

# 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

## An Examination of Conscience

BY VERA LAUGHTON MATHEWS

Our Annual Meeting has come round once again and it seems a fitting time for an examination of conscience—for a digging down to the roots of our work to see just what lies hidden there.

Two happenings recently have forced these thoughts into my mind. One was Miss Barry's twenty-first anniversary as our Hon. Secretary and the knowledge that for all those long years she has given her time and her outstanding gifts with whole-hearted devotion to feminist work. The other was the off-hand remark of another able and deeply religious woman, who said quite simply that she had no sympathy with "fighting for rights," and with that swept the whole of the great woman's movement on one side as a petty and selfish thing.

Now we in the movement have always believed that a divine discontent roused by injustice, and the moral courage to stand up for right, even if one's own rights are included, are qualities to be admired and envied. At the same time it is strange and rather sad that there exist people who can still see no more in the woman's movement than that—after all the years of devotion and sacrifice on the part of women who have never given one thought to themselves or their own rights, who have indeed put on one side all consideration of a distinguished career, of fame, of material success, in order to give their lives in the service of humanity and of a great idea.

People who gave all that they have given, who suffered every indignity, physical suffering, loss of friends, could not have gone on if it had been a question of personal gain, of mere "fighting for rights"—a few perhaps, but thousands, no.

What then is underneath it all? What is the

great motive force which has spurred on so many noble and great women to give the whole of their life's work and count it well spent.

Undoubtedly the motive is not always the same—some have been filled with a passionate love of freedom and of justice; others in their strength strove for the weak and downtrodden and in their upraising see fulfilment. But a very great number entered the woman's movement from nothing else but a deep spiritual motive. To them the call was as truly a call from God as any religious vocation. They looked on the world as made by men and saw that it was not good. They saw a world ridden by strife, disease and vice and knew that this could not be the fair world of God's design. Some cause there must be and they believed that one great cause was the age-long limitation of women's powers, the continued association of women with one side of life only, with the home, with sex, with the dispensation of comfort and pleasure.

Just one glance at countries where this idea still holds sway—those countries where there are only two types of women who count, wives and prostitutes, and where in a very large proportion of cases the wives are ignorant, discontented women, eating out their hearts through their husbands' faithlessness and through the emptiness of their own lives; those countries where the State itself still organises the degradation of women to satisfy the lusts of men, where side by side with what is known as the Regulation of Vice exists, as it always does, the terrible traffic in young women and girls; those countries where girls who are no more than children are openly sold into prostitution; those countries where woman has no separate life of her own but is definitely property belonging to

her husband or nearest male relative, where, as a Catholic priest said in a recent number of this paper, "as daughter, spouse and mother she has persuaded herself that nature in giving her her sex, has deprived her for ever of the rights and duties which are the dignity of human beings."

And there are people who say with the utmost complacency—do not disturb them; do not make them discontented; they have never known anything different. As if that did not make the whole tragedy more terrible and heartbreaking—that these human souls fashioned in God's image and likeness should expect to fritter away their precious heritage in ignorance and servitude.

This is a true picture though the extreme one of the logical conclusion of regarding woman as created solely for man, dependent on man for her status, her material and mental sustenance, for every phase of her existence.

This then is the meaning of "fighting for rights": the inspired courage to try and clean up the Augean stables of the world—a Crusade of Service in the cause of humanity.

Some may think it a far cry from the parliamentary vote and other political powers to the problems here introduced. But really it is not so. The raising of the legal status of woman, is followed immediately by an increase in human dignity in the eyes of other people and more important still in her own eyes. A complete and independent human being, so recognised by law, cannot be a chattel.

In countries where women have indeed "fought for rights" with some degree of success, we can see the results to-day. Side by side with the political freedom of women we see the abolition of State Regulation of Vice, and an almost complete absence of any traffic in young girls; we see too homes in which the ideal of marriage is realised, where husbands and wives are indeed equal comrades and enjoy a real companionship in love and in service.

And this is but the beginning. If there are sufficient women to unite in this Crusade of Service, sufficient younger women to fill the gaps made by the veterans who have fallen by the wayside, the day will come when in every country the world will have in its service, the united efforts of all public-spirited people, men and women.

