the day of the untrained worker is past. Schools for Social Service are springing up everywhere to meet the demand for training, the latest at Pekin! Germany has already thirty-six, England eleven, not including those connected with the churches; Belgium, where the movement is highly developed, has eight; France, six; and the Ecole Normale Sociale at Paris, under Catholic guidance, needs a paper to itself. The leaders of the movement in almost every country pin their faith on a balanced general education before specialising, academic study combined with practical experience, half the time of training being allotted to practical work in state or voluntary institutions, and in the case of Catholic schools careful instruction is required on the fundamental principles laid down by the social teaching of the Church, principles which inspire, even if unknowingly, all social teaching worthy of the name.

One could not but be struck with the appeal this movement is making to women. The schools are composed almost wholly of women students. "Where are the men?" asked one of the speakers. "Do they need no training?" And here an important point was made by F. Gertrud Bäumer, of Berlin, and Miss MacAdam, of London. "Women," F. Bäumer said, "have created the greater number of social reforms. Man's conception of social service was to consider laws, the penalties for breaking them, and the enforcing them at least expense—an abstract conception. Woman's conception was the personal one—men, women and children to be served, and the causes of their misery probed, and it was to feminism than this more humane conception was largely due. In Germany, women were fast penetrating administrative offices, and were silently bringing in this new spirit, replacing red tape by consideration for individual necessity. But they were still facing great obstacles, and it was of the utmost importance that women should be fully trained in administrative work, as otherwise they might be stifled by mediocrity." Miss MacAdam followed her up by saying that the work of the rank and file was often hampered by being carried out under untrained heads. "Our public offices," she said, "are still too often filled by those who have not taken the trouble to prepare themselves for their public work."

Dame Rachel Crowdy declared that women were needed in every department of the League of Nations. Their work was still almost entirely

confined to social questions, but every subject reacted on social questions, and women should have their place in all. Every speaker on the subject emphasised the danger of slipping into mediocrity and avoiding responsibility. The schools must aim at turning out leaders, not content themselves with producing merely the rank and file. Then came the question how to maintain the inspiration of the social worker. Dr. Porter Lee, of New York, felt that nowadays there seemed "fewer prophetic voices, less evidence of the quickened spirit, greater interest in social work as a career than as a cause." The answer to this challenge was given by Mlle. Chaptal and the Abbé Belpaire. "It was the spiritual outlook that gave it life," said Mlle. Chaptal. Without the interior preparation for social service, the exterior preparation would fail. Our schools must foster vocation, and she instanced the old religious orders as magnificent examples of the personal devotion on which all enduring social service must be based. Mrs. John Glenn, an American delegate, spoke of St. Joan of Arc and St. Teresa of Lisieux as giving to all social workers that spirit of devotion, of courage, and interior strength, without which their education and their work would be incomplete. And the Abbé Belpaire summed it up: "Social work," he said, may choose a multiplier of its efficiency in the religious motive which will give it superhuman energy. By it the invisible reserve of energy hidden in every fallen being may be revived by the spiritual forces of a brother soul in whose charge social service has placed him, and we may think of the joy of Our Lord each time social work repeats the life-giving command: 'Lazarus come forth.'"

SUSAN LIVEING.

The Protection of Women in India.

A combined meeting of Women University Graduates and Medical Women was held in Simla on June 18, 1928, to meet Dr. Muthulahstun Reddi.

Dr. Reddi is the first woman member of a legislative Council in British India. She was nominated to the Legislative Council of Madras in 1926 when the Government of Madras decided to admit women members. Shortly after her nomination, Dr. Reddi was elected Vice-President of the Council by a very large majority of the members of the Council.

Dr. Reddi gave a most interesting account of her experiences in the Council. She has always avoided party politics and has devoted all her energies to improving the position of women and children. Dr. Reddi had been practising Medicine for 16 years in Madras so she is well acquainted with the needs of women and children. She has

worked for the protection of minor girls, for the medical inspection of girls' schools, for the establishment of a special hospital for children, (and has induced the Government to appoint two women doctors for special study of children's diseases), and for the uplift of the women of the Devadasi class who are dedicated to the temple service from childhood, and, are thereby condemned to a life of prostitution.

Dr. Reddi's enthusiasm for the protection of women is likely to be of signal service to the women of Madras.

