

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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

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

Francis Thompson.

Ways and Means

By Maude McGovern

A score or so of members met at The Guide Club, Belgrave Square on February 28th to discuss ways and means of recruiting new members and of widening the sphere of influence of the Alliance.

In inviting ideas for discussion Dr. Shattock expressed the hope that in addition to suggestions for increasing membership, proposals would be put forward for increasing funds. These were now required even more urgently than hitherto in view of the need to acquire alternative office accommodation which will inevitably result in an increase in the present expenditure on rent.

One of the members present referred to the many business women in the City, who like herself, attended lunch time lectures on a variety of subjects. The thought had occurred to her that a talk on the work of St. Joan's might result in new recruits. It was also suggested that increased membership might follow the insertion of a brief notice relating to the Alliance in various magazines.

Several of those present referred to difficulties they had experienced in their efforts to recruit members—one of the reasons against membership that had been offered by many of those approached was that now that the implementation of equal pay had been promised the work of the Alliance was finished!

The suggestion was then put forward that the recruitment of new members should be regarded as a major activity for the coming year with several of the many facets of St. Joan's work being high-lighted, thus arousing the interest of a wider circle. Miss Nancy Parnell volunteered to accept the responsibility for a recruitment campaign, and it is understood that she will launch this at the Annual Meeting.

A fresh field of recruitment was envisaged among University students and the suggestion was put forward that the Secretaries of Students' Societies in the Women's Colleges might be approached explaining to them the aims of the Alliance and offering to arrange for talks to undergraduates on whichever aspects of its work most interests them.

The introduction of the now popular 'Brains Trust' series was worthy of consideration as an alternative to the more straightforward talk on one particular topic.

With regard to topics for discussion, mention was made of the inquiries from senior convent pupils throughout the country who had heard talks on the Alliance as to the method of 'lobbying' and approach to members of Parliament for their support or investigation into a particular matter, and the technique of getting a point over in a deputation. Such items might well be borne in mind for future talks.

The suggestion was also put forward that the use of correspondence columns in one's local press might well serve as a means of attracting new members; sometimes a letter on a particular point of local interest in one's own weekly paper had much more appeal than that in the national press with its much wider and more general scope. The point was made, too, that the adoption of this suggestion might help to meet certain criticisms—that may well be justified—that our channels of approach to the public were rather 'highbrow'!

On the question of raising funds, proposals included the making of a small charge to non-members attending lectures, 'Brains Trusts', etc. that may be arranged from time to time; and encouragement to take additional subscriptions to *The Catholic Citizen*—perhaps for a missionary or a library, or a non-Catholic friend—by the introduction of a scheme of three 'Citizens' for the price of two!

The need for more advertisements in the *Citizen* was also stressed. Several of those present undertook to approach various firms on this point, and if any reader feels she may be able to introduce new advertisers, details of the rates of advertising space will be supplied.

The general feeling of the meeting was that in view of the already heavy burden carried by those at the office, the Executive Committee should be recommended to appoint a sub-committee to consider the various suggestions that had been made.

Notes and Comments

This year sees the Silver Jubilee of St. Joan's International Alliance. Although there had been individual members in a number of countries for many years, the International Alliance was formally launched with the formation of the French Section by Marie Lenoël on June 2nd, 1931, immediately after the celebrations held in Rouen to commemorate the five hundredth anniversary of St. Joan's martyrdom.

In this silver jubilee year, an English delegation from St. Joan's Alliance is again going to Rouen to take part, as an *amende honorable*, in the Quincentenary celebrations of the rehabilitation of St. Joan. There could be no more appropriate occasion to celebrate our own anniversary and it is proposed to have a gathering of international members in Rouen on the evening of Saturday, June 23rd.

The official celebrations will be on Saturday, June 23rd with a historic pageant; Sunday 24th with a civic procession and official speeches; and on Monday, June 25th with religious ceremonies in the Cathedral.

* * * *

A new office has been secured in a quiet court in Oxford Street within a stone's throw of Berners Street. The three year lease dates from March 25th, our forty-fifth birthday. The new premises are larger and more dignified than our present office and are on the first floor. Unfortunately the rent is four times as much as the rent of our present office which was exceptionally low as we had been tenants for forty-four years; extensive search failed to find a suitable office at a lower rent. We feel sure that our members will help us to defray this unavoidable heavy expense which has been necessitated by the demolition of the building we are in at present.

