

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

WOMEN'S SERVICE

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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.

History of Women's Emancipation

By Vera Laughton Mathews, D.B.E.

No history book is strictly impartial. Written history is not a catalogue but an interpretation of facts and the events portrayed take on the colouring represented by the point of view, opinions and prejudices of its writer. Most histories have been written by men, and the women's part has often been conspicuously neglected. In Arthur Bryant's *English Saga*, the various increases in men's voting rights are dealt with in the detail they deserve, but the even greater revolution of the extension of the franchise to women is not even mentioned.

In Vera Brittain's latest book, *Lady Into Woman*,* we have a history of women's position from Victoria to Elizabeth II, a history written by a feminist and therefore from a sympathetic point of view.

The book covers a huge canvas, yet nevertheless is throughout eminently readable. It gives a clear and fascinating picture of the spectacular change in the position of women in the last half century, a change described by Canon C. F. Raven, as probably the most profoundly significant and in the long run the most beneficial among all the discoveries and developments of that period.

The story of women's rising status is not limited to this country. In spite of space limitations, Miss Brittain manages to convey a general picture of the advance of women throughout the world, though her illustrations are not unnaturally drawn mostly from her own country.

A hundred years ago in Britain the only careers open to women were those of governess and dressmaker. By the beginning of the present century these had increased to include teaching, nursing, clerical work in the Civil Service and to a limited degree, medicine. Low conditions and rates of pay in industry bore the most hardly on women, unorganised, poor, and with legal and social disabilities in addition to being voteless. Ray Strachey has noted in *The Cause* that as Trades Unionism strengthened, "women's position as the underdogs of industry came to seem an order of the universe."

Miss Brittain devotes a whole chapter to each of the chief aspects of the movement for

* *Lady Into Woman*, by Vera Brittain, (Dakers 15s.).

equality—education, politics, economics, sex morality, the married woman's position. She writes of the rare gifted women who, at a time when "marriage still represented the only justification of a middle-class woman's existence," overcame "the weight of discouragement produced by being perpetually told that, as women, nothing much is ever expected of them."

Coming to present times, Miss Brittain, in spite of an optimistic outlook, has to admit that the number of women in high positions remains woefully low, and that a woman has to be more experienced and better equipped than a man in order to obtain an appointment open to either sex. Though prejudice still handicaps women in obtaining responsible positions, it is certain that there are many more men qualified for these than women; this is not because men are naturally more highly gifted but because the successful ones have spent their whole lives in fitting themselves for responsibility and are very often more experienced and have greater specialised knowledge. Many gifted women, when young, have devoted long years to bringing up families; others following a professional career have been handicapped by being retained in ancillary positions instead of being given the chance, as brilliant young men are, of gaining experience of responsibility.

What a joy to hear Alistair Cooke on the radio recently say that in America it is taken for granted that every one wants to get on, "as, for instance, that no one intends to remain a secretary for the rest of her life."

Miss Brittain refers to the relative speed with which unjust laws can be altered, compared with the slower change in long-established customs, traditions and prejudices. A striking illustration of this comparison could be seen in Turkey, where the International Alliance of Women held their congress in 1935, immediately after the spectacular legal emancipation of the women whose subjection had been a byword throughout the world. It is much easier to change laws than to alter the minds and hearts of men. Just and equal laws must come first and then the advance of public opinion is a duty in which every right-thinking person must share.

The first fundamental is of course equal franchise. The chapter on the Suffrage fight in Britain is presented most sympathetically and understandingly by the author, who was herself too young to take part in the struggle. She sketches the long constitutional movement, and the tremendous impact on public opinion of the meteoric militant campaign led by Mrs. Pankhurst "the fragile woman with the lovely face of a tired saint," a devoted wife and the mother of five children. She records the belief of Eleanor Rathbone, herself a convinced constitutionalist, that both types of campaign were necessary and that Mahatma Gandhi was so deeply impressed with the militant movement that he was said to have studied its technique before launching his own campaigns of non-violent resistance.

Miss Brittain writes: "Woman suffrage did not stir the sympathy of millions until women had proved their readiness to buy freedom and equality at the cost of torture and death. For all their impatient violence, the brief spectacular years of militancy achieved more for the advancement of women than the preceding half-century of patient organisation, wearisome committees, and meritorious resolutions. The militants captured public imagination, and to the few who possess the rare ability to accomplish this miracle, everything is forgiven. Because she had it, Emmeline Pankhurst rightly stands on her lonely pedestal in Victoria Tower Gardens at Westminster," the symbol of the achievement of all the woman suffrage pioneers.

