

THE

Catholic Citizen

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

Vol. XXVII, No. 12.

15th DECEMBER, 1941.

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.

Arcadia Shared

BY CHRISTINE SPENDER

Though "I Too Have Lived in Arcadia"* begins when its subject, Bessie Parkes Belloc (mother of the author) was thirty-seven, there are references to her earlier life when she worked for Women's Rights and was a pioneer in the movement. Reading Mrs. Belloc Lowndes' article "Some Little Known Beginnings" published in the CATHOLIC CITIZEN of February, 1932, we find that her mother, Elizabeth Parkes, wrote a book "Essays on Woman's Work" (published in 1865). She was one of a small group of women who "began a work which was to transform the lives of literally millions of their fellow countrywomen, then living and unborn". They were fortunate enough to interest a woman older than themselves in the movement "the then famous writer on Art, Anna Jameson, whose whole heart was soon given to the Woman's Movement, and whose position made her help and counsel of the utmost value". Bessie Parkes was much affected by the fact that a dear school-friend, a clever high-spirited girl, being penniless, had but one opening upon leaving school, that of becoming a governess. It was the unhappy years she spent in this position that opened her friend's eyes to the fact that "a state of things that could condemn such a young woman . . . to such an atrophied existence must have about it something radically inhuman, as well as wrong in itself". Owing to the efforts of Bessie Parkes and of her closest friend, Barbara Leigh Smith, the first Bill was introduced into Parliament for securing the earnings of married women to their own discretionary use. The first practical action of their little group was to found annuities for aged governesses and a temporary

home for governesses out of work. This "record of love and childhood" makes us wish for a further record of the earlier life of its remarkable and loveable heroine, Elizabeth Parkes Belloc.

"I Too Have Lived in Arcadia" opens with the two friends, Elizabeth Rayner Parkes and Barbara Bodichon (for Barbara Leigh Smith had become Madame Bodichon) meeting in Paris in the spring of 1867. Bessie was by now a Catholic and was aged thirty-seven, her friend was thirty-nine. The fact that Barbara Bodichon happened to be in ill-health was to change Bessie Parkes' entire existence. Through the agency of Madame Mohl they found a small chalet to let at La Celle St. Cloud near Paris and this they took for six weeks in order to benefit Barbara's health. The chalet was part of the Belloc property and in the adjoining chateau lived Madame Belloc, widow of the painter Hilaire Belloc. With her lived Mademoiselle de Montgolfier, daughter of Etienne de Montgolfier, the inventor of the balloon. Both of these remarkable women were to play a considerable part in the future life of Bessie Parkes. Louise Swanton Belloc was something of a writer. She had written a life of Byron and translated many famous English and American books and to the end of her life she was to write children's stories, one of which became a classic. Bessie, herself a writer, was immediately attracted to her, and a lasting attachment was formed. Mademoiselle de Montgolfier, a woman of will and character, was perhaps more fond of Louis Belloc than any other living person and came to love his wife and children dearly.

It is curious to consider that at a recent women's Conference it was mooted by one of the speakers (though not accepted by the Confer-

* *I Too Have Lived in Arcadia*. A Record of Love and Childhood. By Mrs. Belloc Lowndes. (Macmillan, 15s.).

ence) that couples about to marry should be examined medically and forbidden by law to do so if this was considered improper by their medical advisers. For if their *had* been a law to this effect in France during the last century, neither Mrs. Belloc Lowndes, the author of this book, nor her famous brother, Hilaire Belloc, would be here to delight us. Bessie Parkes, on her first meeting with Madame Belloc's son during her stay at the chalet, seems to have decided to marry him. He certainly decided to marry her, for within two weeks of her departure to England he wrote to her proposing marriage. Little did either expect the storm which was to burst over their unsuspecting heads. As a young man Louis had had a serious illness termed "inflammation of the brain" and ever since he had been treated as a semi-invalid, and not allowed to work. That is to say for twelve years, from the age of twenty-four, he had probably been terribly irked by what must have been an extremely boring existence for the naturally active young man he once was. Bessie Parkes, who possessed a great deal of common sense, believed that if he lived "a normal happy life" he would much improve, and in this she proved right. Meanwhile his family, with the exception of the younger daughter Lily who had some insight concerning her brother, poured forth through Madame Belloc their melancholy forebodings as to the end of the proposed marriage. The unfortunate Bessie Parkes was not spared in any way and the two sons-in-law of Madame Belloc, with what appears nowadays preposterous impudence, insisted that if their brother-in-law "persisted in his intention of marrying Miss Parkes, it was in their opinion, essential he should consult a leading specialist before coming to a final decision". Louis eventually consented and "this gentleman gave it as his considered opinion that there was no hope Louis Belloc would ever become a father, and that he ought therefore to give up all thought of marriage." Bessie's own family and friends were also giving trouble about the proposed marriage. Her mother, a woman of character but at that time extremely conventional, shared Madame Belloc's opinions concerning the unsuitability of marriage with an invalid—and to her an added disadvantage was the difference of nationality. Mrs. Parkes believed her daughter when she wrote: "It is true that I don't wish to fall in love with him. I should feel it ridiculous at my age . . ." This added to her mother's anxieties. It is obvious, reading the account of the whole affair that Bessie was already "in love" with her future

