

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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THE

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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.

The Cause.*

By L. DE ALBERTI.

In her book, "The Cause," Mrs. Strachey traces the women's movement in Great Britain from its inception to the victory of 1928. She has written an interesting and lucid history, and handled with ease what must have been at the outset an unwieldy mass of material. She finds that the feminine revolt in the nineteenth century against subjection was due in the main to doctrines and philosophies which inspired the French revolution, and to the economic changes of the industrial revolution.

She discovers the murmurings of revolt in strange places, and gives due credit to the ladies—they would surely have been insulted had they been alluded to as women—who started the philanthropic movement. "It may seem strange," Mrs. Strachey says, "to maintain that Miss Hannah More and Mrs. Trimmer and the other good ladies who started the Sunday School and cottage-visiting fashions, were the founders of a movement which would have shocked them so profoundly; but it is clearly true."

Indeed, once young women had been moved to look beyond their drawing-rooms, and realised their narrow and futile lives, their revolt against these conditions followed as a matter of course, as Mrs. Strachey shows. How narrow and futile their lives were, and how bitterly some women resented their position, is vividly brought out in an essay by Florence Nightingale, entitled "Cassandra," which is published in full for the first time as an appendix to Mrs.

* "The Cause," by Ray Strachey. Messrs. Bell & Sons. 15s. net.

Strachey's book. The volume, of which this essay forms part, was written by Miss Nightingale in 1852, and revised in 1859, but on the advice of John Stuart Mill and other friends, it was not published. "Marriage," she says, "is the only chance (and it is but a chance) offered to women to escape from this death; and how eagerly and how ignorantly it is embraced." Or, in the Church of Rome there was the convent, into which she thinks many entered to escape from an intolerable fate. To read this essay is to realise the gulf which separates the present generation from the Victorian age.

It is indeed interesting to follow in Mrs. Strachey's pages the birth and development of the women's movement, and to note how one demand led to another. The right to higher education; the storming of the universities; the right to paid work, and to enter professions; the campaign to open the medical profession to women; a woman's right to guardianship of her children—a demand born of the sufferings of Caroline Norton, and her right to her own property; and then a woman's right to citizenship. It is scarcely possible at the present day to realise the obstacles which had to be overcome by the pioneer women at a time when a woman could not go out alone, and when it was considered a disgrace for her to speak in public.

Mrs. Strachey tells the story of the suffrage agitation with spirit, and it is interesting even to those to whom the subject is familiar. That she has endeavoured to be fair to the militants is obvious; indeed,

she discussed the question with the late Mrs. Pankhurst, but it is impossible for anyone who was not a militant to understand the religious zeal which transformed ordinary young girls—or indeed women of any age—into flaming crusaders burning to rescue women from age-long slavery. It is usual to say that the war brought about the enfranchisement of women; the fact is that no Government would have been prepared to face a revival of militancy. At the same time, but for the work of constitutional suffragists, which had lasted some fifty years, militancy could not have been successful.

Mrs. Strachey has already promised to correct the error relating to the accounts of the W.S.P.U. Members of that Union will remember that a financial statement, duly certified, accompanied the Annual Reports of the W.S.P.U. up to 1914.

Mrs. Despard was never expelled from the Irish Free State as a dangerous character (as the *Vote* has already pointed out) nor was the policy of the Women's Freedom League much the same as that of the W.S.P.U. In a book of this nature some inaccuracies must inevitably occur, though Mrs. Strachey has endeavoured to be fair to all classes of suffragists. The book is fittingly dedicated to Dame Millicent Fawcett, "Who took up the task when the Movement began, who walked steadfastly in times of discouragement, and wisely in times of hope, and who led the Movement to Victory."

Notes and Comments.

We note that the Catholic Press speaks of the brave show made by the platform at the great rally of Catholics at the Coliseum to celebrate the Centenary of Catholic Emancipation. It was, indeed, a distinguished gathering, but did no one but ourselves notice one grave omission? We mean that no representative of Catholic laywomen sat on the platform. We sincerely trust that in future organizers of such meetings—for no doubt many will be held—will have the decency to remember the great work done by Catholic women in this country.

* * * * *

We are grateful to the Members—Mr. L'Estrange Malone, Miss Wilkinson, Lady

Astor and Mr. Cecil Wilson—who raised the question of Child Slavery in Hong-Kong in the House of Commons. In 1922, when Lieutenant and Mrs. Hazlewood brought the story of 'mui tsai' to this country, a great agitation was raised, the result being that the then Colonial Secretary promised that the system should be abolished in one year. It will be remembered that 'mui tsai' is the sale of young girls by their parents, or guardians, to families ostensibly for the purpose of domestic service, to be disposed of as the purchaser sees fit. In spite of the pledge given in 1922, it appears that 'mui tsai' still flourishes. Mr. Amery defers any statement until a report is received from Hong Kong.

