

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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THE
Catholic Citizen

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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.

Women in the Missionary Field.

BY COUNCILLOR MRS. V. M. CRAWFORD.

It is a fact familiar to us all that there is to-day both a wider need of woman's co-operation and a wider appreciation of it in all forms of social and public work. No longer is woman put off, as a matter of course, with the inferior, less important and less remunerative forms of activity. She demands and she is frequently accorded, full equality, with men, of opportunity and service. Some fields of activity have obviously welcomed women more cordially than others, and we want to-day to draw attention to the somewhat slow and tardy, but very real, progress, that women are making in the mission field.

In the past, we know, all definitely missionary work has been in the hands of priests and of religious orders specially trained for the work. There was no career for the Catholic lay-woman such as many Protestant missionary societies could offer their members. But to-day, in non-Christian lands, the definite need of the Catholic woman doctor as a co-worker with priest and religious, is being widely recognised by ourselves, as it has been for many years by other Christian agencies. You cannot convert the family until you convert the wife and mother. And among all Mahommedan peoples and everywhere where purdah exists, no strange man can hold converse with the female members of the family. On the other hand, in times of sickness, a woman doctor will be made gladly welcome, and through her and the benefits her skill can

bring to her patients, friendly contact can be easily established.

All this was realised over twenty years ago by that valiant woman and excellent suffragist, Dr. Agnes McLaren, the founder of the Rawal Pindi Medical Mission for women and children, the very first of its kind to exist. Her work was incredibly difficult, although she obtained a blessing upon it from Pope Pius X. For a time it seemed as though none of the ecclesiastical authorities in India would sanction medical missions, and moreover there were literally no Catholic women doctors available for the work. To-day all this is changed. Medical work in the missionary field is coming to be welcomed more and more, not only as offering a definite vocation for women, but as an indispensable adjunct to every large mission station, and as a result young Catholic women doctors are coming forward for the work, not only in India, but also in Uganda, and it is certain that many more will shortly be needed. As a sign of the times it is worth recording that at Wurzburg an Institute has been founded since the war for training women as doctors pledged to labour for foreign missions.

At home amid the general widening in all directions of women's spheres of activity, the most notable advance within the organisation of the Church is undoubtedly the place accorded to women in the work of the Catholic Evidence Guild. Here, as is well known, men and women study and

train together to fit themselves for outdoor preaching, and women take their full share in the arduous work of expounding the faith to large audiences in Hyde Park and elsewhere. Indeed some of the women speakers have shown themselves singularly apt at doctrinal exposition, and the freshness of a woman's outlook, never quite the same as a man's, and the comparative novelty of a woman's voice in such surroundings, prove themselves no small assets in the task of holding an audience together. It is, of course, a curious anomaly of the moment that women are definitely authorised by the ecclesiastical authorities in this country, to give doctrinal instruction to adults of either sex in the open-air, while, so far as we know, no facilities have been granted them for giving it under a roof, even to other women. That has still to come. But it is a great and significant advance which is exciting considerable interest in Catholic circles abroad, that in its splendid work for the faith the C.E.G. knows no distinction of sex and makes no discrimination between men and women in the apportioning of spheres of labour.

It was indeed in some measure a desire to study the methods of the Catholic Evidence Guild that recently brought to England a distinguished Austrian priest, Dr. Metzger, whom we ourselves had the pleasure of entertaining. The religious collapse of Austria amid all the disasters of war, has been terrible, and Dr. Metzger, when in England, stated that 90% of the proletariat were to-day out of touch with the Catholic Church. Hence a whole new missionary effort is needed, and is being organised under the title of the White Cross Mission, with Dr. Metzger at its head. The centre of the work will be at Graz, and what is intended is something that will combine the methods of the C.E.G., the C.T.S., and the Salvation Army, with, in addition, a big retreat house—for which funds are urgently needed—in which short retreats will be organised for all and sundry. It will be a case of carrying out very literally the old recommendation of Leo XIII to the French clergy, "Allez au peuple," when it had become quite obvious that the people would not come to the priests; but in this instance the work will be done mainly by lay people, not bound by vows, not wearing a religious habit, but, none the less, living under a

religious rule and consecrated to an arduous apostolate in order to win back the people of Austria to the Catholic faith.

Dr. Metzger, like his friend the late Mgr. Giesswein, has always been a convinced suffragist, and therefore we were in no way surprised to learn from his own lips that in the Austrian White Cross the Brothers and the Sisters will labour side by side, and that there will be no rigid barrier between their spheres of activity. Out of door religious preaching is not regarded as feasible in Austria at present, but opportunities will be sought to speak in all kinds of popular resorts and labour and Socialist gatherings, somewhat on C.E.G. lines, and for this work women are now being trained as well as men. We feel sure that the good wishes of all our members will go out to these Austrian evangelists in their new and difficult work.

