

# THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

*Organ of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, 55, Berners St., London, W.1.*

VOL. VI., No. 3.

March 15th, 1920.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

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

—Francis Thompson.

## THE UNMARRIED MOTHER.

BY COUNCILLOR V. M. CRAWFORD.

All women should be interested in the Bill to amend the Bastardy laws that is being introduced in the House of Commons this session through the instrumentality of the National Council for the unmarried Mother and her Child, a body of men and women which for the last two years has been doing splendid propaganda work of a difficult nature on behalf of perhaps the most friendless women in our midst. True the war has wrought a considerable change in public opinion concerning the duty of the State towards those who, whatever their wrong-doing, have been unfairly condemned in the past to expiate a double load of guilt. Happily people whose hearts are still untouched by the sad fate of the girl-mother, have at least realised that infant life, even when illegitimate, is an asset to the State, and that to permit a deplorably high infant mortality—together with its inevitable accompaniment, a high percentage of the feeble and the unfit—to continue unchecked is, to say the least, an unstatesmanlike proceeding. Many efforts in various directions have been made of late to cope with this difficult problem of the unmarried mother, to-day more urgent than ever, and it is to the credit of the National Council that it has been able to bring together the experience of so large a body of social and rescue workers and thus base a Bill on the acknowledged needs of the case. No Bill can solve a problem that is mainly a moral one, but it can at least remove injustices and can smooth the way for a rational policy by the help of

sensible administrative regulations. And this is what this new Bastardy Act sets out to do.

We are therefore, quite prepared to find that the Bill, as printed, does propose to amend the worst blots on our law as it stands at present. Thus it enacts that subsequent marriage of the parents should legitimatise the child, an act of mercy long overdue and one that is in the fullest accord with Catholic feeling. It proposes that the amount of an affiliation order should be left to the discretion of the Court, so that rich fathers shall no longer evade their responsibilities by the payment of a mere 10/- a week. It permits the mother to take affiliation proceedings before the birth of her child, and so secure the reasonable expenses of her confinement, and it entrusts to the Collecting officer of the Court the duty of collecting all payments from the father and taking any necessary steps to that effect. Every one of these provisions is absolutely to the good.

Unfortunately there are other provisions in the Bill with which we cannot be in agreement and which will probably excite considerable controversy. Our first objection concerns the paragraph which, under threat of penalties, compels a girl, on registering the birth of her baby, to divulge the name of the putative father. Admittedly this is proposed with the praiseworthy motive of facilitating prompt affiliation proceedings. But it is surely a question whether in ethics the State has the right to compel a woman

against her will to make what is, in effect, an incriminating statement against herself. In many cases the information would be willingly supplied, but it is easy to imagine painful family circumstances which would render silence the only wise course, with the result of placing the woman in a tragic dilemma. Moreover it is a confession demanded of her within a week or two of her confinement, at a time, therefore, when she is totally unfit to be harassed in any way. True, she can evade compliance by professing ignorance of the paternity, but this is a subterfuge that reflects gravely on her own moral character. I would urge strongly that the compulsory nature of this clause be modified.

A more general objection to the Bill is its undoubted tendency to remove the child from the care of its mother. I am well aware that this is not the avowed policy of the National Council. They have hitherto taken their stand on the only principle which can lead to good results: the keeping the mother and child together in the interests of both. Yet I venture to think that the cumulative effect of the various provisions in the Bill will have the very opposite effect. All illegitimate children are to be wards in Court, and the Court is given very wide powers as regards both custody and guardianship. Nowhere is it assumed that the mother will normally support and be responsible for her own child. Section 14 merely states that where means can be proved against her she will be called upon to pay a weekly sum towards its support—a very different matter. It is proposed that where no order against either parent can be obtained the child will have to be supported by "moneys to be provided by Parliament," but this clause being financial, will probably have to be withdrawn in accordance with the rules of the House, as this is a private member's Bill. As it stands its administration might easily degenerate into a general unloading upon the State of liabilities incurred by individuals.

