

Catholic Citizen

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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

The Recruitment and Training of Nurses

By M. HAVERS.

This most excellent and valuable Report * may well be studied by all interested (and who is not ?) in the care of the sick. It is as clear and simple to read as a newspaper or a novel—and far more rewarding.

We all know of the shortage of nurses at the present time, but few of us realise its causes.

The first factor is the startling "wastage" i.e., loss of nurses through failure to continue and complete their training. This loss amounts to no less than 50 per cent.

Obviously, there is something wrong here, and the main causes found by the investigators were :

First, the enquiries made before acceptance of candidates are not on sufficiently modern lines.

Second, too strict discipline and regulations, extending even to off duty periods.

Third, too much routine work.

Fourth, trainees looked upon as useful servants of the hospital, rather than as students qualifying for full status.

Fifth, long and irregular hours of work.

Sixth, conditions of food and accommodation frequently inadequate.

The Report advocates : that nurses should be regarded primarily as students. Routine work to be reduced as far as possible. Three shifts of eight hours to be substituted for the present twelve to fourteen hours, including a two hours rest period. Relaxation of controls, especially in off duty time.

It is, of course, recognised that the present shortage of nurses leads to overwork, and consequent unpopularity of the profession—a vicious circle indeed and hard to break through.

Another change advocated is for a better system in the selection of ward sisters. This should be entrusted to a qualified Selection Board—not left in the hands of a hospital matron.

Teaching capacity, and that of "developing satisfactory human relationships" are of especial importance. The field of choice should be made as wide as possible and all qualified persons should be encouraged to apply.

It is considered that should this recommended scheme be put into effect the present period of training could be considerably shortened. All nurses to have eighteen months general training—followed by six months of specialised work as compared with the present three or more years. All successful entrants would now rank as S.R.N. (State Registered Nurses) and all would be of equal status, no matter what special branch they might have taken up (this at present is not so). They would still be expected to work under supervision for a year, and would then be eligible for any post, either public or private, according to choice.

To make possible these far reaching reforms, it will be necessary to recruit much larger numbers of nursing orderlies—less fully qualified, but competent to take over the routine and domestic duties which at present absorb so much of the time of the student nurses.

One fears there would be a snag here under present conditions, but it is to be remarked that such orderlies who are at present appointed appear well content, very competent, work hard and stay long years on the job, so there may be some hope for the future on this very important point. Probably "status" would have to be carefully considered.

Part-time nurses should also be encouraged, they have experience, and do valuable work.

Marriage is no longer to be considered a bar to nursing service.

The Report also emphasises the need for greater care of nurses' health, surely hitherto a strange omission, for "quis custodiet custodes" and how can a nurse in indifferent health possibly stand up to her arduous duties ?

*Report of the Working Party on the Recruitment and Training of Nurses—H.M. Stationery Office, 2s. 6d.

It will be obvious from this brief summary that the proposed changes are carefully conceived, drastic, and coherent, and it is to be hoped may speedily be put into effect, in spite of adverse conditions. It is estimated that at least 22,000 qualified nurses, and 14,000 nursing orderlies, plus additional domestic workers, are urgently required for full efficiency.

The field covered is a very wide one—but even so, much is still untouched.

The deplorable conditions obtaining in mental nursing, and the care of the "chronic sick" (meaning mostly the aged and infirm) make a tragic picture indeed, though only briefly touched on as apparently outside the province of the present Report.

FOOTNOTE. Having spent six months of the last twelve as a hospital patient in a general ward, it is of special interest to me to know at long last "something is going to be done" to improve the lot of the hospital nurse. I can testify from personal experience how much is owed to these young girls, their untiring cheerfulness and patience and disregard of their own fatigue, have a real tonic effect on the patients.

Let us hope that recognition of their fine service will soon emerge in a more tangible form than hitherto!

