

WOMEN'S SERVICE  
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THE

# 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.

## Echoes Down the Years

BY VERA LAUGHTON MATHEWS

During the discussions on the status of women throughout the world at the League of Nations Assembly last year, the British delegate, Sir William Malkin, made a statement which startled some of the representatives of British women's societies who were listening. He said, after reading a passage from the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, that in Great Britain women enjoyed equal civil and political status with men.

Now although we who work in the woman's movement know that this was a euphemistic point of view and that parts of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act were at once rendered a dead letter by an Order in Council, nevertheless the fact that a British delegate can make such an official statement at an International gathering shows the enormous strides that have been made since the days (only thirty years ago) when the mention of woman suffrage in the British House of Commons was greeted with derisive merriment.

Woman suffrage was granted as a limited measure in 1918 and equal suffrage ten years later, and in this year of Jubilee of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance it seems fitting to review what has been accomplished in this country during these twenty-five years of work, and what still lies before us.

The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society (the original name of our Alliance) had one aim, the granting of the vote to women on equal terms with men. We knew that the vote was the first essential step towards other measures of justice, and this has been well proved by subsequent events. The young woman of to-day can look forward to a very different life from that of pre-suffrage days when it took years of persistent hard work to get any legis-

lation bettering the position of women through Parliament.

To-day nearly all the professions are open to women; they are able to sit on juries, to act as magistrates, to be appointed as police women. The woman member of Parliament is no longer "news"; we have had a woman Cabinet Minister, and several women in lesser ministerial appointments, and every year since 1922 a woman has been included in the British delegation to the League of Nations. The Guardianship of Infants Act (1925) laid down for the first time that the mother was guardian of her own child equally with the father; the law for the protection of young girls has been greatly improved, notably by the raising of the age of consent in cases of indecent assault from thirteen to sixteen; it is now possible for sums payable under maintenance orders to be recovered from men who have gone to any other part of the Empire; the maximum amount payable under an Affiliation Order has been increased; the grounds on which a separation order can be given for both husband and wife have been justly amended. The position of the wife has been improved under the Property Laws, and only last year the undignified and unjust provision whereby a husband was responsible for his wife's torts was recanted.

These are only some of the improvements in the position of women which have been legalised since the granting of woman suffrage, and in the achievement of which St. Joan's Alliance has taken an active part. Apart from the power which the vote has given women in pressing for necessary reforms, there is another great advantage which has been so well stated in the "Liverpool Cathedral Record" of this month, that we cannot do better than quote:

"The actual fact that she possesses the vote has given woman the consciousness of an equality with men, and even if she uses it sparingly, she knows that she can become a political factor at any time she pleases. The general rise of the status of women in business, and their assumption in numerous instances of executive posts, has been largely due to this additional feeling of confidence."

And now what of the Future? The always increasing pressure of work in our office shows that there still remains plenty to be done before we can rest on our oars, and the outline of that work is shown in the resolutions presented at our Annual Meeting. Among outstanding reforms necessary may be mentioned the position of women in the Civil Service—both as civil servants and as teachers the Government considers the services of women as worthy of less remuneration than those of men thus setting an example of injustice to employers throughout the country; the employment of married women is still hedged around with all kinds of regulations which make it very difficult for her to earn her own living, and this official attitude of not recognising the married woman as a complete human being is further evidenced by our Nationality laws and also by the hardship entailed by grouping husband's and wife's incomes together for purposes of Income Tax. Though the professions, with the exception of the consular and diplomatic services, are, on paper, open equally to women, their position in industry is much weaker; whole trades are closed to women and their work when permitted is often handicapped by restrictions.

And while working to obtain fair treatment for women in the civil, political and economic spheres, we at the same time are endeavouring to create what is the most important thing of all—an enlightened public opinion, freed of the clap-trap phrases that have been handed down the centuries, based on the recognition of all human beings as equal in the sight of God, possessed of free will in the ordering of their lives and of the divine right of service in the sphere that best suits their own capabilities.

#### HROSWITHA'S PLAYS—Continued

the only plays between the end of the Roman drama and the mystery plays of the twelfth century.

A vote of thanks to the lecturer was moved by Miss Eleanor FitzGerald and seconded by Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell.

B. B. C.

## Hroswitha's Plays

On Saturday, February 22nd, at the Catholic Gentlewomen's Residence, "Padova," Rosslyn Hill, N.W.3., a lecture of unusual interest on Hroswitha's Plays was delivered by Miss Christopher St. John to members of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Miss Barclay Carter in the Chair recalled how Miss St. John was one of the earliest members of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, and how herself a playwright and producer, and author of the chief English translation of Hroswitha's Plays, she was uniquely qualified to speak on the subject.

Hroswitha, Miss St. John said, was born in Saxony at a time when the abbeys of Saxony were conspicuous centres of civilisation, and entered the abbey of Gandersheim probably about 950. The number of classical allusions in her work testified to the extent of the abbey library; Plautus, Horace, Lucan, Virgil, and above all Terence, who inspired her dramatic efforts, seem to have been her favourite authors and her Latin has a classical purity. The plays, contrary to a generally held theory, were certainly acted in the abbey, and they have stood the test of acting in our own time. *Abraham* was produced by Miss Edith Craig at Small Hythe last May, while *Paphnutius* was played at the Savoy Theatre in 1913, when Ellen Terry took the part of an abbess, and G. K. Chesterton wrote the programme—pointing out how much greater humility there was in the tenth century nun than in Anatole France, who in *Thais* dealt with the same story.

While out of six plays extant (in a contemporary MS. now in New York, and printed for the first time by the humanist Conrad Veidt in the fifteenth century, with illustrations which have been attributed to Durer), the two best are *Paphnutius* and *Abraham*, *Callimachus* is remarkable as the first romantic love drama in history, with one scene that seems an embryonic form of the tomb scene in *Romeo and Juliet*. (In a preface, which Miss St. John read in full, Hroswitha apologised "with a blush" for having had to turn her "mind and pen to the depicting of matters forbidden to our ears—the hateful folly of unlawful loves, the deceiving sweetness of passionate speech," without which she could not have brought out "the merit of the innocent.")

The historical importance of Hroswitha cannot be sufficiently emphasised, for hers are

(Continued previous column)

## Notes and Comments

We urge all our members to attend the People's Mass for Peace at Westminster Cathedral on Easter Monday, April 13th, at 10.30 a.m. We have been asked to co-operate with the Society of St. Gregory in obtaining a great congregation of laity who will sing the Ordinary of the Mass and the Responses. We trust that members will attend the practices on Monday evenings at St. James' Spanish Place, W.1., at 6-15 p.m.

We can rely upon our members to take action in conformity with the wishes of the Hierarchy re the clauses in the new Education Bill which fall short of the justice due to our Catholic Schools. There is a further point, small but insidious which we would ask readers to watch—that is the threat to include in exemptions girls under 15 whose parents claim that they are specially needed in the home. If this form of exemption had been allowed when the school-leaving age was raised to 14 it is doubtful how many girls would have stayed at school. The raising of the school age is not just a remedy against unemployment, it is primarily in order that both girls and boys may benefit from extended facilities for education.

The Unemployment Insurance (Agricultural) Bill which proposes to bring all agricultural workers under the Unemployment Insurance Scheme has recently passed its Second Reading. We regret that, in common with the other Insurance Schemes, the Bill will enforce contributions and benefits unequal between men and women. Domestic servants are now the only large category of workers outside the Unemployment Insurance Scheme.

In reply to questions in the House of Commons with regard to the Report of the Committee of Investigation of the Mui Tsai system in Hong Kong, Mr. Thomas, Secretary of State for the Colonies, said:

"I have seen the report. I need hardly say I agree emphatically that the sale of girls is undesirable, and I do not accept the view that it is impossible to suppress the practice under our jurisdiction. The mui-tsai is illegal in Hong Kong, and it has been the policy of His Majesty's Government for years past to secure its final disappearance. The policy is one that I intend to pursue vigorously, and I am taking every step towards that end now."

We remember that as far back as 1922, Mr. Churchill, then Colonial Secretary, gave a

definite pledge that the Mui Tsai system should be abolished as speedily as possible. We trust that Mr. Thomas will see that this pledge is fully redeemed both in the letter and in the spirit.

We offer our warmest congratulations to His Lordship the Bishop of Pella, who will attain his Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee on March 20th. Bishop Brown's public work, particularly in the Educational field, is well known. He has been an associate member of the Alliance for very many years, and takes a keen interest in our work. He has several times spoken on our platform, notably in favour of Votes for Women at 21 and on the same terms as men. The last occasion on which he spoke for us was at our dinner in honour of the Rt. Hon. J. A. Lyons and Mrs. Lyons. Ad multos annos—we wish His Lordship many more years of fruitful work.