What, in the opinion of many of us is urgently necessary is legislation to facilitate the keeping of mother and child together; hence to secure to the mother the financial benefit of an affiliation order whenever possible, or, failing that, to supplement where

needful her income by some means such as mothers' pensions so as to ensure the health and well-being of the child. We deplore the present tendency towards adoption as a solution of the problem, and we regard with a certain suspicion the right of Societies, however well-meaning, to act as guardians of illegitimate children. None the less we believe the Bill, with certain amendments, should prove a very useful measure.

#### International Notes.

A certain Père Hénusse has been lecturing in Brussels against Woman Suffrage as being contrary to Catholic tradition and so forth. We are glad to note that the Catholic *Libre Belgique* has given to Mme. L. Van den Plas a front column of space in which to demolish the Rev. Father's arguments, a task she fulfils with both moderation and effectiveness.

Not a single Latin country, writes Miss Chrystal Macmillan in *Jus Suffragii*, has as yet conferred the vote on women. The women of the four Latin countries of Europe and of the twenty Latin countries of South America are alike all voteless.

The new autonomous state of Azerbaijan in the Caucasus has conferred the suffrage upon women as part of its new constitution; it becomes thus the first Moslem country to enfranchise its women.

Greece is taking a step in the same direction, a Bill to confer complete civil and political rights upon women having been introduced into the Greek Chamber.

The Woman movement in Austria has suffered a sad loss by the recent death of Frau Leopoldine Kulka, Chairman of the Union of Austrian Suffrage Societies and editor of an important suffrage paper. She is described as a leader of great courage and energy and a passionate upholder of equal rights for women.

The Belgian Minister of Industry and Labour has decided that women shall be admitted as members of the Superior Council of Labour, an important industrial body which has no precise equivalent in England. Henceforth it will include ten women members, five representing employers and five working-women. *Le Féminisme Chrétien*. V.M.C.

#### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Members are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Coldwell, a valued member of the Society, who died recently.—R.I.P.

\* \* \* \*

The resolution to change the name of the Society, discussed at the annual meeting, was lost by a large majority. Those who think a change desirable can, of course, bring the question up again later.

\* \* \* \*

We call our readers' attention to Mrs. Dixon's account of her campaign in India against "tolerated houses" provided for the troops. We are very anxious that every member of the C.W.S.S. and every reader of the *CATHOLIC CITIZEN* should have a clear knowledge of what this system of State Regulation really means. A good deal of ignorance still prevails in the most unexpected quarters. Fortunately not many people, who talk of the subject at all, are as ignorant of what the system involves as the reviewer in the *Catholic Times* who made the appalling statement that "State Regulation of vice is no more condoning immorality than hospitals are a public approval of disease." We were glad to see Father McNabb's protest.

\* \* \* \*

Since we last went to press, our old friend the *Common Cause*, which has for many years braved the battle and the breeze, has blossomed into the *Woman's Leader*. The new paper has preserved the valuable features which made the *Common Cause* indispensable to all feminists who wish to keep abreast of the movement, and has added many new ones. The literary reviews, and dramatic criticisms are especially good; and the make up of the paper excellent.

\* \* \* \*

This new woman's paper in dealing with the Madrid Congress sets an admirable example of charity and good taste. We quote the passage in full: "It seems a great pity that the growing Women's Suffrage Movement in Spain should be distracted by suggestions (made, we cannot help thinking, by opponents, even if they be in the guise