What we plead for, and what we have always stood for, is that in every sphere of activity there should be equal opportunity for men and women, and that custom and convention should no longer relegate women workers to carefully delimited spheres, whether lay or religious. It has probably been, for instance, one of the weaknesses of the S.V.P. Conferences in our midst, that their charitable labours, which are very closely bound up with the needs of women and children, are wholly confined to men. And it is an encouraging sign of the times that in so many of the newer social and religious developments, the old cramping hindrances to efficiency are being swept away.

L. C. C. Elections.

We are glad to see that twenty-one women have been elected to the London County Council, amongst whom is our member, Mrs. C. J. Mathew, J.P., elected to the Limehouse Division of Stepney. We offer our congratulations to her and all the women Councillors. The women societies took the opportunity of this election for a campaign against the policy of dismissing married women employed under the Council. The campaign, in which St. Joan's S.P.A. took part, was organised by the Six Point Group.

We regret that from lack of space International Notes and the Hon. Treasurer's note have been held over.

Notes and Comments.

Mr. Whiteley's Bill for Equal Franchise was defeated by request of the Government, but by the small majority of 67. The fact is that no one at this time believes that our absurd franchise law can stand much longer. The Government tabled an amendment suggesting 'that the House declines to accord a second reading to a Franchise Bill involving, as it would, a General Election'; whereas Mr. Whiteley's Bill contained a proviso to meet this difficulty. We ask for an Equal Franchise Bill, and Mr. Baldwin promises us a Conference in 1926. The Conference seems to us a mere excuse for postponing an act of justice. We should have thought that the old bogey of women outvoting men would have been killed by the spectacle afforded last year by the Duchess of Atholl and Mrs. Hilton Phillipson voting against Equal Franchise. Whatever reforms are needed in our electoral system, the injustice to women should be first remedied, and it is not, we once more remind our readers, the inequality as regards age which alone needs abolishing, the number of professional and industrial women over 30, who are unfranchised, is given as two million. These women are voteless, because they live in furnished rooms, or in another person's house.

Our thanks go to Lady Astor, Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck, and the other Conservative members who voted against their Party. We wish they could convert Mr. Baldwin from his passion for a Conference.

The Government's Summary Jurisdiction Separation and Maintenance Bill, passed its second reading without a division. The Bill abolishes the requirement that a married woman shall have left her husband before she applies for a separation order on the ground of cruelty, but it provides that the order shall remain suspended so long as the wife voluntarily resides with her husband. Mr. Locker-Sampson, Under-Secretary, Home Office, said that at the instance of the N.U.S.E.C., a clause had been added providing that either the wife or husband may obtain a separation order on the ground of persistent cruelty to the children. The Bill does not go far enough, and we hope with the Women's Leader that it may be drastically amended.

The Guardianship of Infants' Bill brought in by the Home Secretary, is the same Bill which was killed by the Government last year. It is not an Equal Guardianship Bill, but is a step towards it. It provides: that mothers and fathers should have equal rights in any dispute with regard to the child, which comes before the courts; that mothers and fathers shall have equal rights with regard to the appointment of guardians after death; that a mother may be given a maintenance order for a child of which she has the custody; that cases under the Act can be brought before the summary courts.

Under this Bill, then, the mother will have the same power to apply to the court about any matter affecting the infant as is possessed by the father, and in deciding questions concerning the custody and upbringing of an infant, the courts shall regard the welfare of the infant as the first and paramount consideration, and shall not take into consideration whether the claim of the father is superior to that of the mother, or the claim of the mother superior to that of the father. It is an advance, but we earnestly urge the Government to make the Bill a real equality Bill.

* * * *

We are glad to see that Mr. Nevill Chamberlain has definitely stated that he does not propose to alter the policy of his predecessor, and that he will not authorise welfare centres receiving Government grants to give information on Birth Control to women attending these centres. We do not propose to pay taxes to promote Birth Control Propaganda. Resistance to such a tax would become a moral duty.

* * * *

Major Harvey's motion that a British woman marrying a foreigner should retain her nationality, unless she wishes to adopt her husband's nationality, was passed by the House of Commons. Lady Astor seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Nothing, however, can be done, it is said, without the consent of the self-governing Dominions.

* * * *

We ask our readers to pray for the repose of the souls of our members, Mrs. H. Reynolds and Mrs. Geoffrey Birkbeck.—R.I.P.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

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

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The Constitutional Movement.