husband and was to remain so until his death five years after their marriage. All her friends, and above all the dearest one, Barbara Bodichon, showed a lamentable lack of understanding in the affair of her marriage and a propensity to cling on to her. It must have needed immense courage on the part of Bessie Parkes to assert her right of choosing her own destiny when everyone round her was busy assuring her that they knew better than she did. Even poor Louis felt obliged to write and "release" her from their engagement—an offer which she flatly refused. In fact Bessie, feeling the situation intolerable, made up her mind to be married within a few weeks and the wedding took place on the nineteenth of September, 1867, at Old Spanish Place.

Bessie spent much of her married life at La Celle St. Cloud. The same commotion was aroused in the family circle before the births of her two children as had been aroused before her marriage, but at a time when first pregnancies at a late age were considered dangerous, Bessie asserted her independence, lived a perfectly normal life and was happily delivered in each case. It is interesting to note how the English and French family circles gradually accepted the idea of Bessie and Louis and the two children as an independent unit, to be respected and not to be interfered with more than was necessary. It is a tribute to Bessie that she never quarrelled with either circle. She loved her French connections dearly, more especially Madame Belloc and her younger sister-in-law Lily, and La Celle St. Cloud always seems to have epitomised "home" to her even when its associations with her dead husband made it almost unbearable to her to be there. As Mrs. Parkes grew older the bond between mother and daughter strengthened; no doubt there was an added understanding due to the existence of the little Marie and Hilaire. Some of the happiest childhood memories of Marie (Belloc Lowndes) were connected with the English Grandmother with whom her mother made her home for some years. Perhaps most of us, however, have an unbreakable link with a place, quite apart from people, a passionate love of the very earth belonging to some particular spot. This affection may not be understood by others very near and dear. In the case of the author of this book La Celle St. Cloud aroused this intense love, and she regrets the later childhood years spent in England, continuously away from the beloved spot.

In a book so packed with personalities and places, and even historical events—for there is

(Continued on page 95)

Notes and Comments

While the National Service (No. 2) Bill extends the National Service Acts to women it excepts the married woman irrespective of her domestic obligations. In the first place women between the ages of 20 and 30 are to be called up and are to be liable for service in the Auxiliary Forces, in Civil Defence, or in certain specified vacancies in industry. Certain categories of women will be reserved from calling up and still others may have their calling up deferred if it is in the national interest that they should not be removed from their present work. Women will have the statutory safeguards of the National Service Acts, including those relating to conscientious objection, exceptional hardship, and re-instatement in their work on release from war service. Besides the exemption of married women, any woman who has living with her a child of hers under the age of 14 including a stepchild, an adopted child, and an illegitimate child, is exempt.

As *Time and Tide* says this week: "That marriage lines alone irrespective of whether one has full-time family responsibilities or not, should form the basis of classification between women in an age group who must serve and women who need not do so really make sense. Would it not be better to give the word of command now, to all who are fit and by strict war-time standards free?"

We consider it important that women with young children and heavy domestic responsibilities should be reserved but surely the system of "individual deferment under which each individual case will come under review", now to be applied to men, might with profit be applied to married women?

We call upon the Government to grant to the women in the Services, in Civil Defence and in Armaments, equal pay with the men doing similar work, equal compensation for war injuries and equal pension rights for themselves and their dependants.

We protest against the inequalities of pay contained in the Government's training scheme "for the resettlement in industry of all disabled persons over the age of 16"—

The rates of pay for trainees varies in the case of men from 17s. a week for those age 16-17, to 42s. for those 21 and over. Women's rates over the same age groups are 15s. to 33s. In addition dependants' allowances will be made at the rate of 7s. 6d. a week for a wife (or in certain circumstances an adult dependant) and 3s. a week for each child.