We congratulate Dame Laura Knight, R.A., on having been elected a member of the Royal Academy, the first woman to be so honoured since 1769.

#### OBITUARY

The second anniversary of our late beloved Editor, Leonora de Alberti, occurs on March 26th. We should like to suggest that members should offer up their Sunday Mass on March 22nd for the repose of her soul. R.I.P.

We mourn the loss of Dr. Herbert Vaughan, D.D., a great figure in Catholic life, and a member and friend of the Alliance. R.I.P. Recently Fr. Vaughan showed his sympathy with the Alliance by attending our 21st Birthday dinner, and he was present at the dinner last year in honour of the Rt. Hon. J. A. Lyons and Mrs. Lyons.

We ask the prayers of our readers for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Charles Barry. R.I.P. Mrs. Barry was a subscriber to the *Catholic Citizen* and generously helped us with our market barrow. We offer our deepest sympathy to the bereaved family, many of whom are members of the Alliance.

We also ask prayers for the repose of the soul of Miss M. M. Gordon. R.I.P. We offer deepest sympathy to her mother, Mrs. Gordon, and to Miss C. M. Gordon, both members of the Alliance.

## 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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## St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance

## Twenty-Fifth Annual Report \*

It is encouraging to note many victories all over the world to the Woman's Cause, during the year 1935. These have very often been gained by the hard and persistent work of the feminist societies in each country. There has been particular vigilance in all cases where women's right to earn has been threatened.

In Belgium women have succeeded in securing the abolition of no less than three decrees drastically limiting their right to earn, and the withdrawal of a circular prejudicial to the recruitment of women Civil Servants. There are now four women representatives in the Parliament of Canada, two in the Senate, and two in the House of Commons. Chile saw women vote for the first time in the municipal elections and many women were elected all over the country, a woman being elected Mayor of Calera. The new constitution of Cuba gives equal political rights to men and women. In Czecho Slovakia eight women have been returned to the Chamber, and five to the Senate. In France as a result of the repeated campaigns of the feminist societies two posts for women Police assistants have been created in Paris. Under the new constitution of India 6,000,000 women will now have the right to vote. Nevertheless though women have secured a certain degree of representation the just demands of the organised women of India have by no means been fulfilled. It is reported that the government of Iran has introduced measures to abolish polygamy. The new Citizenship Act of the Irish Free State gives equal Nationality rights to men and women except as to the transmission of Nationality from a parent to a child. For the first time in Italy the Duce has nominated a woman as Councillor of Rome. In the Phillipines women voted in the Plesbicite as to the future form of government. The Parliament of Poland now contains five women Senators. In Portugal a woman may now vote at Parliamentary elections if she can show a secondary education, and at municipal elections if she is head of a household; three women deputies served for the first time. Northern Rhodesia saw a woman elected for the first time to the Legislative Assembly. The regulation of prostitution has been abolished in Spain. In Sweden four women were elected to the Lower House. Women were made eligible to serve as judges in the Children's Courts in Switzerland and a woman

\* Subject to Confirmation at the Annual Meeting, March 21st.

was elected to serve in Geneva. Seventeen women were elected to the National Assembly of Turkey, but the Turkish Government has dissolved the Turkish Women's Union, affirming that there is now no reason for its existence. In the United States Texas appointed its first woman judge and a woman was elected to the office of Justice of the Municipal Court, the first in the State of New York to hold this office.

Personal successes abroad include the award to Mme. Joliot-Curie (France) of the Nobel prize for Chemistry, and the award to our co-religionist Miss Agnes Repplier (U.S.A.) of the Hon. Degree of Doctor of Letters at Prince-Town University. Professor Mary Hayden, who is a member of St. Joan's Alliance, had the Degree of Doctor of Literature conferred on her by the National University of Ireland, President de Valera attending the ceremony. Several Australian women had Jubilee Honours conferred on them for their Feminist work in Australia.

In our own country the outstanding gain has been the passing of the Law Reform (Married Women and Tortfeasors) Act which amends the law relating to the capacity, property and liabilities of married women in contract and tort and abolishes the liabilities of husbands for their wives' torts. The London County Council has raised the marriage bar for non-resident Doctors and Teachers employed in its service. At the University of Oxford women may now take the degrees of Bachelor or Doctor of Divinity, a statute having been passed providing that all degrees in the University shall be open to men and women equally. At the General Election nine women were returned to Parliament, but this was a drop of six as compared with the last Government. Women continue to take an increasing share in the work of all local governing bodies, and eleven councils have appointed women Mayors. Important appointments of women include Miss Lilian Barker as assistant Commissioner of Prisons, Dr. Kate Fraser as Commissioner of Lunacy, Miss Marian Thring as full time Guide and Lecturer at the Victoria and Albert Museum, Miss Thring being the first woman to be appointed to this post. Dame Maria Ogilvie Gordon received the D.B.E. in the Jubilee Honours List and the Hon. Degree of Doctor of Laws from the Edinburgh University. Our co-religionist Miss Sheila Kaye Smith was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and Miss Dorothy Coke has been elected Associate of the Royal Society of Painters in Water

Colours. Miss Margery Locket has been appointed Director of the Gaumont British Instructional Films Bureau. Women have been appointed on various Governmental Committees such as the Arms Traffic Commission on which Dame Rachel Crowdy serves.

On the other hand all efforts up to the present have failed to secure votes for women in France or Switzerland. Bermuda still refuses enfranchisement to its women despite protests and tax resistance. In Hungary a Reform Bill for Lawyers Chambers has been introduced which bars women from the membership of the Chambers and consequently disqualifies all women from entering the legal profession. In the Province of Quebec women still remain voteless though they sent a Jubilee Petition to the King to ask him to give an expression of sympathy and approval to their efforts to obtain political enfranchisement. Chile and Uruguay have reverted to the system of licensed prostitution "in the interests of public health." In this country the Report of the Committee on the Admission of Women to the Diplomatic and Consular Services has not yet been published and in spite of repeated questions in the House of Commons, no indication has yet been given by the Government of the recommendations of the Committee. The recently constituted Unemployment Assistance Board has failed to give a reasonable proportion of responsible posts to women, though the proper administration of the Unemployment Act is essentially a matter requiring the co-operation of both sexes. Moreover allowances administered by this Board remain unequal as between men and women, weekly rates received by women and girls being as much as 1s. and 2s. less than those received by men and boys.

## Equal Pay and Opportunities

In the Civil Service, this year has seen the first appointment of a woman to the post of Grade 2 Clerk in the Law Courts. Towards the end of the year eligibility of women for posts on the shorthand staff at the House of Commons was officially admitted; while in the Public Trustee Office women Clerical Officers received a very satisfactory share of the newly created higher posts consequent upon the re-organisation of work in that department.

As a result of the Equal Pay Campaign the whole question of Equal Pay was raised in a Parliamentary Debate on June 7th, the first for fifteen years. Many M.P.s made very able equalitarian speeches and not one voice was raised in opposition until the two representatives of the Government made their replies.

The campaign continued and a Mass Meeting in November at Friend's House, Euston, was organised by the London Unit of the National Union of Women Teachers and supported by twenty societies including St. Joan's Alliance. The meeting, presided over by Miss Agnes Dawson, J.P., affirmed its belief in the principle of Equal Pay for Equal Work between men and women and called upon the Government, Local Authorities and all employers to put this principle into immediate practice. In the November "Catholic Citizen" we published an article on Equal Pay by Miss Aickman, President of the London Unit of the N.U.W.T. In May Miss Spender opened a Debate at the Catholic Citizens' Parliament—"Does Equal Pay for Equal Work mean Justice for All"?

Married Women's Work. Besides the action of the London County Council in raising the marriage bar for its non-resident employees, already referred to,

the Middlesex Education Committee re-affirmed its belief in the desirability of having married women on its teaching staff and asked that intimation to this effect should be sent to governors and managers of all schools. Nevertheless many local authorities continue to take the retrograde step of dismissing women employees on marriage and local Councils need careful watching.

## Nationality of Married Women

During July Mrs. Tate presented to the House of Commons a Petition asking that legal effect should be given to the declaration of the British Government in 1931 at Geneva, that all disabilities of married women in matters of nationality should be removed. The Petition was signed by 136 women, representing 100 women's societies in New Zealand, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Bermuda and Ceylon. It stated that four of the Dominions had shown that they were willing to adopt legislation giving a woman married or unmarried the right to enjoy independent nationality and the same right as a man to retain or change it, but until British legislation embodied this reform there was small chance of its being adopted by the Dominions.