The results of women's enfranchisement infiltrate the rest of the book. Miss Brittain sees these results not only in such facts as the striking decline in the infant death-rate and in maternal mortality but in the whole conception of the Welfare State which embodies "women's values" in social life. Women's difference in outlook, she believes with Eleanor Rathbone, has shown itself in the greater attention now given to health, housing, child welfare and the alleviation of suffering. "Women have moved within thirty years from rivalry with men to a new recognition of their unique value as women". . . . "With growing clarity they have perceived the importance, not of educating women to equal or excel men, but of educating men to respect and adopt those women's values which emphasise the principles of love and toleration."

This is an interesting philosophy, which will have many supporters. Nevertheless it is undeniable that the so-called masculine qualities exist in greater or less degree in many women and the qualities commonly termed feminine in many men. There is a danger in over-emphasising the psychological distinctions between the sexes; it may encourage differences in education and training and in spheres of activity. These are things which Miss Brittain would probably be the last to accept.

An important point about this book, is that it is written by a married woman with a family, and some of the most interesting sections deal with the position of the married woman. In any survey of the status of women today, it is useless to forget that the vast majority of women spend their lives in the role of homemakers, and in a social structure designed to tie the married woman to her home as closely as possible. Miss Brittain speaks of the pattern of living which "presupposes the sacrifice of one woman's whole existence to the needs of each small family," and of the unplanned home and old-fashioned equipment which involve hours of wasteful labour. How many men would tolerate such an incompetent working machine as the average house. How many factory hands would be allowed to waste time with tools as out of date as many in ordinary homes.

One of our problems today is to help the small-home woman to be more knowledgeable and more articulate, so that she may improve the organisation of her own particular sphere of activity and ensure that the period when her home occupies her whole time is limited to the very young years of her children.

Some may think that Miss Brittain's conclusions are drawn too much from one section of society, or perhaps it would be fairer to say that the more enlightened half of different sections. There are still unfortunately many homes in which domestic duties are expected of daughters which are not asked of sons; in general it is still accepted that the care of aged parents is the special responsibility of the single daughter. But Miss Brittain has given us the picture of what a home in the mid-twentieth century can and should be. Most aptly she compares the spinsterhood of Elizabeth I and the prolonged widowhood of Victoria with the position of the young Queen Elizabeth II, "who combines wifehood and motherhood with a public life of very hard work."

In a subject of this magnitude, it would be difficult to avoid errors and omissions, and these unfortunately occur. The passage referring to the Women's Services is inadequate and inaccurate and other slips include the name of the first woman Vice Chancellor of a University, Dame Lillian Penson. Perhaps the only error which it is really necessary to correct is the statement that State regulation of brothels has been abolished in Italy. The abolitionist Bill only passed the Senate, and with the new Government the struggle will have to begin all over again.

The book has obviously entailed considerable research and wide reading and the author (unlike some) is always meticulous and generous in giving credit when quoting.

Miss Brittain is to be congratulated on a fine achievement and it is hoped that her book will be widely read, not least by the generation of her daughter, to whom it is dedicated.

Notes and Comments

The final authorised version of *Challenge to Britain* states that: "A Labour Government will immediately implement the policy of equal pay for equal work for men and women and in this way give a lead to industry generally." This was one of the important amendments adopted by the Labour Conference at Margate.

* * *

It has been announced by Dame Myra Curtis, principal of Newnham College, Cambridge, that a new woman's college is to be founded in Cambridge, to be opened in the autumn with fifteen undergraduates. It is eighty-two years since the last women's college was founded at Cambridge and the proportion of women students to men is lower there than at Oxford.

* * *

A Wrens' training establishment has been commissioned at Burghfield, Berkshire, as H.M.S. Dauntless, a naval establishment manned entirely by women. Up till now Wrens' establishments have always been borne on the books of some parent establishment and this is the first time one has been recognised as H.M. ship. It is in charge of Supt. Nancy Robinson, who is responsible for the training of over two hundred girls. The only male naval officers are the doctor, the dentist and the commanding officer who is the first to fly his commissioning pendant in a ship with an entirely female crew.