Three Conservative M.P.s have tabled a House of Commons motion censuring Judge Frankland, who stated at Bradford County Court: "I regret that an old English custom which gave a husband the right to chastise his wife is not still in operation".

The M.P.s are Mrs. Tate, Mr. Hannah and Sir Herbert Williams. Their motion declares that Judge Frankland's statement is "grossly improper as coming from one of H.M. judges and merits the censure of this House".—*Daily Telegraph*.

The pressure put upon women to enter war industries has led to the mooting of part-time shifts for married women with "limited domestic responsibilities". In this connection we should like to draw attention to an article in the October issue of the *International Women's News*, by Nan Stack, entitled "Shorter Hours—Greater Output".

Nan Stack maintains that the long hours put into practice by most factories nowadays are so detrimental to the worker that they actually affect production adversely. "It pays far better to study the human needs of the workers, than to insist on too long hours of labour which enervate and depress and actually decrease output." Finding that in running her factory on the old-fashioned system the weekly output was not sufficient to fulfil Government obligations, Nan Stack reorganised the whole thing on a two-shift system of 5½ hours per day per worker. This decreased the hours of individual labour but increased those per machine. "I chose 5½ hours", writes Nan Stack, "because shorter shifts do not provide the standard living wage, while longer hours do not ensure against fatigue."

"I can honestly say that from the day I had enough courage to start shift work the whole tone of my factory changed, production went up by leaps and bounds, and the workers became contented, efficient and happy."

On December 10th our late Chairman, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, M.B.E., Director of the W.R.N.S., made history by addressing the Royal United Service Institution on the "Work of the W.R.N.S.", with Vice-Admiral Sir W. J. Whitworth, Second Sea-Lord in the chair. It is the first time this Institution has been addressed by a woman, moreover a woman who is herself a Director of one of the Services,

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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Woman Power

Compulsion for men to serve is considered generally to be right and necessary in this period of war. Grumbling against it there is plenty and one should be glad of it. Not to be able to grumble approaches slavery and slavishness. Injustices many, hardships many, all borne with a fine show of sacrifice for the common good. The man power of the nation is being used, not perfectly, as all can witness, but even with the manifest imperfections it is being used and thoroughly. We know that earlier in this war much red tape entangled many men who offered their services. The great need of man power was not fully realised and many eager hearts and hands were rejected by short-sighted officials bound up in red tape rules.

Now, after two years of war, we have the woman power of the nation coming under the spot light. No compulsion for women has hitherto been in force, on the contrary it seems as if every new device to use them has had the effect of easing any reluctance to be used and of making more difficult their finding of jobs. We all know the heavy weights which still impede the independence of women. The parents' horror of a young woman leaving home; their selfish objection to losing an unpaid servant or companion; the sense it is a woman's place to stay at home to take care of aged parents, relations, or what not; the husband who will not "allow" his wife to leave home; the husband who desires her to follow him wherever compulsion sends him; the care of children, young or of any age. There are a thousand such weights impeding the independence of women.

We hear the cry that women have failed to come forward for war service. It looks so different if you are a woman. Many women offered to serve and were accepted. These receive and rightly receive only praise for their skill, their endurance, and their spirit of fine determination. Many others have made superhuman efforts to

be used, always to be rejected; many have sacrificed brilliant careers to do elementary work that a schoolgirl of fifteen could well do. Many are eating their hearts out looking in vain for employment. The professional woman, after years of work and experience, sees herself turned down while the voluntary amateur with social or official backing is given administrative responsibility. Women have been scolded and badgered on the one hand while on the other every encouragement is given to the shirker to shirk. Give women a chance to evade disagreeable work and they will be as quick to take it as men are. Authority, after all mainly composed of men, seems to have realised the presence of male shirkers and blocked the path of evasion by compulsion. With women it did not realise it and instead made straight the path of their evasion. When one Minister publicly remarks that women do not need to be clever and another complacently states in a broadcast speech that women are intelligent, the heart of the feminist sinks within her.