We trust that the Colonial Secretary will insist upon the pledge being carried out in full. The authorities have had seven years to work out a plan to safeguard the girls already in "service."

* * * * *

We hope all our members within reach of London will come to the Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 16th, at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick's, Soho. A Public Meeting will be held at 5 p.m., when Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A., will speak on "What we can do at the General Election."

* * * * *

Lord Buckmaster's Age of Marriage Bill, which proposes to make void any marriage between persons, either of whom is under sixteen, aroused more controversy than was expected. Various speakers were anxious that such a marriage should be voidable but not void. The Bill comes up again for discussion before Easter. The women societies, including ourselves, having seriously considered the matter, desire that such a marriage shall be void. Even if the girl is pregnant it does not follow that she would do well to marry her seducer, whether he be an elderly scoundrel or a youth. When she reaches the legal age of marriage, if the parties wish to marry, her child would be then legitimate. The wronged girl must be considered before her child.

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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.

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St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

Eighteenth Annual Report.

The year 1928 will be remembered as Victory Year. After a campaign lasting over sixty years, the King's assent was given on July 2nd to the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Bill, which does actually give to women the vote on the same terms as men. This outstanding victory overshadows all other events of the year, but there have been minor victories. The defeat of the Edinburgh Corporation Bill is a victory in which we particularly rejoice. The bill proposed to give to the Medical Officer of Health the power to compel any person who he had reason to believe was suffering from venereal disease to submit to treatment. We said at the time that publicity would kill the bill, which would have constituted a grave public danger. Its defeat was due to the action taken by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene and the women's societies. In the fight to obtain for married women the right to engage in paid employment, we are glad to record two victories. The City Council of Manchester rejected the proposals of its Education Committee to require the resignation of teachers on marriage; and the Education Committee of Leigh rescinded a similar proposal owing to the successful fight of Mrs. Doris Bent, a teacher in a non-provided school. The reverse of the medal shows that several local councils have adopted the rule of compulsory retirement on marriage.

The long expected Report of the Streets Offences Committee has proved unsatis-

factory, and the Public Places (Order) Bill, drafted by the A.M.S.H., remains the solution most acceptable to the societies interested in the matter, including St. Joan's S.P.A. Miss Alison Neilans gave evidence before the Streets Offences Committee on behalf of St. Joan's S.P.A., as well as of other societies. The Criminal Law Amendment Act substituting twelve months for nine as the time limit for prosecutions in cases of offences against young persons, should prove useful. We are glad to note that public interest has been roused in the grave question of maternal mortality and that two committees have been set up by the Minister of Health to enquire into the causes.

Among the year's gains we count the election of Mrs. Runciman to Parliament, bringing the number of women M.P.'s. to eight. We hope to see a far greater number of women elected this year.

There has been no change as regards women police, but we believe that the Royal Commission which is enquiring into the general powers and duties of the police, will show that there is an urgent need in the Force for fully trained women with powers of arrest. Great indignation is felt at the closing of six London hospitals to women students, but we hope that this is a temporary setback.

In international feminism the outstanding event is the victory won by the Women's Party, U.S.A., at the Pan-American Congress, Havana, where they not only obtained

a hearing, but as a result of their campaign, the Congress unanimously voted for the creation of a Committee of women to study their own status in the Americas, and report to the next Congress, with recommendations.

Later in the year, through the initiative of Miss Doris Stevens of the Women's Party delegation, the Assembly of the League of Nations passed a resolution recommending governments to consider the inclusion of women in their delegations to the Conference for the Codification of International Law to be held this year when the question of Nationality will be discussed. The International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship and the International Council of Women have also done useful work in connection with the League of Nations on this subject of nationality.

ANNUAL MEETING.

For ourselves the year has shown a steady increase of members, and the extension of work has necessitated new offices (rooms 12 and 13) 55 Berners Street.

The Seventeenth Annual Meeting was held at St. Patrick's Clubroom, Soho, on March 17th, Miss Douglas Irvine in the chair.

After the adoption of the Report and Financial Statement, the result of the ballot for the executive committee was announced. Mrs. Laughton Mathews and Miss Monica O'Connor being elected in the place of Miss Havers and Miss Harley Bacon. Miss Douglas Irvine was re-elected chairman.

Later in the year, owing to the resignation of Mrs. Crawford and Miss Wall, a further ballot took place when Miss Eleanor Fitzgerald and Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A., were elected. We take this opportunity of thanking the members of the committee who have retired, for their valuable services.

The following resolutions were then put to the meeting, and carried:

1.—EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS.

(a) *Equal Franchise.* St. Joan's S.P.A. thanks the Prime Minister for his firm advocacy of Equal Franchise, heartily welcomes the introduction of the Equal Franchise Bill, and expresses its satisfaction with its terms. It begs the Government to pass it through all its stages without delay, to avoid risk of an unexpected political disaster to the measure.