* * * *

There will be a jumble sale at the end of April to help towards the rent of the new office. Goods of all kinds (excluding hats) are needed. They should be sent to the office, 55 Berners Street, W.1 without delay.

* * * *

Fearing that Britain may be left behind in the race for scientists and technicians, the Government proposes a tremendous expansion in technical colleges and technical state scholarships with higher grants to universities and inducements to students to take up science and mathematics. A White Paper on Technical Education appeals to parents, employers, trade unions and the general public to support the plan and in its endeavour to recruit scientists and technicians

for skilled jobs sings a song that is familiar to feminists. "Girls," it says, "are a match for boys at school," but they "are not making the best use of their talents . . . a change of outlook is needed . . . contrary to old fashioned ideas, further education for a girl is not wasted . . . the knowledge and experience that come from studying for a better job help her to build her own family on foundations of common interests and understanding."

* * * *

We ask the prayers of our members for the repose of the soul of a fellow-member, Dr. Victoria Bennet, who died recently. R.I.P.

* * * *

St. Joan's International Alliance was represented at the Tenth Session of the Status of Women Commission held in Geneva last month by Madame Leroy Boy and Miss Challoner. A Report of the session will be published in a future issue.

* * * *

A Committee of the Italian Chamber of Deputies has now approved Senator Angelina Merlin's Bill to abolish State regulation of prostitution which should come before the Lower House this month. It is hoped that it will at last become law and so remove this blot on Italy's good name.

* * * *

The World Veteran, organ of The World Veteran's Association, is publishing a series of true stories of heroism in the fight for "the ideal of human freedom" during the second world war.

The December issue tells of the courage of members of The White Rose Movement among students in Germany in 1942. This Movement was started by five Catholic students at Munich University and members risked their lives carrying anti-Nazi tracts and inscribing slogans such as "Freedom" and "Down With Hitler" on walls.

Hans Scholl was one of the leaders, and at first kept his young sister Sophie out of the dangerous work, but she insisted on taking part. They were eventually caught. The Gestapo's interrogations failed to make the brother and sister reveal the names of their colleagues—but Christoph Probst was also taken and the three were beheaded together less than three hours after conviction. Sophie told the judges: "Many people think as we do and agree with what we wrote, but they dare not speak out." Just before her execution, she accepted some chocolate from her mother "because I haven't had lunch." Sophie Scholl held her head high as she walked proudly to the block. She was the first.

C.A.B.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND
Editorial Office of "The Catholic Citizen"

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

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ex-officio DAME VERA LAUGHTON MATHEWS, D.B.E., *President*, St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance
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MISS CHRISTINE SPENDER, *Hon. Editor*,
MRS. WILLIAMS, B.A. "The Catholic Citizen."

Forty-Fourth Annual Report*

For the year ended 31st December, 1955.

A first step towards the implementation of *Equal Pay* in the public services was the chief advance of the year. The women in the non-industrial civil service received, as from January 1st, the first of seven equal instalments of equal pay, to be completed by January, 1961. The same arrangement was later made for the teachers dating from May 1st. The probation service was brought into the same scheme from May 1st, and nurses and those in the clerical and administrative grades in hospitals under the National Health Service from July 1st.

The Alliance saw little cause for rejoicing in the postponement of justice for another six years and at its Annual Meeting passed the following resolution:

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance notes that the Government has at last taken an initial step towards the establishment of equal pay. It deplores the Government's decision that six years must elapse before equal pay is granted to women in the Civil Service, the similar proposals made for the postponement of equal pay in the teaching profession, and the exclusion of women in the industrial Civil Service from even this limited measure of justice. It urges the Government to reconsider its decision and to grant equal pay throughout the Government Services without further delay.

On February 14th a deputation from the Equal Pay Campaign Committee was received by the Minister of Education, when speakers pressed the claim of the teachers for equal pay. The Alliance was represented by Miss Barry. At the end of the year, the Equal Pay Campaign Committee decided to dissolve, believing that further necessary work to implement full equal pay is best undertaken by the individual organizations in their own spheres.

The Equal Pay Campaign Committee and Advisory Council, consisting of some fifty National Organizations, including St. Joan's Alliance, was formed in 1944, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Cazalet-Keir, for the purpose of achieving equal pay in the public services. The Alliance expresses its gratitude to those Members of Parliament who, throughout the year, helped to gain this first step, particularly to Dame Irene Ward, who never let an opportunity slip to advance this cause.