And now, under a Motion moved by the Prime Minister, debated for three days in the House of Commons and concluded by the Minister of Labour, the Government is having another nibble at compulsion for women. The proposals outlined were well described during the debate as "laggard and inadequate", as "half-hearted and indefinite," and as "make-shift". The sob-brother was also present, talking of mothers and homes and saying that women must not be driven but encouraged. Briefly, and taking only the part applying specifically to women, the Bill would give power to the Government to send women into certain named services, but the Government spokesman said that for the present these powers of compulsion were only to be used for the unmarried women from 20 to 30 years of age. It was stated by the Minister of Labour that under this

latest compulsion women would have the same conditions and rights as men, i.e., the safeguards of the National Service Acts. It certainly sounds like a good nibble with some appreciation being shown of equality. This was written before the Bill has been discussed in the House and before it emerges finally as an Act. One must deeply regret that an Amendment to the Motion was among those ruled out of order by the Speaker. That is an Amendment which asked for equality in Compensation for Injuries, a too long delayed rectification. The Government dares to conscript women and to promise them equal conditions and rights with men while at the same time it declines to correct the thoughtless cruelty in paying less to women than to men, both injured in identical service.

This drives women away from service and does not encourage them. No doubt, in their eagerness to serve, they will trust the Government once more. "Equal conditions and equal rights" sounds all right but we have unequal compensation as the fact. Unequal pay also is still a cherished tradition in our Government.

The Minister of Labour showed pride in announcing the formation of an Appointments Department, indicating that he considered that men and even women might be used in the higher branches of industry, right up to management. The Central Register and the Supplementary Register etc., having proved, only now to the Minister but long ago to the public, to be useless or at any rate unused, let us hope that the new Department will prove more effective. The few hundreds of women shirkers and the many thousands of women eager to be employed could all easily be made available. If women were consulted in larger measure and if women were put in charge of "woman power" many of the present blunders would be avoided.

The Government announces that on each of the 45 Regional Boards to be set up to deal with man power and with woman power there will be one woman. One is, of course, better than none, but not until the experienced services of women are more fully employed in administration shall we cease to see blunder after blunder made by the Government and its advisers.

HELEN A. ARCHDALE.

ARCADIA SHARED

(Continued from page 92)

a most exciting account of the Siege of Paris and the Commune, culled from family letters and recollections—it is very difficult to make adequate selection. The main heroine, Bessie

Parkes Belloc, stands out as though carved in stone and the childhood memories of the author are unforgettable and moreover charming. Poor Bessie, who should have had a married life of unclouded happiness, had to endure the rough interferences of fate, firstly in the Franco-Prussian war, and secondly, in the untimely death of her husband. The Prussians devastated La Celle St. Cloud and destroyed most of the interior and furnishings of the Château, with no reason but sheer destructiveness, and this was a lasting sorrow to those who had known it as it was. The tragic death of Louis Belloc of a sunstroke was so unexpected that Bessie was unable to adjust herself to her loss for some years after his death. In the end it was a stern talk from Cardinal Manning on over-indulgence in grief that made her begin to pick up the threads of her life once more. It was fortunate indeed for the two children that so many loving persons surrounded them during this sad period which left indelible impressions on the mind of little Marie.

In the descriptions of the author's and her brother's childhood in France we get an interesting contrast between the English and French ideas on child upbringing, a contrast which holds till this day. It was not till Marie was nearly seven years old that her mother introduced an English nurse into the family life. With her coming the child seems to have lost much of the freedom she enjoyed and greatly valued up to that time. Moreover the nurse's too obvious preference for her little brother was to hold hurt for her—a hurt somewhat mitigated by her English Grandmother's affection. "For me it was a day fraught with coming tragedy when my mother suddenly made up her mind to engage an English nurse." Not that Nurse was not a very fine woman and thoroughly trustworthy, but she did not understand the way French children took part in grown-up life, nor did she realise "that almost every little girl, in the France of my childhood, was constantly told she was pretty, charming and good . . ." Constant praise lavished on a child "appeared to her to be extremely wrong".

"I can always say to myself, 'I too have lived in Arcadia,'" was a remark made by Mrs. Parkes Belloc to her daughter during the last year of her life. She explained: "I mean the five years with your father, and the further nine summers I spent with his mother, at La Celle St. Cloud".

We feel grateful to Mrs. Belloc Lowndes for allowing us to share an Arcadia which was hers as well as her mother's.