of friends) that in some way it runs counter to the fidelity which Spanish Catholics owe to the Church. Considering that it is not very long since His Holiness the Pope declared his approval of Woman's Suffrage, the suggestion that there is anything anti-Catholic in the movement seems extraordinarily gratuitous. We, in England, regard it with amazement; for have we not a Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, and numbers of Roman Catholics among the supporters of the movement? The International Woman Suffrage Alliance must necessarily include women of all religions, since it is a world alliance; but nothing could be more absurd than to represent it as anti-Catholic. Such an accusation would hardly be believed in any country but Spain; where, although the women are now so active and progressive, they have long suffered from a picturesque mediævalism, which was described by the late Señor Galdos Valdes in some of the most powerful novels with a purpose that have ever been written. One comfort is, that the difficulties that have led to the cancelling of the arrangements for the Women's Suffrage Conference in Madrid have, at the same time, given a considerable impulse to Spanish feminism. The Spanish press is full of it; and we need not mind the conflict if its ultimate result is to produce more life, though at the moment, one cannot help regretting the unnecessary strife, and the promotion of calumnious accusations. We need hardly say that the International Woman Suffrage Alliance Conference will not be abandoned. Geneva has already offered a warm welcome to its representatives, and it has been arranged that it shall meet there in June."

\* \* \* \*

Mr. Tyson Wilsons' Bill on Mothers' Pensions was unfortunately ruled out of order on the ground that it involved expenditure of money. Financial matters cannot be dealt with in private members' bill.

\* \* \* \*

We congratulate our member, Miss Bearman, on her election to the Board of Guardians for East Barnet.

## THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

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

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

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### TO GENEVA.

As our readers are by now aware the International Suffrage Congress will not be held in Madrid, but in Geneva. The statement issued by the Alliance to the Press tells us that the reason for giving up Madrid is that at the last moment the Spanish Committee were unable to obtain the Opera House, the only hall adequate for the purpose. There seems to be no doubt that the failure to secure the hall was due to a story spread about in Spain that the objects of the Congress were in some way anti-Catholic. It is not necessary to deny such a story in these columns. The Catholic Woman's Suffrage Society has been in close co-operation with the Headquarters of the Alliance in London; our delegates (amongst whom I had hoped to be numbered) were going to Madrid, as they will go to Geneva. The aims of the Alliance, that is "to secure enfranchisement for the women of all nations, and to unite the friends of Woman Suffrage throughout the world in organised co-operation and fraternal helpfulness," have our cordial support. If the object of the promoters of the campaign against the Congress was to prevent women of all nations and of all creeds from assembling in Madrid, that object has been achieved. If on the other hand, as seems very probable, it was to prevent the spread of feminism in Spain it has been a signal failure. For the campaign against the Congress has given an impetus and an advertisement to woman suffrage in Spain which the Congress unopposed could not have achieved. Societies in Spain vie one with the other in furthering the cause of the enfranchisement of women. The great Catholic Society, the *Acción Católica*

de la Mujer, founded by the Primate of Spain, is working hard for the vote, and we have it on their own word that they are well pleased with their labours, and that women all over the country are awakening to their rights and responsibilities.

If further proof of the advance of feminism were needed again we have it in the fact that the first anti-suffrage meeting has been held in Madrid. The audience consisted largely of ladies of the aristocracy—I quote from the Madrid paper *El Imparcial*—who listened attentively while the lecturer told them that women must not vote for were they not represented in history, fiction and drama as slaves of love, tender passion flowers, heroines of virtue, guardian angels, whose illusions are bounded by the sweet peace of hearth and home, where the lullabys of loving mothers are inspired. These are very different qualities to the feminist theories of equality. Luckily they had not as yet succeeded in shaking the foundations of those civilised nations which march in the van of progress. Great applause greeted the lecturer as he concluded with the famous Spanish lines, which we may translate as: 'While her love endures, life will be beautiful'

Truly there seems an even greater paucity of anti-suffrage arguments in Spain than there was in England.