St. Joan's International Alliance. When the new Constitution was drawn up at the Brussels Conference, it was decided that the official title of the International Alliance should be: St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance—*L' Alliance Internationale Sociale et Politique Ste Jeanne d'Arc.*

It was good to have Dame Vera among us again at the Interval Club on October 24th and to hear her, as President of St. Joan's International, report on the Brussels Conference. Miss Challoner, Miss Brandt, Miss Leslie and Miss Spender, British delegates, gave their impressions of the Conference.

Miss Margaret Bond, who had just returned from a lecture tour in U.S.A. was able to preface the meeting with an account of the many contacts she had been able to make at Lake Success on behalf of St. Joan's International. She expressed gratification at finding that the Alliance was already so well known there. Miss Bond also had the pleasure of meeting several members of the Alliance in U.S.A.

At the end of the meeting Miss Barry spoke of the Nationality Bill foreshadowed in the King's Speech and gave a brief account of the part played by St. Joan's Alliance, both nationally and internationally, for this reform.

Women of Malta

Malta's valiant women went to the polls in large numbers to vote for the first time in history at the recent elections, which were the first to be held under partial self government for the last fourteen years.

The vote was won for Malta's women by the initiative of the Women of Malta Association, founded by Mrs. Josephine Burns Debono, which secured the support of the Labour party in the National Assembly, through its two delegates, Mrs. Debono and Miss Buhagiar.

Malta's women did not fail: in the country districts they left their work in the fields, and came in sandals and headkerchief and dress of rough homespun: in the towns, they left the pot on the fire and took the baby with them to stand for long hours in orderly queues: they left their places of employment, offices, shops . . . nearly every woman who had a vote, polled it.

The influence of the women's vote has brought in a Labour Government, committed to Catholic principles in its electoral programme.

The first woman to be elected in Malta is Miss Agatha Barbara, a school-teacher from Zabbar, one of a family of eight brothers and sisters, whom she helps to support. She is a Labour member, and was one of the very few members to be elected at the first count under our system of Proportional Representation. She is, of course, a Catholic: all the members of the new Government are Catholics.

The first act of the new régime was for the Government-elect to walk in the great Procession on the Feast of Christ the King, which was held during the counting of the votes, having been postponed from the week before owing to polling.

Prime Minister Dr. Paul Boffa, M.D., and his colleagues placed wreaths at the base of the statue of Christ the King at Floriana.

It is interesting to note that in the ceremonies concerned with parliament under self-government there is an official chaplain who says the "Veni Creator" at the opening of each meeting of Parliament.

Malta has now a one-chamber Parliament, the Legislative Assembly, with a Cabinet, and also a Privy Council where the two sides of the diarchy, Maltese and Imperial meet together. May God bless Catholic Malta and the faith of its men and women!

J. BURNS DE BONO.

The Catholic Action Girls Organisation publishes a set of religious **Christmas Cards**, at prices ranging from 1½d. to 6d., or the set of ten for 2s. 11d., obtainable by post only, from 22, Bramham Gardens, S.W.5. They ask us to remind friends to keep *Christmas* by sending only Christian cards.

Notes and Comments

With the whole nation, we join in offering our heartfelt and loyal greetings to her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth on her marriage to Lieutenant Mountbatten and we wish them both many years of happiness, peace and prosperity.

We note with satisfaction that mention was made in the King's Speech of a Bill to amend the law governing the national status of women, and hope that it will be introduced early in the Session. We trust that the new law will be made retrospective in its application for those who so desire; and that British born women who have compulsorily been deprived of their British nationality on marriage to a foreigner, will be enabled to regain it by restoration and not by naturalisation, so that they may have the status of British subjects by birth.

Two days after the announcement was made in the King's Speech, representatives of many women's organisations met at Girton College to honour the life and work of Mrs. Eya Hartree who was chairman of the Nationality of Married Women Committee till her death last month. The Alliance was represented by the Chairman and Miss Barry represented the Nationality of Married Women Committee.

The Burnham Committee's Recommendations for new salary scales for teachers which are due to come into force at the end of March, will increase the present differentiation between the salary scales of men and women. In spite of the fact that women have been refused equal pay on the ground of the dangers of inflation, the Committee has recommended increases, but these are greater for men than for women and at their maximum, on which the pension is based, men will receive £111 more per annum than women. We associate ourselves with the N.U.W.T. in their protest against this added injustice.