The Alliance continues the campaign for full equal pay.

The Alliance supported the evidence submitted by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene to the *Departmental Committee of Enquiry* on Part B. of the terms of reference, i.e. "to consider the law and practice relating to offences against the criminal law in connection with

* Subject to confirmation at the Annual Meeting.

prostitution and solicitation for immoral purposes." A representative of the Alliance accompanied the five representatives of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene who gave evidence before the Committee on July 12th.

The Alliance welcomed the lead taken by Her Majesty's Government in promoting the *Draft Supplementary Convention on Slavery* and was gratified that the Convention included measures to abolish customs and practices, such as child marriage and the inheritance of widows, for the abolition of which the Alliance has worked for many years. Representations were made to the Foreign Office urging that the Draft be strengthened by the insertion of words to cover explicitly child betrothal. This amendment was accepted.

Unfortunately Her Majesty's Government could not agree to press for the deletion of certain words which might weaken the action in regard to abolition of practices similar to slavery.

The Alliance regrets that no progress has been made regarding the *Admission of Women to the House of Lords*. Lord Samuel raised the matter in the House asking whether the Government approved the proposals of the 1948 Conference on the Reform of the House of Lords, one of these being "that women should be capable of being appointed Lords of Parliament in like manner as men." But the question still hangs fire.

The proposal for the *Separate Taxation of Husband and Wife* was unfortunately rejected by the Royal Commission on the Taxation of Profits and Incomes.

St. Joan's Feast. At the request of the Alliance His Eminence Cardinal Griffin raised the matter of the extension of the feast of St. Joan of Arc to this country during the meeting of the Hierarchy of England and Wales in Low Week. A Memorandum, with special reference to the celebrations to take place in Rouen in 1956 on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the rehabilitation of St. Joan was submitted by the Alliance to their Lordships suggesting that it would be a gracious act if the feast of St. Joan were extended to this country. Their Lordships petitioned the Holy See and members were glad to know that special permission has been given for one Mass of St. Joan of Arc to be celebrated in any church in England and Wales on May 30th, 1956.

On St. Joan's Day, May 30th, 1955, Father Christopher Laughton Mathews kindly offered Mass for the Alliance and according to tradition, a laurel wreath tied with the colours of the Alliance was placed on the shrine of St. Joan in Westminster Cathedral.

Meetings

The 44th Annual Meeting was held on March 19th, 1955, at the Minerva Club, Miss P. C. Challoner presiding. The Annual Report for 1954 was presented by the hon. secretary, its adoption moved by Mrs. Halpern, seconded by Dr. Shattock Harper. Miss Christine Spender presented *The Catholic Citizen* Report supported by Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, seconded by Miss Hartley. Miss Carr, hon. treasurer, presented her Report and moved the following amendment to the Constitution:

"That the annual subscription to St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance be raised from March 19th, 1955, from 10s. to £1, to include *The Catholic Citizen*."

This was passed *nem. con.* The Annual Report was adopted and Miss Carr's appeal for funds brought in £53. Dame Vera Laughton Mathews, D.B.E., international president, spoke of the work of St. Joan's International, stressing the needs of women in the less developed countries. Miss Challoner reminded members that it was the fifteenth anniversary of the death of the founder Gabrielle Jeffery and recalled her last message to the Annual Meeting in 1940: "Tell them St. Joan's Peace Terms—complete political, social and economic equality."

Resolutions on equal pay, slavery, equal political rights, the solicitation laws, domicil, national insurance and education were put to the meeting, passed unanimously and sent to the appropriate authorities. (For text of resolutions v. *The Catholic Citizen*, April 1955.)

The executive committee was duly re-elected; Miss Mary Parnell taking the place of Mrs. Mathers who had retired as she now lived out of London. The executive committee elected Dr. Shattock chairman; the other officers were re-elected. The committee expressed its thanks to Miss Challoner for her devoted work as chairman since 1950 and from October 1939 to May 1949. The committee welcomed the new chairman who had already given valuable service on the committee for many years.

Later in the year, members met at Hampstead to do honour to Miss Challoner. In handing her the badge of the Alliance made in gold and enamel, Dr. Shattock expressed the thanks of all members to Miss Challoner and paid tribute to her work for the Alliance in so many fields—lectures, press, committee and office work and especially for her championship of the women of the underprivileged countries.