Our Spanish colleagues we have no doubt will turn the campaign against the Congress to good account, and since, through no fault of theirs, they cannot receive us in Madrid, we look forward to meeting them in Geneva

L. DE ALBERTI.

### Annual Meeting of the C.W.S.S.

The Annual Meeting on February 14th was very well attended, and the interest and enthusiasm displayed by the members gave good promise for the future welfare of the society. In the absence of the Chairman, the Hon. Mrs. Walter Roch, the chair was taken by Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, B.A. Miss Annie Christitch, in moving the adoption of the report, said that it was a record of untiring and painstaking efforts, the C.W.S.S. had exerted great influence in many countries, in Jugo Slavia, for instance, the Catholics there would not have put Suffrage on their programme but for the existence of the C.W.S.S. in England. In speaking of the Holy Father's approval of suffrage, Miss Christitch said it was what one would expect of such a Pope; though he had been misrepresented and misunderstood on all sides, now that the clouds of war were dispersing the one great figure that emerged from the war was that of Pope Benedict XV. Miss Fennell, in seconding the adoption of the report, said though she had been in touch with Headquarters all the year, she had been taken by surprise when she read of the many varied kinds of work described in the report; it was a splendid record. The Society and the "Catholic Citizen," were much appreciated by non-Catholics.

Mrs. Anderson moved the adoption of the Financial Statement. Miss Mary Wall, in seconding, spoke in terms of high praise of the "Catholic Citizen" as an asset to the Society. Miss Kathleen FitzGerald then addressed the Meeting on the work of the Society in the past, and what remained to be done in the future. At the conclusion of the Chairman's Address, Mrs. Anderson made a spirited appeal for funds, she thought the Committee should be relieved from financial anxieties, they had a good deal of strenuous work. A useful discussion on the financial situation followed, and the members present showed their practical sympathy by contributions amounting to £10.

At the conclusion of the formal business a very interesting discussion ensued on the proposal to change the name of the Society. Miss Christopher St. John, in opening the discussion, said that she herself was on the fence, and would therefore put before the meeting some reasons for and against the change. One reason for retaining the present name was that the Society had existed a long time, was well known, it had a honourable record in the Suffrage fight, and though the principle was won, the fight was not yet over, and the Society was still a Suffrage Society, though it had many other aims. She had been struck, too, by something that had been said to her since she had come into the room as to the importance of the name internationally. On the other hand, by changing the name it might be possible to attract more people, who had been alienated by a subject they thought to be purely political, a set of people keen on equality of the finest kind; but she would have nothing in the way of what might appear to be a hauling down of the suffrage colours. Miss V. S. Laughton moved a resolution that the name be changed, and said she was strongly in favour of a change, the present name appeared to narrow down the Society's aims, and though she knew that it was only in appearance, she would do away with that appearance. Miss Fennell said she thought the time had come to change; the word suffrage was still very unpopular, she had found feminism more popular. Mrs. V. M. Crawford then spoke against the change on international grounds and said that the present title "Catholic Women's Suffrage Society," was of incalculable help to Catholics in other lands now fighting for the vote. Miss L. de Alberti said she wished strongly to sup-

port Mrs. Crawford's view; she, too, had had some international experience, and had realised the help that the name gave to Catholics in other lands, we owed it to these Catholics to help them in their fight. It had been a great comfort to her to receive letters from Catholics fighting a lonely battle in other lands, saying how much the Society and its paper had helped them. Miss Barry said the Liverpool Branch had passed a resolution against a change of name. The Chairman then read letters from Miss Bennett, Miss Busse and Mrs. Bentley Murray in favour of a change, and a letter from Miss Willis against. The resolution that the name of the C.W.S.S. be changed, was then put to the meeting, and was lost by a big majority.

### Correspondence.

Dear Madam,

I cannot refrain from hoping that the views concerning the Ministry of Health to which you gave prominence in the *CATHOLIC CITIZEN* last month, will not be accepted as the considered opinion of the C.W.S.S. on this important subject. Many of us, while fully realising the need for an enlightened and watchful attitude on matters of Public Health, believe that the anxiety that finds its expression in the Mothers' Defence League is exaggerated and prejudiced. I can, however, only touch upon one or two points within the compass of a letter.