Several members of St. Joan's Alliance were in the House during the presentation of the Petition, among them Miss Flynn of Melbourne.

## Indian Women's Franchise

We have continued to join with four other societies, with one mutually appointed Liaison Officer, to support the Indian Women's Organisations in their demand for equality between men and women in the new Constitution of India. In February the British Commonwealth League convened a meeting at Friend's House, Euston Road, presided over by Lord Allen of Hurtwood to hear Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Dr. Maude Royden report on the All-India Women's Conference which they had attended by special invitation of the Indian Women's Organisations. St. Joan's Alliance was responsible, with the other societies affiliated to the British Commonwealth League, for this meeting. The Statement on Indian Women's Franchise of the All-India Women's Conference was published in full in the "Catholic Citizen," and was so much in demand that it was reprinted as a leaflet and made use of by several women's organisations in this country. It had a brisk sale at the meeting at Friend's House. Throughout the year the "Catholic Citizen" has given much publicity to the Indian women's demands.

## Status of African Women

This year we have aroused interest in many quarters on the subject of the raising of the status of African women. An Editorial was published in the "Catholic Citizen" on an appendix relating to the status of African women included in the report of the second session of the League of Nations Advisory Committee of Experts on Slavery. We also gave publicity in the "Catholic Citizen" to two letters on marriage customs in Kenya sent by the Archdeacon of Kavirondo to the "Manchester Guardian" and our Hon. Editor wrote a letter to the "Manchester Guardian" giving some idea of our work in connection with the Mandates Commission. In sending us information the Archdeacon wrote: "I am most interested in the efforts you are making on behalf of

African women." The British Commonwealth League convened a conference to consider Archdeacon Owen's statements, at which the Alliance was represented by the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Editor. A resolution on the purchase of women and marriage contracts in territories under British jurisdiction was adopted by a conference on Women's Demands at the General Election, convened by the Women's Freedom League, and was spoken to by our Hon. Editor. Her speech on this occasion was subsequently published in full in the "Tablet." Miss Spender also spoke on the subject of Women in African Mandated Territories at the Annual Meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, and at one of the Sectional Meetings of the National Council of Women, which organisation subsequently adopted a resolution on the subject at its Annual Meeting. At the Istanbul Congress a resolution sent in by St. Joan's Alliance dealing with the position of women in mandated territories such as parts of Africa was proposed by Miss Spender and unanimously adopted by the Congress. Our Chairman spoke to a resolution adopted by the British Commonwealth League Conference urging Governments within the British Empire to discountenance any practices relative to the bartering of women and children into domestic or any other form of slavery; further, expressing satisfaction "that the Mandates Commission of the League of Nations is devoting special attention to the important problem of the condition of women in certain mandated territories." Much discussion took place over this resolution. While at Geneva during the League of Nations Assembly, our Chairman spoke on the question of the position of native women in certain mandated territories both at the meeting for women delegates arranged by the Liaison Committee of International Women's Organisations and at the deputation of women's organisations to the President of the Assembly. During the discussion on Mandates in the 6th Committee Mme. Ciurlionis of Lithuania drew attention to this question and expressed the hope that the Permanent Mandates Commission would continue its investigations on the subject. In collaboration with our French Section we brought to the attention of the International Labour Office an article by Archbishop LeRoy on "Native Labour in the Cameroons," published in "La Revue de L'Alliance Ste. Jeanne d'Arc," in which it is maintained that the existing system of polygamy amounts to forced labour of women. We have been in touch with Missionary Priests and Nuns, and members of the Alliance who hold official positions in Africa, and we continue to keep in close touch with the Societé d'Etudes Africaines, studying closely the technical material published in their Bulletin. Our Hon. Secretary continues to serve on the Status of African Women Sub-Committee of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

By the enforcement of wise laws and by means of a Christian education St. Joan's Alliance would have the status of the African woman raised so that, keeping whatever is of value in the old way of life, she may go forward to the conception of her dignity as a human being made in the image and likeness of God.

#### International

A Council Meeting of St. Joan's Alliance was held at Geneva in September, when Mrs. Laughton Mathews (Great Britain) was elected President and

Mlle. Lenoël (France) Vice-President. A special welcome was extended to Miss Margaret Flynn of Melbourne who agreed to start an Australian Section of the Alliance. Various amendments to the Constitution were drawn up.

Throughout the year Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Miss Barry have represented the Alliance on the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations and on the Joint Standing Committee of International Women's Organisations. Mrs. Laughton Mathews served on the sub-committee set up by the Liaison Committee to draft a memorandum on the Status of Women.

*Istanbul Congress.* At the 12th Congress of the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship held in Istanbul, April 18th—25th, under the presidency of Mrs. Corbett Ashby, there were over 300 delegates from 30 different countries. The British Delegation sent its full complement of 12 delegates and 12 alternates, seven of which were from St. Joan's Alliance, namely, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, Chairman, Miss Barry, Hon. Secretary, Miss Spender, Hon. Editor, Miss Betty Lowe, Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Knight, and Miss Barbara Barry. Among other British delegates were Vicountess Astor, M.P., Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Picton Turbervill, and Miss Reeves. There were many distinguished delegates from other countries who contributed their specialised knowledge to the Congress.

The work of the Alliance was divided into six Commissions: Suffrage and Equal Political Rights; Equal Moral Standard; Like Conditions of Work; Women under the Law; the Nationality of Married Women; and Peace. Mrs. Laughton Mathews was chairman of the Nationality Commission, and Miss Spender moved the resolution on the position of women in Mandated Territories. Besides the work in Congress there were many public meetings which aroused much interest. The Turkish Authorities and the Union of Turkish Women entertained the delegates in many delightful ways, and showed the utmost solicitude for their well-being in Istanbul. The Turkish Government issued a special series of postage stamps, depicting famous women of modern times, to commemorate the Congress.

Archbishop Roncalli, Apostolic Delegate to Istanbul, gave a private reception to the Catholic delegates on Easter Saturday and on Easter Monday said Mass especially for them, at the Franciscan Church of St. Antonio, Mrs. Corbett Ashby attending. The Archbishop preached a most beautiful and encouraging sermon after the Mass.

*League of Nations Assembly.* Mrs. Laughton Mathews, Miss Flynn and later Mlle. Lenoël were our official representatives at Geneva during the 16th Assembly when the Status of Women, the Nationality of Married Women, and Mandates were discussed at length in various Commissions of the League. The Committee discussing Nationality passed a resolution drawing the attention of Governments to the fact that the Montevideo Nationality of Women Treaty was open to the accession of all States. This Treaty formulates the principle that there shall be no distinction based on sex as regards Nationality in legislation or in practice. A wide variety of views was expressed in the Committee but a number of delegations requested that it should be stated in the report that they were in favour of equality in the matter of Nationality. The question of the Status of Women was referred to Governments for their observations, together with the request that information as to the existing political

and civil status of women under the respective national laws should be forwarded to the League. In both resolutions appreciation was expressed of the work of International Women's Organisations and the wish that they should continue in close touch with the League. The hope was also expressed that the International Labour Office should examine the question of equality under Labour legislation, particularly in regard to discriminations "some of which may be detrimental to women's right to work." The Alliance holds the view that all discriminations are necessarily detrimental to women's right to work, since discriminations are incompatible with equality.

At a business meeting arranged by the Liaison Committee of International Women's organisations, to put forward the views of these organisations to the women delegates of the League, Mrs. Laughton Mathews spoke on the position of women in Mandated Territories. She spoke on the same subject at the deputation of women's organisations to the President of the Assembly. The deputation was held in public in the Council Hall of the League of Nations and chosen speakers, representing millions of women, put forward various aspects of the case for equality of status between men and women. Mrs. Laughton Mathews also spoke at the reception for the women delegates to the League given by the Standing Joint Committee of International Women's Organisations.

*Memoranda on Nationality and Equal Status of Women.* Two memoranda putting forward the views of St. Joan's Alliance on the Nationality of Women and the Status of Women were sent to the 16th Assembly of the League of Nations and circulated to State members there. That on Nationality expressed the hope that an International Convention would be drawn up incorporating the principle of equality and clearly expressing the right of a married woman to an independent personal nationality on equal terms with men. The other memorandum declared that "St. Joan's Alliance stands for full equality of women, married or unmarried, with men"—and that "the Alliance believes that it is possible to raise the status of women by means of an International Convention," and urges that in any such Convention "it should be made quite clear that any countries ratifying it accept the principles of equality set out."