The British Section was happy to make arrangements for the Thirteenth Council Meeting of St. Joan's International Alliance which was held in London on April 23rd and 24th. A Reception was held at the Newman Association Rooms to welcome the president and delegates from abroad; delegates attended a performance of Bernard Shaw's "St. Joan" with Siobhan McKenna as St. Joan and the ceremony of The Keys at the Tower of London. By kind invitation of our member, Mrs. Hoare of the London County Council, delegates were entertained to tea in the County Hall after listening to a debate of the Council.

On October 6th, Father Jerome O'Hea, S.J., met members at the Polish Hearth for dinner and friendly discussion on some aspects of women's emancipation.

On March 25th, Miss Challoner addressed girls at the Sacred Heart Grammar School, Wealdstone, on The Woman's Movement.

General Election

Mass was offered by request of the Alliance at Westminster Cathedral on polling day, June 26th, to beg Divine Guidance on the electors. The Manifesto drawn up by the Status of Women Committee seeking support from candidates for the reforms necessary to abolish outstanding legal discriminations against women was published in *The Catholic Citizen* with the addition of two further points: (1) financial equality for Catholic schools; (2) the abolition of child marriage in all territories under British Administration. Members were asked to bring these questions before all candidates in their constituencies, either orally or in writing.

Status of Women Committee

The Alliance is a constituent society of this Committee of which Dame Vera Laughton Mathews is chairman. The General Election manifesto was revised and sent to all candidates. Work was continued for the independent domicil of married women. A memorandum on the Equal Guardianship of Children was sent to the constituent societies with a view to the future promotion of a Bill on the lines of Mrs. Wintringham's Guardianship of Infants Bill, 1924 (v. *The Catholic Citizen*, February, 1956). The Alliance agreed to this proposal.

Under the auspices of this Committee a public meeting was held at Caxton Hall on March 29th to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Olive Schreiner.

United Nations

At the solemn High Mass in Westminster Cathedral on June 27th to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations, the Alliance was represented by Miss Graham.

Under the auspices of the Women's Advisory Council of U.N.A. representatives of women's organizations heard Mrs. Walter Elliot's report on the work of the Tenth Assembly at which she was one of the United Kingdom delegates. Women's organizations met Dame Lucile Sayers, U.K. delegate to the Status of Women Commission, to acquaint her with their views regarding various items on the agenda of the Commission. Later, Dame Lucile reported on the work of the Commission. The Alliance was also represented at a meeting to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the foundation of the Food and Agricultural Organization.

Conferences and Meetings

Members attended the opening by His Eminence Cardinal Griffin of the Catholic Students International Chaplaincy at 41, Holland Park and the Conference given by His Eminence, Cardinal Felin of Paris on the situation of the Church in France.

The Alliance was one of the sponsors of the Conference of the Catholic People's Colleges on "Eternal Principles and Contemporary Problems" held at the Holy Rood Convent at Whitsuntide and was represented at the Newman Association's "International At Home."

Representatives of the Alliance attended Dame Millcent Fawcett's memorial tribute in Westminster Abbey on February 6th and Mrs. Pankhurst's birthday celebrations on July 14th at her statue in the Victoria Tower Gardens; the annual meetings of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene and of the Open Door Council; the annual conference of the British Commonwealth League; the conference of the National Council of Women on Employment of Women Over Forty; a reception given by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom given at the County Hall to meet Mrs. Pandit; a meeting of the International Alliance of Women to welcome delegates from the Golden Jubilee Conference in Ceylon; a reception organised jointly by the British Commonwealth League and the Women's Council on the occasion of the Commonwealth Prime Minister's Conference; parties for Begum Ikramullah and Begum Raschid; meetings of the African Bureau (as observers) and an informal gathering to meet Mr. Ohanga, the only African to hold Ministerial rank in East Africa.

On December 6th, officers of the Alliance paid a courtesy visit to our co-religionist Mr. Mathew Mbu on his appointment as Federal Commissioner for Nigeria.

Co-operation with other Societies

Members of the Alliance serve on: The Catholic Committee for Overseas Students (Miss Challoner); The British Commonwealth League (Miss Challoner); the British Vigilance and National Committee for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons (Miss Barry); National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child (Miss Fry); Women's Council co-operating with India, Pakistan and Ceylon and Status of Women Committee (Miss Barry).

Press and Publicity

The valuable collection of press books of the Alliance dating from the foundation of The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society in 1911 have been given for reference and safe keeping to the Women's Service Library of which the Librarian is Miss Vera Douie, a member of our executive committee.