I join issue with Miss Mott in her assertion that the policy of the Ministry of Health is based on a belief that defective heredity rather than bad environment is the main enemy to fight. The very contrary appears to me to be the case. It is in the main to counteract bad environment, due to overcrowding, ignorance, impure milk and poverty, that Schools for Mothers have been opened in our poorest neighbourhoods. We cannot, alas, get back to nature in our overgrown cities; all we can do is to try and mitigate the evils they engender. Admittedly Health remedies represent only one portion—though a very necessary portion—of the policy needed. It is easy to make a bogey of the Health visitor, just as a past generation made a bogey of the hospital nurse; none the less she fulfils a real public service and in most cases is extremely popular with those she visits.

Certainly, as a member of the Labour Party, I hold no brief for the present Government, but it is surely prejudiced to attribute the continued house shortage wholly to "vexatious interference" by the Ministry of Health. There are at least four other reasons, quite as fundamental, why building has proved so lamentably slow, and indeed there are complaints in some quarters that the Ministry in its anxiety to speed up building is not exercising sufficient control over the type of house built.

Is it not, to say the least, a mistake, to imply that "Eugenics" necessarily connotes something anti-Catholic in spirit if not in fact? Surely we all wish to "discourage" the marriage of the epileptic and the radically unhealthy? But that is not to say that marriage, except in the most extreme cases, can be wisely forbidden by law. We can surely agree with Eugenists in cultivating an enlightened public conscience in these matters. When we reflect that 10 per cent. of the men of the nation under forty had to be rejected during the war as physically unfit to fight, ought we not to co-operate in all rational means for improving the health of the nation? To make a dead set at this stage at the Ministry of Health because of a policy it is suspected of intending to produce later on, appears to me neither wise nor helpful.

I am yours,  
V. M. CRAWFORD.

**REGULATED PROSTITUTION WITHIN THE BRITISH EMPIRE.**

From time immemorial immorality in men has been accepted (by a large portion of the community) as "necessary" or "natural." But with strange inconsistency, immoral women have been regarded with such horror and disgust that they were considered to have forfeited any claim to justice, rights, or considerate treatment of any kind. Such views as these were responsible for the introduction of the Contagious Diseases Acts into England repealed after Josephine Butler's heroic struggle against them for 20 years. The same point of view is responsible for the conditions that still prevail wherever prostitution is "regulated" throughout the British Empire.

*The Military System.*

In the beginning of 1917 my husband and I went all over India attacking the system of "tolerated" houses of vice reserved for our troops in practically every cantonment in India. We found that the "chakla" (brothel) was under the protection of the Cantonments magistrate (a British Military Officer). He appointed an Indian man or woman to superintend these women. They were procured by "chaudri" and registered in the Cantonments Magistrate Office—outside the brothel a British Military policeman was on guard.

Once a week the women were subjected to regular periodical medical examination by a British Military medical officer. If found to be diseased the women were shut up in a "lock" hospital exactly like a prison (with high walls and broken glass on the top of them). If disease did not yield to treatment the woman was turned out of the cantonment to spread disease or starve and the chaudi endeavoured to fill her place.

In order to bring home to the military authorities the iniquity of the system I visited 15 of the chaklas and inquired into the history of the women in them. I found that girls were sold, kidnapped, and decoyed in various ways into these houses, some being brought by their own relations. It was painful to see the numbers of very old women and to reflect upon the military cast of mind that treats human beings as things,

neither respect for extreme age nor pity for youthfulness being allowed to interfere with the necessity of keeping the "Government House" (as the soldiers called it) supplied with a sufficient number of women. Some times I found five women, sometimes 10 or 12. The largest number in any house that I saw was 21 women to a very large garrison of men.

It is impossible to imagine a more revolting and degrading system than "regulation" to men and women alike, and my husband and I derived great satisfaction from imparting our views upon the subject to about 26,000 officers and men in 21 different cantonments. At the close of this tour we went up to Simla and laid our evidence before the Commander-in-Chief. Four months after our interview he ordered all soldiers brothels to be closed throughout India and Burma, and issued a memorandum in which he condemned the system upon medical and moral grounds.

