

THE 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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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.

Thoughts on the Nationality of Married Women.

BY MARGUERITE FEDDEN.

The patriarchal Jewish system which regarded a man's wife or wives as his property together with "his ox and his ass and all that he hath," the old Roman notion of Pater familias who had power of life and death over his wife and children, the mediaeval idea which deprived a married woman of her identity merging her personality in that of her spouse so that under the Law of Coverture she was not even deemed responsible for her actions; all these belong to a past age when principle was sacrificed to expediency, when property counted for more than human beings and when warfare was looked on as an indispensable condition of life.

With the emancipation of women and their opportunities of Higher Education, with the replacement of clash of arms by Arbitration, such modes of thought must pass away. Because a man and woman unite themselves in marriage it does not mean that their personalities are merged. Personality is an individual possession both in this life and the next. A woman is master of her own fate and captain of her own soul; she is responsible to God and the State in most cases for her actions; she can have her own views on life, religion, philosophy and patriotism and her entity counts for as much in the scheme of things as a man's.

A woman is as capable of love and sacrifice for her country as a man.

Does not a woman's heart swell with pride at some national celebration as a man's?

Does not a lump come in her throat at a national disaster? Can she not translate her emotion into deeds of service as can a man? If there were no women there would be no nation. Yet a woman who loves and mates with a foreigner becomes an alien, must give up her cherished nationality, deny allegiance to the land of her birth and forswear her ancestry and register with the police. This is the sacrifice demanded in the twentieth century in this Empire of ours.

We saw how absurdly the system worked in the War.

Englishwomen married to Germans in time of peace—widows of Germans—women who had never set foot in Germany—who could not speak German, were classed as enemy aliens, and this even if they were living apart from their husbands. Some were reduced to starvation, but few chose to go to Germany.

On the other hand, German women married to Englishmen or widows of Englishmen were given the freedoms of Englishwomen whatever their sympathies.

At present the law regarding U.S.A. and English marriages is ridiculous.

An American woman marrying an Englishman takes the nationality of her husband, in England, at the same time retaining her own in America. She is neither fish, flesh, fowl, nor good red herring.

In the deplored possibility of War what would be her status?

An Englishwoman, however, marrying an

American loses her British nationality and does not become a citizen in the U.S.A., so is stateless and cannot get a passport. France and certain South American countries, Argentine, Chile, Uruguay and Brazil have progressive legislation on the nationality of married women, as has Russia.

The United States of America has forged ahead, Belgium, Roumania, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Iceland and Finland are going forward and a Resolution has been passed in the German Reichstag.

But British women must fight their own battles. The Mother Country must take the lead and her daughter countries overseas will follow suit. As the question is settled in the Empire, so a lead will be given for its just solution in other parts of the world. There will be no chance of settlement till the Imperial Conference meets again, but this does not preclude the use of educational propaganda, political agitation etc., to further the demand for justice. Everything must be done to prepare the way in the intervening time at our disposal.

At the Annual Meeting of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance last year one of the Resolutions passed, read as follows:

"St. Joan's S.P.A. records with deep regret that the Imperial Conference did not recommend legislation to give effect to the Resolution adopted by the House of Commons on February 18, 1925, 'that in the opinion of the House, a British woman shall not lose, or be deemed to lose her nationality, by mere act of marriage with an alien, and that it should be open for her to make a declaration of alienage.' It urges the Mother Country to take the lead in passing legislation to give effect to this Resolution."

It is only in recent years that the seal of law was put on the denationalization of women on marriage with foreigners and vice versa. In 1844 a foreign woman marrying an Englishman was deemed British by Act of Parliament, without enquiry as to her wishes. Moreover, she was not required to take an oath of allegiance.

In 1870, a British woman on marriage with an alien, lost her nationality and became unable to be nationalized, thus being placed in the same category as minors (temporarily) and lunatics.

In 1914 the British Nationality and Status

of Aliens Act passed by the Imperial Parliament confirmed the Acts of 1844 and 1870 by stating that a woman should be deemed to be the nationality of her husband, with one exception, viz., that if her husband was British at the time of marriage she was given the right to remain British if he changed his nationality. This was a step in the right direction.

Since 1917 the National Council of Women has been bringing the matter to the notice of successive Imperial Conferences, and in 1918, just after Armistice, a deputation was received by the Home Secretary at the request of the Imperial Conference. A memorial was presented, signed by women's organizations throughout the Empire, including, of course, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance or the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society as it then was, together with more than 80 societies in the Empire.