* * *

Miss Shirley Catlin, to whom we are indebted for our article on Equal Pay in this issue, is the Labour candidate in the pending by-election at Harwich caused by the elevation of Sir Stanley Holmes to the peerage. We send her best wishes for her campaign.

* * *

The election of Mrs. Jeger (Lab., Holborn and St. Pancras) brings the number of women in Parliament up to twenty-one.

* * *

We congratulate Sister Mary of the Ascension (Eileen Foley) who took her vows as a Carmelite at Notting Hill, on December 19th.

* * *

We send best wishes to Mrs. Garrard who entered the Carmelites in Scotland as an extern on January 6th. *The Catholic Citizen* owes Mrs. Garrard an immeasurable debt of gratitude for addressing wrappers during the last eight years. Few realise what a tedious and thankless job it is—and yet how necessary.

The winter number of *Africa Calling* published by the Holy Ghost Fathers has an article answering the question: "What happens to the Wives of a Polygamist after his conversion to the Faith?" Starting with the point that "women no less than men, are fashioned by the hand of God" the author goes on to say that one of the tasks of the missionary is to alter the outlook which considers women as property "so that women may take their rightful place in the life of the community." When African pagans become converts to Christianity everything possible is done to provide suitably for the future of the dismissed "wives." In the case of many big polygamists (men possessing a great number of wives) the conversion is a deathbed one, so the problem does not arise. With men having two or three wives, if they are old and there is no danger of scandal they may be given suitable accommodation on the compound. If the "wives" are young it is often possible to arrange another marriage for them. Sometimes they are taken back into their families. "There is no question whatever of regarding them as inanimate property to be disposed of as suits the owner's convenience," and the fundamental rights of the women concerned are safeguarded by the Christian conscience of the Christian community to which the new convert has attached himself.

* * *

We ask the prayers of our members for Anne Somers who died on January 1st. Miss Somers was London Woman Organiser of the Labour Party from 1921 to 1941. She joined St. Joan's Alliance when she became a Catholic in 1928 and was a very faithful member. Miss Graham represented the Alliance at the Requiem at St. Ignatius Church, Sunbury-on-Thames. R.I.P.

* * *

The 43rd Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 20th. Nominations for Committee and resolutions for the agenda must reach the Secretary not later than February 15th.

Nominations must be duly proposed and seconded and the consent of the candidate obtained.

Subscriptions to the Alliance and Catholic Citizen (minimum 10s.) are now due.

HON. TREASURER'S NOTE

The final figure resulting from our Christmas Sale is £101 18s. 9d. I would like to thank all who have been such strong supporters in 1953. Now it is 1954 and I must start pestering again. Please will you let us have your subscription for this year. It is due on January 1st and the book-keeping is greatly facilitated if we receive subscriptions as early as possible.

Noreen K. Carr

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND
Editorial Office of "The Catholic Citizen"

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

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society

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"The Catholic Citizen."

Equal Pay

The public meeting organised by the Equal Pay Campaign Committee on December 9th, in the Central Hall, Westminster, was a great success. It is not easy in these days of indifference to political causes to make a respectable showing in so large a hall. But there must have been at least fifteen hundred in the audience, fifteen hundred enthusiastic, lively and convinced people, who did not hesitate to show their opinions of the speeches.

The panel of speakers included three M.P.s, polite and gallant men, balanced by Mr. Gilbert Harding, who was neither polite nor gallant, but easily won the day. After an introduction from Mrs. Thelma Cazalet-Keir, the Chairman, Mr. Anthony Greenwood (Lab., Rossendale), spoke with his usual competent charm. He pointed out that Parliament first accepted the principle of equal pay more than thirty years ago and said that, in his opinion, the advent of equal pay was being obstructed by a small group of influential people. Every Chancellor of the Exchequer put forward the same excuses. It seemed that our economic stability depended upon the perpetuation of a monstrous injustice. The women's claim had never gone to arbitration, yet the amount of money required to finance equal pay was tiny compared with the revenue from drink, gambling and tobacco.

"It is time we stopped singing songs about our mothers and writing poems about our sweethearts," said Mr. Greenwood, "and showed our respect by giving them the rate for the job."