Women's organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance, were recently called into consultation again at the Ministry of Fuel and Power. Stress was laid on the need for the co-operation of the domestic consumer. The industrial staggering scheme, it was pointed out, would not solve the load difficulties unless the domestic consumers also staggered their demand. Unless for example, they "turn off the electric fire *before* turning on the electric cooker." In such small ways each good citizen can help to further production.

A valuable pamphlet "Women at Work," in the series *Fighting Facts* published by the Catholic Worker, points out that the employment of women in industry is not new and that, in some areas and in some industries, it has always been a fact that women went out to work after, as well

as before marriage. Women were never confined to the home. It was only in the more leisured classes that it was fashionable to regard woman as an ornament and to talk about her "proper place." The pamphlet which gives facts and figures about the employment of women, estimates that seven out of the seventeen millions of women between the ages of fifteen to sixty-five, are gainfully employed. It is not known how many of these are married. A summary is given of quotations from recent Papal pronouncements, among them the present Holy Father's statement on "equal pay for the same work and the same service rendered." It quotes His words, "it is useless to preach woman's return to the home so long as conditions continue which, in many cases, force her to remain absent from it." We would like to add His words on the same occasion, "many regretted this, but it was to-day impossible to turn back . . . if the woman has to work in factory or business, then she should with double intensity give husband and children her constant care and love." The summary ends with words from the Pope's recent allocution to Catholic women (summarised in the last issue of the *Catholic Citizen*) calling on them "to work with men for the welfare of the *civitas*, in which she enjoys a dignity equal to his."

On Wednesday, December 10th at 7.15 at the Holy Child Convent, 11 Cavendish Square, W.1. the Alliance will commemorate the centenary of the birth of Alice Meynell who helped to inaugurate the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society and was on its committee until her death in 1922. Miss Christopher St. John, her colleague in those early days, will give a lecture and Miss Barbara Barclay Carter will take the chair. Tickets 2s. 6d. should be applied for at the office at once.

We hope to see many members and friends at the Christmas Sale on Saturday December 6th at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho Square, 12 to 5.30. Gifts (priced) will be gratefully received at the office at any time. Volunteers for selling are asked to send in their names. Please make the sale known to your friends and take the opportunity to buy your Christmas presents, augment the funds and meet your fellow members. Lunch will be served from 12 to 2 and tea from 3.30 to 5.

We offer our congratulations to Miss Sylvia Terry (Cons.) on her election to the Ilford Borough Council. Miss Terry who describes herself in her election address as, amongst other things, an active member of St. Joan's Alliance, won a majority of 3,729 over her Labour and Housewives' League opponents. These polled just under 2,000, and 292 respectively.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

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"Catholic Citizen."

St. Catherine of Siena.

This year brings the sixth centenary of the birth of St. Catherine of Siena and Michael de la Bedoyere's biography* has been written to commemorate the centenary. Through the chaotic political scene of fourteenth century Italy Catherine's idealism and singleness of heart shine like a beacon light and one is loath to connect her with "political intrigue" in quite the way intended by the author in one chapter of this book. She was extremely direct in her methods being neither afraid of prelates nor of princes and to one reader's mind at least, it appears that the proximate muddles occasioned by her interference in the political life of her day were caused more by her sense of "le primauté du spirituel" than by any exaggerated political action. It was inconceivable to her that any one could not be persuaded that Christ's kingdom—represented on earth by His Church—was not vastly more important than any other consideration whatsoever and it was other people's failure to grasp this idea and live up to this ideal that caused all the sorrow and disillusionment, all the apparent failure in Catherine's life. That life is, in a measure, well known, yet as Count de la Bedoyere points out, much of the "Catherine legend" must be discounted as the pious exaggeration of her day and much of Catherine's life and character can be learned from her own writings—her letters to two Popes, to Cardinals and statesmen, besides the more personal letters to her "famiglia," and the famous "Dialogue." It is even in bare outline an amazing life. Through sheer, almost stark holiness in living, she gained the ear of the famous and was able to move Pope Gregory XI back from Avignon to Rome and shake the supporters of the anti-Pope Clement by her impassioned defence of the validity of the election of Pope Urban VI. Her theology was never at fault; in spite of the corruption of the clergy, in spite of the