In 1925 a resolution in favour was adopted in the House of Commons and in 1926 the Australian Commonwealth adopted an identical one, and recently New Zealand has fallen into line. In Rome 1923, the International Women's Suffrage Alliance adopted a Draft Convention on the subject to which they adhered in Paris in 1926, and this represents the minimum that Suffragists will accept as satisfactory. It is as follows:

I.—The nationality of a woman shall not be changed by reason only of:

- (a) Marriage; or
- (b) A change during marriage of her husband's nationality.

II.—The right of a woman to retain her nationality or to change her nationality by naturalisation, denaturalisation, or renaturalisation, shall not be denied or abridged because she is a woman.

III.—The nationality of a married woman shall not be changed without her consent except under conditions which would cause a change in the nationality of a man without his consent.

The matter is to be discussed at a Conference for the Codification of International Law, to be held in 1929, under the auspices of the League of Nations. It is to be hoped that they will deal satisfactorily with it from an international standpoint.

The grievance must be relegated to times when the world was hag-ridden by Bellona the goddess of War, when a man could sell his wife in market overt or beat her with a rod no bigger than his little finger.

Notes and Comments.

The death of the Archbishop of Liverpool is a great loss to Catholics, and St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance has to grieve the loss of a friend.—R.I.P. We quote below from a letter from His Grace to our Liverpool Branch, April 11, 1926.

"As I have told you and your friends when you called upon me, I have and have always had a kindly feeling towards your Society of St. Joan as an Association of Catholic Ladies deeply interested in the rights and moral protection of your sex. As the Catholic Church under the inspiration of the Virgin Mother of God created the ideal of Christian Womanhood, and has raised so many women to the Altars of the Church, no Catholic Bishop will ever show indifference to the degradation of women by oppression or vice, or reprove those who are sincerely working for true reform. But we are not free to give official support to political organizations, however praiseworthy their objects may be. I must ask you, therefore, to be content with this expression of my general sympathy, and not press me to go beyond . . ."

—F. W., Archbishop of Liverpool.

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Miss Butler-Bowdon and Miss Lucking represented St. Joan's S.P.A. at the Service held at Westminster Cathedral on Sunday, February 12, to commemorate the anniversary of the Coronation of our Holy Father Pius XI.

* * * *

Miss Alison Neilans gave evidence before the Committee of Enquiry on Street Offences on behalf of the Association of Moral and Social Hygiene, St. Joan's S.P.A., the National Union for Equal Citizenship, and the Women's Freedom League. We shall deal with this matter in our next issue.

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The President of Rio Grande do Norte (which by an obvious slip we called *do Sur* in our last issue) writes thanking St. Joan's S.P.A. for their congratulations on the Enfranchisement of Women of that State, and says he believes "the step taken by this State will be soon followed by other States."

* * * *

We record with the deepest regret the death of Miss K. Donovan, for many years an active member of St. Joan's Alliance. She was working for St. Joan's as recently as November last at the Green, White and Gold Fair, and was a member of the Finance committee. By the request of the Alliance,

Holy Mass was offered for the repose of her soul, at St. Patrick's, Soho, on Sunday, March 4, at 10-30.—R.I.P. We offer our sincerest sympathy to her sister in her great loss.

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The Great United Franchise Demonstration, organised by the N.U.S.E.C., held at Queen's Hall on March 8th, on the eve of our going to press, was worthy of the finest suffrage traditions. The Prime Minister's promise of the introduction of the Franchise Bill on March 19th was received with great enthusiasm. He further promised that the second reading would be before Easter, that the Bill would be proceeded with as quickly as possible and that provided no "cataclysm" occurred the register would be so arranged that the new voters will be able to vote at the General Election.

The Equal Franchise resolution, passed unanimously, was moved by Miss Margaret Ashton and seconded by our own Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, in the name of voteless young women. Miss Parnell's eloquent speech was received with thunders of applause. (We are very proud of our young orator, and hope to see her one day in Parliament.)

We shall long remember Mr. Baldwin's appeal to young women to justify his faith in them and the faith of the women who had so long worked for the victory now in sight.

St. Joan's New Year Party.

A most enjoyable party, organized by the *Catholic Citizen* Circulation Committee, was held at the Caxton Hall on February 6. A very attractive musical programme had been arranged, the distinguished artists generously giving their services. Miss Felia Dorio charmed us with folk songs, in French, German and Italian, accompanying herself on the guitar. Viscountess Dupplin, accompanied by Miss Ivy Counsel, sang with dramatic force the ever popular air from Samson and Delila, besides two charming French songs. Miss Eleanor FitzGerald told Irish stories in her inimitable fashion. Mr. Jean Baptiste Toner gave a brilliant rendering of some of Chopin's preludes, Schubert's Prophetic Bird, Beethoven's Turkish March, a Polonaise by Liszt, and the Blue Danube. The London Sea Guides, led by Mrs. Laughton Mathews, sang sea shanties with fine nautical fervour.