In "What I Remember,"* Dame Millicent Fawcett does not deal solely with the Woman's Movement, of which she has been so long a Leader, she has many other memories to share with us, both interesting and amusing, and her book should have a universal appeal.

It may be particularly recommended to those among us who came into the suffrage movement in its later phase, and thought, perhaps, that militancy alone counted. In reading Mrs. Fawcett's book one must realise how the long years of constitutional work paved the way to victory. One realises, too, the many phases of the woman's movement, and how one success led to another. The Married Women's Property Act, the movement for the higher education of women, the opening of the medical profession to women: with each step the status of women improved, and made the newer generation more impatient with all the artificial handicaps placed upon the so-called weaker sex. That very impatience paved the way to the militant movement. Mrs. Fawcett, though a constitutionalist, is very fair in her appreciation of the new life brought into the suffrage movement by the dramatic methods of the militants, especially in the early period of militancy. She recalls to us her gesture of friendliness to the prisoners when they came out of Holloway at the close of 1906. In her letter sent out as a preliminary step in organising the banquet given to the prisoners, Dame Millicent says: "I need hardly say that I am

convinced that the work of quiet persuasion and argument form the solid foundation on which the success of the Women's Suffrage Movement will be reared; and I, in common with the great majority of suffrage workers, wish to continue the agitation on constitutional lines: yet we feel that the action of the prisoners has touched the imagination of the country in a manner which quieter methods did not succeed in doing. Many of us desire, therefore, to offer the prisoners some public mark of the value we attach to their self-sacrificing devotion." Mrs. Fawcett goes on to say that what moved her as much as anything to make a public demonstration in support of the prisoners, was the unscrupulous abuse and misrepresentation to which they had been subjected in the Press.

The last chapter of Mrs. Fawcett's memoirs gives an interesting account of the work done by suffragists from the allied nations, who gathered in Paris during the Peace Congress in 1919. We know that it was due to them that the clause recognising the equality of men and women was inserted in the Covenant of the League of Nations.

One looks upon Mrs. Fawcett as the Leader who never lost heart, and who never sought the limelight. Her name is dear to innumerable women in this and in other lands. Her book will delight both them and a wider audience.

L. DE ALBERTI.

* T. Fisher Unwin, 12s. 6d. net.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

13th ANNUAL REPORT, 1924.

The work of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance increases so rapidly with the passing years, that it becomes ever more difficult to keep pace with it. The fall of the late Government killed the Equal Franchise Bill, the Guardianship of Infants' Bill, and Widows' Pensions, which means that all the work has to be done again. We are now faced with the defeat of the Equal Franchise Bill in the House of Commons, and are left with a Government pledge that the matter will be dealt with during the life of this Parliament. That pledge, we know, will be redeemed only if enough pressure is brought to bear upon the Government, and not otherwise. That in itself should be sufficient incentive to spur our own and other societies to renewed efforts.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting was held at Bedford College on March 15, by kind permission of Miss Tuke and the Council; the chair being taken by Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, B.A. The adoption of the Annual Report was moved and seconded by Miss O'Farrell and Miss Bodley; the adoption of the Financial Statement was moved by Miss Bumpstead and seconded by Miss G. Sherwin.

The following resolutions were passed unanimously:

1. *Equal Franchise*.—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to adopt and pass through all its stages a Bill granting the Parliamentary Franchise to women on the same terms as men.
2. *Solicitation Laws*.—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to repeal the solicitation laws directed solely against alleged "common prostitutes," under which law thousands of women are every year convicted, on police evidence only, of soliciting to the annoyance of men, whereas it appears that in cases of men annoying women, the annoyed person must come forward to give evidence.
3. *State Regulation of Vice*.—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to abolish the system of regulated prostitution or tolerated brothels throughout the Crown Colonies of Hong Kong and the Straits Settlements.

4. *Venereal Disease*.—St. Joan's S.P.A. protests against any system of compulsory examination of women for venereal disease in any area under the control of the British Government. It further opposes the introduction of compulsory notification and treatment of venereal disease on the ground that it will inevitably tend to the introduction of compulsory examination and detention of women, and will have an adverse effect on the present voluntary system of confidential treatment.

5. *Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919*.—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to amend this Act so that, in practice, it will ensure that "a person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage, from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering or assuming any civil profession or vocation, or from admission to any incorporated society (whether incorporated by Royal Charter or otherwise), and a person shall not be exempted by sex from the liability to serve as a juror."

6. *Equal Guardianship*.—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to adopt and pass through all its stages the Guardianship of Infants' Bill.