* *St. Catherine of Siena* by Michael de la Bedoyere. With frontispiece and 8 full page illustrations. (Hollis and Carter, 12s. 6d.)

violence and terror which reigned all around her, she never for one moment lost sight of the vision of the Church, the Bride of Christ, ruled over in peace and love by the "Christ on earth," the Pope. No consideration could make her swerve from her inner knowledge of the "One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church," nor from that other knowledge that only love can be opposed to force in the fight for peace and order. In these two things, she was of course far ahead of her day, in fact, she is even now far ahead of our times for there has never yet been an age when reform has not been confused with revolt, and when arms have not been glorified in the fight for right.

Sanctity was revered and loved in her time (as it is to-day) and so Catherine drew men and women, the humble and great, around her as her disciples. The tenderest passages of her life are connected with her "famiglia" and her relations with them perhaps reveal her character better than anything else. It is as though her love of God was such a tremendous blaze that this little company was in some measure set afire and able to reflect the glory and transpire it in the Catherine legend.

At any rate it is clear that many drew near to warm their hands at this blaze, that many were helped by it, and it is perhaps this aspect of St. Catherine that remains in the mind of the "man in the street" and which has given Catherine her title to sanctity.

Michael de la Bedoyere's book is profoundly interesting both as biography and as a study of the life and times of St. Catherine, more especially of the political scene. He has quoted copiously from her letters, using a free translation which makes them felt in all their original force and vigour. He points out that St. Catherine chose her own way to sanctity, a way which must have appeared surprising to her contemporaries. But she chose it without fear or favour and, in spite

of a certain amount of persecution, nobody seems ultimately to have questioned her choice. Her fearless criticism of all and sundry seems to have been taken in remarkably good part, as coming from someone who had a right to criticise. "And Catherine's example," writes Count de la Bedoyere, "may well furnish others with an important lesson in not forcing souls, no matter how high the motive, into vocations and callings that will never suit individual temperaments."

CHRISTINE SPENDER.

Equal Pay

A Reply to the Chancellor of the Exchequer

The Equal Pay Campaign Committee and the Status of Women Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Cazalet Keir, having studied the statement of the Government's policy on equal pay made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on June 11th, ask for the matter to be reconsidered on the following grounds—

(i) The Chancellor stated that, "as a broad affirmation of a general principle, the Government accept, as regards their own employees, the justice of the claim that there should be no difference in payment for the same work in respect of sex." They are, therefore, by their own admission, denying justice to women in failing to give immediate effect to the principle, or even to give assurance that it will be carried into effect by a specified date.

(ii) The claim for equal pay should not be confused with a wages claim or the establishment of a social service; it is a principle to which the Labour Party is committed just as deeply as to any other fundamental principle in its programme.

(iii) By making a comparison between the position of the married man and single woman, the Chancellor showed himself at variance with the principle of equal pay. Acceptance of the principle implies acceptance of the contention that pay should be related to the work done and not to the family responsibilities of the worker, and it is, therefore, contradictory for such a point to be raised following a declaration in favour of the principle.

(iv) The Committee know no grounds for the suggestion in the Chancellor's statement that there would undoubtedly be claims, which might soon be of universal application, for a system of occupational family allowances if equal pay were introduced. This question of occupational family allowances was raised at the Royal Commission on Equal Pay, but received no general support from organisations of workers.