*International Labour Conference.* Our Memorandum on the Employment of Women in Underground Mines of all Kinds, setting forth reasons for our opposition to the exclusion of women from mines, was sent to the Director of the International Labour Office prior to the 19th Session of the International Labour Conference held in Geneva in June. The Draft Convention concerning the Employment of Women in Underground Mines of all Kinds was adopted by the Conference. It is no doubt owing to the work of a number of Women's Organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance, that at any rate certain categories of non-manual workers may be excluded from the prohibitions of the Convention, e.g. Doctors, Nurses, Students, etc.

The Petition organised by the *International Suffrage Alliance* and sent to the International Labour Conference, which protested against certain clauses detrimental to women's right to earn in the Petition from the Christian Trades Unions, was signed by our Chairman on behalf of the Alliance. Our French Section obtained signatures from a number of Societies in France to this Petition of Protest.

Miss Butler-Bowdon was our representative at the

4th Conference of the *Open Door International* which took place in Copenhagen during August.

The Alliance sent replies in collaboration with other Societies to the Annual Questionnaire of Mme. Avril de Sainte Croix, representative of the International Women's Organisations on the League of Nations Consultative Committee on Traffic in Women, prior to the 14th Session of the *Advisory Commission on Traffic in Women*.

*L'Alliance Ste. Jeanne d'Arc* has continued its valuable work in France. "La Revue Ste. Jeanne d'Arc" does excellent propaganda and many times we have been glad to quote from it, in the "Catholic Citizen."

We receive many letters, documents and papers from all over the world—notably from the League of Nations—bringing information on subjects connected with our work. Thus we are often in a position to give first hand information to sister societies and to individuals in England. Moreover any request for research work on our part is always complied with as a matter of course.

*Visitors from Abroad.* During the year we were glad to welcome from *Australia* the Prime Minister and Mrs. J. A. Lyons, Miss Sara Byrne and Miss Margaret Flynn; from *Austria* Fraülein Jabloner; from *Belgium* the Rev. R. Van den Haute, S.J.; from *Bermuda* Mrs. Tucker; from *Finland* Miss Lillie; from *France* Mlle. G. Vander Pijl; from *Germany* Fraülein K. Schirber and Fraülein T. Ramsay; from *Holland* Miss L. Grove; from *Hungary* Madame de Kresz and Madame de Spür; from *Ireland* Councillor Mrs. Cosgrave; from the *U.S.A.* Miss Winifred Gordon.

The 24th Annual Meeting was held on March 16th in St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square, Mrs. Laughton Mathews presiding. The Annual Report was read by Miss Joan Brandt, its adoption moved by Miss Christopher St. John and seconded by Miss Monica O'Connor. Miss Stella Gregson then presented the Liverpool Branch Report and spoke on behalf of the younger generation. The financial statement was read by Miss Pauline Brandt, its adoption moved by Miss Walmsley of Birmingham and seconded by Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, while Miss Eleanor FitzGerald made a successful appeal for funds which brought in over £25. Those present included members from Berlin, Birmingham, Hove, Liverpool and Manchester. Later in the year, owing to the regretted departure of Miss Erica Butler-Bowdon to live in Geneva, Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, former Hon. Secretary of the Liverpool Branch, was co-opted to the Committee. The following resolutions were moved from the chair and carried:

#### 1.—EQUAL STATUS OF WOMEN

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance calls upon the States Members of the League of Nations to draw up an International Convention embodying the principle of equal rights and responsibilities of citizenship, for women whether married or unmarried, with men, including full opportunity of entering into or carrying on any form of profession, trade or vocation, and of entering into and promotion in all local and central Government services, without any discrimination as to rates of pay.

#### 2.—EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS

##### (a) Franchise.

(i) *India.* St. Joan's S.P.A. reaffirms its whole-hearted support of the women of India in their struggle for equality, and calls upon the Govern-

ment so to amend the India Bill as to incorporate the amendments demanded by the All-India Women's Conference in Karachi.

(ii) *Palestine*. St. Joan's S.P.A. protests against the provisions of the Municipal Corporations Ordinance of January 1934, which in practice denies women in the town of Palestine (with the exception of Tel-aviv) the suffrage in municipal elections, and supports the women of Palestine in their demand for equal suffrage.

(iii) St. Joan's S.P.A. deplors the fact that in the British Commonwealth the women of *Malta*, *Quebec* and *Bermuda* are still unfranchised and hopes that justice will be granted at an early date.

(iv) St. Joan's S.P.A. congratulates the women of *Turkey* on having gained equal suffrage and on the election of seventeen women to Parliament.

(b) *Women in the House of Lords*. St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that peeresses in their own right should have a seat and vote in the House of Lords and further, that in any measure designed to reform the Second Chamber men and women should have the same right to sit and to be elected.

### 3.—EQUAL MORAL STANDARD

(a) *Solicitation Laws*. St. Joan's S.P.A. regrets that the Government has taken no action to remedy the present unjust solicitation laws, calls for their repeal, and the substitution of a measure on the lines of the Public Places (Order) Bill, which deals with street solicitation by general legislation against annoyance or molestation, and under which the evidence of the person annoyed or molested would be necessary in order to obtain conviction.

(b) *Criminal Law Amendment Act*. Recognising that the Traffic in women is at all times and under all circumstances an immoral and anti-social traffic, St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to delete from the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1885, all paragraphs which exclude women or any class of women, from protection from procurement for immoral purposes.

(c) *Child Assault*. St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass into law a Bill providing more effective safeguards for the protection of young children from sexual assault.

(d) *Illegitimate Children*. St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass without delay a Bill providing for the enforcement of Affiliation Orders overseas on similar lines to the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Act, 1920.

### 4.—EQUAL PAY AND OPPORTUNITIES

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government and Local Authorities to establish among their employes a system of equal pay and opportunities for men and women, and freedom for married women to decide for themselves whether or not they shall engage in paid work, thus setting an example to other employers.

(b) In particular it calls upon the Government to open the *Diplomatic*, *Consular* and kindred services to women on the same terms and conditions as they are open to men; it further demands the immediate publication of the Report of the recent Departmental Committee on this subject.

(c) *Protective Legislation*.

(i) St. Joan's S.P.A., while believing that protection should be afforded to industrial workers, declares that to impose restrictions on women only is to treat them permanently as minors, and to

lower their status as workers. It believes that the only policy which safeguards their individual liberty and responsibility is that of basing all labour regulations and restrictions upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker, and calls upon the Government to apply this principle to all legislation, and to instruct its delegates to support it at all Conferences of the International Labour Office.

(ii) St. Joan's S.P.A. protests against the proposed Convention of the I.L.O. prohibiting the employment of women on underground work in mines of all kinds. While holding no brief either for or against the work of women in mines, St. Joan's Alliance believes that it is unjust arbitrarily to close any avenue of honest employment to women.

### 5.—UNEMPLOYMENT

(a) Whereas the whole question of unemployment of men and women is affected by unequal regulations, St. Joan's S.P.A. reaffirms as its policy: (i) the right of women married or unmarried, to enter any avenue of employment, and (ii) the establishment of equal pay which would prevent the involuntary undercutting of men by women.

(b) St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that the new Public Assistance Rates should be made equal for (i) men and women, (ii) boys and girls, and that either husband or wife should have the right to apply for family relief.

(c) St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to allocate for the training and relief of unemployed women an equal sum of money in proportion to their numbers as is expended upon men.

### 6.—NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass into law a bill giving married women the right to an independent nationality on the same terms as other adults and further that the Government should propose similar legislation to the Dominion Governments. It further calls on the States Members of the League of Nations to adopt an international convention recognising a married woman's right to her own independent nationality on equal terms with men.

### 7.—SLAVERY

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. begs the League of Nations' Advisory Committee of Experts on Slavery which is to meet in April to give full attention to the special forms of enslavement of women and girls.

(b) It urges the Government to secure the real abolition of all forms of slavery throughout the British Empire. Basing its claim on the Christian conception of the rights of every human being, it demands that the Government should recognise that a woman is not a chattel to be sold by her father or alleged proprietor, but that she should be free to choose her partner in life. It therefore calls upon the Government to discountenance any practices whatsoever involving the bartering of women and children into domestic and other forms of slavery, including the form of child slavery in Hong Kong known as the Mui Tsai System.