7. *Separation and Maintenance*.—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to adopt and pass through all its stages, the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill.

8. *Widows' Pensions*.—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce an adequate system of pensions for widows with dependent children.

9. *Equal Pay*.—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to establish throughout the Civil service, a system of equal pay and equal opportunities for men and women.

10. *Women Police*.—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to recommend chief constables throughout the country, to include carefully chosen and highly trained policewomen as an integral part of their police.

11. *Unemployment*.—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to undertake that any sum of money allocated for the training of unemployed or the provision of relief works, be divided equally between men and women, in proportion to their numbers.
12. *Divorce*.—St. Joan's S.P.A. protests against any further extension of the grounds for divorce.
13. *Legitimacy*.—St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to adopt and pass through all its stages, a bill to legitimate children on the subsequent marriage of their parents.

After an interval for tea, a public meeting was held on the question of the Legitimation Bill, the speakers being the Hon. E. A. St. Aubyn Harney, K.C., M.P., and Mr. F. W. Sherwood, Recorder of Worcester; the chair being taken by Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, B.A. The following resolution, moved by Mr. Harney and seconded by Mr. Sherwood, was passed:

"This Meeting calls upon the Government to adopt and pass through all its stages, a Bill to legitimate children on the subsequent marriage of their parents, and welcomes the fact that thereby, after 600 years' divergence, it will bring the law of the land into harmony with Canon Law."

OTHER MEETINGS.

On March 3, St. Joan's S.P.A. held a meeting at St. Anne's Settlement Hall, Vauxhall, on "Why we want Women Police," the speaker being Mrs. Hamilton More Nisbett, Scottish Propaganda Officer for the Women's Auxiliary Service; Monsignor Provost Brown, V.G., Bishop-Elect of Pella, presiding. Mrs. More Nisbett, on behalf of the Alliance, congratulated Monsignor Brown on his elevation to the episcopate, and reminded the audience that he had been an associate of the C.W.S.S. in the days when votes for women was an unpopular cry.

The following resolution was carried unanimously:

"That this Meeting, being convinced that the time is ripe for the inclusion of Women Police in every Police Force in the country, urges the Home Secretary to recommend Chief Constables to include carefully chosen and highly-trained Policewomen as an integral part of their Police."

On March 25, the thirteenth birthday of the Society, St. Joan's S.P.A. gave a Dinner in honour of Miss Laughton, M.B.E., at the Haymarket Club, to wish her joy and Godspeed on her journey to Japan for her marriage to Mr. Gordon Dewar Mathews. The Committee and some members of St. Joan's, presented Miss Laughton with a gold travelling clock; the "Under Thirtys" gave a silver horse-shoe brooch for luck. Miss Laughton, in expressing her thanks, said she would always keep in touch with the Alliance.

On July 2, Miss Helen Douglas gave an interesting lecture, at 55 Berners Street, on the Women of Chile, the chair being taken by Miss Marguerite Fedden. Miss Douglas assured her audience that the agitation for women's rights was gaining ground in Chile.

In December, under the auspices of St. Joan's S.P.A., the Rev. Fr. Thurston, S.J., gave a lecture at Marylebone Hall on "Communicating with the Dead." Fr. Thurston has made a deep study of this question, and his illuminating address was greatly appreciated by a large audience, amongst whom were many non-Catholics.

On December 17, the Committee gave a dinner, at the Rendezvous, in honour of the distinguished Sicilian priest, Don Sturzo, founder of the Italian Popular Party, who is a keen advocate of Woman Suffrage.

REPORT OF "UNDER THIRTY" SECTION, ST. JOAN'S S.P.A.

It was suggested by one of our members at the beginning of 1924 that it would be advisable to form a branch of the Alliance especially for members under thirty, in order to encourage those voteless ones to work with greater enthusiasm for the extension of the Franchise. Accordingly an inaugural meeting, organised by Miss Bumpsteed, was held on Sunday, January 20, by kind permission of Miss Forbes-Robertson at her house in Bayswater. A promising number of "Under Thirties" gathered together and were urged by Miss Bumpsteed to throw themselves into suffrage work with a zeal worthy of the Alliance that had done so much in the early days of the campaign.

Officers were elected for the branch: Miss N. F. Atkinson, M.A., chairman; Miss Bumpsteed, organiser; Miss Watts, hon. secretary; Miss O'Connor, hon. treasurer.

On Tuesday, February 12, a meeting was held at the office, Berners Street, when Miss Fedden kindly told to the "Under Thirties" the life-story of St. Joan's S.P.A.