What says the verse which has ridden triumphantly at the head of the "Catholic Citizen" for twenty years:

"Who knows the gifts which you shall give  
Daughter of the Newer Eve."

## Notes and Comments

It is hardly necessary to remind our readers that the anniversary of our late beloved Editor, Leonora de Alberti, occurs on March 26th. On behalf of the Alliance Holy Mass for the repose of her soul will be offered on that date. As many members are unable to assist at daily Mass we should like to suggest that they offer up their Sunday Mass on March 24th for this intention.—R.I.P.

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A Bill giving votes to Frenchwomen on equal terms with men was recently passed by the French Chamber of Deputies. Unfortunately the Bill was afterwards shelved and has been referred with certain amendments to the Universal Suffrage Committee. Even after it has passed the Chamber of Deputies it must still come before the recalcitrant Senate.

The French Press has recently been full of "Votes for Women"; but the issue is confused with Family Votes, the Municipal Vote, religion—anything and everything. Madame Brunschvig, President of the "Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes," implores Frenchwomen to leave aside all other issues however admirable and to concentrate on "votes for women on the same terms as men."

Our member, M. Delamare, writing in L'Aube, points out that this long overdue reform is a matter of simple justice.

In Turkey where women have but lately emerged from a system of almost complete subjection, seventeen women have been returned to Parliament in the recent elections. We congratulate our Turkish sisters and look forward to meeting them at Istanbul.

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We are glad to note that Dame Rachel Crowdy, former Chief of the Social Questions and Opium Traffic Section of the League of Nations, is one of the seven members of the recently appointed Royal Commission on the Private Manufacture and Traffic in Arms.

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The delegates from St. Joan's Alliance to the Istanbul Congress will be Mrs. Laughton Mathews, chairman; Miss Barry, Hon. Secretary; Miss Spender, Hon. Editor; and Miss Dickinson, member of the Executive Committee, who was the first woman member of the Bombay Legislative Council and has done much work for the Equal Moral Standard in India. During the absence of the officers the office will be open daily from 3 to 5, Saturday 10-30 to 12-30—that is during April.

## 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

### Twenty-Fourth Annual Report

During the past year, there is no doubt that the world-wide attack on married women's work has been extended to the work of all women, but in spite of this there are many outstanding successes to record.

In *Brazil* the new constitution gives women absolute equality in all fields. In *Canada* women in Quebec now have equality in banking rights and the restriction which prohibited a married woman in the Province of Quebec from depositing more than 2,000 dollars in a Bank without her husband's consent has been removed. *Ceylon* now admits women to the Law College, though this concession was only gained after a long struggle. It is reported that women in *Chile* have been granted municipal suffrage. For the first time in *Denmark* a woman has been appointed to a position in the Foreign Office. In the new Constitution of *Dominica* women are now eligible for the Legislative Council. The *Irish* Nationality and Citizenship Bill which passed its second reading before the end of the year gives equality to men and women and recognises the married woman's right to her own independent nationality. It does not however give equality in the matter of transmission of nationality, an amendment pressed for by the Irish Women's Organisations, unfortunately without success. Mr. de Valera quoted in detail from the International Petition of Catholic Women presented to the 13th Assembly of the League of Nations in support of the equality clauses of his Nationality and Citizenship Bill. For the first time a woman has been appointed Chancellor of the Spanish Consulate in Dublin. In *New Zealand* the age of marriage has been raised from 12 for girls and 14 for boys to 16 for both and a Nationality Bill which enables women marrying or having married foreigners to retain or reacquire their British Nationality is before the Legislative Council. In *Poland* a woman professor at the Warsaw University has been appointed to the chair of Ethnography. According to the press, in *Russia* a woman is People's Commissar for Finance, and a woman was appointed governor of a province in *Siberia*. A most outstanding work was undertaken by Miss Sarah Wanbaugh who was appointed by the League of Nations as one of the three experts who prepared the draft regulations on methods of voting in the *Saar Plebiscite*. *Spain* has appointed a woman Director of Public Assistance and Social Welfare. The National Assembly of *Turkey* has by unanimous vote amended the Constitution so that men and women have equal franchise for the Assembly from the age of 23 and equal rights of eligibility at the age of 31. In the *United States*, by the passing of the Dickstein-