Henry W. Nevinson (1856-1941)

Shrewsbury school and Christ Church, Oxford, gave Henry Nevinson that immersion in the literature of Greece and Rome, from which he never recovered. To the end of his long life it was the tragedies of Aeschylus and Sophocles that he pondered and loved to quote; and from these mighty works came the brooding on man's melancholy fate and unescapable doom. (Not but what "cheerfulness was always breaking in" for his nature was humorous, his sense of the ludicrous acute, and perception of the ironical very powerful.) No doubt, too, the appalling calvinism of the prosperous middle-class "evangelical" home of his boyhood left a permanent depression; since mistaking that travesty of Christianity for the real thing he would have none of it. Yet at times he could write with appreciation and understanding of the Catholic Church and its services, and many Irish and English Catholics he counted his friends. Residence in Germany and at Toynbee Hall completed the training of the most famous war correspondent of our time, the most distinguished journalist. "Ever a fighter," constrained to write of struggle and battle, in his heart a man of faction, Henry Nevinson, always on the side of rebellion against the "crimes" of government, inevitably championed the militant methods of the W.S.P.U. and in the years of the Votes for Women agitation gave immense help to "the cause", speaking on platforms and using his pen to denounce the baseness and turpitude of the liberal ministry then in power. (Himself a liberal and individualist, with strong leanings to anarchy as the ideal.)

It was at a W.S.P.U. meeting in Kensington in 1908 where both of us were speaking, our acquaintance began; an acquaintance that soon matured into friendship. Frequently we spoke on the same Votes for Women platform, even travelling together as far north as Edinburgh and Aberdeen on behalf of the W.S.P.U.

Now, at 85, Henry Nevinson is dead. To be remembered for his writings, for much of his journalism belongs to literature; as the good companion on many journeys; as a staunch and generous friend. God rest his soul!

JOSEPH CLAYTON.

Our member, Mrs. Morison, writes: "So H. W. Nevinson has passed! God rest his brave soul! One picture of him stands out more than the rest in my memory. I see him as if it were yesterday sitting in the Clayton's little sitting-room in the dusk. His fine face is lit up by the fire but he is back in Salonika listening to the love notes of the owls. In a few

telling words he describes the beauty of the calls to the mate in the lonely stretches of the night when he lay awake during the watches in camp. Above all he was a poet to me, with all the vision of a poet."

HERE AND THERE

The comments of the *Catholic Herald* on the conscription of woman power are both interesting and edifying:

"The increasing pressure which the Minister of Labour is bringing to bear on women to take up war work at all costs, is a highly unpleasant war necessity. . . . But in these matters there is nearly always a constructive rather than a merely destructive way out. . . . Women can, so to say, have their revenge, by seeing to it that so far from being 'masculinised' by modern industry, modern industry is 'feminised' by them.

"Modern industrialism lacks conspicuously the personal and homely atmosphere which characterised the workshops and rural crafts of a simpler society. . . . Such a state of things is entirely opposed to the best instincts of womankind. By nature woman is the home-maker. When that instinct is exercised she can endow even a slum with domestic charm. Even the tenement with its pigeon-holed families has felt her influence. If she can carry her home-making powers into the outside world, she will effect a revolution as necessary as it is profound."

The *Tablet* has certainly exemplified the tendency of human nature to adapt itself to all circumstances by some form of rationalisation. In the recent past it has been prone to criticise any activity which took woman away from the home, but lo and behold in its keenness to support the war effort, one week it came out with the following remark:

"Young married women can do excellent work in factories. As things are they are defending their children in the most practical manner by undertaking this work, and for the time being we must give the national emergency precedence over the normal and natural priority of home life."

The following week a letter from the President of the Union of Catholic Mothers (Liverpool Archdiocese) expressed concern at this remark:

"Until all other available sources of woman power have been tapped, and the country combed and re-combed to secure the maximum service of single and childless young married women, it is too early to 'give the national emergency precedence over the normal and natural priority of home life.' Only as a final resort should young mothers be called upon to contribute to the war effort by work in the factory."

Upon which the *Tablet* commented:

"Obviously the mothers of babies or very young children should not be asked to do any of this kind of work, even for short shifts, but they are only a small proportion of the married women between twenty and forty."

We have been pointing out this last fact for years and years, but it takes a war to make some things penetrate!