On March 11, Miss Atkinson addressed a meeting on Equal Franchise, and the "Under Thirties" then wrote to the Prime Minister asking him to receive a deputation on this subject.

A few "Under Thirties" were able to help with the Poster Parade outside the House of Commons on the day the Equal Franchise Bill was read.

The members next devoted themselves to amateur theatricals, with the hope of helping the Alliance financially. The result of their efforts was that £3 was handed over to the Treasurer, and that the actors and those whom they entertained, gathered much pleasure from the performance of "The Screen," a comedy by Mr. Norman Forbes Robertson. The warmest thanks of all go to Mrs. O'Connor, who so kindly lent her house for meetings, rehearsals and performances, and to Miss Bumpsteed for her untiring efforts in coaching.

It was found increasingly difficult to gather the "Under Thirties" together for meetings separate from those of the main body of the Alliance, so it has been decided to discontinue these, and the "Under Thirties" have again become merged in the larger body.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

St. Joan's Alliance was in charge every Saturday during the six months the Exhibition was open at the Pavilion of the British Overseas Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. Our literature and that of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and the Women's Freedom League, was on sale, and visitors were cordially welcomed and given information about the feminist movement. We offer our most sincere thanks to the voluntary workers, who made it possible for the Alliance to do this useful piece of work. We have especially to thank Miss Fedden, who scarcely missed one Saturday, and also Miss Bodley, Miss Gorry and others.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER SOCIETIES.

St. Joan's S.P.A. took part in two public meetings organised by the Women's Free-

dom League, at the Essex Hall on March 27, in support of Mr. Adamson's Equal Franchise Bill; our speaker on that occasion being Miss Marguerite Fedden; and in October, when Miss Eleanor FitzGerald spoke on our behalf. The Alliance also took part in the mass meeting organised by the National Union of Women Teachers on May 10 in Trafalgar Square, to protest against the Burnham scale of pay, and demand equal pay for men and women teachers; and again in October at the meeting at Australia House.

Mrs. Crawford represented the Alliance at the Conference on the Illegitimate Child, June 6, the Conference being convened by the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child, and the Six Point Group; and at the Dinner given by the Women's Freedom League to Miss Wilkinson, M.P.

Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, B.A., represented St. Joan's S.P.A. at the Dinner given by the British Overseas Committee to Mrs. Allan, Australian Substitute delegate to the Fifth Assembly of the League of Nations.

Miss L. de Alberti represented the Alliance at the Conference convened by the Women's International League to give representatives of women's societies an opportunity of meeting Mrs. Swanwick before she left to attend the Assembly of the League of Nations.

Miss K. FitzGerald represented the Alliance at the Mass at Westminster Cathedral, celebrated in connection with the Medical Women's Jubilee.

Miss Barry and Miss Gadsby were our delegates to the Conference on Married Women's Income Tax.

Miss Mary Wall spoke on behalf of the Alliance at the First Annual Dinner of the Catholic Citizens' Parliament, and at Daly's Theatre on the occasion of the presentation to the Right Rev. Bishop Brown.

The Alliance was also represented at the Reception given by the British Overseas Committee at the Lyceum Club to Overseas visitors; the I.W.S.A. meeting of Presidents and Proxies held in London on May 11; at the Conference on the Guardianship of Infants, organised by the N.U.S.E.C.; the Conference on Women M.P.'s. convened by the same Union; the Conference on Women Police at Wembley, convened by the British Overseas Committee; and the mass

meeting convened by the Six Point Group at the Queen's Hall in March, on Widows' Pensions, Guardianship of Infants' Bill, and Sex Disqualification Removal Bill.

LETTERS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Letters and Resolutions have been sent to the Premier, pressing for Equal Franchise, Equal Guardianship of Infants, Widows' Pensions; and protesting against the traffic in worn-out horses. The Alliance also took part in the protest against the removal from the House of Commons of the picture representing the introduction of the first woman M.P. Members went lobbying in support of Lord Astor's Bill to enable Peeresses in their own right to take their seats in the House of Lords.

In February the Alliance organised with great success an old-time Poster Parade in support of Mr. Adamson's Equal Franchise Bill. The parade excited great interest, and had a very good press.

The Alliance was represented on the Deputation to the Home Office organised by the N.C.W. on the subject of Women Police; and on the Deputation to the Ministry of Pensions, organised by the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, on the subject of the position of temporary women in the Ministry of Health. Miss Connolly, a voter in the Abbey division of Westminster, was our representative on the Deputation organised by the N.U.S.E.C. to interview candidates at the bye-election.

GENERAL ELECTION.