(b) *Women in the House of Lords.* St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to

further legislation to enable peeresses in their own right to sit and vote in the House of Lords.

2.—EQUAL MORAL STANDARD.

(a) *Josephine Butler Centenary.* St. Joan's S.P.A. on the occasion of the centenary of Josephine Butler's birth wishes to express its deep thankfulness for her life-long struggle for justice and her persistent challenge to the double standard of morality which led to the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts in 1886. In particular it desires to express its admiration for her courageous fight begun in 1869, for the abolition of State Regulation of Vice wherever it existed. It pledges itself not to depart from the principles of Josephine Butler in any work it may do to further the Equal Moral standard.

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

(c) *Solicitation Laws.* St. Joan's S.P.A. welcomes the appointment of the Street Offences Committee, but reaffirms its conviction that sections specially directed against "common prostitutes" should be repealed, and an equal law substituted applicable to all persons who annoy or molest others in the streets or public places. It pledges itself to oppose any recommendations which, though equal in the letter, are in fact directed specially against women, or any group of women.

(d) *Malay States.* St. Joan's S.P.A. calls for the immediate suspension of the new enactments providing for the compulsory medical examination of suspected prostitutes in the Federated Malay States and the Straits Settlements.

(e) *Edinburgh Corporation Bill.* St. Joan's S.P.A., believing in the present voluntary and confidential treatment of venereal disease, calls upon the Government to oppose in all its stages the Edinburgh Corporation Bill, which would empower compulsory examination and detention of suspected persons suffering from venereal disease, and would permit the denunciation of one person by another.

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, and freedom for married women to decide for themselves whether or not they shall engage in paid employment after marriage.

(b) *"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 all legislation.

4.—NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to give a lead to the British Commonwealth by passing legislation to allow a woman the choice of retaining or changing her nationality on marriage with a foreigner.

5.—MATERNAL MORTALITY.

St. Joan's S.P.A. deplores the continued high rate of maternal mortality, expresses its gratitude for the Queen's gracious message to the Maternity Mortality Conference held on February 28, and trusts that steps will be taken immediately by the appropriate authorities to fulfil Her Majesty's wishes.

6.—AGE OF MARRIAGE.

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass through all its stages a simple measure raising the age of marriage for boys and girls to 16.

7.—WOMEN POLICE.

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to further legislation making it compulsory for watch committees and standing joint committees to appoint a sufficient number of women police.

8.—EDUCATION.

St. Joan's S.P.A. believes that while a wider choice of subjects is desirable for the educational curricula for boys as well as for girls, it is essential that identical examinations and certificates be awarded to boys and girls.

9.—WOMEN PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES.

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon all political parties to nominate a greater number of suitable women in constituencies where they will have reasonable chance of success.

10.—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.

A public meeting was held at the close of the business meeting, at which Miss Alison Neilans gave a very clear exposition of the present Solicitation Laws and the reasons for their repeal.

Afterwards the committee entertained Miss Alison Neilans and Miss E. M. Turner to an informal dinner.

EQUAL FRANCHISE.

The Alliance played a prominent part in the last stages of the Equal Franchise Campaign. At the opening of Parliament we took part in the parade organised by the

Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee, when motor cars placarded with the slogans "Equal Franchise" and "Votes for Women at 21," drove round the Houses of Parliament. Later in the day, the Executive Committee of St. Joan's Alliance met in the Lobby of the House of Commons to consider the King's speech, and while rejoicing that the speech contained proposals for equal franchise, passed a resolution calling for the immediate introduction and passage into law of a simple Equal Franchise measure, not complicated with other electoral matters.

St. Joan's S.P.A. co-operated with the E.P.R.C.C. in the King's Speech Meeting held at Caxton Hall on February 8th, when Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell spoke in the name of the Alliance. The Alliance also co-operated with the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and sent a special contingent to the mass meeting at the Queen's Hall on March 8th, when the Prime Minister was the chief speaker. Miss Parnell made a wonderful speech on behalf of the young women. Miss Margaret Rippe, who spoke in the name of industrial women, has since joined our Alliance.

We co-operated with the National Council of Women at an Equal Franchise meeting at Birmingham; and it is perhaps unnecessary to say that letters and resolutions were forwarded by us to the Prime Minister, Home Secretary, and many members of Parliament while the fate of the Bill was still undecided.

The Hon. Secretary and several members of the Executive attended both Houses of Parliament during the various stages of the Bill.

The Founder of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, the Editor of the *Catholic Citizen*, and the Hon. Secretary of St. Joan's Alliance, were present, together with representatives of the other Suffrage Societies, at the bar of the House of Lords when the Royal Assent was given on July 2nd, to the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Bill.

