THE

CATHOLIC CITIZEN

VOLUME XVIII, 1932



ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,
55 BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.1.

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Catholic Citizen

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

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15th JANUARY, 1932.

Price Twopence.

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

The Part Played by Women in the Development of Voluntary Hospitals.

By Granville Roberts.

Voluntary hospitals are entitled to carry their mainly on a queer knowledge of herbs was then romantic history far back into antiquity; and the further back you go in the history of voluntary hospitals the further you descend into the forgotten chronicles of those magnificent women who made the development of them

Heroic poetry tells us frequently how the vives, sweethearts, and sisters of combatants invaded the field of battle when the dull glow of sunset diminished the severity of its bloodbespattered scenes, bringing with them the spirit of tender ministration to the wounded and the

King Arthur was carried away to the islandvalley of Avalon, after the disastrous battle in which he was mortally wounded, on a barge which was manned by beautiful queens, who sang as the barge moved away from the shore of the fatal lake.

So far as the Western nations are concerned, we owe our hospital development to the sudden revolution of affairs in Rome which was brought about by the coming of Christ. In the Rome of that day there were definite places which may be called hospitals, known as "Valetudinaria"; but they were by no means actuated by the higher motives.

Britain's first indigenous patroness of the sick was probably the Irish Princess Macha who actually founded a hospital in 300 B.C., the forerunner of the "houses of sorrow" as they were called; and a medicine system based

largely the sphere of women.

Hospitals are thus seen to be antique institutions. Princess Macha's "house of sorrow" and the Roman "Valetudinaria" were the best of their day and time. They were the reply of persons of goodwill to the dictates of sheer necessity; but until the Christian era you may look in vain for any crusade obedient to the highest motives of selfless service. Christ's ministry revolutionised human conceptions. His charge to his Apostles was to "heal the sick"; and St. James admonished all and sundry to bring in the priests of the Church in times of sickness.

Rome possessed her temple-clinics; and when the Empire was converted to Christianity these primitive hospitals passed into Christian hands. In Rome there was a great, wealthy, but morally unfit society; a world dominant force. Into it there suddenly flowed a stream of clear, fresh inspiration—the Christian ideal. And while the men preached the gospel the women practised it—with the inevitable result that the early deaconesses of the Christian Church became, in effect, a united body of nursing sisters. To their lot fell the onerous duty of caring for the sick, the poor, the infirm, and the needy. It was the beginning of the romantic story of the voluntary hospitals.

Women thus became the real founders of the voluntary hospital movement. In those early and glorious days of the Christian Church in



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Rome they were of immense importance and tiny hospitals as the preaching and the coninfluence. St. Gregory of Nyssa calls his sister verting progressed all over Britain. Basil of Macrina an "Archdeaconess"; from which reference it is clear that women held high office in the Church. Their work lay with the priests; and the saintly Phoebe of Cencrea, who was St. Paul's companion, is an example of the noble type of woman who, in those troublous times, carried into pagan and hostile villages alike, the practical gospel of "heal the sick."

As time progressed regular establishments, each catering for different needs, automatically from Fabiola to the Abbess of St. Hildagarde came into being and were called after the deaconesses—"Diakonias." They were small specialist hospitals and probably grew out of the deliberate district visiting schemes carried on the religious conversion of the people went the

by the sisters. against this new vision of duty and of man-care for the sick, the infirm, and the needy, kind's higher responsibility. St. Jerome writes warmly in his Epistola of the patrician Fabiola, monasteries the work of the old sisterhood bewhose self-abnegation led her to relinquish rank came the new duty of lay women. In passing and riches in A.D. 390 in order to build and thus briefly over the darker days of the Middle maintain the first public Christian voluntary hospital; a hospital for the sick as distinct from of Scotland who established a hospital in Edin the aged and the poor. Fabiola was the Flor- burgh; of Queen Maud, wife of Henry I, who ence Nightingale of her day, and of her St. Jerome says: "There was hardly an institution of Louvain, Henry I's second wife, who was which had not benefited by her charity, hardly a bedridden patient but had felt her care. So that among the healthy poor many longed to were followers of the high tradition of piety and be sick in order to come into contact with her." Such was the halo of glory about Fabiola of woman's work in all states and all times; the Rome over 1500 years ago, a halo all too in-

In the fourth century of the Christian era, too, lived St. Basil of Caesarea, who built his town of houses furnished to deal with all variety of sickness and infirmity. Butler calls it "the miracle of the world"; and it did its work by the loving agency of inspired women who looked for their reward certainly not to the hideous surroundings of perhaps the leper's camp, nor anywhere adjacent, but obeyed a holy inspiration and were glad.