In the interval we had short speeches from His Lordship the Bishop of Pella and Mrs. Laughton Mathews. His Lordship spoke of possible dangers to the Equal Franchise Bill, and hoped when Equal Franchise was established such societies as St. Joan's S.P.A. would continue in being, if only to induce electors to use their votes. Mrs. Laughton Mathews spoke of the early days of the Society, and praised the leaders of Catholic suffragists, who had seen the need of a Catholic Women's Suffrage Society. She also spoke of the influence of the *Catholic Citizen*, and appealed for new subscribers and for paper sellers.

The grand piano was kindly lent by Messrs. Ibach.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

Editorial Office of "Catholic Citizen":

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

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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MISS PAULINE M. BRANDT.	MRS. O'CONNOR.
MISS BUTLER-BOWDON.	MISS MARY WALL.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

Seventeenth Annual Report, 1927.

The year 1927 has not shown very much advance with regard to actual legislation affecting women though great strides have been made in the whole position of Equal Franchise, the most important event being the definite statement by the Prime Minister in April in the House of Commons that he would bring in a Bill next session giving votes to women at 21 and on the same terms as men.

This was followed by a thoroughly feminist speech from the Prime Minister to a meeting of Unionist women at the Albert Hall, in favour of votes at 21 rather than 25. Then followed the Conference of the National Conservative and Unionist Party at Cardiff, when an equally feminist resolution was passed by an overwhelming majority.

Other advances during the year include the election of a seventh woman to the House of Commons in the person of Lady Iveagh, and the setting up of a Committee of Enquiry by the Government into the Solicitation Laws; although we were pleased at the setting up of the Home Office enquiry, we should have preferred a Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament.

The position of women on Local Government bodies shows a steady if slow increase, the most notable example being the election of Miss Beavan as Lord Mayor of Liverpool.

We deplore the fact that the maternal mortality rate is still so high and shows no signs of decrease. According to the latest Government report one mother dies for every 250 children born, and many of these deaths, it is stated, are from *preventable* causes.

We also regret that married women are still excluded from Civil Service and largely from the teaching profession, and that unequal pay for equal work is still the rule.

The Alliance strongly objects to the classification of women with young persons in industry, and regrets the passage of the Lead Paint Bill which closed the door of an honourable and lucrative trade to women.

As regards Women Police, the position is very unsatisfactory, there being only 150 in the whole country.

In the educational sphere we regret the Oxford Statute for the limitation of the number of women students to 1 in 4, and certain tendencies elsewhere to keep women out of higher education.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The 16th Annual Meeting of the Alliance was held at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho, on March 19, Miss Fedden presiding in the unavoidable absence of the Chairman, Councillor Mrs. Crawford.

The adoption of the report was moved

by Miss Christopher St. John, and seconded by Miss Barclay Carter; and the adoption of the Financial Statement by Mrs. Smiley, M.A., and seconded by Mrs. Laughton Mathews, M.B.E. The appeal for funds was made by Miss Butler-Bowdon.

The following resolutions were carried unanimously, with the exception of No. 3c, one member refraining from voting.

1.—EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS.

(a) *Equal Franchise*. St. Joan's S.P.A. demands an immediate Government measure giving votes to women at 21 and on the same terms as men.

(b) *Women in the House of Lords*. St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to further legislation to enable peereesses in their own right to sit and vote in the House of Lords.

2.—EQUAL MORAL STANDARD.

(a) *Solicitation Laws*. In view of the fact that the Government has promised to appoint a committee of enquiry into the laws dealing with street solicitation, St. Joan's S.P.A. urges that the committee shall sit in public and its evidence be published. It re-affirms its conviction that sections specially directed against "common prostitutes" should be repealed, and an equal law be substituted applicable to all persons who annoy or molest others in the streets or public places.

(b) *State Regulation of Vice*. St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to do all in its power to hasten the abolition of all brothels known to the authorities within the jurisdiction of the British Empire.

(c) St. Joan's S.P.A. urges the Government to press for the publication of both sections of the full report of the League of Nations Committee of Investigation into the White Slave Traffic, which was presented to the Council of the League last week.

3.—EQUAL PAY AND OPPORTUNITIES.

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government and Local Authorities to establish among their employees a system of equal pay and opportunities for men and women, thus setting an example to other employers throughout the country.

(b) *Employment of Married Women*. Believing that women should have the right to decide for themselves whether or not they should engage in paid employment after marriage, St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to adopt the Married Women's (Employment) Bill, 1927, "to prevent the refusal to employ women in the public service by

reason only of their being married."

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

It believes that the only policy which safeguards their individual liberty and responsibility is that of basing all labour regulations and restrictions upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker, and calls upon the Government to apply this principle to the promised new Factories Bill."