(v) With regard to the Chancellor's argument that the introduction of equal pay would have dangerous inflationary tendencies, every intelli-

gent citizen will agree that the total of money incomes and costs of social services should not be allowed to increase to the public danger, but this is a danger of general application and it is impossible to establish its particular relation to "rate for the job" without at the same time admitting its far wider extent. It is indefensible to single out one of the principles to which the Labour Party are pledged, and to adduce, as grounds for refusing to act up to it, dangers and difficulties which are disregarded in putting into practice other principles to which the same objections apply. By this refusal, in which they call for further sacrifices from women, the Government are in fact sacrificing a policy of reform which has for long been advocated by their Party.

(vi) No one section of workers should be expected to forego their rights and to accept the denial of a principle whose justice is publicly admitted by the Government, in order that the Chancellor should be spared financial troubles. Indeed, it is impossible to substantiate the contention that a refusal to establish "the rate for the job" will save the nation from the evils of inflation, or that the increased payments stated by the Chancellor to be involved do in reality represent the nation's margin of safety from inflation. We would remind the Chancellor that although his reason for not implementing the policy of equal pay is, stated in plain terms, that the country cannot afford it, wage increases have taken place for large bodies of workers, including the miners, agricultural workers, transport workers and catering workers; and even at this late stage, increased rates of pay for the Civil Service have been announced.

(vii) The international aspects of the matter must also be borne in mind. The unjust domestic policy of the Government has had the most unfortunate repercussions abroad. It led to the United Kingdom having to "reserve its position on equal pay pending the decision of the Royal Commission" and to continuous embarrassment in the face of problems involving women's work. At the Conference of the I.L.O. on July 11th, the United Kingdom Government delegate was put in the position of having to move a proviso (carried only by a narrow majority) to the clause on equal pay that it should only apply in Non-Metropolitan Territories "to the extent to which recognition of this principle is accorded in the Metropolitan Territory concerned."

Thus, by the Government's failure to implement principles to which they have subscribed in no less than seven sections of the Charter of the United Nations, this country is losing not only prestige but the opportunity of taking the initiative in action.

In the Report of the Royal Commission on
(continued to page 78)

International Notes

The International Council of Women held its first Post-war Conference in Philadelphia from September 4th to 13th, meeting in the beautiful buildings of the University of Pennsylvania. Delegates from some twenty-six countries attended and many American women visitors were present, including representatives of various associations of Negro Women.

At an informal meeting Baroness Pol Boël (the retiring President) received fraternal delegates, St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance being represented by Miss Retchford.

The new President is Mme Eder, of Zurich—who is also Hon. Treasurer of the International Federation of University Women. Lady Nunburnholme was elected First Vice-President, Mrs. Patrick Ness, Hon. Treasurer and the Hon. Mrs. Home Peel is one of the two Recording Secretaries.

The various Standing Committees met in four Groups—Status of Women, Childhood and Youth, The Home, and Peace and International Relations, each Group being chaired by one of the Vice-Presidents. Many resolutions covering a wide range of subjects were discussed and passed by the Council whilst the Declaration of Principles with its nine points set the aims of the Council firmly before members.

At a special Memorial Service to Senator Plaminkova two visitors from Czecho-Slovakia paid tribute to the former Vice-President. Representatives from Austria also attended the Conference, and Dr. Petersen, from occupied Germany, came as a visitor.

Australia. We offer our congratulations to our co-religionist Senator Dorothy Tangney on her appointment by the Australian Government to the Commission for drawing up the Peace Terms with Japan. We also congratulate our colleague Mrs. Rischbieth on being appointed to the Federal Commission on Immigration.

Three nuns from an aboriginal sisterhood established by Bishop Raible, of the Pallottine Congregation, have gone to open a new mission to their own people at Bulco Hill, Western Australia. The sisters wear a white and blue habit, and go barefoot.

Belgium. Mademoiselle Andrée D'Olne, the first woman to enter the Belgian Diplomatic Service has been appointed attaché to the Belgian Embassy in Rome.

Mauritius. The White Paper (Cmd. 7228) contains approved proposals for the new Constitution of Mauritius. These include equal franchise for

women. British subjects over twenty-one, with certain qualifications such as residence and literacy, will vote for the nineteen elected members of the Legislative Council, which consists, for the rest, of the Governor, three ex-officio and twelve nominated unofficial members.