At the first Committee Meeting held after the Royal Assent, the Alliance passed the following resolution:

"On the occasion of the passing of the

Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act, 1928, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance wishes to record its appreciation of the work of Dame Millicent Fawcett, Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Despard and Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and of the countless women and men, known and unknown, who have contributed to the achievement of this victory."

VICTORY CELEBRATIONS.

Mass of Thanksgiving at Westminster Cathedral.

On Sunday, July 8th, the 10-30 High Mass at Westminster Cathedral was offered, at the request of St. Joan's S.P.A., "in thanksgiving for the enfranchisement of women." Seats were reserved for members and friends of the Alliance, and there was a large attendance. After Mass a procession was formed, led by Miss Douglas Irvine and Miss Gabrielle Jeffery, and passed round the cathedral to the shrine of St. Joan, where Miss Jeffery placed a beautiful laurel wreath, tied with the colours of the Alliance and bearing the inscription: "To our Patron St. Joan in Thanksgiving for the Enfranchisement of Women, July 2nd, 1928." The wreath remained at the shrine until October. Among those present were Dame Millicent Fawcett, Miss Garrett and Mrs. Despard, also representatives from the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, The National Union of Women Teachers, The Open Door Council, and The Women's Freedom League. We also had with us Mrs. John Scott, from Montreal and Miss Maria Hutton representing the Newfoundland Suffrage Society. We thank the authorities of Westminster Cathedral for permitting us to make our thanksgiving at the Cathedral.

Our own Victory Party was undertaken by Mrs. Laughton Mathews at her house in St. John's Wood, where members gathered to offer congratulations and thanks to the Founder, Miss Gabrielle Jeffery, Miss Barry, Hon. Secretary, and Miss de Alberti, Editor. Miss Fedden spoke eloquently of the work of the three officers, who were presented with purses, and with addresses beautifully illuminated by Miss Butler-Bowdon.

We also took part in the Victory celebrations of the other feminist societies, including a party at the Caxton Hall given by the Equal Political Rights Campaign Committee. At the latter gathering, Miss Monica O'Connor spoke on behalf of the "New Guard." Miss O'Connor also spoke on our behalf at a Victory Meeting organised by the Women Citizens Association at Kingston. The Alliance was also associated with the Victory celebrations held in Edinburgh.

JOSEPHINE BUTLER CENTENARY.

A great event of the year was the celebration of the centenary of Josephine Butler. We took a prominent part in the celebrations; published a special centenary number of the *Catholic Citizen*, and were well represented at the great meeting at the Central Hall. In connection with the centenary we had the pleasure of entertaining the Rev. Dr. Ude and Monsieur Delamare, Catholic delegates from Austria and France.

MONTHLY MEETINGS.

A feature of the Alliance's work this year has been a series of meetings held at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square, on the first Monday of each month. In April, Miss Fedden spoke on the work of the Alliance, and we also had the pleasure of an address by Dr. Ude. In May, Lady Balfour of Burleigh spoke on the centenary of Josephine Butler, and Mr. A. S. G. Butler, a grandson of Josephine Butler, made a speech of unusual interest. In June, Commandant Allen gave an address on Women Police. In July, Mrs. Abbot spoke on the Minimum Wage Convention and restrictive legislation for women in industry. A resolution was passed at this meeting protesting against the adoption by the International Labour Office of a minimum wage fixing convention, which does not contain the principal of equal pay for work of equal value; a principle contained in the Treaty of Versailles. In October, Mrs. Laughton Mathews spoke on the Women of Japan. In November, Miss Froud addressed us on "Education—Equalities still to be Won." At the December meeting, Miss Fedden spoke on the Nationality of Married Women. We have found these meetings very useful in bringing new members to the Alliance, and in explaining its work.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

In view of the passing into law of the Equal Franchise Bill, a special general meeting was convened in October. The following resolution moved from the chair by Miss Douglas Irvine, was carried with enthusiasm: "That the Alliance shall continue to work for the remainder of its programme, i.e., to secure the political, social and economic equality between men and women, and to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens." A further resolution was passed that we should "Do our utmost to give help and encouragement to our co-religionists, the women of the Latin countries, in their fight to achieve political freedom." Considerable discussion took place as to whether the Alliance should continue to work solely as an equalitarian society, or whether it should include in its objects active work for peace. The following resolution was finally passed: "While giving its moral support and sympathy to any movement likely in the judgment of the majority of the committee to promote a permanent world peace, the Alliance shall not embody any active participation in work to that end in its constitution, but shall continue to endeavour to carry out its original programme."

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER SOCIETIES.

The Alliance was represented at the following Conferences: The Conference to consider the evidence to be given before the *Street Offences Committee* on behalf of the National Council of Women; that on the *Age of Marriage*, convened by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship; the Conference with Dame Edith Lyttelton before her departure for the Assembly of the *League of Nations*.