4.—NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

St. Joan's S.P.A. records with deep regret that the Imperial Conference did not recommend legislation to give effect to the Resolution adopted by the House of Commons on February 18, 1925: "that in the opinion of the House, a British woman shall not lose, or be deemed to lose her nationality, by the mere act of marriage with an alien, and that it should be open to her to make a declaration of alienage." It urges the Mother Country to take the lead in passing legislation to give effect to this Resolution.

5.—AGE OF MARRIAGE.

St. Joan's S.P.A. deplores the fact that 12 is still the legal age of marriage for girls, and urges immediate legislation to remedy this evil.

6.—WOMEN POLICE.

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

7.—BIRTH CONTROL.

St. Joan's S.P.A. expresses its satisfaction with the continued policy of the Minister of Health in not allowing information on artificial Birth Control to be given at Infant Welfare Centres which are maintained out of public funds to which people of all opinions are required to contribute.

The resignation of Miss Moclair from the Committee, owing to her absence from London for some time, was received with much regret. Miss Barclay Carter was elected to fill the vacancy. Miss Douglas Irvine, M.A., was elected Chairman for the year by ballot of the Committee. We should like here to add a word of very hearty appreciation and thanks for all the work that our late Chairman, Mrs. Crawford, has done for us.

EQUAL FRANCHISE CAMPAIGN.

St. Joan's Alliance has concentrated chiefly this year on the campaign for Equal Franchise.

We started the year well. At the time Equal Franchise was before the Cabinet, we organised a deputation on January 13, to a Cabinet Minister, Sir Douglas Hogg, M.P. for St. Marylebone, the constituency in which our office is situated. Members of various suffrage societies supported us on the deputation, which was introduced by our Chairman, Mrs. Crawford. We made it clear to Sir Douglas Hogg that a Conference on Equal Franchise was no use to us whatever and that nothing less than a Bill giving votes to women at 21 and on the same terms as men would satisfy us. We begged him to convey our views to his colleagues in the Cabinet.

On February 23, a very successful meeting was held in the Town Hall in the East Fulham constituency. Miss Butler-Bowdon who had organised the meeting, presided, and the speakers represented all political parties in that constituency. The meeting was followed up by a deputation to Colonel Vaughan Morgan, at the House of Commons.

Throughout the summer twelve open-air meetings were held on Sunday evenings at Hampstead Heath, the constituency of an opponent, Mr. George Balfour, M.P. These were followed up by letters in the local press and by correspondence with Mr. Balfour.

We should like to express our special thanks to Miss Fedden and Miss Butler-Bowdon who hardly missed one of these meetings, as well as to our other members and one or two who belonged to other societies, who also gave up their Sunday evenings to this work. The last outdoor meeting was held in Hyde Park on October 8.

Another piece of Equal Franchise propaganda was the publication of our leaflet "Ten reasons why I should work for Equal Franchise," which has been widely distributed. We are indebted to Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell for having so ably drawn it up.

In addition to the above, the Alliance has never lost an opportunity of sending letters and resolutions on Equal Franchise to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Unionist Party Head Office and its local

branches, as well as to the Catholic Members of Parliament. Various letters and notices have also been sent to the local press of each constituency in which we have worked, and Questionnaires have been sent to various candidates at By-elections.

JOINT ACTION.

The most important event in this connection was the Deputation to the Prime Minister on March 8, supported by 49 national organizations. We are proud to record that one of the speakers was our own member, Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, who most eloquently voiced the views of the "Under-Thirties."

Another very effective piece of work undertaken by the Alliance in connection with the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee, was the lobbying of M.P.'s, which was carried on throughout the summer, St. Joan's Alliance being in charge of the lobbying parties on three occasions. 27 Unionist M.P.'s. were interviewed by members of St. Joan's Alliance.

At the request of other societies the Alliance has also sent speakers to a considerable number of meetings on Equal Franchise. Miss Butler-Bowdon spoke at a meeting held at the Minerva Café, Holborn, and Mr. Joseph Clayton at the Hampstead Town Hall, both of these meetings being organized by the Women's Freedom League. They were followed up by *Deputations* to the M.P.'s. of Holborn and Hampstead, Miss Wall representing the Alliance in the first constituency and Miss Sheila Hynes in the second. St. Joan's Alliance also sent a representative to the Deputation to the M.P. for East Islington.

Speeches on Equal Franchise were made by Miss Fedden at meetings held at the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society and the Women's Section of the Wandsworth Labour Party, also in Hyde Park at a meeting under the auspices of the Six Point Group.