Copeland Bill all discriminations against women in Nationality laws have been removed and women may transmit their nationality to their children. Miss Florence Allen, previously judge of the Supreme Court of Ohio, is the first woman to be appointed a judge of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeal and Miss Josephine Roche has been appointed Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

In our own country 221 women were elected in November to the London Metropolitan Councils, and 243 women Councillors and Aldermen serve on County Councils in England and Wales. The number of women magistrates has steadily increased, 400 having been appointed during the last year. Under the Unemployment Insurance Act three women have been appointed to serve—one to the Unemployment Assistance Board, and two to the Unemployment Statutory Committee. A welcome event has been the publication of the Report of the Law Revision Committee set up by the Government to deal with legal anomalies. The Committee recommended the abolition of the liability of a husband for the torts of his wife and other anomalies. In support of this view a memorandum had been submitted to the Committee by St. Joan's Alliance and four other societies. The confining of the removal of the restraint on anticipation to future settlements only, is a flaw in an otherwise excellent report. In March a Festival Concert in honour of Dame Ethel Smyth was held at the Albert Hall in the presence of H.M. the Queen, Sir Thomas Beecham conducting. For the first time a woman, Mrs. Elizabeth Richardson, won the premier gold medal at the International Exhibition of Inventions. The Burton Memorial Medal has been awarded to Miss Freya Stark who gave the Burton Memorial Lecture describing her archeological survey of *Luristan, Persia*.

On the other hand in *France* women are still voteless. Not only in *Germany* but in many other countries restrictions have been put on a woman's right to earn, the idea being, in many cases, that unemployment can be remedied in this way. In *Luxembourg* a regulation embodied in a Grand Ducal Decree subjects the employment of women, married and unmarried, to a preliminary authorisation of the Government. In *Belgium* Senator Père Rutten, O.P., has put forward a proposal for the restriction of married women's work and of all women's work in certain categories. A Royal Decree dated December 8th, 1934, empowers the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare to limit the employment of women, married and unmarried, in order to favour the employment of

men; a quota of women employees may be established in each industry. In the *Netherlands* employers have been widely circularised as to the advisability of substituting male for female labour *wherever possible* and in many cases this has already been done. Proposals to limit women's work on a large scale were made during the recent Budget discussions. We are glad to note that some Catholic women in Holland are not in agreement with their leaders in the Catholic Party in Parliament, on this question. In this country a suggestion was made in the Report on Depressed Areas "to consider seriously some limitation of the fields of female labour." Continued vigilance will be necessary if we are to put a stop to this tendency to consider the dismissal of women from paid employment as one of the remedies for male unemployment. To shift the burden from one class of the community to another is no remedy for unemployment, but equal pay for equal work would stop the undercutting of men's work and rates in all employments and prevent the general lowering of the standard of living.

### Equal Pay and Opportunities

In the Civil Service, Committee F., the Joint Committee of Official and Staff Representatives set up to consider the recommendations relating to women in the report of the Royal Commission of the Civil Service 1929-1931 (the Tomlin Commission) issued their report at the end of March. The recommendations of this committee though by no means satisfactory are a step forward. As regards aggregation and the opening of higher posts to women the policy of the most enlightened departments has now been imposed by authority of the Treasury, on all departments. Though the Committee does not see its way to recommending the complete abolition of the marriage bar the number of women retained on marriage since the issue of the report has greatly increased.

An *Equal Pay Campaign* was inaugurated by a mass meeting in March at the Central Hall, Westminster, under the auspices of 33 organisations including St. Joan's Alliance. The meeting, presided over by Mrs. Wintringham, declared that "men and women should receive the same pay for doing the same work and called upon the Government, local authorities and other employers to put this principle of equal pay for equal work into practice."