India. The Government of India is continuing to make use of its outstanding women. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu and Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur, two stalwarts in the movement for the freedom of women and for the independence of India, have been given important appointments, the one as Governor of the United Provinces, and the other as Minister of Health for India. We congratulate both of these and assure them of our thoughts and prayers in the tremendous work that lies before them.

Mexico. The *I.L.O. News Service* reports that physically fit women may now be employed in workshops or on general duties on the national railway as a result of action taken recently by the sixth Congress of the Union of Railway Workers. Hitherto they had been employed on the railway only in administrative or office work. It is not clear whether their wages and conditions are to be the same as the men's.

EQUAL PAY

(continued from page 77)

Equal Pay, it was stated:— "... that a substantial majority of the countries of the world have adopted the policy of equal pay for men and women in the Civil Services and in teaching" (Para. 263); and it is greatly deplored that this country should lag behind others in the recognition of women's economic equality with men.

(viii) The present situation in which both nationally and internationally the principle of equal pay for equal work is accepted while, time after time, its application is obstructed by the Government of the day, reflects discredit on our country, and the Committee urge that, in the interests of national integrity and justice, and of the immediate need for greater production, the Government should implement the principle in the public services without further delay.

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Reviews

The Way of Perfection by St. Theresa of Jesus. Translated from the Spanish by Alice Alexander (The Mercier Press, Cork, 10s. 6d.)

This new translation of a great spiritual classic is a very welcome choice of the Mercier Press. It is a refreshment to read the vigorous maxims of this most forth-right and unsentimental saint—one might almost say that reading of this kind is a very present necessity.

C.S.

Women—Their Professional Status (The British Federation of Business and Professional Women, 10s.).

This book, compiled by Vera Douie, presents simply and with aid of clear diagrams, the relevant sections of Madame Thibert's great work "The Law and Women's Work" published by the International Labour Office. This monumental survey was reviewed in the *Catholic Citizen* in November 1938. Many who cannot search the pages of Madame Thibert's book for themselves, will learn much from Miss Douie's masterly summary. A very valuable addition is an appendix bringing the information up to date.

P.C.C.

Difficulties in Life by Rudolph Allers, M.D. Ph.D. (The Mercier Press, Cork, 12s. 6d.)

In this book of common-sense psychology based on sound Catholic principles, Professor Allers shows how we ourselves are usually to blame for the difficulties we meet in life, whether social, workaday or religious, and how we alone, through self-knowledge and a sound basis of Christian philosophy, can with the help of God's grace, put them right.

Most of the matter of the book is already known to the majority of us, but, presented as it is, clearly and in a reasoned straightforward manner, it serves to jolt us into applying the truths he deals with to ourselves.

D. D'R.

The September number of **International Women's News** is devoted to the "Flight of the President," Dr. Hanna Rydh, who, with the Treasurer, Mrs. Spiller visited the Near East on behalf of the International Alliance of Women.

Dr. Hanna Rydh is an eminent archæologist and she describes incidentally the moment when "shivering with eagerness" she set out to see the ruins of Mesopotamia, her meditation on the 6,000-year-old clay figurine of the Mother-Goddess of Ur, and her thrill at seeing the newly discovered Ziggurat of Eridu "lying on the remnants of seven temple periods." She can describe too the lovely mosques and minarets, the carpets and ceramics of Iran, the deserts of North Africa and the grandiose landscape of Ethiopia.

Of the pyramids of Egypt, however, she says—"the dawn of modern times appeared above the unchanging pyramids" and she tells how the women of other countries look to Egypt, where Mme Charaoui Pasha, on her return from the I. A. W. Congress at Rome in 1923, threw off her veil and attended a reception amongst foreign men and women with outward calm and inward tremors—and how, when one of the most influential men offered her his arm, she knew she had won a victory—not only for herself. Today the women of Egypt are awaiting the passage of the Bill which is to give them the franchise.