There came to England St. Augustine, with his Benedictines, and from the conversion which followed the Augustine settlement at Canterbury the wave which altered the course of things in Rome began to wash a rapidly awakening Britain.

Soon the torch of civilisation, flickering fitfully, was to move westward and be seized by the inheritors of Rome's proud estate. There came the taking over of local Roman "Valetudinaria," and the same process of setting up

Caesarea is only one example. A famous woman was soon once more to move majestically across history's pages; she was the Abbess of St. Hildegarde on the Rhine, who has since been called 'the Sibyl of the Rhine." She even wrote two famous books about medicine which display her skill and knowledge of the science, and she founded the first recorded school for nurses.

Hospital development all this time-and you travel down six centuries-grew as Christianity fought its way and then consolidated its position all over the West. Hand-in-hand with setting up of social services—through centres Even Rome's aristocrats were not proof which were the early voluntary hospitals-to

Even when Henry the Eighth dissolved the Ages let us not forget the name of St. Margaret herself waited upon lepers in London; of Adela the founder of St. Giles' Hospital in London. and of the illustrious Queen Eleanor. They love which is characteristic of so much of tradition of women who had said "write me as frequently deserved in these more complacent and self-righteous days.

one who love her fellowmen." They immediately preceded the religious clash which was to completely destroy not only the monasteries, but also the hospitals which were indissolubly linked up with religious practice; and a dark period followed in which the sick and the poor were, as always, the chief-almost the only-

England suffered long and terribly for the destruction of her hospitals, and two centuries elapsed before, in 1740, the London Hospital re-opened.

During two centuries a complete psychological change had occurred. From the spirit of heroism and love of Fabiola, Helena, the good Abbess, Queen Matilda, Queen Phillipa, and others of their time and line, we find an English physician of the early Victorian period saying, "We always engage nurses without a character, because no respectable woman will take such work." Shades of Fabiola, who relinquished her all for the sake of the suffering

(Continued p. 5).

Notes and Comments.

We offer our readers our cordial good wishes for 1932. St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance celebrates its majority next Marchour paper enters this month on its eighteenth year. Great changes have occurred in these last twenty years; the position of women has undergone a transformation, and yet who shall say how many years of hard work lie ahead of us, before all artificial barriers restricting the development of women, even in our own country, are broken down.

In another column we give a report of the family party, held on December 8th, to honour the founders of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, now St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

We are glad to publish the interesting article on Women's work in the development of Voluntary Hospitals, by Mr. Granville Roberts, Assistant Organizing Secretary of the Merseyside Hospitals Council. In a Catholic paper it is scarcely necessary to remind readers of the numerous Catholic orders of nursing sisters. Such as for instance the Sisters of Mercy, who have just celebrated their centenary; the Little Sisters of the Poor, and the Little Sisters of the Assumption who nurse the poor in their own homes; the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul, with whom Florence Nightingale studied in Paris; the Bon Secour nuns and many others.

We are delighted to learn that the British Government has appointed Mrs. Corbett Ashby to be a substitute delegate to the Disarmament Conference at Geneva on February 2nd. St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance has been urging the Prime Minister and Foreign Secreary to appoint Mrs. Corbett Ashby as a delegate. Mrs. Ashby, as our readers know, is President of the International Women's Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, and her wide international experience, and her work for peace, render her peculiarly fitted to be of service on the Disarmament Conference.

A resolution was also moved on behalf of our Alliance at the Annual Meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, held on December 1st, asking for the appointment of a British woman as a fully accredited delegate from this country to the Disarmament Conference. Mrs CorbettAshby's name was among those suggested as suitable candidates.

We are glad to read that President Hoover has appointed a woman, Miss Mary E. Woolley, as one of the U.S.A. delegates to the Disarmament Conference. Miss Woolley has been President of the Mount Holvoke Seminary since 1900, and is a member of various peace organizations.