At a mass meeting organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship in the Central Hall, Miss Monica O'Connor seconded a vote of thanks on behalf of the "Under-Thirties," while Miss Barclay Carter made a speech at a meeting of the National Union of Women Teachers at the Battersea Town Hall, also on behalf of the "Under-Thirties."

The Alliance was glad to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the introduction of the Women's Suffrage amendment to the Representation of the People Bill, although not associating itself with all John Stuart Mill's views, and took part in the feminist celebrations in Temple Gardens on May 20, when our Chairman, Miss Douglas Irvine, laid a wreath at his statue. In the evening Miss Barclay Carter spoke on behalf of the Alliance at the meeting in the Central Hall, organized by the Women's Freedom League.

St. Joan's Alliance is most actively represented on the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee and co-operated with it in a Mass Demonstration in Trafalgar Square on July 16. After community singing there were speeches, Miss Kathleen FitzGerald and Miss Butler-Bowdon speaking on behalf of our Alliance. Our thanks are due to them and to our stewards and banner holders.

The Alliance also co-operated in POSTER PARADES organized by the E.P.R.C.C.. Members of St. Joan's Alliance formed the majority of those who paraded most effectively on the day Parliament reassembled in the autumn. Photographs of this parade appeared in a number of papers and cinemas.

OTHER MEETINGS, ETC.

The Alliance felt they would like to give a dinner in honour of two of their most ardent and constant supporters amongst the clergy, Father Philip Fletcher and Dom Gilbert Higgins, C.R.L. Unfortunately Fr. Fletcher was unable to come through illness, and we quote here from his last letter to us:

"I am much touched by the kind thought which has inspired you and your society. I have, as you know, been an admirer of your work for a long time. I am here in a nursing home. . . . I am afraid my day is over. God bless you and all your work."

Another dinner was given to welcome Lady Laughton and Mrs. Laughton-Mathews on their return from Japan, and to Dr. Jane Ruthven and Miss Henderson, active suffrage workers in South Africa.

Our Chairman and Miss L. de Alberti were present at CROSBY HALL when a cheque for £1,000 was handed over to Dame Millicent Fawcett on her 80th birthday for

the endowment of her room at Crosby Hall, the International Hall of Residence for University students. The hall once belonged to Blessed Thomas More and stands on the ground which was his garden.

Subsequently, to raise funds for St. Joan's contribution towards the above endowment a fête was given at 15, Courtfield Road, by kind permission of Miss Lechmere. Dame Millicent Fawcett honoured us with her presence and said a few words, whilst we were indebted to Mr. Jean Baptiste Toner for a very delightful piano recital.

By request of our friend Dom Gilbert Higgins, we sent a member to speak on the aims of the Alliance to the Annual Meeting of the Children of Mary at Caxton Hall. Miss Fedden made excellent use of this opportunity.

A meeting was held at the 1920 Club, when Dr. Mary Beadon, Superintendent of the Government Victoria Hospital, Madras, gave an account of her 18 years' experience in India. At the same meeting, Miss Douglas Irvine reported on the N.C.W. Conference at Bournemouth.

LETTERS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Many letters and resolutions on subjects other than Equal Franchise were sent during the year by the Alliance to the Government Departments concerned. The following topics were dealt with:

1. Employment of Married Women.
2. Bastardy Bill.
3. Age of Marriage.
4. Jury Bill.
5. Lead Paint. (Protection against Poisoning Bill.)
6. Women in the House of Lords.
7. Tolerated Brothels in the Federated Malay States.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER SOCIETIES.

Conferences, etc.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance was well represented at the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women held at Bournemouth in October. Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell spoke at the meeting for young people on "What the Vote means to me," and in the name of the Alliance, Miss Douglas Irvine moved the following resolution on the AGE OF MARRIAGE. "That the National Council of Women deplors the

fact that 12 is still the legal age of marriage for girls and 14 for boys, and calls upon the Government to introduce legislation at the earliest possible moment to remedy this evil." It was carried unanimously and sent immediately to the Home Secretary. In the sequel, Miss Douglas Irvine represented the Alliance on a deputation to the Home Secretary begging that the marriage age should be raised for boys and girls to 16.

The Alliance also took part in the following conferences: a conference on *Women Police* organized by the N.C.W.; the British Commonwealth League Conference on the *Social and Industrial position of women throughout the British Empire*, at which a resolution on Equal Franchise was moved by the Alliance; the Howard League Conference on the *Treatment of Young Offenders*; a Conference of Women's Organisations with Dame Edith Lytton both before and after her visit to the *Eighth Assembly of the League of Nations*.

By special request of our member, Miss A. M. F. Cole, a speaker was sent to the meeting in Hyde Park organized by Miss Cole's *Old Horse Traffic* Committee for the campaign against the exportation of horses for butchery. We are grateful to Miss Barclay Carter who kindly undertook this for us.

REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES.

The Alliance is represented on the following bodies: (1) *The Catholic Citizen's Parliament*; (2) *The Consultative Committee of Women's Organizations*, at two of whose meetings resolutions on Equal Franchise were moved in our name; (3) *The Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee*, both on its executive and on its open-air sub-committee. The Alliance has devoted a great part of its activities to this campaign; (4) The following sectional committees of the *National Council of Women*, the Industrial, the Parliamentary and Legislative, the Rescue and Preventive; (5) the *Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union* and (6) the *Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations*; (7) The *National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child*; (8) the Committee set up to oppose the *Edinburgh Corporation Bill* which proposes to introduce compulsory

measures for the treatment of venereal disease. (9) The Alliance is also represented on the joint committee of the three British Auxiliaries affiliated to the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance.

In addition to the above we are affiliated to the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene and the Open-Door Council.

INTERNATIONAL.

The Alliance sent three adherents to the *Seventh International Congress for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children*, held in London in June.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN FOR SUFFRAGE AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP, AMSTERDAM.

Miss Douglas Irvine represented St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance at the International Committee of the Board and Presidents of Auxiliaries, and Miss Barry attended the meeting of the Enfranchised Women's Committee on behalf of the three British Auxiliaries of the above.

The Peace Study Conference was attended by Miss Butler-Bowdon who held a watching brief on behalf of St. Joan's Alliance.

St. Joan's Alliance is also affiliated to the International centre at *Bierville*, the Château which Marc Sangnier has given as a permanent centre for International friendship. Our members thus have the right of staying there.

The Alliance sent a message of greeting by letter to the Convention of the National Women's Party held in Colorado Springs in June.

FOREIGN VISITORS.

We were pleased to welcome during the year from Breslau, Dr. Else Breikopf; from Dublin, Miss B. Stafford; From Madras, Dr. Mary Beadon; from Spain, Señor and Señora Gaspard, (Consul General for Spain) and the Marques and Marquesa del Ter; from Warsaw, Madame Holder-Egger, Polish member of Parliament; and from the United States of America, Miss Tessa de Alberti.

CATHOLIC CITIZEN.

Our paper which has now completed its thirteenth year, continues to be a valuable asset to the Alliance. It carries news of our work far and wide. It is not as yet, unfortunately, self-supporting, but last autumn

a circulation committee was established, of which Mrs. Laughton-Mathews is Chairman, and Miss Almedingen, Hon. secretary. The object of this Committee is to make the *Citizen* self-supporting by obtaining new subscribers. The Committee has already shown itself most energetic, and has re-organized the sale of the paper at the door of Catholic Churches after Mass on Sundays. An appeal is made for volunteers for this service. We hope to be able to report next year that the Committee has achieved its object.

The *Catholic Citizen* is exchanged with a number of foreign feminist papers, and thus does good work internationally. We know by messages we receive from various parts of the globe that our colleagues in other lands find the paper very useful.

PRESS WORK.

Although few articles have this year been contributed to the newspapers on behalf of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, an even larger use than is customary has been made of the press. In the first place, reports of the Alliance's meetings and other functions, whether organized by itself alone or in conjunction with other societies, have been published in a number of papers. We owe special thanks to the *Catholic Times*, the *Universe* and the *Catholic Herald* for their readiness to chronicle our activities. The feminist papers and occasionally the *Tablet* have also given the hospitality of their columns to our news, and our local meetings have had a good press in the Hampstead, Marylebone and Fulham local papers.

In the second place, a number of letters signed by the chairman or the press secretary of the Alliance have been printed in various journals. Particular mention should be made of a note in the *Catholic Women's Outlook*, printed as the result of our correspondence with the editor to vindicate the Paris Congress of the I.W.S.A. against the unmerited accusation of advocating anti-Christian and anti-social doctrine. A letter printed in the *Women's Leader* shewed that artificial birth control was improperly given a place on a feminist programme. Letters in *Time and Tide* and in the *Women's Leader* explained the widely misunderstood point of the bearing of Canon Law on the legal minimum age for marriage, and a second letter in *Time and*

Tide explained the equally misunderstood attitude of the Church to the annulment of marriages. To the *Universe*, letters were written to explain the Alliance's desire for a reform of the Solicitation Laws on the lines of Lady Astor's Bill, and to call attention to the feast of St. Joan. To the *Catholic Times*, Mrs. Crawford and Miss Leonora de Alberti contributed letters on the value of a vote, while the press secretary wrote to congratulate this paper on its advocacy of the publication of the whole of the Report of the League of Nations Experts on the Traffic in Women and Children. Letters supporting the claim of peeresses in their own right to seats in the House of Lords were written to the *Universe* and to the *Catholic Times*. Two letters were written to the *Tablet* to confute this paper's erroneous view that women should not vote before they are twenty-five years old. Letters in the *Tablet*, the *Catholic Times*, the *Universe* and the *Catholic Herald* exhorted women voters to see to it in good time that their names were on the electoral register.