As in former years, St. Joan's S.P.A., in its character of a non-party organisation, called on its members to give help wherever possible to women candidates, and issued a questionnaire dealing with political, social and economic equality between men and women, for which the Alliance stands. Members of the Alliance gave help to Mrs. Wintringham, Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan, Mrs. Mercer, Miss Susan Lawrence and Mrs. Porter. It was a great disappointment to all that only four women were elected.

At our request Holy Mass was offered on polling day by our associate, Dom Gilbert Higgins, C.R.L., to beg Divine guidance on the men and women electors. Letters were sent to the Leaders of the three parties, asking for an assurance that if

returned to power, a Bill giving votes to women on the same terms as men, would be introduced and passed into Law.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES.

St. Joan's S.P.A. took an active part in helping to organise the Fourth International Democratic Congress for Peace, held in London, September 16-20. Mrs. Crawford was our representative on the London Organising Committee. The finding of hospitality for the priests who came over was one of the ways in which the Alliance was of use. A large number of Catholic delegates from France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy and Spain, attended Mass at Westminster Cathedral on the 18th, where a special Mass for their intentions was celebrated in the Lady Chapel. After Mass the Alliance entertained over eighty Catholic foreign delegates to breakfast at the Grande Cuisine, Petty France. Mrs. Crawford welcomed the guests on behalf of the Alliance, saying that we were specially honoured by the presence of M. Marc Sagnier and Mme. Malaterre Sellier, not only because of their great work in the cause of peace, but also for their untiring efforts in France on behalf of woman suffrage. M. Marc Sagnier replied in the name of the delegates.

The Alliance was represented by Miss Grieveson at the International Abolitionist Congress, and the Sixth International Congress for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children, both held at Graz in September; and by Mdle. Chalmel at the Action Sociale de la Femme Conference in Paris in May.

St. Joan's S.P.A. is affiliated to the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations, the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, the National Council of Women, the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, and the Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations' Union.

Representatives of the Alliance serve on the British Overseas Committee of the I.W.S.A., the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, the Catholic Citizens' Parliament, and the National Council of Women's Sectional Committees: Parliamentary and Legislative, Rescue and Preventive, and Industrial.

At the N.C.W. Conference in Brighton,

Mrs. V. M. Crawford, on behalf of the Alliance, moved a resolution urging the Government to bring in a Bill for Widows' Pensions.

Our member, Miss A. M. F. Cole, who has devoted her life to obtain the more humane treatment of worn-out horses, moved a resolution on the subject on behalf of St. Joan's S.P.A. at the Consultative Committee.

Members of the Committee have had the pleasure of attending the At Homes given by Lady Astor, to enable representative women to meet Members of Parliament. All the women's societies are greatly indebted to Lady Astor for her repeated hospitality.

CATHOLIC CITIZEN.

Our Paper attains its tenth anniversary this year. It has weathered many storms, fought many battles, and carried our name to other lands. The Alliance is fortunate in possessing among its members professional writers, who are always willing to lend their pen to the good cause. We offer them all our hearty thanks. The *Catholic Citizen* is exchanged with over 100 Catholic and Feminist papers in this and many foreign countries.

HON. PRESS SECRETARY'S REPORT.

During the year the Press Secretary contributed to the *Catholic Times* articles on "The Progress of Women in 1923," "Nearing the Goal," "No More War," and "Widows' Pensions."

One of the Feminist papers having published an article in which an article in which an essential doctrine of the Catholic faith was decried, the Press Secretary wrote a letter of protest, which was published in that paper, and some correspondence followed.

We gladly take this opportunity of thanking the Editors of the Catholic papers for kindly publishing the notices of meetings of St. Joan's S.P.A., or of meetings organised by it, which have so frequently been sent to them from our Office during the past year.

HON. TREASURER'S NOTE.

This year a slightly larger sum of money passed through our hands than in 1923, showing that the financial position was maintained, but not appreciably strengthened. The Alliance would have been considerably in debt at the end of the year were it not for the three Christmas Sales, but, even with these, the General Fund was slightly overdrawn. The financial position of the Alli-

ance, therefore, in no way corresponds to its progress in activity and influence, which is attained only by great personal sacrifice of time and energy. Year by year a handful of devoted members bear practically the whole of the financial burden, and we gratefully acknowledge their generosity. While still not wishing to raise the minimum annual subscription, we appeal to the great majority of our members to consider whether they cannot take an increased share of the financial responsibility. To forego the price of one theatre ticket, one meal at a restaurant, or some pretty trifle, is surely a small sacrifice to secure the full enfranchisement of women. Yet if such a sum saved were added to every annual subscription, it would mean a substantial increase in the Alliance's income.