A new propaganda leaflet was published explaining the aims and work of the Alliance.

The press secretary, Miss Challoner, has on several occasions availed herself of the opportunity of stating the views of the Alliance and upholding its principles in the Catholic and non-Catholic press, in particular, in correspondence in *The Times*, *The Manchester Guardian* and *The Messenger of The Sacred Heart*. The Alliance is grateful to *The Catholic Herald* and *The Universe* for publishing reports of its activities.

By request of Father Valentine, O.P., copies of articles written by Father Vincent McNabb, O.P., for *The Catholic Citizen* and certain letters were sent to Father Valentine for his perusal since he is engaged in compiling memoirs of Father Vincent.

Apart from the activities listed above letters have been sent to the appropriate authorities on various aspects of our work. A great deal of time is devoted in the office to the study of documents received from the United Nations, Government publications, Hansard, etc. The press and publications of other organizations have to be scanned for items relevant to our work. In addition, the undermanned office is called upon by authors and others to supply information on a wide variety of subjects sometimes only remotely connected with the work of the Alliance. Goodwill is created by giving assistance in this way even though the immediate benefit may not be apparent.

Visitors from Abroad

The Alliance was happy to welcome Madame Leroy-Boy (Belgium); Miss Lilia Campos de Oliveira (Brazil); Lady Wijeyekoon and Mrs. de Silva (Ceylon); Madame Pesson-Depret, Madame Marthe Gouffé and Mademoiselle Delaval (France); Mrs. Jean Daly (New South Wales); Mrs. and Miss Hishon (Queensland); Miss Conroy and Miss Lachal (Victoria), all of whom attended St. Joan's International Council Meeting. Other visitors during the year were Mrs. Tenison-Woods, Chief, Status of Women Commission, United Nations; Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes, vice-president, St. Joan's International Alliance; Frau Brauksiepe, M.d.B., president of the German Section of the Alliance; Miss Buhagiar, president of the Women of Malta Association; Mrs. Josephson and Doctor Eldred (Brisbane); Doctor Collins (Melbourne); Mrs. Lewis and Mr. Fenwick (Sydney).

Congratulations

On the anniversary of the Coronation of His Holiness Pope Pius XII, the Alliance was represented at the Solemn High Mass in Westminster Cathedral.

Congratulations were sent to the following: Rev. Mother Kevin of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Africa who was awarded the C.B.E. in the Colonial List; Miss Irene Ward who was awarded the D.B.E. "for political and public services"; Mrs. Hoare who was re-elected to the London County Council. Congratulations were also sent to Miss Ann Whittles who received the habit at the Convent of the I.B.V.M. at Ascot and to Miss Patricia Horne on obtaining her medical degree. Messages of good wishes were sent to the following on the occasion of marriage: Miss Shirley Catlin to Mr. Williams; Miss Fairclough to Mr. J. T. Jones; Doctor Pamela Higgins to Mr. Bearblock; also on the birth of their children to Mr. Clynes, Mrs. Moles, Mrs. Pritchard and Mrs. Shuldham.

Obituary

With sorrow we record the deaths of the following members and associates: Father George Carter, parish priest of Donnington; Father William Pritchard, parish priest of South Croydon; Mrs. Margaret Bernard, Miss Frances Cochrane, Mrs. Cruice Goodall and Miss Edith Richards. R.I.P.

Mass was offered in March for Gabrielle Jeffery, founder of The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society and for Leonora de Alberti, first editor of *The Catholic Citizen*, whose anniversaries occur that month. On the first Sunday in November, Mass was offered at St. Patrick's, Soho Square, for deceased members, associates and benefactors of the Alliance. R.I.P.

Hon. Treasurer's Report

Subscriptions show an increase of £40 from last year owing mainly to the fact that the subscription was raised to £1 from March 19th. It is gratifying to find that members responded realising the necessity for the increase. There was therefore no need for devoting precious time in the office to the organization of sales on a large scale this year. The small summer Bring and Buy sale brought in £26 for *The Catholic Citizen* and the traditional Christmas Sale at St. Patrick's realised over £110. Thanks are due to all who helped in these efforts. The Alliance thanks the generous donor of a beautiful standard typewriter—long needed in the office—and the member who kindly supplied the French accents on the machine. We are grateful too to those members who sent a thankoffering for the first instalment of equal pay.