The Chairman of the Alliance has also signed letters jointly contributed by all the leading feminist organizations to the *Times* and the *Daily Telegraph* on Equal Franchise, and on the desirability of including women in the Simon Commission now engaged on examining the government of India.

The *Catholic Citizen* was on show at the Advertising Convention and Exhibition held at Olympia in the spring.

TREASURER'S NOTE.

The year 1927 saw a marked improvement in our financial position. We have to record with deep gratitude Miss Meredith's magnificent gift of £100, which she wishes ultimately to be at the free disposal of the Alliance. The Finance Sub-Committee, formed in 1926, continued their activities, and it is owing to their energetic work that the Alliance was able not only to pay its way but to finish the year with a balance of £24 15s. 9d., apart from the £100 invested. The events, organized by the Sub-Committee included a Whist Drive in February, an American Tea in April, two Jumble Sales on a barrow in the market, and the Christmas Sale in November. A special word of thanks is due to Miss Monica O'Connor for

organizing two most successful dances, in January and November, as her contribution towards the rent fund; also to Miss Bain, Miss Butler-Bowdon, Miss K. Donovan, (R.I.P.) Miss E. FitzGerald, Miss Havers and Miss Douglas Irvine, each of whom undertook to give or raise £5 per annum for that fund.

We are also happy to record that the debt on the *Catholic Citizen* was paid off, including bills for three months' printing outstanding at the 31st December, 1926. In November the new *Catholic Citizen* Circulation Committee organized a Jumble Sale at Fulham, which helped materially towards this better state of affairs.

As regards 1928, we have already a new promise from Miss Wall of £5 towards the rent fund, and if four more like promises were forthcoming the rent would be guaranteed. We cannot afford however to relax any efforts; funds are still urgently needed for the vigorous campaign that must be pursued until Equal Franchise is safely on the Statute Book.

OBITUARY.

The Annual Mass for deceased members was offered at St. Patrick's, Soho, on the first Sunday in November. The Alliance begs the prayers of members for the repose of the souls of Mrs. Brunlees, Mrs. H. E. Hurst and Mrs. Worters; also for Father Philip Fletcher, Mrs. Cust, and Miss Kathleen Donovan, who have died since the close of the year in review.—R.I.P.

PERSONAL.

We wish to express our gratitude to all who have helped us in various ways. In particular we thank the Misses Connolly of the Bureau of Ways and Means for the great service they have never failed to give whenever we have required any multigraphing of letters and circulars; Miss Sheila Hynes for the able work in the office which she has regularly given on two days a week and during the absence of the Secretary in Amsterdam; Miss Mary Wall for her generous help by character delineations, which have substantially swelled the funds of the Alliance; Miss Gorry whom we can count upon in any emergency and Mrs. Mace for her splendid help with refreshments at our social gatherings.

We are most grateful also to the able and enthusiastic Hon. Secretary of our Liverpool branch, Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell.

Above all, we owe very special thanks to Miss Butler-Bowdon, without whose devoted help it would have been hard indeed to enlarge our sphere of activity as we have been able to do this year. She has come to the office almost daily and has unstintingly given us her time and energy.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

The fifteenth year in the history of this Branch has not been marked by any great increase in membership as we had hoped nor by any outstanding achievements, but it has been one of continuous work and steady, if slow, progress.

Rightly or wrongly we have not ventured on any public meetings, but have confined ourselves to the much simpler and cheaper drawing-room meeting of which he have held six, over and above the Annual. The first of these was held on February 4, when, as we were disappointed in our speaker, the Hon. Secretary at very short notice gave an address on "Women in the League of Nations." Our next meeting was a Social on March 21, during which Mrs. Gordon, by special request, gave us a brief account of "Nursing Conditions in Poor Law Hospitals," and the Hon. Secretary described the Equal Franchise Deputation in which she had participated. (The third meeting, on April 2, was addressed by Miss Eileen Fletcher, a young student of the School of Social Science, on the subject of "Housing in Liverpool." We had the pleasure of hearing Mrs. Crawford speak on "Family Endowment" on September 26, the fifth meeting was addressed by Sydney Lamb, M.B.E., on October 31, who explained his scheme for the re-organization of the Voluntary Hospitals in Liverpool. We closed the year's meetings with a small money-raising activity in the form of a social.