International Notes

We welcome the September number of the *Bulletin of the International Council of Women* (Geneva) which begins its twentieth year of publication with this issue. This number contains, besides news from Denmark, Finland, Hungary, etc., an article by Lydie Morel (Geneva) entitled "The Secret of English-women." It is a commentary written round a posthumous pamphlet "England's Secret"—the work of a young man called Leo Ferrero. Leo Ferrero certainly seems to know more about the English man than the latter knows himself, but though some of his comments on this point may be just his remarks on the English woman are very beside the point—in fact his understanding of women, generally, seems to be lacking. He entitles a chapter of his pamphlet "Woman's Tragedy" and in it declares that English women "are the most unhappy women in the whole of Europe". Since "woman is a fragile, intuitive, irresponsible and unreasonable being," such a creature could never be happy with an Englishman "who, whilst being a model citizen, makes an indifferent, unintelligent husband". In fact, the Englishwoman suffers from not being understood. Lydie Morel is quite equal to these youthful generalisations and defends the English woman with verve and enthusiasm—and incidentally, the English man! "The secret of English women and of their genuine cheerfulness resides in the fact that they have made their menfolks understand that masculine dictatorship is as contrary to woman's dignity as political dictatorship is contrary to the dignity of man. . . ."

* * * *

Bermuda. The first woman police constable, a Salvation Army Social Worker vested with police powers, will be paid £270 as her first year's salary, on request of the Governor in a message to the Assembly. She will be entrusted specifically with welfare work among young women. The proposal of a woman police officer arose as a result of the report of the Committee on police and prisons.—(*Women in Council Newsletter*.)

* * * *

Dominica. There is now, for the first time a woman member of the Legislative Council. She is Mrs. Lennox Napier, author of several novels. She was invited to take her husband's seat as elected member on his death two years ago.

* * * *

France. A new decree dated 24 December, 1940, and signed by M. Peyrouton, at that time Secretary of State for the Interior, gives full

support to State Regulation of Vice. Its principal clauses are: legal status is granted to "tenanciers" of tolerated houses; the monopoly of commercial exploitation of the prostitution of others is allowed to these same "tenanciers"; prefects of police may organise, by means of decree registration of prostitutes; all women forced into occasional prostitution by unemployment or poverty are counted "women without occupation" and kept under strict police supervision.

We had been led to hope by earlier decrees of the Vichy Government that State Regulation of Vice was to be abolished under the new régime. On the contrary, it seems that it is to be encouraged.

HON. TREASURER'S NOTE

We thank all those who helped to make the Christmas Sale such a success by bringing things, coming to buy, sending gifts in cash and kind, and those who gave their personal help. We are grateful to Mrs. McFadyen for acting as Sales Secretary, to the Misses Billing and Davis who supplied such delicious refreshments, to Miss Terry who gave Character Delineations, and to the stall-holders, Miss Artis, Mrs. Harrington, Mrs. Maxfield and Miss O'Hart.

The total sum made by this effort, as we go to Press, is £31 os. 9d. We are anxious to make up the £40 to clear our debt before Christmas, so we invite members to come and shop at the Office for their Christmas presents. J. M. ORGAN.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Leonora de Alberti in the *Catholic Citizen*, December, 1916:

"For the third time since the opening of the great European tragedy Christmas comes upon us, and it will not be surprising, perhaps, if to many the angelic song of peace is drowned in the fury of the cannon. But because the Lord of Misrule has run amok and set the world aflame, shall we find no room this year for the Christ Child? Though mankind is long in realising it the rule of force was vanquished on that night in Bethlehem, and with the Divine Child was born the reign of Justice and of love, and the doctrine of the universal brotherhood of man. . . ."

"We may hope that . . . out of the horror of these days a family of nations may arise; but if that is ever to occur we shall have indeed to remember that the angelic promise of peace was made to men of goodwill."—*Christmas*.

We ask prayers for the repose of the soul of our member, Mrs. Mary Cosgrave, who died recently. Mrs. Cosgrave was a member of Dublin Corporation, chairman of the County Council Libraries Committee and Chairman and member of the boards of several city hospitals. R.I.P.

(See overleaf)

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Liverpool and District Branch: Hon. Secretary, Miss A. McNeish, 61 Rosedale Avenue, Crosby, Liverpool 23. Telephone: Great Crosby 2744.

Equal Compensation for Civilian War Injuries.—A Petition Sheet has been sent to members to collect signatures asking their M.P. to insist that the question be re-opened in the House and, when the occasion arises, to support the claim for equal compensation.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Some Mysteries of Jesus Christ. By Vincent McNabb, O.P. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne, 2s. 6d.)

The Spark in the Reeds. By S. M. C. (Catholic Book Club, 121 Charing Cross Road, 2s. 6d.)

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