But it is necessary to get this temporary measure made permanent in India and applied to all brothels within the military area of our troops whether in the occupied area of Germany, Egypt, Malta and Gibraltar.

*The Civil System.* In the large towns of our Eastern Dependencies such as Bombay, Calcutta, Rangoon, Singapore, Hong Kong and other places the British Government officials allot streets to brothel-keepers. This "segregated area" is of course notorious and constitutes a show place for visitors, especially to young men when they first land. It would be difficult to imagine a more cruel method of enslaving the women in these houses than to allow them to live in a street of brothels where all are in league to keep them there. It could only be allowed by men who consider that "prostitutes" have forfeited any right to protection.

I have spent hours trying to rescue a girl from a segregated street. She was a prisoner and it took two Englishwomen, three of the military police and much strategy to effect her escape. Women in a segregated quarter of a town in the East have no chance what-

ever of escaping from those who are exploiting them to any extent. A terrible case in Bombay a few years ago, when a woman was murdered for trying to escape, might have brought this fact home to the authorities concerned. But they will not act unless they are forced to do so by public opinion in England.

We want all brothels and places of habitual prostitution to be made illegal, as in Great Britain, and for this purpose, my Association—the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, wishes to send out workers to the East.

I appeal to English men and women to join our campaign against regulated prostitution in any part of the British Empire, whether under Civil or Military administration.

A.M.S.H.,

KATHERINE DIXON.

19, Tothill Street, S.W.1.

**Subscriptions and Donations towards Office expenses, from Dec. 1st, 1919, to Feb. 29th, 1920.**

|                           | £  | s. | d. |
|---------------------------|----|----|----|
| Alberti, Miss L. de       | 10 | 0  | 0  |
| Anderson, Mrs.            | 11 | 0  | 0  |
| Atkinson, Miss N. F.      | 2  | 6  | 0  |
| Barry, Miss F.            | 2  | 6  | 0  |
| Bearman, Miss             | 3  | 6  | 0  |
| Peer, Mrs.                | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| Bevan, Miss               | 15 | 0  | 0  |
| Bodley, Miss D. E.        | 2  | 6  | 0  |
| Bradley, Miss             | 6  | 0  | 0  |
| Busse, Miss               | 3  | 6  | 0  |
| Carroll, Miss A. M.       | 2  | 6  | 0  |
| Catton, Mrs. Leyden       | 15 | 0  | 0  |
| Christitch, Mrs.          | 6  | 9  | 0  |
| Christitch, Miss          | 11 | 9  | 0  |
| Comber, Mrs.              | 2  | 0  | 0  |
| Crawford, Councillor Mrs. | 1  | 4  | 6  |
| Dorman, Miss A. L. P.     | 2  | 0  | 0  |
| Du Bern, Mrs.             | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| Duff, Miss G. Fraser      | 10 | 0  | 0  |
| Fedden, Miss              | 3  | 6  | 0  |
| Fennell, Miss             | 5  | 6  | 0  |
| Fry, H. S. L., Esq.       | 5  | 0  | 0  |
| Gorry, Miss               | 3  | 6  | 0  |
| Grant, Miss C.            | 1  | 6  | 0  |
| Gwynne, Mrs. M. S.        | 2  | 6  | 0  |
| Hall, Miss A.             | 2  | 0  | 0  |
| Havers, Miss M.           | 1  | 6  | 0  |
| Head, Mrs.                | 1  | 1  | 0  |
| Hickey, Miss E. M.        | 2  | 6  | 0  |
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| Jeffery, Miss             | 2  | 6  | 0  |
| Johnson, Dr. Alice Vowe   | 2  | 6  | 0  |
| Kelly, Mrs.               | 7  | 0  | 0  |