(c) *Status of Women in Mandated Territories*. St. Joan's S.P.A. expresses its satisfaction that the Mandates Committee of the League of Nations is devoting special attention to the important problem of the condition of women in mandated territories and congratulates Miss Dannevig, the only woman member on the Commission, on the courage and persistence with which she has brought the question of the status of women into the forefront of the

Commission's discussions. It further begs the Mandates Commission to continue its investigations with particular reference to (i) Child Marriage; (ii) Recognition of Christian Marriages; (iii) Position of Widows; (iv) Abolition of Regulation of Prostitution; (v) Forced Labour.

### 8.—MATERNAL MORTALITY

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Ministry of Health to provide adequate maternity services throughout the country, and further urges upon its members the duty of pressing their Local Authorities to carry out to the full their powers in this respect.

### 9.—LEGAL POSITION OF MARRIED WOMEN

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass into law a Bill embodying the recommendations of the Law Revision Committee dealing with the liability of a husband for the torts of his wife and the liability of married women in tort and contract and further to include the abolition of restraint on anticipation in respect of present settlements as well as future settlements.

(b) It further begs that in any such Bill there should be a general provision abolishing all disabilities and incapacities of the married woman arising from the common law doctrine that the legal existence of the wife is merged in that of her husband.

(c) *Income Tax*. St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that the income of married persons should be separately assessed and separately taxed.

### 10.—WOMEN POLICE

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to increase the number of police women in the Metropolitan Area, and to further legislation making it compulsory for Watch Committees and Standing Joint Committees to appoint a sufficient number of women police.

### 11.—EDUCATION

(i) St. Joan's S.P.A. calls for fair and adequate financial treatment of Catholic elementary and secondary schools.

(ii) St. Joan's S.P.A. urges upon the Government the necessity of providing adequate and equal facilities for the education of native girls and boys under British rule.

### 12.—BIRTH CONTROL

St. Joan's S.P.A. deplors the policy of the Ministry of Health in allowing in certain cases information on artificial birth control to be given at centres maintained out of public funds. It urges its members to watch the matter in their local Councils.

### 13.—DIVORCE

St. Joan's S.P.A. regrets the action of certain societies in pressing for further facilities for divorce, and trusts that all Christian bodies will unite in opposing this demand.

### 14.—STERILISATION

St. Joan's S.P.A. records its opposition to the introduction of any legislation designed to promote the voluntary or compulsory sterilisation of mental defectives.

A most important event in the domestic life of the Alliance was the dinner given at the Criterion on May 30th, in honour of two eminent members of the Alliance, *The Rt. Hon. J. A. Lyons, Prime Minister of Australia*, and *Mrs. Lyons*. The other speakers were His Lordship the Bishop of Pella, Dom Gilbert

Higgins, C.R.L., Viscountess Astor, M.P., Mrs. Hamid Ali (India), Mrs. Rischbieth (Australia), Dr. O'Donovan, M.P., and Miss Monica O'Connor, while Mrs. Laughton Mathews presided. A distinguished gathering included both clergy and laity, and representatives of feminist societies. That the dinner was a unique occasion and pre-eminently successful was proved by the many messages of congratulation received afterwards at the Office.

The Officers of the Alliance entertained *Mrs. Lyons* at an informal lunch on March 22nd and afterwards by the kindness of Miss Gunning who placed her car at our disposal, we were able to show her something of London's Catholic Churches.

Various delightful parties were given by members during the year. On June 28th by Mrs. Shattock to do honour to our distinguished member *Miss Helen White, Ph.D.*, Professor of English at Wisconsin University (U.S.A.), who gave a charming talk on "Catholic Tradition in the New World." On July 17th by Miss D. J. Collier, F.R.C.S., when Mrs. Laughton Mathews gave an account of the *Istanbul Congress*. On July 21st by Miss Fedden to meet our distinguished member, *Miss Flynn* of Melbourne. On October 7th by Mrs. V. M. Crawford to meet the renowned *Mother Kevin* and hear her most interesting account of the work of the Franciscan Missioners of Mill Hill in Uganda.

On October 22nd under the Chairmanship of Lady Sanderson, a meeting was held in St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho, to hear Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Miss Flynn of Australia, who had recently returned from Geneva, speak on the *16th Assembly of the League of Nations*.

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception the Executive Committee gave a party in Hampstead to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Miss Gabrielle Jeffery's first inspiration to found the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, now St. Joan's Alliance. Miss Jeffery was presented with £25 which she immediately handed to the Hon. Editor of the "Catholic Citizen" in memory of Leonora de Alberti. Miss Jeffery was also presented with a small memento in the shape of a brooch in the colours of the Alliance, a gold bar, set with turquoise and pearls. Mrs. Laughton Mathews made the speech of presentation in which she expressed the gratitude of the Alliance to Miss Jeffery "for putting their hands to work so well worth while," and Elvira Laughton Mathews made the presentation with the words "The women of the future join with the women of the present in thanking you Miss Jeffery." Miss Jeffery thanked everyone in a gracious speech in which she drew attention "to that war of the spirit that all must wage from the cradle to the grave." And so, strengthened to go forward we passed another important milestone in the history of the Alliance.

The Alliance has continued to take part in *Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* established in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Westminster. Members of the Alliance are pledged to watch on the first Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and are asked to pray for the Alliance.

On *St. Joan's Day*, May 30th, this year Ascension Day, Mass was offered for the intentions of the Alliance through the kindness of Fr. Dunstan, O.S.F.C. On the same day, a laurel wreath tied in our colours, was placed on the Shrine of St. Joan in Westminster Cathedral.

A letter offering our respectful congratulations was sent to His Grace Archbishop Hinsley, the newly-appointed Archbishop of Westminster, and was graciously acknowledged from Archbishop's House. The Alliance was represented at the Enthronement Ceremony at Westminster Cathedral by Miss Eleanor Fitzgerald and Miss Havers.

A message of loyalty was sent to H.M. King George V on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee and graciously acknowledged from Buckingham Palace. We mourn the death of a good King, honoured by all his subjects. We recall with gratitude the fact that King George V was the first Sovereign since Queen Anne who did not make the Royal Declaration in a form offensive to Catholics and that the Catholic Relief Act (1926) repealed a large number of restrictions upon the liberty of Catholics. The granting of the Suffrage to women, the struggle that preceded it, and the resulting advance of women in every department of public life were outstanding features of the reign.

Our congratulations were sent to Fr. Vincent McNabb, O.P., on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of his entry into the Dominican Order. Fr. McNabb has ever been ready to help the Alliance by writing and speaking for us. We were represented by the Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Editor at the Jubilee Mass at St. Dominic's Priory Church.

#### Co-operation with other Societies

The Alliance is affiliated to the International Abolitionist Federation, the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship and the Open Door International, and is represented on the Committee of the following societies:

The Catholic Citizen's Parliament by Miss Barry; The Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union by Miss Harley Bacon; The Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations by Miss Harley Bacon and Miss Barry; The Equal Status Committee by Miss Barry; The National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child by Mrs. Hand; The Women Peers Committee by Miss Barry; The Parliamentary and Legislative Committee of the National Council of Women by Miss Butler-Bowdon; The British Commonwealth League by Miss Graham; The Nationality of Married Women Pass the Bill Committee by Miss Barry and the South of England Catholic Land Association by Miss Gunning. We are also affiliated to the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene and the Open Door Council.

We have withdrawn our affiliation to the Women's Advisory Council on Indian questions as on more than one occasion affiliation has placed us in a false position. We have also withdrawn with regret from the Indian Women's Liaison Group, lest we should be compromised on the question of Birth Control. However we have agreed to send an observer to Committee Meetings.

**Unemployment Insurance.** The Alliance supported a memorandum submitted to the Unemployment Insurance Statutory Committee by the Open Door Council urging that the first use to be made of any available surplus funds should be to restore the economy cuts made at the expense of married women under which they are refused benefits when they have paid the contributions and satisfied the conditions required of other workers, and urging that contributions and benefits be made equal as between men and women.

At the British Commonwealth League Conference in June, the Alliance was represented by Miss Barry, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, and Mrs. O'Connor. Mrs. Laughton Mathews seconded a resolution urging the abolition within the Empire of Slavery and the discountenance of any practices relative to the bartering of women and children into Domestic or any other form of Slavery. An amendment to the Nationality resolution, moved by Miss Barry, was accepted and carried.