STALLS AT BAZAARS.

The Alliance had a Stall in aid of the *Catholic Citizen* at the Garden Party organised by the I.W.S.A., held by kind permission of Mrs. Adrian Corbett at Pembroke Lodge, Kensington, in July. The Alliance also had Stalls in aid of its own funds at three Christmas Sales, namely, the Green, White and Gold Fair, at the Central Hall, organised by the Women's Freedom League; a Sale organised by Miss Blundell at the Hyde Park Hotel; and one at Westminster organised by the N.U.S.E.C.

FOREIGN VISITORS TO THE OFFICE.

We have had the pleasure of receiving the following visitors at 55 Berners Street: Sr. Pia, Austria; Mdle. Lisboa, Brazil; Mdle. Schwarz, France; Dr. Bolten, Germany; Mdle. van Leer, Holland; Professor Don Sturzo, Italy; Mdle. Bonard, Switzerland; and Señorita Lazaro, Spain.

RESIGNATION FROM COMMITTEE.

We have received with regret the resignation from the Committee of Miss N. F. Atkinson, by Doctor's orders; and of Mrs. Beer, who is constantly absent from England and consequently unable to attend Committee meetings.

* * * *

We offer our cordial thanks to Miss Brandt, Mrs. Drysdale, Miss Stack and Miss Wall, for help in the office; to all who helped with the bazaars, and to our paper-sellers, who continue so valiantly to face the battle and the breeze.

OBITUARY.

We record with deep regret the death of our members: Mrs. Reynolds and Mrs. Sullivan.—R.I.P.

* * * *

Since the close of the year we have received with great regret the resignation from Committee of Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, B.A. We offer our most cordial thanks to Miss FitzGerald for her devoted work for the Alliance. Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford has been elected temporary chairman, and another election of chairman will take place, as usual, after the Annual Meeting.

LIVERPOOL BRANCH.

Hon. Secretary, Miss Jervis, 99 Edge Lane Drive, Liverpool.

The Branch has been able to hold regular meetings every two months. The first of these meetings was held on February 25, when Mrs. Field (Hon. Organising Secretary to the Liverpool Voluntary Probation Committee), spoke on "Probation." As a result of this address several of our members undertook to look after Catholic offenders. The second meeting was held on April 7, when Miss Emily Chubb spoke on "Pensions for Widows." The Branch passed a resolution in favour of this reform, which was sent to the Prime Minister. The speakers for the third meeting were provided by the Liverpool Humane Slaughter Campaign Committee: the collection made after the addresses to assist the Campaign, realised 10s. Miss Eskrigge, M.A. (Hon. Sec. of the L.W.C.A.), addressed the fourth meeting on "Equal Guardianship of Infants." At the fifth meeting, Mr. Hartley Bolton, B.A., spoke to us on "The Taxation of Land Values as a Cure for Poverty." For the sixth and last meeting, the City Branch of the League of Nations sent their Secretary, Mr. Harry Eden, and Mr. Tom Gillender, to speak to us on "The League of Nations." These frequent pleasant meetings have only been made possible by members kindly offering us their drawing-rooms as meeting-places and voluntarily providing us with refreshments. The Branch would like to record its grateful thanks to Mrs. Finn, Miss Sevenoaks, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Gordon and Mrs. Parnell, who have thus acted as hostesses for the Branch.

Besides the resolution mentioned before, the Branch has also sent resolutions con-

cerning Women Police, Equal Franchise, Humane Slaughter, and Women on Hospital Boards, to the proper quarters, and has protested against the action of certain Boards of Guardians in prohibiting Nurses "bobbing their hair," on the ground that it is an unwarrantable interference with the liberty of the individual.

The Branch also assisted in the paying off of a deficit on the "No More War Demonstration" of last year, by holding a Stall which realised £4 10s. at the Sale held with that object, £3 10s. of which we handed over to the fund, keeping £1 for our own exchequer. We also took part in this year's "No More War Demonstration," and in a Conference on "Housing" and "Women on Hospital Boards." Members also questioned candidates in the last election on Suffrage matters, and were able to give some small assistance to the one local woman member, Mrs. Mercer, who, however, was unsuccessful.

The Committee has met eight times in all and has been well attended.

We received with great regret the resignation of our Hon. Secretary, Miss N. S. Parnell, who, for private reasons, was unable to continue in office. We offer her our sincere thanks for her devoted service.

Soiree for the "Catholic Citizen."

On February 23, members and friends of the Alliance met at the Emerson Club to do honour to Miss Leonora de Alberti, and to show their appreciation of her ten years' devoted work as honorary editor of the *Catholic Citizen*.