Mr. Joseph Grimond (Lib., Orkney and Scotland) said that all political parties agreed on the principle of equal pay. Economic necessity was the only reason advanced against it, first in 1921, and, he felt sure, the same reason would be advanced in 2021. If that was true then why should not men sacrifice a little of their pay, he wanted to know? It was said that women were not as good workers, but equal pay was only demanded for equal work. It was said that

women got married—but many nowadays work after marriage. It was said that women don't support families—but then neither do single men.

Mr. Grimond declared that equal pay was only a beginning, that the country must reorient itself to the advance of women into industry and into public life.

The audience liked the two M.P.s, but it adored Mr. Harding, who spoke third. Mr. Harding began by counter-attacking in all directions. First the M.P.s—they were the representatives of three political parties, each one of which he disliked more than the others; next the Queen who was Church of England in England and Presbyterian in Scotland; "two communions mutually excommunicating;" finally, the audience. Why, he snapped at them, did women keep electing M.P.s, without first getting a definite pledge on equal pay?

Then, to the great delight of the audience, Mr. Harding vivisected a pamphlet put out by the National Association of Schoolmasters, opposing equal pay. He pointed out its pomposity, its lack of grammar, its stupidity. (Example: Women teachers deserve less pay because "they cannot teach their boys to be men by being men.")

In Mr. Harding's opinion, women teachers worked far harder than most of their male colleagues and were just as good at keeping their classes in order. Having revealed the enemy, Mr. Harding ended with a call to battle.

After this stirring conclusion, Mr. Gilbert Longden (Con., S. W. Herts.) found himself with a doubly thankless task. Admitting that he alone represented a party in a position to effect equal pay, he tried to show why it was impossible to do so at the present time. He said that his party was pledged to implement equal pay as soon as possible, without serious distortion of the economy. He expressed (against ceaseless heckling from the audience) his hope that the Government would be able to make a start before the

History of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society

By Leonora de Alberti

(Continued)

end of its term of office. Finally stung, he told the meeting that it was foolish not to accept an offer for gradual introduction of equal pay. Then he made two concrete suggestions, first, that the Equal Pay Campaign Committee, should press for a clause on equal pay to be included in the European Charter for Human Rights (it is already included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights approved by the U.K.) and secondly, that the Committee should suggest equal retirement ages for men and women at the coming review of the National Insurance Acts.

The audience had become fiercely partisan during Mr. Longden's speech and shouts of "Rubbish" mingling with applause, united to accept the final solution.

"This public Meeting convened by the Equal Pay Campaign Committee, calls on H.M. Government to carry out the wishes expressed by successive Parliaments since 1920 and to establish equal pay for equal work, the rate for the job in public services."

The audience also obviously agreed with Mrs. Cazalet-Keir's choice of Gilbert Harding as the hero of the evening, in token of which he was presented with an equal pay badge.

Shirley Catlin

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Australia. We wish success to the work of the Inter-State Conference of St. Joan's Alliance which opens in Melbourne on January 19th. We hope to publish a report of the Conference in a later issue.

In connection with the note on the ratification of the Equal Pay Convention (*The Catholic Citizen*, October 15th), Miss Flynn writes that "Victoria has not the right to ratify the Convention. It was the Cabinet of Victoria which signified its approval of ratification by the Federal Government. If all the other States did likewise, then the Federal Government could ratify."

Unfortunately news since received from Mrs. Daly, president of St. Joan's in New South Wales, informs us that West Australia and South Australia disapprove of ratification and that no opinion has been expressed by New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania.

* * *

Brazil. Miss Lisboa writes that the programme of work for l'Aliança Santa Joana d'Arc in the new year is "to stimulate the development of new and more efficient methods of resolving women's economic problems. These will include home industries, rural activities and the organisation of women's work with a view to commercial advantage."

The new president of l'Aliança is Dr. Nilza Perez Rezende.

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Canada. Miss Aileen Noonan has been re-elected to the Town Council of Mount Forest, Ontario. We are glad to number her among the members of St. Joan's Alliance and wish her all success during her new term of office.