Towards the close of the year we co-operated with the National Association of Women Civil Servants in requesting members of Parliament to attend a meeting in the House of Commons under the Chairmanship of Major Hills at which the case for Equal Pay in Government Services was put forward by Mrs. Strachey and Miss Evans, General Secretary of the N.A.W.C.S. The campaign for equal pay will be intensified during the coming year.

*Married Women's Work.* Many local authorities, including the Westminster City Council, are making regulations to dismiss women employees on marriage, but it is satisfactory to note that the Manchester City Council rejected the proposal of its Education Committee to dismiss its married women employees.

*Diplomatic Service.* On behalf of the Alliance Mrs. Laughton Mathews gave evidence before the Commission appointed to consider the admission of women to the Diplomatic and Consular Services. The report has not yet been published, but owing to pressure from the women's organisations, we understand that it will appear shortly.

### Equal Moral Standard

The League of Nations report on the "Abolition of Licensed Houses" is a valuable document proving

once more that neither public health nor public order has suffered by the abolition of tolerated brothels. We rejoice that at the Assembly 18 European and Asiatic Governments unanimously agreed to condemn the *maisons de tolérance* and to recommend all Governments to abolish them.

### Indian Women's Franchise

Our Alliance has joined with four other societies with one mutually appointed Liaison Officer to support the Indian Women's Organisations in their demand for equality between men and women in the new constitution of India. The following message was sent by us to the All India Women's Conference: "St. Joan's Social & Political Alliance sends its warmest congratulations to the women of India on their splendid work in the cause of women's emancipation; the expression of its admiration of their brave stand for equality; and its promise of any help and support that lie within its power." The beautifully illuminated scroll, a message from British women to Indian women, taken to the Conference by Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Dr. Maude Royden was the work of our member Erica Butler-Bowdon.

### Status of African Women

During the past year the Alliance has taken a leading part in working for the raising of the status of African women. We believe the time has come when it should be definitely laid down that a woman whatever her race, is not a chattel to be sold by her father or alleged proprietor, to a polygamist or anyone else. Every woman must be a free agent to choose her own partner in life despite any contract entered into in her name by any other person. The inheritance of widows by their husband's heir, must be put a stop to. We base our claim on the Christian conception of the rights of every human being.

On this subject much time has been spent in study of League of Nations Documents and literature from a variety of sources and we are in close touch with various Missionary Orders of men and women, both English and French and with members of the Mandates Commission of the League of Nations. This year through a request of Lord Lugard questions were formulated by us for consideration by the Mandates Commission. Once more we owe a debt of gratitude to Miss Dannevig who kept this matter before the Commission eliciting valuable information and promises of further investigation. We are also indebted to Lord Lugard for his enquiries as to whether there was a trade in wives or anything akin to traffic in women existing in the Cameroons. We gladly note that at the 26th Session of the Mandates Commission the accredited representative of the British Cameroons devoted more than half of his general statement to the position of women in the British Cameroons.

We have also been in close touch with the *Société d'Etudes Africaines* formed by Mlle. Lenoël early in the year, and our Hon. Secretary serves on the Status of African Women sub-Committee of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene. During the year several Missionaries have written to us to congratulate us and to give us their blessing on our labours on behalf of the women of Africa.

### International

Early in the year a committee meeting attended by a representative from the French Section of the Alliance decided on the draft international constitution of St. Joan's Alliance. This draft was circulated to our members in other countries and approved.

Throughout the year Mrs. Laughton Mathews and

Miss Barry have represented the Alliance on the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations and application was made and granted for affiliation to the Joint Standing Committee of International Women's Organisations.

*Right of Women to Earn.* St. Joan's Alliance co-operated in the Joint Demonstration of International Women's Organisations held in Paris in July to uphold the right of a woman whether married or unmarried to obtain or retain work and to condemn any attempt to deprive her of this right. Mlle. Lenoël represented the Alliance.

*League of Nations Assembly.* The Hon. Secretary and Hon. Editor were present at Geneva and attended the various meetings and commissions of the League dealing with questions of particular interest to the Alliance. At a business meeting of the Liaison Committee of International Women's Organisations to enlist the help of the women delegates on various items on the agenda of the League of special interest to women's organisations, Miss Barry asked for consideration of the position of African women. Thanks to the Irish delegation this matter was included in the report of the Mandates Commission presented to the Assembly.