The Alliance is blessed in having at its disposal such efficient voluntary workers without whom it would be impossible to carry on. Special thanks are due to Miss Challoner and to Miss Jameson for their constant and expert help. We are also indebted to Miss Gadsby for her generosity in auditing the accounts; to Miss Cave and Miss Graham for occasional help in the office and to Miss Sheila Hynes for her care of the press book.

Unfortunately at the end of the year we received notice to quit the office at 55 Berners Street in June 1956 as the building is to be demolished. This was indeed a heavy blow as the Alliance has for many years enjoyed a privileged rent in this building and has worked happily there for forty-four years.

The Catholic Citizen

An interesting feature of *The Catholic Citizen* during the past year has been the number of articles sent at first hand from conferences and international gatherings by our own special correspondents. Thus there has been published "Marginal Notes on the Eighth General Assembly of Unesco" by Maria Schlüter-Hermkes; "High Lights on the Ninth Session of the Status of Women Commission" by Jean Daly; "The Council of Europe" by Marga Klompé. All three authors, members of the Alliance, held official positions in the organizations mentioned. Lastly in this group our member Mrs. Noël de Fonseca who represented the Alliance as fraternal delegate at the Golden Jubilee Congress of the International Alliance of Women in Ceylon has sent us a lively report of this Congress for publication. Then there has been an article by the Right Reverend Bishop Ireneo Dud, Vicar Apostolic of Rumbek, Sudan, on "Marriage Customs Affecting the Human Dignity of Women" which was sent to us unsolicited as a result of His Lordship having been shown a copy of *The Catholic Citizen*.

There have been several articles by experts in their own field of work, notably "Ungodly Sacrifices" by Elizabeth Abbott and "The Enforcement Abroad of Maintenance

Obligations" by M. Chave Collisson who also wrote for us "Toward an Equal Moral Standard."

"The Rehabilitation of St. Joan" in its historic context was ably dealt with by Dr. Letitia Fairfield in a review of a book considering the subject. Nancy Stewart Parnell dealt with "The Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations" and P. C. Challoner has dealt with many subjects including such diversities as "Gleanings from the Trusteeship Council", and the "Olive Schreiner Centenary".

We also owe to Miss Challoner the drafting of innumerable notes and the regular contribution of reviews of books and pamphlets.

Contributions in French from our French colleagues have added to the interest of the paper and we hope to increase these columns. Dr. Helen O'Brien has undertaken translations from the German for which are most grateful. "The Month in Parliament" has been faithfully and ably continued by B. M. Halpern and Vera Douie and is one of our most valued features.

Subscriptions to the paper remain steady but advertisements remain low. The subsidy required to maintain the paper has been less this year owing to the increased subscription.

We thank Miss Blackburn, Mrs. Coast, Miss Graham, Miss Hyatt, Mrs. Morison, and Miss Hope Robson for their regular help in the sending out of *The Catholic Citizen* both in addressing wrappers and folding them for post. Such help is indispensable.

Merseyside Branch

Chairman Mrs. McCann, 15 Greenheys Road, Liverpool 8.

In April, the chairman was glad to be able to attend sessions of St. Joan's International Council Meeting which was held in London, and to have the opportunity of meeting some of the delegates from abroad. On July 18th a very successful garden meeting was held at the home of the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Brady when Mrs. Kemball, chairman of the Child Care Committee of the Lancashire County Council spoke on "Women in the New Health and Special Services". A warm vote of thanks was accorded to her by Miss Keeley and seconded by the Hon. Secretary Mrs. Keating. Members met Miss Barry at her home in Birkenhead in September when she entertained them most hospitably and gave them a resumé of the work done from headquarters during the year. On November 29th a meeting was held at Greenheys Road when Mrs. F. Dunne gave a talk on her work as a Police Court Missioner.

The Branch has been happy to have close contact with the White Sisters who have on two occasions attended meetings during the year.

Holy Mass was offered for deceased members in November and also on the death of Mrs. Murray, a foundation member of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society in Liverpool and on the death of Miss Marjorie Collier. R.I.P.

The Branch continues to be represented on the Standing Conference of Women's Organizations and many members attended the Annual Meeting of this Organization in the Town Hall.

Several new members have joined during the year and subscriptions to *The Catholic Citizen* have increased.

From May 8th the address of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance will be 8B, 110, Oxford Street, London, W.1.

ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

The Thirteenth Council Meeting of St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance was held on April 23rd and 24th, 1955, at the Service Women's Club, London, Dame Vera Laughton Mathews presiding.

Resolutions concerning political rights, marriage, equal moral standard, equal pay and opportunities, and education, passed at previous Council Meetings, were reaffirmed and new resolutions concerning the status of women, slavery, and enforcement abroad of maintenance obligations, were passed and sent to the appropriate authorities. (v. *The Catholic Citizen*, May 1955.)

In connection with the Council Meeting, a successful public meeting was held when inspiring speeches were given by Madame Leroy-Boy (Belgium), Mrs. Jean Daly (New South Wales), Miss Mary Hishon (Queensland), Miss Campos de Oliveira (Brazil), Madame Pesson-Depret (France), and Lady Wijeyekoon (Ceylon).

United Nations

The Alliance has consultative status on the Register with the Economic and Social Council, its representatives being Madame Wanda Grabinska and Dr. Magda de Spur, in New York, and Madame Leroy-Boy, in Geneva.

By request of the Economic and Social Council comments on the United Kingdom Draft Convention on Slavery were submitted by the Alliance to the Committee of Representatives of Ten Governments who were commissioned to prepare a text of a Draft Supplementary Convention for submission to ECOSOC. A hearing before this Committee was asked for and Madame Wanda Grabinska kindly agreed to speak on these points before the Committee, when it met in January 1956.

Meantime, in pursuance of the resolution at the Council Meeting welcoming the U.K.'s Draft Convention on Slavery and more especially those clauses referring to practices which still bind women in a number of countries, National Sections of the Alliance approached their Governments asking for amendments to strengthen the U.K. Draft. It was gratifying that the Governments of Australia, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, agreed to the chief amendment requested by the Alliance, that covering child betrothal, though regrettably other suggested amendments were not accepted.

Conference

Preparatory to the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations interested in the *Eradication of Prejudice and Discrimination*, a Memorandum was sent, on request, outlining various techniques which had been found effective as a means of combating prejudice, especially as regards sex discrimination. The Alliance, believing in the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, and therefore in the dignity and worth of the human person, necessarily opposes any discrimination which violates the rights of human personality.

Madame Leroy-Boy represented the Alliance at the Conference, which was held in Geneva in March 1955, though she was unfortunately obliged to leave before the votes were taken.

At the first United Nations Conference on the *Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders* held in Geneva in August 1955, the Alliance was represented by Madame Pesson-Depret, where she made three valuable interventions. (v. *The Catholic Citizen*, October 1955.)

National Sections also made representations asking their Governments to reply to the Secretary-General of the United Nations as to the desirability of convening plenipotentiaries to complete the drafting of the Convention on the *Recognition and Enforcement Abroad of Maintenance Orders*.

Status of Women

Representations were made to the Status of Women Commission urging equality in *Nationality Rights* between men and women. Particulars of the present position regarding *Equal Pay* in the United Kingdom were also sent to the Commission.

The Alliance was represented at the Ninth Session of the Commission by Mrs. Grabinska and Dr. Magda de Spur.

Madame Leroy-Boy represented the Alliance in Geneva at the Twentieth Session of the Economic and Social Council; at the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations sponsored by the United Nations Department of Public Information; at the Conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy; and at a Reception in honour of Monsieur Pickard on his retirement from his post in Geneva in charge of the Non-Governmental Organizations.

The Alliance was represented at the International Eucharistic Congress at Rio de Janeiro by Miss Maria H. Lisboa.

Greetings from the Alliance were given by Mrs. Jean Daly at the Regional Meeting of the International Federation of University Women in Manila and by Mrs. L. de Fonseca at the Golden Jubilee Conference of the International Alliance of Women in Ceylon. At the Jubilee Lunch of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women in Geneva the Alliance was represented by Madame Pesson-Depret, and at the Reception given in London by the World's Y.W.C.A. by Miss M. Moore.

The Alliance is grateful to all these members who have so kindly represented it on these occasions.

The Alliance is a constituent member of the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations and is represented on its Committees in London, New York, Geneva and Australia.

This brief record does not include the valuable work done by the National Sections of the Alliance.