A piece of propaganda on which the Society set great store, was the attendance at the biennial Catholic Congress. The chief object of the society was to reach Catholics, and bring home to them the importance of the suffrage movement. It was the main contribution of the C.W.S.S. to the suffrage fight. There was no better means of advertising the society than by propaganda at the Congress. The policy of all suffrage societies was to preach votes for women in season and out of season. It was not a popular policy, but it won the vote. In the very first year of the society's existence 1911, Miss Beatrice Gadsby and Miss O'Sullivan attended the Catholic Congress at Newcastle. The object of the society being political it did not come within the scope of the Congress, but through the courtesy of Alderman Weidner front seats were reserved for our two delegates, who managed to distribute over one thousand leaflets. A glance at the Press Book for that year shows the amount of advertisement the society obtained from the work of Miss Gadsby and Miss O'Sullivan at this Congress. It was at Newcastle, too, that Monsignor Giesswein joined the C.W.S.S. This distinguished Hungarian prelate, member of the Hungarian Parliament, was a keen feminist, and spoke strongly in favour of woman suffrage at the Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance held at Budapest in 1913. He was a true friend to the C.W.S.S. until his death in 1924.

At the Catholic Congress held in Norwich in 1912, the C.W.S.S. made a brave show. Miss Jeffrey went down a week beforehand to organise a public meeting. A very large audience—including many clergy—flocked to the meeting. Miss Abadam and Miss FitzSimons were the speakers, with Miss FitzGerald in the Chair. A great deal of propaganda was done during the Congress.

It was in the autumn of 1911 that the C.W.S.S. held a public meeting at the Queen's Hall, at which Miss Abadam was the chief speaker. The Hon. Mrs. Walter Roch—afterwards our third Chairman—was in the Chair. The C.W.S.S. was much indebted in those early days to Miss Abadam, whose eloquence was a great asset to the new society. Miss Abadam spoke for the society in London and up and down the country, and attracted many recruits.

Mr. Joseph Clayton, who also spoke at this meeting, was another friend of suffrage, to whom the society owes a debt of gratitude. He was the most prominent of our supporters among Catholic laymen. Among others whom we remember with gratitude are Mr. Blount, Mr. Raikes Bromage, Mr. James Britten and Mr. Francis Meynell. (To be continued)

THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

The month opened with the conclusion of the Second Reading of the Housing Repairs and Rents Bill, a Bill designed to prevent the further deterioration of rent-restricted houses, and to promote slum clearance and the restoration of unfit houses. Among the provisions of this lengthy and complicated Bill is one enabling landlords to charge an increased rent, limited in amount, to tenants whose houses have been repaired. By this means it is hoped that many more or less sound houses, now threatened with decay for financial reasons, will be rendered and kept in a habitable condition. On December 4th, Lady Tweedsmuir's Protection of Birds Bill also had its Second Reading. Her Bill is unusual for that of a Private Member in having sixteen clauses and six schedules. It seeks to replace with a single measure the twenty-six existing Wild Bird Protection Acts, the earliest dating back to the reign of George III. Undaunted by her formidable task, Lady Tweedsmuir outlined the provisions of the Bill in a speech remarkable for its brevity and clearness. On December 2nd, under the Ten Minutes Rule, Miss Ward obtained leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the exercise of Statutory rights of entry by staffs of Gas and Electricity Boards.

In the Debate on Adjournment on December 11th, Miss Elaine Burton drew attention to the deplorable lack of hospital accommodation in her constituency of Coventry. While speaking sympathetically of the situation, Mr. Iain Macleod, the Minister of Health, was only able to afford her the cold comfort of a promise that, assuming that there was no reduction in the money available, the matter would be given high priority in the financial year 1955-56. On December 14th, the plight of the aged sick was debated, following the publication of most disturbing articles and correspondence in the "Manchester Guardian." Mr. Macleod denied that his Ministry was "less acutely aware than others of the need" of better provision, but stressed the magnitude of the problem presented by the increasing age of the population, which had risen from 2½ million people over pensionable age in 1911 to 6½ million in 1947, and was expected to reach 9½ million in 1977. He concluded by saying "let us by all means ask if the State has failed, but let us also ask if the family and the neighbours are doing all they can. . . . Surely this is genuinely a problem for us all, and that such things should happen is certainly a reproach to the State, and to us as citizens and Christians as well."

In the Debate on the salaries of graduate teachers on the 1st, mention was made of the sex differentiation in the additional allowances for graduates, but without comment. On the 7th,

however, when the supply and training of teachers was discussed, attention was drawn by Mr. Thomas to the 250 unfilled places in women's training colleges, and unequal pay was suggested as one of the reasons for this. On the 10th, Mr. M. Stewart presented a Petition with 1,073 signatures of men and women teachers working in West London asking for legislation to establish equal pay in the public service.