On October 25th the Women's Freedom League convened representatives of Women's Organisations to a Conference on Women's Demands at the General Election. On behalf of the Alliance, Miss Barry moved a resolution calling for a Government Bill giving married women the right to an independent nationality on equal terms with men, and Miss Christine Spender moved one on Women in territories under British jurisdiction.

At the Annual Meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations Miss Barry moved a resolution pressing for an extension of the power of the Slavery Committee to enable it to receive information from private organisations and individuals.

The Alliance was represented by special invitation of the Catholic Women's League at its Annual Council Meeting in November. Miss Barry moved amendments to the resolutions on "Birth Control" and abortion which were accepted and carried. The other delegate was Miss Spender.

The Alliance also took part in the following Conferences, etc.:

Subject.	Convenor.	Representative.
African Women.	B.C.L.	Miss Barry, Miss Spender
Annual Meeting.	O.D.C.	Miss Gregory, Miss Parnell
Kussian Women Refugees.	A.M.S.H.	Miss Barry, Miss Spender
Indian Constitutional Reform.	Indian Liaison Group.	Miss Barry, Miss Butler-Bowden, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, Miss Spender
League of Nations Assembly Agenda.	L.N.U.	Mrs. Laughton Mathews
Mass Meeting of Catholic Women.	C.W.L. (Liverpool Branch)	Miss Barry
Annual Meeting.	League of National Life	Miss Barry, Mrs. Hand, Miss Spender

Several members of the Alliance attended the King's Jubilee Dinner at the Avenue Restaurant, organised by the Women's Freedom League, the joint telegram of congratulation sent to their Majesties being signed by our Chairman.

At the party given at Caxton Hall in honour of Mrs. Despard's 91st birthday, Miss Meredith, one of our oldest members, presented her with flowers and the best wishes of the Alliance.

Two lunches organised by the British Commonwealth League were attended by members; one to hear Mrs. Rischbieth (Australia) speak on Nationality; the other to hear Miss Mabel Shaw, O.B.E., on "The Needs of the African Woman of the North Rhodesia Copper Belt." We were also represented at the B.C.L. Annual Reception held at the Chesterfield Salon.

The Indian Liaison Group, to which we have been affiliated, gave a reception at Queen Mary's Hall (Y.W.C.A.) to Mrs. Hamid Ali, delegate from the All-India Congress to the Istanbul Congress, who had been invited to England by the Group.

In connection with the Istanbul Congress two parties were given at which Mrs. Laughton Mathews spoke. One, in July, under the auspices of the National Council for Equal Citizenship, St. Joan's Alliance and the Women's Freedom League, by cour-

tesy of Mrs. Clement Davies. The other a reception given by Dame Margaret Lloyd George. Before the Congress Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Miss Barry attended a lunch for delegates given by Lady Astor.

The Alliance was represented at a tea-party given by the Women's Freedom League at the Minerva Club to meet members of the Bermuda Woman Suffrage Society and hear them speak.

Members of the Executive Committee were happy to subscribe to the presentation fund to Mrs. Corbett Ashby "for her many years of devoted service to international and feminist causes." The Alliance was represented at the presentation party at the American Women's Club.

At the invitation of the National Council of Women of Ireland and the Irish Women Citizens' Association Mrs. Laughton Mathews visited Dublin and was the principle speaker at a series of meetings.

At the Apostleship of the Sea Meeting at the Queens Hall Miss Barry was on the platform, representing St. Joan's Alliance. Members of the Alliance attended sessions of the Apostolatus Maris Congress.

The Alliance sold tickets in connection with the Catholic Women's League for performances of "The Field is Won."

#### Letters and Resolutions were sent to:

The Minister of Labour protesting against the new Public Assistance Rates which except in the case of man and/or wife as householders and for members of the household under 18, are either 2s. or 1s. less for the woman and young woman than for the man and young man. Also asking that further consideration be given to the injustices which women suffer under Unemployment Insurance so that the necessary facts and figures may be supplied in order to enable the public to judge for themselves.

The Minister of Labour protesting against the Government's reply to the International Labour Office Questionnaire, which favoured an International Convention prohibiting women from employment in Underground Work in Mines of all Kinds.

The Director of the I.L.O. giving the views of the Alliance on the various items on the Agenda of the 19th Session of the International Labour Conference which concerned our work.

The Home Secretary protesting against the coupling of adult women with young persons in the Employment of Women and Young Persons Bill and asking that women should be permitted equally with men to work on the two-shift system and that regulations for the welfare of Young Persons should apply equally to boys and girls.

The London County Council in appreciation of the fact that they had decided not to dismiss non-resident women doctors and teachers from their service on marriage.

The British Broadcasting Company protesting against a notice which appeared in the "Radio Times" that in talks to be given by the younger generation "perhaps some young women will be given the opportunity to express their philosophy of life."

The British Commonwealth League protesting against the prominence given to Mr. Leakhey at their Conference on African Women, since he held anti-Christian and anti-feminist views.

Miss Dannevig and Lord Lugard thanking them for their courage and persistence in so successfully bringing to the fore the question of the status of

African women during the 26th Session of the Mandates Commission.

#### Deputations

**Married Women's Torts.** On a deputation to the Lord Chancellor on the subject of the report of the Law Revision Committee organised by the National Union of Women Teachers, the Open Door Council, St. Joan's Alliance, The Six Point Group, and the Women's Freedom League, Mrs. Laughton Mathews asked that all the remaining incapacities and disabilities which resulted to married women from the doctrine that the legal existence of a wife is merged in that of her husband, should be abolished. The deputation pressed for legislation to implement the findings of the report, so amended as to abolish restraint on anticipation in existing settlements, and asked that husband and wife should be separately assessed for the purposes of income tax.

**Bermuda Woman Suffrage.** The Alliance was represented on a deputation to the Secretary of State for the Colonies organised by the Women's Freedom League to discuss the position of women in Bermuda. The views of the women of Bermuda were put forward by Mrs. Tucker, representing the Bermuda Woman Suffrage Society.

#### General Election and Parliamentary By-Election

By request of the Alliance, Holy Mass was offered in the Lady Chapel of Westminster Cathedral on Polling Day, to beg Divine Guidance for the men and women electors.

The Equal Status Committee on which we are represented published an Election Address "To the Men and Women of the Nation, the Political Parties, and to all Parliamentary Candidates" setting forth "a number of the reforms which are essential to the establishment of the full political, economic, and social equality and responsibility of women with men, and calling upon all men and women to co-operate in securing the speedy abolition of all disabilities imposed on women." This Election Address was sent to every Parliamentary Candidate and was also published in the "Catholic Citizen." Our own Questionnaire was sent to all our members for submission to candidates in their own constituencies and dealt with the various points on our programme. The Conservative and Unionist Association requested that 70 copies of the Questionnaire should be sent for its Council Meeting.

Help was given to candidates pledged to our reforms, irrespective of party. Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, B.A. (Lib. E. Willesdon), member of the Executive Committee, and Miss Monica Whately (Lab. Clapham), one of the first members of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, both stood for election, but unfortunately neither were successful. Of the 65 women who stood for Parliament only 6 were successful.

At the Norwood By-Election our Questionnaire was circulated to all candidates.

#### Personal

We offer our congratulations to the following members of the Alliance: Mrs. Beer on having been made M.B.E.; the Very Rev. Canon Bickford on having been appointed by His Holiness the Pope one of his

domestic Prelates; Mme. Clara Mulder van de Graaf de Bruijn on attaining her 70th birthday; Mrs. Hand on her successful work for Cleator; Professor Mary Hayden on having had the Honorary degree of Doctor of Literature conferred on her by the National University of Ireland; Mrs. Mills on the birth of a daughter; Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell on her election as President of the National Union of Women Teachers; Miss Ethel Poulton on her marriage to Mr. Humphrey Watts; Miss Patricia Hope Robson on her marriage to Mr. Norman Sydenham.

Our special gratitude is due to Mrs. Mason who for the last three years has undertaken the Hon. Secretaryship of the Liverpool Branch and whose resignation through ill-health we much regret; also to Miss Havers who kindly undertook the responsibility of the Office in the absence of Miss Barry at the Istanbul Congress.

We offer grateful thanks to the following who have given devoted help at the Office, and at the Barrow during the past year:

The Misses Bain, Bodenham, E. FitzGerald, Keiser, Keogh, Lowe, Maitre, Mills, Mrs. Robertson, the Misses Terry and Warnecke. We also thank Miss Eva Barry and Mr. Burnham for most valuable clerical assistance rendered outside the Office, and Mrs. Ellingworth for help at socials.

### Obituary

The Annual Mass for the deceased members, associates and benefactors of the Alliance was offered at St. Patrick's, Soho Square, on Sunday, November 4th.