The Conference convened by the Open Door Council to discuss the action of the International Labour Office with respect to the *Minimum Wage Fixing Convention* and the question of *Equal Pay* in the Woolwich Borough Council.

The conference on *Social Work* convened by the Catholic Women's League; on the *Wills and Intestacies Bill* convened by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship; on *Women Candidates for Parliament*, convened by the Women's Freedom

League, when Miss Whately moved a resolution on behalf of the Alliance asking that a fair proportion of suitable women should be nominated by all parties on constituencies where they would have a reasonable chance of success; and the British Commonwealth League Conference, on some problems of government in relation to women within the the British Empire, when Mrs. Laughton Mathews spoke on behalf of the Alliance.

We were also represented at the Coronation Anniversary of H.H. Pope Pius XI at Westminster Cathedral; at St. Patrick's, Soho, Parochial Dinner; the Reception at Caxton Hall given by the Dames of St. Joan; at Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party; at the At Home given by Lady Heath in honour of the delegates of the Empire Women's Athletic League who had taken part in the Olympic Games; and were associated with the presentation of her portrait to Dame Millicent Fawcett. Delegates were present at the farewell meeting to Miss Shepherd who was sent to India by the A.M.S.H. to work for the abolition of brothels in Calcutta.

Apart from the organizations already mentioned the Alliance is represented on the following bodies: (1) *The Catholic Citizen's Parliament*; (2) *The Equal Rights Campaign Committee*; (3) The following sectional committees of the *National Council of Women*, the Industrial, the Parliamentary and Legislative, the Rescue and Preventative; (4) the *Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union*, and (5) *The National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child*. (6) 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.

The Alliance took an active part in the protest committee set up to fight the *Edinburgh Corporation Bill*, and signed the pamphlet broadcast to all members of Parliament and the Edinburgh Authorities. Representatives attended at the House of Commons the joint meeting of the M.P.'s. and societies working against the Bill. It is also represented on the Committee on *Women in the Service of Hospitals* to promote equal Oppor-

tunities for women in the medical and hospital services. Our representative on this Committee is Dr. Elizabeth Higgins who went on the deputation to the authorities of King's College Hospital protesting against the closing of their School to women medical students.

At the annual meeting of the Council for the *Representation of Women in the League of Nations*, we moved a resolution asking for the extension of the contract of Dame Rachel Crowdy, for seven years, as in the case of other heads of sections, to enable her to continue her work for the abolition of the traffic in women, and for the Equal Moral Standard.

Apart from other meetings to be noted are: the Annual Meeting of the *St. Francis Xavier Union* at which Miss Butler-Bowdon spoke on the work of the Alliance; the Annual Meeting of the Open Door Council at which Miss Douglas Irvine spoke against the Lead Paint Bill, and the Annual Dinner of the Catholic Citizens' Parliament, at which Miss Mary Wall was our spokesman.

INTERNATIONAL WORK.

The *Catholic Citizen* and suffrage pamphlets published by our Alliance were on view at the *International Press Exhibition* at Cologne. Particulars of legislation affecting women were sent by request to the Conference on *Civic and Social Service* at Paris. The Alliance is represented on the British Committee which is appealing for funds for the International Suffrage Congress, and on the Enfranchised Women's Committee of International Women's Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship. It was one of the five Societies which sent Mrs. Abbott to Geneva to endeavour to get the principle of equal pay inserted in the Minimum Wage Fixing Convention of the I.L.O.

We had the pleasure of welcoming during the year, Dame Rachel Crowdy, from the League of Nations; Mr. R. Backes, from Germany; the Rev. Père Hammel (R.I.P.) Rouen; Mrs. John Scott from Canada and from South Africa Mrs. Levisseur, Mrs. Newton, and Mrs. Shannen.

LETTERS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Letters of thanks were addressed to the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary thanking them for their services in connec-

tion with the passing of the Equal Franchise Bill; to the Home Secretary to protest against the omission of women from the committee which inquired into the Savidge case; and on the Committee to enquire into police courts and juvenile courts. The latter omission has been remedied by the appointment of two women. A letter was sent to the Colonial Office protesting against the proposed establishment of State Regulation of Vice in Kenya; this letter was forwarded by the Colonial Secretary to the Governor. We are glad that this proposal was not carried out. Letters have also been addressed to the Leaders of Political Parties concerning Equality, the prohibition of information on Artificial Birth Control being given at state aided Welfare Centres, and for fairer conditions for Catholic schools—points which we asked every party to include in its programme for the General Election.

CANDIDATES.