We offer our congratulations to our member Miss Joan Rafferty on her marriage to Mr. J. Farmer.

We are glad to learn that the Government is to proceed with the Children's Bill, which is to make further and better provision for the protection and welfare of the young and the treatment of young offenders; and to amend the Children's Act, 1908, and other enactments relating to the young.

We are grateful to the Hon. Miss Mary Pickford for defending, in her maiden speech in the House, the rights of women to be employed on a two-shift system. She pointed out that the opposition came mainly from Trade Unions; one heard very little about the objections of the women and girls concerned, who are ususally not members of the Unions. The occasion was the debate on the Expiring Laws Bill which covers among other Acts the temporary licence to employ women and young persons on the two-shift system. Miss Pickford, who was a temporary inspector of factories during the war, is well qualified to speak on this subject, and her opinion that the two-shift system is in the interest of the

Continued on p. 7.)

Annual Meeting

for Members only.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday March 12th. Nominations for Committee and resolutions for the Agenda must reach the Secretary not later than February 2nd.

We remind members that nominations must be duly proposed and seconded and the consent of the candidate obtained.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

55 Berners Street, London, W.I. Tel. Museum 4181 Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

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On Attaining Our Majority.

Members of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance forgathered at the Junior Liberal Club, St. Ermine's Hotel, on the night of December 8th to do honour to the Founders of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, now St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Twenty-one years have passed since Gabrielle Jeffery and May Kendall met outside Holloway Gaol to join in a welcome to the suffrage prisoners to be released that morning. Strangers to each other, it was only when one mentioned that she had been to Mass that day, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, that she was hailed by the other as a co-religionist. There and then the idea came to them of founding a Catholic woman's suffrage society, and from this chance meeting our Alliance was born. Its actual birthday being the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25th.

Our chairman, Miss Douglas Irvine, who presided at our informal family party, in speaking of these incidents, said how rightly had St. Joan of Arc been chosen by Miss Jeffery and Miss Kendall as Patron of the new society, since she must have had a special feeling for these two young girls-scarcely older than she was at her martyrdom—who, though unknown and without funds, set out courageously on so difficult an enterprise.

Miss Irvine spoke of Miss Jeffery's invaluable services to the Alliance, her balanced judgment and help behind the scenes being a tremendous asset, and one we could hardly do without.

Miss Jeffery, in replying, confessed that she was proud that the idea of founding a Catholic Women's Suffrage Society had come from Miss Kendall and herself, yet she sometimes felt a little awed when thinking of its far-reaching had a message too from the French Section of consequences and its influence on some of its the Alliance.

members, the course of whose lives it must have altered. If the Society had been initiated by Miss Kendall and herself, the successful growth and development of it was the work of all members. She recalled how in the early days votes for women on the same terms as men was the goal of the Society, but at the present day she saw no limit to the work of the Alliance as there was a long way to travel before social and economic equality between men and women was secured.

Miss Jeffery was presented with a badge of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, the fleur-de-lys on a blue field, worked in gold and enamel, and said no gift could have pleased her better.

St. Joan's Alliance has the reputation of attracting youth, and indeed besides those who have grown grey in the service, there was a good number of young girls, including little Margaret O'Connor, aged eleven, who had come to do honour to Miss Jeffery, and presented her with a bouquet of flowers in our colours.

Among those who sent apologies for absence were Miss Kendall, unable to join us through family reasons, our good friend, Dom Gilbert Higgins, Mrs. Belloc Lowndes, Mrs. and Miss Christitch, Father Filmer, Dr. Margaret Morice, while Don Luigi Sturzo sent a special message, stressing the importance of women obtaining equality with men in politics, economics and in cultural influence, and expressing his hope that St. Joan's S.P.A. would be in the vanguard in working to a true and Christian peace between the peoples. We

to an end.

There will be more formal celebrations later in the year, but they cannot take place on our actual birthday, since Good Friday falls this vear on the 25th of March.

L. DE ALBERTI.

Miss Jeffery writes:

May I be allowed space to express my warmest thanks to all who were so kind as to join in presenting me, on December 8th, with the very beautiful reproduction of the original badge of the C.W.S.S. I can thing of nothing that I should value more. I would also like to thank all who were able to be present at the Anniversary Party that evening-in particular the Committee, for arranging it, and the artistes who gave us such delightful entertainment.