|                            |    |   |
|----------------------------|----|---|
| Kendall, Miss M. E.        | 5  | 0 |
| "Kilnamona"                | 14 | 0 |
| Laughton, Lady             | 5  | 2 |
| Laughton, Miss             | 10 | 0 |
| Lee, Mrs.                  | 6  | 0 |
| Lenn, Miss                 | 7  | 0 |
| McGowan, Miss              | 3  | 6 |
| Magill, Dr. E. M.          | 18 | 6 |
| Marston, Mrs.              | 2  | 0 |
| Martyn, Miss D.            | 5  | 0 |
| Mason, Miss M. F.          | 3  | 6 |
| Meredith, Miss             | 2  | 0 |
| Merrifield, Miss de G.     | 2  | 6 |
| Mott, Miss Agnes           | 5  | 0 |
| Neill, Mrs. M. F. B.       | 18 | 6 |
| Orbell, Miss               | 3  | 6 |
| O'Sullivan, Mrs. D.        | 2  | 0 |
| Plowden, Hon. Lady         | 2  | 6 |
| Price, Rev. J. A.          | 1  | 6 |
| Quinlan, Miss Agnes        | 3  | 6 |
| Raynes, Miss               | 2  | 6 |
| Roberts, Miss N.           | 3  | 6 |
| St. John, Miss Christopher | 11 | 0 |
| Shore, Miss                | 2  | 6 |
| Souza, Mrs. de             | 2  | 6 |
| Stafford, Miss A.          | 3  | 6 |
| Sullivan, Miss E.          | 1  | 0 |
| Tilsley, Miss              | 5  | 0 |
| Voisin, Miss               | 1  | 6 |
| Wall, Miss Mary            | 10 | 0 |
| Welch, Mrs.                | 6  | 9 |
| Welch, Miss J. R. V.       | 1  | 9 |
| Whately, Mrs.              | 3  | 6 |
| Whelan, Miss M.            | 2  | 6 |
| Witty, Mrs. and Miss V.    | 4  | 0 |

|                                     |     |    |   |
|-------------------------------------|-----|----|---|
| Minimum Annual Subscriptions of 1/- | £20 | 10 | 8 |
|                                     | 2   | 9  | 0 |
|                                     | £22 | 19 | 8 |

The above list is published in grateful acknowledgement and in the hope that it will inspire others to contribute. More than this amount has already been paid out to meet expenses to date. At the Annual Meeting, on February 15th, it was agreed not to raise the minimum subscription, but I make a very strong appeal to everyone to give whatever extra sum they feel able to afford.

GABRIELLE JEFFERY,  
Hon. Treasurer.

**The Franchise Bill.**

Mr. Grundy's Bill, which would give women the franchise on the same terms as men, abolishing the age limit of 30, passed its second reading in the House of Commons without a division on February 27th. Lady Astor chose the occasion to make her second speech in the House and said that she wanted the Bill not for the sake of the women, but for the sake of the country. The country never in its life needed women's courage more than now. She only wished hon. members could see the letters she had received since her maiden speech. It would be an eye-opener. There were thousands of these letters, and they were on a high level, and of such hope, both spiritual and material.

Of the Catholic members present (where were the others?) Messrs. Devlin, O'Grady and Sexton voted for the closure; and Lieut.-Col. Archer-Shee, Sir Stuart Coats, and Lord Edmund Talbot against it, which is equivalent to voting against the Bill.

## THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

Office—55, Berners St., Oxford St., London, W.  
Patron: Blessed Joan of Arc. Colours: Blue, White & Gold

Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 1d. monthly.

### OBJECT.

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

### METHODS.

1. Strictly non-party
2. Active propaganda by political and educational means.

### MEMBERSHIP.

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

## THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE MEETINGS

in the

MINERVA CAFE,

144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.

Wednesday, March 17th, 3 p.m.—Speaker: Mrs. Earengoy. Subject: "Housing—Woman's point of view."

Friday, March 19, 7 p.m.—Speaker: Miss Rebecca West. Subject: "Women and Crime."

RESERVED SEATS. 1/-.

Wednesday, March 24, 3 p.m.—Speaker: Miss Haslett (Sec. Women's Engineering Society). Subject: "Women and Engineering."

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