During the year our member, Mrs. Crawford was re-elected to the Board of Guardians and Borough Council of St. Marylebone; Mrs. C. J. Mathew, J.P., to the London County Council, and Miss Fortey, J.P., to Leicester City Council. Mrs. Laughton Mathews, who stood for Hackney at the L.C.C. elections, was unfortunately not successful. Miss Whately has been adopted as prospective Labour candidate for Parliament for the St. Alban's Division of Hertfordshire. Members helped women candidates at the L.C.C. and Borough Council Elections, and election of Guardians.

LITERATURE.

The year has been marked by a new venture on the part of the Alliance. The publication of a book by P. S. King and Son Ltd., entitled "Towards Citizenship, a Handbook of Women's Emancipation," compiled for the Alliance by our members Miss P. C. Challoner, M.A., and Mrs. Laughton Mathews, M.B.E., with forewords by Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., and His Lordship the Bishop of Pella. The book, which is selling very successfully, can be obtained from 55 Berners Street, price 2s. 1½d. post free. We offer our congratulations and most sincere thanks to the authors and to Mrs. V. M. Crawford for kindly seeing the book through the press.

The Alliance also published a leaflet addressed to the Young Women Voters, drawn up by Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, B.A.; this leaflet has been widely distributed.

PRESS WORK.

We wish to express our gratitude to the Editors of *The Catholic Times*, *The Catholic Herald* and *The Universe* for publishing frequent reports of our activities.

Letters from us appeared in *The Universe* and *The Sower* on the subject of Girls' Education, in *The Tablet* on Artificial Birth Control, and in *The Catholic Times* on the Solicitation Laws. Our Chairman, who is also our Press Secretary, contributed an article to *The Catholic Times* entitled: "A Plea for Fair Play," which answered two anti-feminist articles on "The Creative Faculty in Woman." Several of our members entered the lists of this controversy independently. During the Josephine Butler Centenary Celebrations, Miss Leonora de Alberti, Mrs. V. M. Crawford and Miss Douglas Irvine contributed articles on Josephine Butler and her work to various Catholic periodicals. An interesting dispute was carried on by our Press Secretary in *The Week* (an Indian Catholic journal) on the subject of Feminism and Women in the Labour Market.

In the Suffrage Press, *Time and Tide* published letters from us on the Report of the Street Offences Committee, and protesting against an offensive article by Mr. St. John Ervine, in which he had referred to the Church as "the Italian Mission in England." *The International Woman Suffrage News* contained a letter expressing uneasiness lest the matter of peace should absorb the energies of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, the primary object of this Alliance being that of equality between men and women. This letter was quoted in *The Laurence Daily Eagle* (U.S.A.). *Equal Rights* (New York), which keeps a watchful eye on the feminist movement this side of the Atlantic, has made constant references to our Alliance throughout the past year, and has re-published several extracts from *The Catholic Citizen*. *The Vote* published a letter answering an article which contained some erroneous views concerning the life of nuns. Both *The Vote* and *The Women's Leader* contained a letter on the subject of the non-admittance of women, unaccompanied by men, to Restaurants after certain hours.

In conjunction with other Societies, we contributed letters to *The Times*, against the Compulsory Medical Treatment of Venereal Disease and protesting against the non-appointment of women to act on the

Royal Commission Appointed to Inquire into the General Powers and Duties of the Police.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

Hon. Secretary: Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell.
45 Falkner Street, Liverpool.

The past year has seen a great increase in the work accomplished in the name of the Branch and also an increase of members. Unfortunately, to neutralise this, the Branch has suffered more than usual from deaths, resignations and departures.

Four drawing-room meetings have been held. The first in February, when Miss Matravers addressed us on "Josephine Butler." The other three came at the end of the year and were designed to help the new voters in their choice of a party. The speakers were: Miss Tart (Lab.), Miss Fletcher, C.C., J.P. (U.), and Mrs. Shilston Watkins (Lib.).

We celebrated the passing of the Equal Franchise Bill with a Mass of Thanksgiving at the church of St. Philip Neri on July 15th, by co-operation in the London celebrations, and by a Victory Social at St. Sebastian's Church House on September 24th.

Much of the work of the Branch has been done in association with other societies. We played our part in the Josephine Butler Centenary Celebrations, the Hon. Secretary being a member of the organising Committee, and also the only Catholic on the panel of speakers. The great majority of our members attended the demonstration in the Philharmonic Hall on April 27, when Dame Rachel Crowdy, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., and Dr. Ude were the principle speakers. With certain branches of the Women's Citizen's Association, we also organised and financed a public meeting for young voters on May 11, under the chairmanship of Miss Eleanor Rathbone. The Hon. Secretary and Miss Hall spoke on behalf of the Alliance, and two other young women of the Women Citizens. We are still affiliated to the Peacemakers' Pilgrimage Committee, (now the Women's Peace Crusade Committee), and are represented on the Executive by the Hon. Secretary, and at the Conferences by Mrs. Murphy and Miss Jervis, our official delegates, or their deputies. We are now represented by the Hon. Secretary on the newly-formed Archdiocesan Catholic Emancipation Centenary Committee. Invitations have also been accepted to Conferences on the following Topics: Women Police, The Hospitals Penny-in-the-Pound Scheme, The Teaching of Internationalism in Schools and Child Adoption.