In addition to two Questions on equal pay, to which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had nothing to add to previous replies, Miss Ward asked him on December 8th whether, as the women staff is approximately one-third of the Civil Service, he would take steps to ensure that the number of women members of the recently appointed Royal Commission reflected that position. Mr. Butler in reply said that two of the twelve members were women, and these two would no doubt adequately express women's views. On the 10th Miss Ward asked the Minister of Health to take steps to ensure that the restrictive practice proposals of the Health Executive Council which had ruled that male doctors only can take over male practices and female doctors female practices will not be permitted under the National Health Service. She was assured that she had been misinformed, and that in fact the advice given to the London Executive Council was broadly in the sense she desired.

On the 16th, the Home Secretary gave the welcome news in a Written Answer that it was the intention of the Government to amend the rules governing the constitution of the Juvenile courts to secure, as soon as practicable, that all juvenile courts should contain at least one man and one woman. The Lord Chancellor proposed to amend the Statutory Rules to provide for mixed courts in every case, except in emergency, when a court may be composed of two men or two women. The new rules would come into force in January, 1955, in England and Wales and May, 1955, in Scotland, so as to allow time to add women justices to the few juvenile court panels which had not an adequate number.

On the last day before the Christmas recess, Sir Geoffrey Hutchinson raised the question of the persecution of the Catholic Church in Poland. He said that seven bishops had been imprisoned, and over 2,000 priests imprisoned, deported or made to flee into exile. Thirty-seven priests were known to have been put to death. Nearly half the religious houses were closed, and over 70 per cent. of the Catholic Schools were no longer open. Many members expressed their sympathy, and Mr. Dodds-Parker, Under-Secretary, Foreign Office, repeated in the strongest terms the Government's abhorrence of the persecution of religion.

Vera Douie

BRITISH COLONIES AND PROTECTORATES

In a written reply to Mr. Peter Freeman on November 5th, 1953, Mr. Lyttelton gave the following list of colonies and protectorates under British Jurisdiction, showing the various forms of franchise.

1. In the following territories there is full adult suffrage in elections to territorial legislatures:—

Barbados.
British Guiana.
Falkland Islands.
Gibraltar.
Gold Coast.
Jamaica.
Leeward Islands.
Malta and Gozo.
Trinidad and Tobago.
Windward Islands.

2. There is no elected membership in the legislatures and, consequently, no franchise, in the following territories:—

Aden (Colony and Protectorate).
Brunei.
Cyprus.
Hong Kong.
Federation of Malaya.
North Borneo.
Nyasaland.
St. Helena.
Sarawak.
Somaliland Protectorate.
Tanganyika.
Uganda.
Western Pacific.
Zanzibar.

3. Limited adult suffrage in elections to territorial legislatures exist in the following territories. The limitations take a variety of forms, e.g., residential, literacy, financial or property-holding; geographical (i.e. elections are restricted to certain areas); sex or communal:—

Bahamas (financial and sex).
British Honduras (income and/or property).
Bermuda (property-holding).
Fiji (communal).
The Gambia (geographical).
Kenya (communal).
Mauritius (literacy, armed forces or business premises).
Nigeria (payment of tax and in the North, sex).
Northern Rhodesia (in practice, communal).
Seychelles (payment of tax or residential).
Sierra Leone (geographical).
Singapore (residential; British subject; or place of birth).

The reasons for the limitation of suffrage vary from territory to territory. The question of removing existing limitations is invariably considered when Constitutions are reviewed.

HERE AND THERE

"A debt I owe to St. Joan's is an increased knowledge of the world—not only through the pages of *The Catholic Citizen*, but through the writing of names and addresses. Many times I have had my attention arrested by an address, and I have had to get up and look up the town, somewhere in Australia, South Africa, South America, or where you will, and then I have placed the member in her correct setting. Oh yes! That part of the work has been very enlightening and has thrown off what might have been the tediousness of the job."—Mrs. Garrard who for the last eight years has addressed wrappers for *The Catholic Citizen* (see page 3).