A reception was given by the women's organisations, including St. Joan's Alliance, in honour of the women delegates.

During the Assembly a letter was sent on behalf of St. Joan's Alliance to the Secretary General of the League and published in the League Journal, requesting States Members not to ratify those articles of the Hague Nationality Convention which are in conflict with the principle of equality between men and women, and asking for the adoption of an International Convention which would recognise a married woman's right to her own independent nationality on equal terms with men.

*Mandates Commission.* Miss Butler-Bowdon and Mlle. Lenoël were at Geneva during the 25th Session of the Mandates Commission of the League of Nations where they were able to consult with Mlle. Dannevig—the only woman member of the Commission.

A Memorandum on the Status of Women in Mandated Territories drawn up by St. Joan's Alliance, was sent to the Chairman of the Mandates Commission before its 26th Session in October. This Memorandum asked that when the question of the Cameroons was considered special attention might be given to the position of African women and urged that in all mandated territories: no marriage contract be made for any girl under 14; no contract be made for a girl over 14 without her consent; Christian marriages be recognised as such in the Courts (i.e. as being obligatorily monogamous) just as Mahomedan marriages are recognised; a widow be able to dispose of herself and her children as she thinks fit, remain with her husband's family, return to her own family, or re-marry. It also called for investigation into the trade in wives and expressed its opposition to any form of regulation of prostitution or of traffic in women.

Prior to the 18th Session of the *International Labour Conference* held in Geneva in June, St. Joan's Alliance sent a Memorandum on the Employment of Women in Underground Work in Mines of all kinds to the Director of the I.L.O. setting forth reasons for our opposition to the exclusion of women from mines.

The Alliance has sent replies to the Annual Questionnaire of Mme. Avril de Sainte Croix, representative of the International Women's Organisations on the League of Nations Consultative Committee on Traffic in Women, dealing with points on the pro-

gramme of the 13th Session of the *Advisory Commission on Traffic in Women*.

The work of *l'Alliance Ste. Jeanne d'Arc* continues to be of much value in France. "La Revue Ste. Jeanne d'Arc" now appears bi-monthly under an enlarged and improved format. It retains its high standard and does excellent propaganda for the cause. The Bulletin of the *Société d'Etudes Africaines* founded by Mlle. Lenoël has temporarily been given the hospitality of the Revue and contains most valuable information on the subject of the status of African women.

*Visitors from Abroad.* During the year we were glad to welcome Fr. Burbridge, S.J., of S. Rhodesia who was particularly interested in our work on behalf of African women; Miss Gordon, one of the leading ladies in the "Blackbirds of 1934" for U.S.A.; Mme. de Kresz (Hungary), Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes (Germany), Mlle. Lenoël (France), Mrs. Shennan (S. Africa), Mrs. Shirin Fozdar (Iran), and Miss Walshe (Australia).

A marked feature of the work of the Alliance is the great increase in international correspondence received at the office. Requests for help and information on the most amazing subjects are constantly coming in from quarters as far apart as Dominica and Chile, Wisconsin and New Zealand.

**The 23rd Annual Meeting** was held on March 17th in St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho, Mrs. Laughton Mathews presiding. We met under a cloud owing to the fact that our beloved editor Miss de Alberti was lying very seriously ill. The meeting sent her a message of affectionate sympathy.

The Annual Report was read by Miss Fedden, its adoption moved by Mrs. Huggett and seconded by Miss Dickinson. Miss Organ then appealed for help in the office. The financial statement was read by Miss Brandt, Hon. Treasurer, moved by Miss Springett, seconded by Miss Hoey of Bradford while Miss Eleanor FitzGerald made a successful appeal for funds which brought in over £20. Mrs. Laughton Mathews was re-elected chairman. Later in the year owing to the death of Miss de Alberti and the resignation of Miss Monica O'Connor through ill health, Miss P. C. Challoner, M.A., and Miss I. M. Dickinson were co-opted to the committee. The following resolutions were moved from the chair and carried:

#### 1—EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS

##### (a) Franchise.

(i) *India.* St. Joan's S.P.A. reaffirms its whole-hearted support of the women of India in their demands regarding franchise and the status of women and calls upon the Government to embody these demands in the new constitution of India.