Our correspondence has grown very

considerably, and has ranged from giving hints to a young woman speaker for a debate on Equal Franchise, to sending resolutions to Cabinet Ministers on Equal Franchise, Peereesses in the House of Lords, Equal Pay and Opportunity in the Civil Service, the Solicitations Laws and Artificial Birth Control. At the request of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, with whose policy we are very much in sympathy, we despatched pamphlets to every member of the Liverpool County Council, giving the reasons for our opposition to the clause in the Corporation Bill providing for compulsory treatment of venereal disease. This clause of the Bill was withdrawn.

During the year the Branch has bought from Headquarters, one thousand leaflets "To Young Women Voters" which were drawn up by the Hon. Secretary in co-operation with Headquarters. A good number of these leaflets have been distributed, but we should be grateful if members would volunteer to pass them on among the young women voters of their acquaintance.

The committee has met eleven times, and has suffered unusually severe vicissitudes, including the loss through change of residence of Miss McCurdy and Miss Hall, both active and regular members, the illness of Mrs. Parnell in the summer, the absence from the country of Mrs. Murphy and Miss Crawford, and illness in the family of Miss Jervis.

Our most grateful thanks are due to Mrs. McManus and Mrs. Gordon who lent us their drawing-rooms and provided refreshments for three of our meetings; to Mrs. Dowling, Mrs. Parnell, Mrs. Murray and Miss Johnson, who were so large responsible for the success of our Whist Drive; and again to Mrs. Dowling and Miss Johnston, who with several other members gave valuable assistance at our Victory Social. We are greatly indebted to Mrs. Johnston for allowing us to meet so often at her house and to Mrs. Parnell who has so materially assisted the Hon. Secretary with her correspondence. Miss Johnston deserves a special word of thanks for her work both as Paper Secretary and as Treasurer. We ended the year with a satisfactory balance of £10.

In conclusion, we appeal to our members to support the Branch to the best of their ability, so that it may be worthy of the great Alliance of which it is a part, and also that it may become a real force for good in the city of Liverpool.

CATHOLIC CITIZEN.

The most important feature of the year as regards the *Catholic Citizen* is the publication of the history of The Catholic

Women's Suffrage Society, now St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, from its foundation to the passing of the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Bill. Parts of the history had naturally to be omitted, but the full history is now in existence to be published in the future if thought expedient. A special "Victory" number was published in July, containing messages of congratulation from distinguished men and women at home and abroad. We have to thank the *Catholic Citizen* Circulation Committee, which has raised the circulation of the paper by 1,300 copies, chiefly by street sales. The Committee organised a New Year Party in February at which speeches were made by His Lordship the Bishop of Pella and Mrs. Laughton Mathews. We have to thank the following distinguished artists who generously gave their services, Miss Felia Dorio, Viscountess Dupplin, and M. Jean Baptiste Toner, the London Sea Guides, who sang sea shanties, and Miss Eleanor FitzGerald, who told Irish stories. The advertisements in the *Catholic Citizen* are increasing, thanks to the energy of the Hon. Manager, Miss Butler-Bowdon.

We have once again to thank our gallant paper-sellers: Mrs. Anton, Misses Barry, Butler-Bowdon, Fedden, Gorry, Mrs. and Miss Kerr, Miss Lucking and Mrs. Laughton Mathews. If there were prizes for paper-selling—as perhaps there should be—they would have been awarded to Mrs. and Miss Kerr who sold the most copies.

We have to thank Miss Almedingen for acting as Hon. Secretary of the C.C.C.C. We have also to thank Misses Almedingen, Hynes, Eleanor O'Connor and Stammers who have regularly sold copies privately.

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT.

It is satisfactory to record a substantial increase in subscriptions both to the General Fund and *Catholic Citizen* in 1928, which fact demonstrates that the Alliance is growing apace.

The activities of the Finance Committee were numerous and brought a very gratifying contribution to the exchequer. These included the New Year's Party in aid of the *Catholic Citizen*, two dances for which we are indebted to Mrs. Kerr, a bridge party kindly given by Mrs. Huggett, a Sale of Miss E. Butler-Bowdon's pictures, and a whist drive arranged by Miss Monica O'Connor.

In September the Alliance moved to a larger office in the same building; with the ever increasing work it had outgrown the capacity of the room in which it had been housed since 1913. This was an important step forward and inevitable when it

became plain, after the attainment of Equal Franchise, that the general wish was for the Alliance to continue its programme. Our more roomy office, however, means an additional expense of £50 yearly. The first quarter's increase was met by special donations, in addition to the subscriptions of our standing "Rent Collectors," who have so generously contributed throughout the year. Seven more of these collectors, who undertake to provide 25s. quarterly, are urgently needed for 1929.