We are proud of our members who give distinguished service, nationally and internationally: Mrs. Tenison-Woods, Chief, Section of the Status of Women, United Nations; Mrs. Jean Daly, who represented Australia at the Status of Women Commission; Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes (Germany) who served on the Executive Board of UNESCO, and on the personnel Committee to decide the suitability of senior officers in the new German Army; Frau Brauksiepe, member of the Bundestag; Madame Poinso-Chapuis and Madame Lefebvre, deputies in the French Assembly, and Dr. Marga Klompé, who has been a representative from Holland to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe since 1949, and is rapporteur of the Committee on General Affairs for Questions of European Integration.

THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

During March the House, as usual, continued to debate Supply. There were also important debates on Foreign Affairs (Jordan after the dismissal of Glubb Pasha and Cyprus) and the Second Reading of Mr. Silverman's Capital Punishment Bill.

There were a couple of questions about Taxation. On March 13th Mr. Chapman asked the Chancellor "whether he is aware that a taxpayer with an invalid wife receives a tax allowance of £100 for a daughter, but that when the daughter leaves school and has to remain at home as house-keeper, the allowance is reduced to £40 at the same time as such services as home helps are withdrawn; and what prospect he holds out of

taking steps to remedy this anomaly." Mr. Macmillan replied: "The Royal Commission on Taxation in its second report recommended that the allowance of £40 should be withdrawn but that a special tax allowance should be granted for persons who are totally disabled. I am considering this and many other suggestions by the Commission, but I cannot anticipate my Budget statement." Dame Irene Ward asked him on March 6th: "If he will estimate the effect on the Treasury if married persons' earned incomes were assessed separately." Mr. Macmillan then replied: "Under Section 355 of the Income Tax Act, 1952, it is open to either partner to apply for separate assessment, but this does not alter the total amount of tax payable by husband and wife together. If however the law were changed so that a husband and wife who were both earning were taxed as two single persons the total tax payable in most cases would be increased. The net gain to the Exchequer might be of the order of £75 million but this would be reduced if the change led to a reduction in the number of married women in employment."

The question of widows' benefits was raised on February 27th by Mr. C. I. Orr-Ewing when he invited the Minister of Pensions to make a statement. Mr. John Boyd-Carpenter replied that the Government had now considered the report of the National Insurance Advisory Committee and had decided to accept their recommendations in full. These include an increase (which the Government have fixed at 5s.) in the benefits paid in respect of the children of widowed mothers. Legislation will follow in due course. In spite of protests on the part of Mr. Orr-Ewing, Mrs. Jeger and Mr. H. Hynd, the Minister stated that there would be no change in the benefit of the "10s. Widows", those whose title derives from their husbands insurance in the scheme which was superseded in 1948. A further question was asked on the same subject on March 19th by Mr. Collins but received the same answer.

On March 19th Mrs. Slater asked the Minister of Pensions "how many women only pay the industrial injuries contribution." Mr. Boyd-Carpenter replied: "About 2,200,000." The same day Dame Irene Ward asked the Minister of Health "What action he proposes to take on the recommendation in paragraph 639 of the Report of the Guillebaud Committee that the organisation of the maternity services under the National Health Service should be reviewed." Mr. Turton replied: "I am proposing to set up a Committee with the following terms of reference: 'To review the present organization of the maternity services in England and Wales, to consider what should be their content and to make recommendations.'"

On March 13th Mr. A. Benn asked the Colonial Secretary: "How many Africans in Kenya, year by year, male and female, have completed intermediate school or a prescribed equivalent between 1945 and 1955." Mr. Lennox-Boyd supplied a table of figures rising steadily from 1945 with 61 females, 751 males and 277 unclassified by sex, to 1956 with 1,188 females, 7,328 males and 218 unclassified by sex. He further noted that, while it was impossible to break down the "unclassified" figure, the majority are male.

Mr. Sorensen asked the Colonial Secretary on March 7th: "To what extent mui-tsai exists in Singapore and what measures are being taken to deal with this practice." Mr. Lennox-Boyd replied: "No case has come to light since 1949. The practice is illegal under the Children and Young Persons Ordinance, which is enforced by the Social Welfare Department."

On March 20th the Prime Minister referred to the Pastoral Letter of the Bishops about the Russian visit. Mr. Stokes asked him: "To make the most forcible representations to our visitors to do something about letting go the millions of slaves out of the concentration camps who are still there under duress in Russia?" Sir Anthony Eden replied: "I have had the opportunity of seeing the Pastoral Letter which, I think, the right hon. Gentleman has probably in mind. I think that the traditions of this country show two things—firstly, that we are in favour of religious toleration, and secondly, that we are most strongly opposed to any form of religious persecution."

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