But meetings are not, of course, the only, or even one might say, the chief activity of the Branch. During the year resolutions were sent to the proper quarters in favour of Equal Franchise, Peeresses in the House of Lords, Equal Pay and Opportunity in the Civil Service, an Equal Moral Standard, Women Police Religious Facilities for

Catholic Nurses, Women in the League of Nations, and against Artificial Birth Control.

Also, much of our energy this year has been expended on work for Equal Franchise in accordance with the policy of the whole Alliance. In this connection, the committee, at the beginning of the year, purchased 2000 of the Equal Franchise leaflets, 1500 of these have now been distributed. The Branch also paid the travelling expenses of the Hon. Sec. to London, that she might represent the Alliance at the Deputation to the Prime Minister in March. The Committee also arranged one open-air meeting on June 30, at which Mrs. Murphy presided and Miss Hall and the Hon. Sec. were the speakers. The Hon. Sec. has also spoken at a large number of meetings both in Liverpool and outside on this subject.

In local politics, Miss Hall and Miss Mary Parnell helped Mrs. Hamilton and Miss Fletcher respectively in their election campaigns in November. The Branch also sent a letter of congratulations to Miss Margaret Beavan on her being chosen Lord Mayor.

Besides this work accomplished by the Branch alone, we have maintained our cordial relations with other women's societies and have co-operated with them in many enterprises. In the matter of Equal Franchise, we have worked closely with the W.C.A. Our joint efforts to organize deputations to local M.P.'s were not successful, but the Equal Franchise dinner on December 2, at which the Honorary Secretary spoke at the request of the organizers, was a triumph for its organizers. We have also co-operated with the W.C.A. in deputations to City Councillors to convert them to the appointment of Women Police and we were well represented at a conference on "the Law and Sexual Offences," addressed by the Recorder of Liverpool, Dr. Hadfield and Canon Raven under the chairmanship of Mrs. Rackham, J.P.

During the year the Branch has become affiliated to the Peacemakers' Pilgrimage Committee on which we are represented by Mrs. Murphy and Miss Jervis. This body organized a widely extended series of open-air meetings, at some of which Miss Hall and the Hon. Sec. spoke, and the very impressive procession of Women on Armistice Day. We also sent Mrs. Murphy and Miss Hall as our dele-

gates to a conference on "The Economic Causes of War" organized by the W.I.L.

We have recently become associated with the Josephine Butler Centenary Committee on which the Hon. Sec. sits as representative of the Branch.

We have further to record a picnic to Chester in June, and a visit to the first church in England dedicated to St. Joan during its first anniversary celebrations.

During the year, the committee has met 10 times, the attendance being good.

In conclusion, we wish to express our deep gratitude to Mrs. Murphy, our chairman, for the use of her rooms on so many occasions, and for her generous hospitality.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

February 1-29.

	£	s.	d.
Almedingen, Miss ... ..	...	2	6
Atkinson, Misses M. and R. ...	...	3	0
Bennett, Mrs. Kempthorne ...	1	12	6
Busse, Miss ... ..	...	2	6
Butler-Bowdon, Miss E.	10	0	0
Butterworth, Miss ... ..	...	2	6
Challoner, Miss ... ..	...	7	0
Cockshutt, Miss ... ..	...	2	6
Collier, Dr. D. J.	1	1	0
Crawford, Mrs.	18	6	6
Currie, Lady ... ..	...	2	6
Dalton, Mrs. ... ..	...	1	6
Fortey, Miss, J.P. ... ..	...	2	6
Gadsby, Miss B. ... ..	...	2	6
Gordon, Mrs. ... ..	...	5	0
Gorry, Miss ... ..	...	2	6
Rooney, Very Rev. Canon ... ..	...	2	6
Stafford, Miss A. ... ..	...	3	6
Sullivan, Miss E. ... ..	...	2	6
Walsh, Mrs. W. ... ..	...	1	6
Welch, Miss J. R. V. ... ..	...	2	6
Minimum Annual Subscriptions ...	1	9	0

£17 9 6

I gratefully acknowledge the above annual subscriptions. There are still many more to come in, which I hope members will either bring to the Annual Meeting on March 17, or send by that date.

G. JEFFERY.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

Hon. Secretary: Miss N. S. Parnell, B.A.,
45 Falkner Street, Liverpool.

The Branch has sustained a severe loss in the death of Archbishop Keating, who was always sympathetic to our work—R.I.P. Mrs. McManus represented us at the Requiem Mass and the funeral.

The February meeting was held at 4 Prince's Avenue (by kind invitation of Mrs. McManus) and was unusually well attended. The speaker was Miss Maltravers, a well-known social worker, and her subject, "Josephine Butler."

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April, 1928.

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CHAIR :

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

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