The soiree was in every way a great success. Miss Harley Bacon played the 'cello, Viscountess Dupplin and Mrs. Whately sang, Mrs. Keyser recited, Miss Eleanor FitzGerald told some delightful stories, and Miss Mary Wall gave character delineations.

In the interval letters were read from Fr. Arthur Day, S.J., Fr. Bede Jarrett, O.P., Fr. Keating, S.J., Fr. Herbert Thurston, S.J., Fr. Martindale, S.J., Dame Millicent Fawcett, C.B.E., Lady Astor, M.P., Mrs. Wintringham, and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., who all expressed their appreciation of the work of the Alliance and of the *Catholic Citizen*. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the International Women's Suffrage

Alliance, sent a beautiful bowl of hyacinths in St. Joan's colours, thanking Miss de Alberti on behalf of all her colleagues of the I.W.S.A., "for her untiring work for the women's cause."

In a short speech Mrs. V. M. Crawford, after pointing out the exacting nature of editorship and greatness of the debt of the Alliance to Miss de Alberti, showed how much work was still to be done in the sense of woman's suffrage.

In her reply Miss de Alberti, after expressing her thanks, drew attention to the debt the Alliance owed to other members, not forgetting the valiant paper-sellers who have been standing in the streets and outside churches for the last ten years.

Among the distinguished guests were Professor Don Luigi Sturzo, founder of the Italian Popular Party, and a keen feminist; Mrs. Halford Hewitt, President of the C.W.L.; Miss Kathleen FitzGerald; Miss Gadsby; Miss Helen Douglas Irvine; Lady Laughton; Mr. Jean Baptiste Toner.

We tender our grateful thanks to the artistes, and Miss Wall, who helped so much towards the success of soiree, also to Miss C. Connolly, of the "Bureau of Ways and Means," who generously undertook the typing of the circulars, etc., in connection with the party.

Below follows a list of those who sent donations for the *Catholic Citizen* fund, and our best thanks are due to these.

The donations, together with the proceeds of the party, cleared nearly £20, and members had an opportunity of meeting each other in very pleasant circumstances.

Cruttwell, Miss	...	...	5	0
Day, Revd. A., S.J.	...	...	2	6
Fedden, Miss	...	...	12	0
Grant, Miss	...	...	3	6
Hall, Miss	...	...	5	0
Hanlon, the Misses	...	...	2	6
Hayes, Mrs.	...	...	1	0
Head, Mrs.	...	...	2	6
Higgins, Dom Gilbert, C.R.L.	...	...	3	6
Hugget, Mrs.	...	...	6	6
Hughes, Mrs.	...	...	2	3
Joseph, Mrs.	...	...	2	6
Keating, Revd. J., S.J.	...	...	10	0
Landau, Mrs.	...	...	3	6
Lazaro, Senorita	...	...	3	6
McCormick, Miss	...	...	3	6
Mason, Miss	...	...	5	0
Meredith, Miss M.	...	...	2	6
Mills, Mrs. E. C.	...	...	2	3
Moclair, Miss	...	...	5	0
Monk, Very Revd. Canon	...	...	3	6
Morice, Dr. Margaret	...	...	7	6
O'Connor, Miss C.	...	...	5	0
O'Halloran, Miss	...	...	1	0
Poundall, Mrs.	...	...	1	6
Raleigh, Miss	...	...	2	6
Reynolds, H., Esq.	...	...	2	6
Roe, Miss	...	...	2	6
Rooney, Very Revd. Canon	...	...	10	0
Roper, Mrs.	...	...	5	0
Russell, Mrs.	...	...	3	6
Ryan, Miss	...	...	3	6
Toner, Mrs.	...	...	9	6
Uppleby, Miss	...	...	10	0
Walpole, Miss	7	6
Watson, Miss	5	0
Welch, Miss J. R. V.	3	6
Whelan, Miss	7	0
Williams, Miss	2	0

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Bevan, Miss	1 0 0
Borton, Miss	2 6
Busse, Miss	5 0
Catton, Mrs. Leyden	1 0 0
Christitch, Mrs. and Miss	7 0
Crespi, Signora	5 0

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.
Hon. Secretary: MISS JERVIS, 99 Edge Lane Drive, Liverpool.

A very successful meeting was held on February 19 at 2 Percy Street, by kind permission of Mrs. Finn, when Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford delivered an address on "Mussolini and Fascism." A hearty vote of thanks was moved by Miss Sevenoaks and seconded by Dr. Isabel Collier. Several new members joined at the close of the meeting.

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