Dr. Beadon also addressed the meeting and gave a short talk on the difficulties which attended legislation on the Age of Consent. While deploring the evils inseparable from early marriage it cannot be denied that the problem associated with such early marriage is largely an economic problem. The Indian parent finds out that if he keeps his daughter unmarried till she has reached a reasonable age he has to pay a very much higher dowry to get her married. If he allows her to get married and keeps her at home, the husband's parents claim the girl and if she is not sent they may refuse to keep the contract, the husband marries another girl and the first poor child is condemned to a life in which she is neither wife nor maid. For once the religious marriage has been made the girl is bound and may never be married again; whereas the husband may marry several times. Among the primitive tribes such as the Oraons, the marriage age is 16 years for the girl, 18 for the boy. But promiscuous sexual intercourse is permitted before marriage. After marriage, however, both parties settle down. Apparently in these primitive tribes, no particular penalty attaches to either girls or boys who care to sow wild oats.

From this it will be seen that the problem of the Age of Consent is complicated by many factors which are unknown in England. Legislation in criminal matters must be uniform throughout India. It is doubtful if even the most ardent feminist would be willing to tackle the problem of regulating marriage relations from the Hebrides to the southernmost part of Europe!

FEMINIST.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.
Hon. Sec.: Miss N. S. Parnell, B.A., 45 Falkner Street, Liverpool.

In order to celebrate the passing of the Equal Franchise Bill and also to re-unite members after an unusually long vacation, the Branch held a Social on September 24. Mrs. Dowling very generously made herself responsible for our accommodation at St. Sebastian's Church House, Fairfield, while the younger members of the Branch provided a delightful concert. A serious note in the evening was struck by a stimulating letter from Miss Barry concerning the future of the Alliance, which led to the passing of a resolution supporting the Executive Committee in their proposition that the Alliance shall continue to work for the remainder of its programme.

Members will hear with regret of the resignation from the Committee of Miss McCurdy, our Honorary Treasurer and Paper Secretary, and of Miss Hall, both of whom have left Liverpool. Miss E. B. Johnstone has kindly undertaken the dual rôle of Treasurer and Paper Secretary until the Annual Meeting. Her address is 49 Falkner Street, Liverpool.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

August 15 to September 30.

	£	s.	d.
Bain, Miss	1 5 0
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Bulbeck, Mrs.	2 6
Butler-Bowdon, Miss	2 6
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McMahon, Miss	15 0
Somers, Miss A.	2 0
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Minimum Annual Subscriptions	2 0
			£19 12 0

TREASURER'S NOTE.

This month members are asked particularly to work for the Christmas Sale, which takes place on November 13 and 14, somewhat earlier than usual. Useful and pretty gifts of all kinds will be welcomed at the Office from now onward, or donations in cash, if preferred. Members should also make a point of visiting our Stall at the Caxton Hall on these days to purchase their Christmas presents.

GABRIELLE JEFFERY.

The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene calls attention to a proposal of the Kenya Legislative Council to introduce a system of State Regulation of Vice among the natives. St. Joan's S.P.A. has already sent a protest to the Colonial Office. Public opinion can and will prevent this outrage.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5th, at 6 p.m.,

on

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EQUALITIES STILL TO BE WON.

Speaker:—MISS FROUD (National Union of Women Teachers)

Chairman: MRS. SMILEY, M.A.

ADMISSION FREE.

Tea may be had before and after the Meeting.

Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee.

Victory & After Celebrations

in

THE CAXTON HALL,

on

Wednesday, Oct. 24, 1928,

at 7 p.m.

1. Reception by the President, THE VISCOUNTESS RHONDDA.
2. Speeches by Representatives of THE OLD GUARD: Viscountess Rhondda, Miss C. Nina Boyle, Mr. Victor Duval, Miss Nancy Lightman.
THE NEW GUARD; Miss C. Gimingham, Miss Winifred Holtby, M.A., Miss Monica O'Connor, Miss D. Woodman, B.A.
3. Performance of "HOW THE VOTE WAS WON," Play by CECILY HAMILTON & CHRISTOPHER ST. JOHN. The performances will be given by members of the Actresses' Franchise League, under the direction of Miss Winifred Mayo and Miss Kitty Willoughby.
4. Music by the Roslake Orchestra.
5. Buffet. Tickets for Reception, 2/4 including tax. A LUNCHEON will be held at 1 p.m. on the same day at the HOTEL CECIL
Speakers—The Viscountess Rhondda (Chair), Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Doris Stevens (U.S.A.), Mrs. Abbott and Miss Alison Neilans.
Tickets, 5/- each from St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.