(ii) St. Joan's S.P.A. regrets that in the British Commonwealth the women of Malta, Quebec and Bermuda are still unenfranchised and hopes that justice will be granted at an early date.

##### (b) Women in the House of Lords.

St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that peeresses, in their own right, should have a seat and vote in the House of Lords, and further, that in any measure designed to reform the Second Chamber men and women should have the same right to sit and to be elected.

#### 2—EQUAL MORAL STANDARD

##### (a) Traffic in Women in the East.

St. Joan's S.P.A. congratulates the League of Nations on its inquiry into traffic in women and children in the East and urges the League to urge all the Powers concerned to take the necessary action for (1) the closure of all known brothels;

(2) the appointment of trained women officials on the staff of the authorities whose duty it is to suppress the traffic in women; and (3) the calling of an official Conference in the Far East representative of all those countries of the South Seas to which victims of the traffic are sent.

(b) *Solicitation Laws.*

St. Joan's S.P.A. regrets that the Government has taken no action to remedy the present unjust Solicitation Laws, calls for their repeal and the substitution of a measure on the lines of the Public Places (Order) Bill, which deals with street solicitation by general legislation against annoyance or molestation, and under which the evidence of the person annoyed or molested would be necessary in order to obtain a conviction.

(c) *Illegitimate Children.*

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass without delay a Bill providing for the enforcement of Affiliation Orders overseas on similar lines to the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Act, 1920.

(d) *Child Assault.*

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce a Bill providing more effective safeguards for the protection of young children from sexual assault.

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 work.

(b) In particular it calls upon the Government to open the *Diplomatic, Consular* and kindred Services to women on the same terms and conditions as they are open to men.

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

It believes that the only policy which safeguards their individual liberty and responsibility is that of basing all labour regulations and restrictions upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker, and calls upon the Government to apply this principle to all legislation, and to instruct its delegates to support it at all Conferences of the International Labour Office.

4—UNEMPLOYMENT

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to embody in the new *Insurance Bill* the principle of equality of contributions and benefits for men and women, including married women; further that if any Statutory Commission is set up as advised in the Majority Report of the Royal Commission, such commission shall not have power to discriminate against women workers, by laying down rates of contribution or benefit different for men and women.

(b) It calls upon the Government to allocate for the training and relief of unemployed women an equal sum of money in proportion to their numbers as is expended upon men.

5—NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass into law a Bill on the lines of the

Nationality of Married Women Bill giving married women the right to an independent nationality on the same terms as other adults.

6—SLAVERY

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. welcomes the appointment of the League of Nations Advisory Committee of Experts on Slavery and trusts that the special forms of enslavement of women and girls may receive full attention.

(b) It urges the Government to secure the real abolition of all forms of slavery throughout the British Empire. It demands that the Government should discountenance among indigenous peoples any practices whatsoever involving the bartering of women and children into domestic and other forms of slavery, including the form of child slavery in Hong Kong known as the Mui Tsai system.

7—MATERNAL MORTALITY

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Ministry of Health to provide adequate maternity services throughout the country, and further urges upon its members the duty of pressing their Local Authorities to carry out to the full their powers in this respect.

8—INCOME TAX

St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that the income of married persons should be separately assessed and separately taxed.

9—WOMEN POLICE

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

10—EDUCATION

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. calls for fair and adequate financial treatment of Catholic elementary and secondary schools.

(b) St. Joan's S.P.A. urges upon the Government the necessity of providing adequate and equal facilities for the education of native girls and boys under British rule.

11—BIRTH CONTROL

St. Joan's S.P.A. deplors the policy of the Ministry of Health in allowing in certain cases information on artificial birth control to be given at centres maintained out of public funds. It urges its members to watch the matter in their local Councils.

12—DIVORCE

St. Joan's S.P.A. regrets the action of certain Societies in pressing for further facilities for divorce, and trusts that all Christian bodies will unite in opposing this demand.