THE VIRGIN MOTHER OF GOD

Hail! channel of good.
Hail! reverser of evil.
Hail! remedy for Adam's sin.
Hail! drier of Eve's tears.
Hail! height beyond men's thoughts.
Hail! depth beyond the angels.
Hail! kingly throne.
Hail! for who bears all you bear?
Hail! star that bore the Sun.
Hail! shelter of incarnate God.
Hail! you through whom all things are made anew.
Hail! you through whom the Maker of all becomes a little child.
Hail! you through whom the Maker is worshipped.
Hail! Maiden Bride.

Akathistos Hymn

TO-MORROW'S CITIZENS

The Council for Education in World Citizenship held its annual holiday conference on "The Challenge of Africa," at the Central Hall, Westminster from December 29th to January 1st. Some two thousand boys and girls from schools all over the British Isles heard experts on almost every aspect of the African scene. The fundamental question of the status of the women however was scarcely mentioned.

The Conference was opened by Lord Hailey under the chairmanship of Dr. Gilbert Murray. The speeches were either lively and provocative, or full of information, and all elicited numbers of questions from the boys and girls in the audience, and stimulated much discussion in the groups who met each day to produce a report for the final meeting. The only woman speaker was a substitute speaker on the Brains Trust—Mrs. Sodeinde, assistant Liaison Officer at the Colonial Office for the Nigerian women students—and she worthily represented the highly cultivated and charming women of her race.

Even the dinner hour found these keen young people (fortified by sandwiches and drinks from the buffet) either listening to gramophone records of African music or watching a documentary "Daybreak in Udi." This film illustrates the work of a District Officer in Nigeria and showed him dealing with a case in which a man claimed a child from its natural parents on the grounds that he had paid the bride-price for its mother. The District Officer gave judgment in favour of the natural parents as "the interests of the child must be the first consideration," and he told the claimant that he could lay a claim before the native court for repayment of the bride-price. Miss Challoner, who had been asked to be one of the group leaders in this Conference, was kindly allowed to explain the question of bride-price to the audience at the final showing of this film.

CAUSE FOR ANXIETY

The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene notes cause for anxiety in certain legal issues which are particularly concerned with problems of sexual offences. Such is "the use of such 'archaic ruses' as the Justice of the Peace Act, 1360, to place Chief Constables in the position of morals directors; and the still more startling issues raised by the cases of the two Oxford girls, aged 21 and 22, convicted of making false entries in the register of the hotel where they stayed with American servicemen, because they signed themselves, using their own surnames, with the prefix 'Mrs.' instead of 'Miss.' This conviction was secured under the Aliens Order, 1920 (applicable to British subjects as to this clause), and a savage sentence of a month's imprisonment was imposed. But as Sir Compton Mackenzie and Mr. John Moore pointed out in a letter to the *Times* of May 23rd, another girl, who stayed alone in a boarding house under an assumed name, was given an absolute discharge, the inescapable conclusion being that the magistrates imposed the severe sentences because the girls concerned offended against their moral code. We do not defend in any way the sad lapses with American servicemen, but we do protest against such a use of the law."—*The Shield* (December, 1953).

DAMASCENE PICTURES

Miss Joan Morris of the Company of St. Paul and a member of St. Joan's Alliance, has sent us a notice of her latest venture—Damascene Pictures, which she is running in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. She writes: "Damascene Pictures, inspired by the doctrine of St. John Damascene, the writer of the three treatises on Sacred Images, in which he upholds the dignity and worth of visual expression of religious truths, is running a studio for making animated art films for T.V. and schools on religious and liturgical themes." Miss Morris is the art director of Damascene Pictures and shows the films herself. Classes are held at the studio in art animation; and the many hundred paintings made for the films are available for other purposes such as church decoration and book illustration.

Miss Morris has already made two films "True Peace," a Nativity film and "Symbolic Candles," a Passion and Easter film, which have had many showings. She is making a further one, "The Gift of Tongues," to be a Pentecost film.

Books Wanted, by Australian member of St. Joan's: "The Puppet Show of Memory" and "Punch and Judy", by Maurice Baring; Ellen Terry's Memoirs; "Time Past", by Marie Sheikevitch; "The Subjection of Women", by John Stuart Mill; "Letters to Merline", by Rainer Rilke; "The Bishop Murder Case", "The Scarab Murder Case", and "The Kennel Murder Case", by S. S. Van Dine.

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