Jan. 5th, 1932.

GABRIEL JEFFERY.

The Part Played by Women in the Development of Voluntary Hospitals.

(Continued from p. 2.)

poor! It was not until 1840 that the training of nurses recommenced on a sound basis; and again the recrudescence was born of woman's inspiration. Florence Nightingale, even in 1863, describes the horrible conditions under which nurses worked," sleeping," she says, "in a men's ward to their moral and bodily danger." England lacked a successor to Clara or Teresa. At Kaiserwerth, in Germany, however, Pastor Fleidner and his wife had begun to develop nursing on a real basis. When the Pastor came to London he "saw a system that cried to Heaven for reform." There were 300 women with their children in the same room, in rags and dirt, sleeping without bedding on the floor . . . no distinction of sex . . Fleidner was utterly sickened by his visit to Newgate Prison with Mrs. Elizabeth Fry, the Quakeress, who became one of his trainees and was to begin the rehabilitation of English nursing. It was under Elizabeth Fry, who returned to England to train woman nurses, that Florence Nightingale first studied—later she went delegate to the Disarmament Conference,

Miss Eleanor FitzGerald gave us some of her to Kaiserwerth. And thus she was fitted for inimitable Irish stories. Miss Edith Delaney her work, soon afterwards, in the Crimea. To and Miss Doris Waymark charmed us with Fleidner's German deaconesses we thus owe our their songs, and so a delightful evening came English regeneration of nursing, through Florence Nightingale. About this time too, Louisa Twining began to remodel the disgusting workhouses of Tudor ancestry, and to humanize them; while charity organisations attracted the grace and enthusiasm of Octavia Hill. In their different spheres there were thus three devoted women consecrated once more to the holy duty of relieving the sick and the needy. In 1860 the Nightingale Fund School for nurses was started at St. Thomas's Hospital and from it ever since has gone forth a neverceasing stream of radiant charity of soul, tempered and strengthened by scientific knowledge. In 1887 a further step was taken when the Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses was founded; and from then onwards matters have progressed at an amazing speed. The beacon had been re-kindled after 200 years of horrorfilled darkness, and in 1914 when England was plunged into the dreadful realities of the World War, she was equipped with countless thousands of women, no less inspired than the nursing sisters of the early Christian era, who took their place in the ranks of war and acquitted themselves with true nobility. How much we owe to the work of those devoted women will never be properly computed.

So we arrive at the modern voluntary hospital with its up-to-date equipment, its training courses for women, and its special work for women. We have briefly seen how it has developed, and have paid special reference to the part played by women of all sorts of nations, conditions, and creeds, in that development. Before I conclude perhaps it may not be amiss to sketch the work done in Merseyside by and for women in the local voluntary hospitals. Apart from women doctors, nurses, sisters, and general women workers, there are 130 women serving as members of hospital boards of management in Merseyside alone. Their influence is great; their work no less essential than that of actual sisterhood in the wards, for it is a high and responsible duty.

THIRD WOMAN DELEGATE TO DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

As we go to Press we learn, with pleasure, that Dr. Marie Luders has been appointed as a

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

International Notes.

Spanish women were nearly deprived of votes when an amendment to the draft Constitution was brought forward on December 1st, which would have delayed woman suffrage for about five years. Señorita Victoria Kent, supported the amendment; but Señorita Campoamor, a true democrat and feminist, opposed it. It was defeated by four votes only. When the motion giving the vote was passed on the previous occasion, the Catholic members voted for it, and it was passed by 161 votes to 121, but twenty Catholic members have since withdrawn from the Assembly. The support given to the amendment was largely based on the fear that women would defend the Church and the Faith.

But Catholics have had it in their power these many years to enfranchise women. Had they done so it is probable that Spain would not now be at grips with the forces of irreligion. masquerading as progress.

* * * * We read in the "Tablet" of December 12th, the report of a meeting in Madrid of the newly formed Women's Association of National Action addressed by Don José de Medina Togores. The speaker said that though organizations of women existed in Spain before last April, such as catechists and other educational, philanthropical, and social societies there had been no women's political organizations, because women had no part in politics. This is scarcely correct since several women suffrage societies have been active for many years. * * * *

The Times reports that a Bill has been introduced in the Kenya Legislature to provide for the Christian marriage of Africans previously married according to pagan rites. A clause provides that a native woman obtains her legal majority when married according to the Christian rite. At present a woman remains a chattel all her life.