We regret to record the deaths during the year of the following members: Nurse K. Burman, Mrs. Conry, Miss Gallagher, Mrs. Kerr, Miss F. A. Murphy (U.S.A.), Dr. Margaret Morice, Miss Roberts, Mrs. Walmesley. R.I.P.

By the death of the Rev. W. H. Kent, D.D., O.S.C., the Alliance has lost a friend who showed his devotion from the first days of the C.W.S.S. We remember with gratitude that in season and out of season Fr. Kent championed our cause in the "Tablet" during the early days of the fight for woman suffrage. R.I.P. The Alliance was represented at the Requiem by Miss Barclay-Carter and Mrs. Shattock. Miss Barry and Miss Spender represented us at the Memorial Service for Miss Jane Adams (U.S.A.), a pioneer of the Woman's Movement whose death is a great International loss to many causes.

We were represented by Miss Somers at the Memorial Service for the Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson, M.P., a staunch supporter of Woman Suffrage. The Woman's Movement mourns the loss, this year, of three of its oldest veterans—Miss Agnes Garrett, Dame Sarah Lees, O.B.E., LL.D., and Dame Louisa Lumsden. The loss of Winifred Holtby, brilliant young author, speaker and journalist and eloquent champion of Women's Rights, is deeply regretted by Feminist Societies. The Alliance was represented at her funeral service by the Editor. We sympathise with the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene in the loss of their President, George Grey Butler, last surviving son of Josephine Butler.

On the anniversary of Mrs. Pankhurst's birthday, Miss Graham together with representatives of other Societies laid flowers at the foot of Mrs. Pankhurst's statue in Victoria Gardens.

### The Catholic Citizen

The "Catholic Citizen" continues to do good work and is exchanged with over 100 Catholic and Feminist papers throughout the world. During the year we were invited to take part in the Vatican Press Exhibition, and in the preliminary London National Exhibition, both to be held in 1936. This we gladly consented to do, and the entry fee and donation were duly paid to the National Organising Committee formed under the auspices of the Catholic Truth Society.

As in former years we are indebted to many distinguished experts for their contributions, in particular to our member Mr. Joseph Clayton for his article on St. John of Rochester and St. Thomas More; to Mrs. C. J. Mathew, J.P., also a member, for her article on Housing; and to Miss Chrystal Macmillan for her specialised article on the Law Revision Committee and Married Women. We were privileged to publish Mrs. Laughton Mathews' speech on "Birth Control—the Woman's Point of View," delivered at a Mass Meeting of the Westminster Catholic Federation, at the Albert Hall, His Grace the Archbishop of Westminster presiding. The paper containing this speech was much in demand.

Thanks to a valiant band of paper-sellers our sales have increased by leaps and bounds. Our gratitude is especially due to Mrs. Aylward, Mrs. Garrard and Mrs. Hand who have done trojan work in this direction.

### Press Report

The most notable feature of our press work during the past year has been the number of times in which the Alliance has officially contributed letters to the correspondence columns of both Catholic and General newspapers.

The Law Revision Committee's proposals to put the married woman in the same position as a man in regard to property etc., led to correspondence from the Alliance in "The Universe" and "The Catholic Times" in reply to comments in those papers. A joint letter with three other societies also appeared in "The Times" on the same subject.

In answer to an article in "The Catholic Herald" on Family Allowances, in which the Alliance was mentioned, a letter was published clarifying our attitude towards this question. The employment of women in mines and the right of married women to engage in paid work were the subjects of two further letters published in "The Catholic Herald."

Our Chairman contributed a letter to "Jus Suffragii" opposing Mrs. How Martyn's plea that Birth Control plays an important part in the struggle for equality between men and women, and contradicting her statement that the Feminist Movement ignores the problem of the Slavery of Women of Native Races.

In "The Christian Democrat" two letters appeared discussing various misleading statements which had been published in that paper concerning women in industry and the feminist movement in general.

A letter from our Chairman entitled "Unemployment Among Women" appeared in "The Catholic Times," and drew attention to the fact that low wages and unemployment among women may be definite causes of immorality. A further letter in the same paper, contributed by our Hon. Press Secretary,

expressed gratitude for the recognition in its columns of the fact that women as well as men often have dependants to support or are wholly dependent themselves on what they earn.

In "The Tablet" the Hon. Editor contributed a letter to a correspondence concerning the possibility of Abbesses having sat in the old English Parliament.

In answer to an article headed "Over-Rated Woman," a letter appeared in "The Liverpool Daily Post" in the name of the Alliance.

"The Manchester Guardian" published a long letter from our Hon. Editor on the Mandates Commission of the League and the Status of African Women.

Miss P. C. Challoner, M.A., contributed an article to the "Sower" on Catholic Women Undergraduates at Oxford in answer to an article on the same subject which had previously appeared. On behalf of the Alliance an article by our Editor entitled "Women and Legislation, 1934" was published in "The Catholic Women's Outlook."

The annual letter from our Hon. Secretary reminding those having Parliamentary Votes to inspect the preliminary voting lists, to ensure that their names were included, appeared in the chief Catholic newspapers.

"The Catholic Herald" reprinted an article from "The Catholic Citizen" on Housing by our member, Mrs. C. J. Mathew, J.P., L.C.C., and also printed long extracts from an article, "Checking Commercialised Vice," by Miss I. M. Dickinson. "Equal Rights" (U.S.A.) quoted freely from a leader by our Hon. Editor regarding Restrictive Legislation, and reprinted notes on many other subjects. "La Femme dans la Vie Sociale" (Paris) published a translation of "The Catholic Citizen" article "Outdoor Careers for Women" by Miss Vanderpant.

Long interviews with our delegates at the Istanbul Congress were reported in the Turkish newspapers. Delegates also appeared in several press photographs.

In "L'Osservatore Romano" the Alliance was mentioned in an article in connection with its activities regarding the abolition of slavery in the British Empire.

The Alliance's controversy with Fr. Hugh Pope, O.P., concerning his amazing statement regarding women in "The Layman's New Testament" was commented upon in "The Southern Cross" (S. Africa). A report of the Dinner given by the Alliance in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Lyons appeared in "The Catholic Women's Review" (Australia).

Our Chairman, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, M.B.E., received many press notices in Catholic, General and Irish newspapers after speaking at the Albert Hall, on behalf of the Westminster Catholic Federation; in Geneva for the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations, and in Dublin for the National Council of Women and the Irish Women Citizens' Association.

The fact that Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell was a member of the Alliance's Executive Committee was referred to in several of the press notices regarding her Parliamentary candidature.

Our thanks are due to the Editors of "The Universe," "The Tablet," "The Catholic Herald" and "The Catholic Times" for publishing frequent, and in several instances lengthy, reports of our activities. We also thank the Editors of "The Woman Teacher" and

"Opportunity" for reporting our Annual Meeting and the Women's Freedom League Bulletin for announcements of our Meetings.

Once more we are indebted to Miss Barclay-Carter who has continued to act as our Hon. Press Secretary and to Miss Sheila Hynes for her careful upkeep of the Press Book.

### Hon. Treasurer's Report

We are delighted to be able to report that we close the year 1935, this time, not with a deficit but with a credit balance of over £18. This is most encouraging and we hope to do as well or even better in 1936. Our turnover has increased by over £70.

Our grateful thanks are due to all those who have continued to contribute to the rent, the most necessary and heaviest item of expenditure.

Our chief money-making event is always the Green, White and Gold Fair in November. Last year, unfortunately, this was not so profitable as usual and we made £8 less at our stall than in 1934, but we hope that this year we shall not be handicapped by a General Election. This immediately preceded the Sale and no doubt accounted for its somewhat meagre success. Our thanks are due to all those who helped.

In October a very enjoyable piano recital was given by our member Madame de Kresz, to whom we are extremely grateful as we are also to our Chairman, at whose house it was held. Mrs. Laughton Mathews also very kindly gave a Bridge Drive in aid of the Alliance in November, which proved very successful. Other socials brought in money in varying degrees.

The fund collected in 1934 for Miss Barry's 21st Anniversary enabled help to be given towards the expenses of our delegation to the Istanbul Congress. We are extremely grateful to those members who went as delegates and alternate delegates partly or entirely at their own expense.