PERSONAL.

We offer our congratulations to our members, Dr. Mary Beadon on her appointment to the Committee which is enquiring into the question of the Age of Consent in India; to Dr. Eileen Hickey, the first woman clinical examiner of Medicine at Queen's University, Belfast; Miss Dorothy Howell for becoming a fellow of the Royal Academy of Music; to Miss Fortey, J.P., on the splendid fight she has put up on the Leicester City Council, both against compulsory resignation of women on marriage, and in favour of women police; Miss Marcell Ferreira who has received the medal Bene Merenti from the Holy Father for her work in connection with the Association for the Propagation of the Faith; to Miss N. F. Atkinson on her profession as a Carmelite; to Dr. Isabel Heath and Mrs. Laughton Mathews on the birth of a son; to Dr. Stella Moore on her marriage to Dr. Boylan.

We wish to thank very cordially all our members who have done special work for us. Certain of them must be mentioned singly: Miss Helen Douglas Irvine, our able Press Secretary; Miss Connolly and Miss Springett who have typed our notices; Miss Gorry who was invaluable during our office move; Miss Hynes who has so admirably kept the Press Book; Mrs. Huggett and the Misses Fedden, Hall, Lucking, Eleanor O'Connor, and Stammers, who have helped in the office; Miss Wall whose character delineations have added greatly to our exchequer. Others whose labour has been generously given to swell our funds are mentioned elsewhere. Above all—we owe our very grateful thanks to Miss Butler-Bowdon for her untiring and splendid work in the office all day and every day, and to Miss Parnell—our devoted Hon. Secretary in Liverpool.

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 Archbishop Keating, always a friend of ours; and our members, Mrs.

Mort, Miss O'Halloran and Miss Fernandez de Bulnes.—R.I.P.

The death of Mrs. Pankhurst, buried on the day that the Bill for Equal Franchise passed its third reading in the House of Lords, was a great loss to feminism; as was, also, the death of Ellen Terry.—R.I.P.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

	February 1 to 28.	£	s.	d.
Alberti, Miss L. de	...	5	0	0
Anon.	...	7	6	
Bulbeck, Mrs.	...	2	6	
Busse, Miss	...	2	6	
Butler-Bowdon, Miss E.	...	5	0	0
Colbeck, Miss	...	1	6	
Cole, Miss A. M. F.	...	2	6	
Crosse, Miss	...	2	6	
Douglas Irvine, Miss H.	...	1	5	0
Greene, Mrs. Broadley	...	2	0	
Hunt, Miss	...	7	6	
Mackintosh, Miss	...	3	0	
Malleston, Miss Hope	...	5	0	
Mason, Miss M. F.	...	2	6	
Mulder, van de Graaf de Briyn, Madame	...	1	1	
McPike, Miss	...	1	8	
O'Connell, Miss	...	1	4	
Peron, Rev. Louis, O.M.I.	...	2	0	
Pijl, Dr. Van de	...	1	1	
Quinlan, Miss A.	...	10	0	
Robson, Mrs. Hugh	...	1	6	
Russell, Mrs.	...	18	6	
Scott-Hill, Mrs.	...	7	6	
Smiley, Mrs.	...	1	7	6
Swift, Miss	...	2	6	
Verall, Miss F. M.	...	2	6	
Welch, Miss J. R. V.	...	5	0	
Whitaker, Mrs. Ryland	...	2	6	
Minimum Annual Subscriptions	...	19	0	
		£13	12	8

TREASURER'S NOTE.

I very much hope that by the date of the Annual Meeting all subscriptions for 1929 will have been paid. Members are reminded that £25 per quarter is now needed to cover the rent, light and heating of our larger office, and seven more guarantors of £5 each per annum are now urgently needed for this fund.

G. JEFFERY.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

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

On March 20 the Branch is to hold a Whist Drive at St. Sebastian's New Church Hall (not House), Lockerby Road, Fairfield, at 7-30 p.m., to enable us to send a donation of £10 to Headquarters. Tickets, price 2s. 6d., may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

At a meeting of delegates from all societies of Catholic women, convened by His Grace the Archbishop, to organize a women's demonstration on the education question, the Branch was represented by Mrs. Johnstone, Miss McArdle, and the Hon. Secretary, all of whom will henceforward serve on the Executive Committee.

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OBJECT.

To band together Catholics of both sexes, in order to secure the political, social and economic equality between men and women, and to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens.

MEMBERSHIP.

All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of 1s. Men are invited to join as Associates, on the same conditions, with the exception that they may not elect or be elected to the Executive.

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