The Bill provides also that a Christian widow shall have the custody of her children, who at present become the property of her pagan relatives. The intention is to preserve the Christian influence of the mother over her children..

We are glad to see that Miss Jane Addams, President of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, shares the Nobel Peace 190 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.I.

Prize for 1931, with her compatriot Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler. Dr. Butler is President of Columbia University, and a trustee of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Miss Addams has done splendid work in the cause of peace, and also in the women's move-

Miss May Oung, the only woman member of the Burma round Table Conference, spoke at its first meeting, on the question of the complete equality of the sexes in Burma, and said that while Burmese women asked no favours, they would consider unacceptable any Constitution which does not give them the same electoral and other rights as men.

U Ba Si, supporting Miss May Oung, said that if women were excluded from the franchise the British suffragette movement would be repeated in Burma with greater force.

* * * *

"La Française," of December 26th, gives the text of a letter addressed to the Secretary General of the League of Nations by two societies of Catholics, "Le Centre de Recherches Feministes," and our own "Alliance Française de Ste. Jeanne d'Arc," stating their complete agreement with the Consultative Committee on the Nationality of Married Women, and pointing out that they cannot agree with the Memorandum of the International Catholic Women's League, that a married woman's right to her own nationality is likely to interfere with family unity. On the contrary, they consider it may well make for greater harmony.

"La Femme Belge," also, is in favour of a married woman's right to her own nationality, and considers that the letter from St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance made a good impression at Geneva. The Belgian Law on Nationality is more favourable to married women than is the law of Great Britain.

A. A. B.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

The Monthly Organ of

THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN FOR SUFFRAGE AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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NOTES AND COMMENTS - (Cont'd. from p. 3.)

workers, carries great weight. Also the amendment which would have precluded women from being so employed was defeated. We hope some day Miss Pickford will see eye to eve with us in desiring to see removed all restrictions which apply solely to women industrial workers.

We are glad that the Government has appointed Miss Pickford to the Franchise Committee of the Committee which is to proceed to India on matters arising from the Round Table Conference.

* * *

We offer our cordial congratulations to Miss Tuke, on whom the order of Dame Commander of the British Empire has been conferred. Miss Tuke, who was Principal of Bedford College for twenty-two years, has done great service for the higher education of women.

In view of the Disarmament Conference to those who sent us the jumbles. which meets next month in Geneva, a leaflet, "The Catholic Church and Disarmament" has been published by the Catholic Truth Society (price one penny). It is a statement issued by the Catholic Council for International Relations, Great Britain, and the Catholic Union of International Studies, Irish Branch. It shows how successive Popes for the last fifty years have warned the Nations of the danger in the competitive growth of armaments, and urged them to work for a true peace.

Appropriately the C.C.I.R. recently published an article on St. Elizabeth, Queen of Portugal, in the fourteenth century, a Patroness for Peace, who rode between the armies of her husband and son, and stopped the battle. She would not allow her nobles to take up arms to restore her lands to her, saying: "She had rather endure all the injuries done her than consent to right them by war."

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS. December 1st, 1931, to January 1st, 1932.

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TREASURER'S NOTE.

The Jumble Sale realised the sum of £13 2s. 11d., £5 8s. 4d. having been taken at the Hall and £7 14s. 7d. at the office. We are most grateful to those who helped to sell, and also

P. M. BRANDT (Hon. Treasurer).

OBITUARY.

We offer our sincere sympathy to our members Mrs. Hand on the death of her sister; and to Miss Child on the death of her mother. R.I.P.

We regret to record the death of Mr. C. P. Scott, for 57 years Editor of the "Manchester Guardian," about the only paper to support Woman Suffrage, when the movement was boycotted by the Press in general.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Subscriptions to the Alliance and to the "Catholic Citizen" are now due. We beg all our friends to send their subscriptions without delay, and thus save extra work at the Office. Subscription to the Catholic Citizen 2s. 6d. minimum annual subscription to the Alliance 1s. At the same time we remind members that 1s. does not cover even the expense of sending notices, and we ask them to increase their subscriptions if possible.

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