The outdoor sales of the "Catholic Citizen" have more than doubled during the last year while the subscriptions and advertisements show a slight increase. That the paper is able to start the year with a balance is mainly due to the generosity of our Editor who gives all her services in an honorary capacity, and to Miss Jeffery for presenting to it the £25 collected for her Jubilee Fund. A generous Liverpool subscriber again paid for twenty-five copies of the paper to be sent to India and many members have responded to our appeal for subscriptions to libraries, societies, missionaries, etc., though we still need more volunteers of this kind.

During the year we were able to continue our market barrow but sales were not quite so good as previously. We owe grateful thanks to all those who have contributed goods for the Barrow.

### Liverpool and District Branch

The 22nd Annual Meeting was held in January at 14b Upper Parliament Street by kind invitation of Miss Wylie. Miss Barry and Miss Spender were welcome visitors from headquarters. Miss Barry gave us a resumé of the gains and losses to Feminism for the past year and pointed out that the fight for the moment is for Equal Pay especially in Government Services. Miss Spender, Hon. Editor of the "Catholic

Citizen," congratulated Miss Gregson of the Liverpool Branch on her article in the "Catholic Citizen" and urged members not only to buy the "Catholic Citizen" but to try and sell the paper. The Meeting sent the congratulations of the Branch to their former Hon. Secretary, Miss N. S. Parnell, on her election to the Vice-Presidency of the National Union of Women Teachers.

Two successful socials were held during the year. In February the annual social took place. Miss Bowden very kindly acted as hostess in her own flat and a very happy evening was spent with a table tennis tournament as its chief feature. In August Miss Barry entertained the branch in the garden of her house in Birkenhead when Miss F. Barry gave an informal talk on the experiences of the St. Joan's delegates at Istanbul. Both these meetings resulted in a very useful increase of the funds of the Branch and in several new members. In May, Miss Tidd Pratt of the Women Police Patrols gave a most interesting talk which convinced everyone present of the importance of women police. A meeting in October arranged to hear Mrs. Mercer (Lab.), the Parliamentary candidate for Birkenhead E., resulted in the speaker failing to put in an appearance and offering no explanation either at the time or after. Short Committee Meetings were held before each meeting.

In connection with the General Election copies of the Questionnaire of the Alliance were sent out to every member of the Branch together with a letter from headquarters asking for it to be forwarded to their Parliamentary Candidates. Mr. Dennis, Liberal Candidate for East Toxteth, was interviewed by the Hon. Secretary and one of the Committee members.

The Branch sent congratulations and a donation to the Jubilee Fund of Miss Jeffery, founder of the Alliance 25 years ago.

The Liverpool Branch was represented at the Annual Meeting of the Alliance in London by Miss Bowden, Miss Gregson, Miss Johnston and Mrs. Murray, Miss Gregson presenting the Liverpool report.

The very grateful thanks of the Branch are due to Miss Shaw who through Miss Wylie, our Chairman, has lent us the room for our meetings for over a year and has offered to continue to do so for the present. This kindly action has enabled us to acquire quite a substantial balance at the Bank. Thanks are also due to Miss Barry who has lent her house on two occasions and has also distributed the "Catholic Citizen" each month, presenting the postage to the Branch; to Miss Bowden for lending her flat for the social in February and to those members of the Committee who provided the refreshments on that occasion.

This report would hardly be complete without a reference to the candidature of our former Hon. Secretary Miss Parnell at the last General Election, and we hope she will be successful in a future election. Meanwhile we congratulate her on her Presidency of the N.U.W.T. for this year.

The coming year will see a change of officials. According to a resolution passed by the Liverpool Branch Committee our Chairman relinquishes her office on completion of two years' service and the Vice-Chairman Mrs. McCann proceeds to the Chair. Owing to a breakdown in health, together with pressure of home affairs, the Hon. Secretary is regretfully obliged to resign her office.

### EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK IN THE CIVIL SERVICE

Miss Ellen Wilkinson will move a Resolution on this subject in the House of Commons when the vote is taken on Civil Service Estimates at the beginning of April or end of March. In preparation for this debate a propaganda meeting for Members of Parliament only will be held in the House of Commons at the end of March. In support of the action in the House of Commons a Public Meeting will be held in the Caxton Hall on Tuesday, March 17th, at 6 p.m. Admission free, a few seats reserved at 2s. 6d. Professor Winifred Cullis will be in the Chair and the speakers will be Members of Parliament, including Lady Astor, Miss Wilkinson, Col. D. Clifton Brown and Major the Rt. Hon. J. W. Hills. The meeting is intended to lead to a deputation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to bring to his notice the urgency of the demand for Equal Pay.

Such an opportunity as this has never before occurred. The wide-spread unemployment among men has opened their eyes to the effects of under-cutting by women upon their own economic position, and Equal Pay is now a live issue in the country. It has strong support in all the political parties. We urge all voters to write to their M.P. and ask him to attend the meeting in the House of Commons to which he will be invited to hear the facts of the case, and afterwards to be present at the debate and vote for Miss Wilkinson's resolution.

### LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Hon. Sec.: Miss Bowden, 22 Fern Grove, Liverpool

At the 23rd Annual Meeting held on February 24th, the following officers were elected: Chairman: Mrs. McCann; Vice-Chairman: Miss Johnstone; Hon. Secretary: Miss Bowden; Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Maxfield.

With great regret we were reluctantly obliged to accept the resignation of our Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Stewart Mason, B.A., owing to ill-health. We take this opportunity of thanking her for her valuable services during the past three years. We are glad we shall still have her help on the committee.

We once more remind our members of the 25th Annual Meeting of the Alliance to be held in St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square, on Saturday, March 21st, at 3 p.m.

### HON. TREASURER'S NOTE

We are glad to announce that the Jumble Sale held on February 29th brought in £10 9s. 9d.

We thank all those who so kindly contributed goods and those who gave their personal service in selling, also Miss Gunning, who lent her car.

We remind readers that we are still in need of Jumbles as very soon we shall be beginning our Market Barrow again.

P. M. BRANDT.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

February 1st to March 10th

	£	s.	d.
Anon .. .. .	2	6	
Beer, Mrs. .. .. .	2	6	
Bodenham, Miss .. .. .	2	0	
Borton, Miss .. .. .	2	6	
Brady, Miss E. .. .. .	17	6	
Brindley, Miss .. .. .	1	6	
Byrne, Miss S. .. .. .	7	6	
Challoner, Miss .. .. .	1	7	6
Clarkson, Miss .. .. .	2	0	
Cronin, Miss .. .. .	2	6	
Danesch, Miss .. .. .	2	6	
Dorman, Miss .. .. .	5	0	
Dorman, Miss, in loving memory of Leonora de Alberti. R.I.P. .. .. .	5	0	
Fenn, Miss .. .. .	2	6	
Gough, Mrs. .. .. .	2	6	
Higgins, Rev. Gilbert, C.R.L. .. .. .	2	6	
Huggett, Mrs. .. .. .	1	6	
Hynes, Miss .. .. .	2	6	
John Jones, Mrs. .. .. .	2	6	
Lisboa, Miss .. .. .	2	6	
Liveing, Mrs. .. .. .	2	6	
Mathews, Mrs. Laughton .. .. .	2	0	
Nisbett, Mrs. H. More .. .. .	7	6	
O'Farrell, Miss .. .. .	5	0	
Retchford, Miss .. .. .	5	0	
St. John, per Miss Christopher .. .. .	1	10	0
Schlüter-Hermkes, Dr. .. .. .	2	6	
Scott-Hill, Mrs. .. .. .	1	0	0
Shattock, Mrs. .. .. .	2	0	0
Shorto, Mrs. .. .. .	2	6	
Smiley, Mrs. .. .. .	7	6	
Smyth, Miss E. P. .. .. .	2	6	
Sullivan, Miss F. .. .. .	1	3	
Tuker, Miss M. A. R. .. .. .	2	6	
Veale, Miss .. .. .	6	9	
Verall, Miss .. .. .	2	6	
Walmesley, Miss .. .. .	2	6	
Walpole, Miss .. .. .	5	0	
Walsh, Miss K. .. .. .	2	6	
Warnecke, Miss .. .. .	2	0	
Welch, Miss I. R. V. .. .. .	2	6	
Minimum Annual Subscriptions .. .. .	1	14	0
	£14	8	6

### REPEAL OF C.D. ACTS

Readers are asked to keep April 23rd free when the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts, 1886. Full particulars will appear in the next issue.

In April, 1886—after 16 years of struggle—the C.D. Acts were repealed. These Acts fastened the system of State Regulation of Prostitution upon certain naval and military towns in Great Britain. The Promoters of the Acts intended to extend the Acts to the whole country, but this was averted by the vigilance of the "Repealers."

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