13—STERILISATION

St. Joan's S.P.A. records its opposition to the introduction of any legislation designed to promote the voluntary or compulsory sterilisation of mental defectives.

14—CONSTITUTION OF THE ALLIANCE

In view of the importance of our international work the executive committee recommend that a representative be added to the committee from every country which has an organised section of St. Joan's Alliance. Such a representative to be nominated by the section. Further that the committee so constituted should be termed the Council of the Alliance.

15—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Any member of the executive committee who fails to attend a minimum of three committee meetings during the year shall automatically cease to be a member of the committee.

On February 21st by the kindness of Dr. Shattock the Alliance held a meeting at her house in Regent's Park when two White Sisters spoke on the *position of women in North and Central Africa*. Mother Mary Christian described the lot of women among the Kabyles with whom she had spent seven years while Sister Mary Stanislaus who had been many years in Nyassaland gave an account of the conditions obtaining among women there.

The Alliance gave two dinners at the Wilton Hotel, one in February in honour of *Mlle. Lenoël*, founder and Hon. Secretary of our French Section when *Miss Nina Boyle* was also a guest of honour. The other in honour of our members *Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes* who holds many distinguished posts in the Catholic and University world of Germany and *Miss Helen Douglas Irvine*, former chairman of the Alliance who had lately returned from Chile.

On July 21st a party which included *Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes* and *Miss Kathleen Walshe* spent the day in Oxford where they were kindly entertained by *Mrs. Bacon*. Owing to the kindness of *Fr. Dunstan, O.S.F.C.*, students from the Franciscan Priory showed them something of Oxford.

Various delightful parties were given by several members during the year. On St. Joan's feast by *Miss Eleanor FitzGerald* when she gave an interesting account of a valuable cameo portrait of *Michel Angelo* which she had presented to the Holy Father for the Vatican Library. On July 1st by *Miss Jeffery* and *Miss Barry* to hear *Miss Butler-Bowdon's* account of her experiences at Geneva where she and *Mlle. Lenoël* had been during the meetings of the Mandates Commission and the Conference of the I.L.O. Also in July by *Miss Bain* to welcome *Miss O'Sullivan*, one of the original members of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society on her return to town. On October 8th by *Miss Butler-Bowdon* when members of the Executive and Finance Committees came to hear *Miss Barry* and *Miss Spender* give an account of their work at Geneva during the meetings of the Assembly of the League of Nations. On October 31st by *Miss Butler-Bowdon* when *Miss Agatha Harrison* gave an illuminating account of the position of Indian women.

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(2) the appointment of trained women officials on the staff of the authorities whose duty it is to suppress the traffic in women; and (3) the calling of an official Conference in the Far East representative of all those countries of the South Seas to which victims of the traffic are sent.

(b) *Solicitation Laws.*

St. Joan's S.P.A. regrets that the Government has taken no action to remedy the present unjust Solicitation Laws, calls for their repeal and the substitution of a measure on the lines of the Public Places (Order) Bill, which deals with street solicitation by general legislation against annoyance or molestation, and under which the evidence of the person annoyed or molested would be necessary in order to obtain a conviction.

(c) *Illegitimate Children.*

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass without delay a Bill providing for the enforcement of Affiliation Orders overseas on similar lines to the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Act, 1920.

(d) *Child Assault.*

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce a Bill providing more effective safeguards for the protection of young children from sexual assault.

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 work.

(b) In particular it calls upon the Government to open the *Diplomatic, Consular* and kindred Services to women on the same terms and conditions as they are open to men.

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

It believes that the only policy which safeguards their individual liberty and responsibility is that of basing all labour regulations and restrictions upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker, and calls upon the Government to apply this principle to all legislation, and to instruct its delegates to support it at all Conferences of the International Labour Office.

4—UNEMPLOYMENT

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to embody in the new *Insurance Bill* the principle of equality of contributions and benefits for men and women, including married women; further that if any Statutory Commission is set up as advised in the Majority Report of the Royal Commission, such commission shall not have power to discriminate against women workers, by laying down rates of contribution or benefit different for men and women.