Dr. Rydh, in contrast, describes the intelligent, charming and efficient head mistress of a girls' school in Irak, bashfully pulling the black veil in front of her whole face, and wrapping the black aba round her "for the rest, up-to-date dressed person" before she steps out into the street, and says "then you understand what the Mohammedan women are gaining when they take courage, and dare to be free."

In Irak and Iran she met groups of able women longing for emancipation, so that they may help the progress of their country, and as instances of the need, she gives a picture of the little girls working long hours in the carpet-factories, and the Arab-bride, in the midst of her girl companions, celebrating her wedding—with a huge wedding-candle made of bees wax—but no bridegroom present! "She is not permitted to be present at the actual marriage."

At the end of her tour, Dr. Rydh made a special journey to Ethiopia at the request of the Empress, who takes a very keen interest in the education of girls and feels that the women of her country, (who are mostly Christian and have a tradition of freedom) must from the very beginning try to keep equal steps with the men, in the new building of their country.

Turkey is the "land of rapid progress" and has progressed with the aid of *all* its citizens.

Greece, the one European country included in the tour, lags behind. "Greek women can achieve miracles, and they demand their rights to vote and to be elected" So far they have been "promised everything by all parties" but have been given only a municipal vote without eligibility—and no register is even being prepared!

As Dr. Rydh says, "If we believe in democracy—and if we mean that democracy includes the citizenship of *all*, we must show these women that they have to make themselves as able as possible for responsible citizenship" so that they may make their full contribution in the realm of politics. "The transition to the new era has cost the women of the West very dear, how much more threatened are not the women of the East, especially if they have for centuries been kept behind the veil?"

P. C. CHALLONER.

Lord Lytton

Lord Lytton who died on October 27th will be remembered gratefully by all suffragists. He was chiefly responsible for the Conciliation Bill in 1910. At this time, Lord Lytton's heroic sister, Lady Constance Lytton, having assumed the name of Jane Wharton to escape preferential treatment was suffering imprisonment and forcible feeding for "the Cause." In 1922, on the appointment of Lord Lytton as Governor of Bengal, Lady Constance Lytton introduced a deputation of women's organisations, here and in India, to thank him for his unflinching support of the suffrage movement in great Britain and to ask him to further the enfranchisement of the women of Bengal.

An account of this event is given in the *Catholic Citizen* of March 1922, from which we quote: "Lord Lytton in reply, thanked the deputation for the kind things said of him. . . . It might be news to them to hear that he had got from the suffrage movement more than he had given, and having been a relative and friend of rebels, if not one himself, it would help him to understand the point of view of those who were in opposition to the Government."

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

Alison Neilans in the "Catholic Citizen," November 15th, 1922.

The "prostitute" is the scapegoat of everyone's sins and few people really care whether she is justly treated or not. Good people have spent thousands of pounds in efforts to reform her: poets have written about her: essayists and orators have made her the subject of some of their most striking rhetoric. Perhaps no class of people has been so much abused, persecuted, hated or, alternatively, sentimentalised over as prostitutes have been, but one thing they have never had yet, and that is simple legal justice.

They are slaves and outcasts, despised and rejected by all respectable people. They are used not as though they were women but as though they were "things." Yet they are sentient and often suffering human beings, and many of them are very unhappy. Like the rest of us they are made in the image of God, and it was to a woman of that particular class that Christ spoke when He said, "Neither do I condemn thee." Ought we not to secure legal justice for the "common prostitute" before we set out to reform her?

Merseyside Branch, Hon Secretary, Mrs. de Rouffignac, 31, Gorsedale Road, Liverpool, 18.

A well attended meeting was held on October 17th at 15, Greenheys Road, by kind permission of the chairman. Mrs. McCann introduced Miss Challoner, who gave an account of the Conference of St. Joan's International held at Brussels in September.

We offer our deep sympathy to Miss M. Crellin on the death of her mother, and to Mrs. Ward on the death of her sister, Miss McDowell. Mass was offered for them on behalf of the Branch and we ask our members to pray for them. R.I.P.



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