(b) It calls upon the Government to allocate for the training and relief of unemployed women an equal sum of money in proportion to their numbers as is expended upon men.

5—NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass into law a Bill on the lines of the

Nationality of Married Women Bill giving married women the right to an independent nationality on the same terms as other adults.

6—SLAVERY

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. welcomes the appointment of the League of Nations Advisory Committee of Experts on Slavery and trusts that the special forms of enslavement of women and girls may receive full attention.

(b) It urges the Government to secure the real abolition of all forms of slavery throughout the British Empire. It demands that the Government should discountenance among indigenous peoples any practices whatsoever involving the bartering of women and children into domestic and other forms of slavery, including the form of child slavery in Hong Kong known as the Mui Tsai system.

7—MATERNAL MORTALITY

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Ministry of Health to provide adequate maternity services throughout the country, and further urges upon its members the duty of pressing their Local Authorities to carry out to the full their powers in this respect.

8—INCOME TAX

St. Joan's S.P.A. demands that the income of married persons should be separately assessed and separately taxed.

9—WOMEN POLICE

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

10—EDUCATION

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. calls for fair and adequate financial treatment of Catholic elementary and secondary schools.

(b) St. Joan's S.P.A. urges upon the Government the necessity of providing adequate and equal facilities for the education of native girls and boys under British rule.

11—BIRTH CONTROL

St. Joan's S.P.A. deplores the policy of the Ministry of Health in allowing in certain cases information on artificial birth control to be given at centres maintained out of public funds. It urges its members to watch the matter in their local Councils.

12—DIVORCE

St. Joan's S.P.A. regrets the action of certain Societies in pressing for further facilities for divorce, and trusts that all Christian bodies will unite in opposing this demand.

13—STERILISATION

St. Joan's S.P.A. records its opposition to the introduction of any legislation designed to promote the voluntary or compulsory sterilisation of mental defectives.

14—CONSTITUTION OF THE ALLIANCE

In view of the importance of our international work the executive committee recommend that a representative be added to the committee from every country which has an organised section of St. Joan's Alliance. Such a representative to be nominated by the section. Further that the committee so constituted should be termed the Council of the Alliance.

15—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Any member of the executive committee who fails to attend a minimum of three committee meetings during the year shall automatically cease to be a member of the committee.

On February 21st by the kindness of Dr. Shattock the Alliance held a meeting at her house in Regent's Park when two White Sisters spoke on the *position of women in North and Central Africa*. Mother Mary Christian described the lot of women among the Kabyles with whom she had spent seven years while Sister Mary Stanislaus who had been many years in Nyassaland gave an account of the conditions obtaining among women there.

The Alliance gave two dinners at the Wilton Hotel, one in February in honour of *Mlle. Lenoël*, founder and Hon. Secretary of our French Section when *Miss Nina Boyle* was also a guest of honour. The other in honour of our members *Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes* who holds many distinguished posts in the Catholic and University world of Germany and *Miss Helen Douglas Irvine*, former chairman of the Alliance who had lately returned from Chile.

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Eleanor FitzGerald and on Equal Rates for men and women in Trades Boards by Miss C. M. Gordon.

The Alliance also took part in the following Conferences:

Subject.	Organised by	Our Representative.
Maternal Mortality.	M.M.C.	Miss Barry, Miss Spender
Unemployment Insurance.	N.C.E.C.	Miss Barry, Miss Spender
Hours of Work and Employment.	L.N.U.	Miss E. FitzGerald.
Women and Insurance.	W.F.L.	Miss Butler Bowdon.
Native Races in the British Empire.	W.I.L.	Miss Barry, Mrs. Shattock Miss Spender
I.L.O. Conference.	Miss Rathbone, M.P.	Miss Barry.
Married Women's Employment (Westminster City Council).	O.D.C.	Miss Barry, Miss Butler Bowdon.
Tribal Customs and Position of African Women.	A.M.S.H.	Miss Barry, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, Miss Spender.
Indian Constitutional Reform.	Indian Liaison Group.	Miss Barry, Miss Butler-Bowdon, Miss Dickinson, Mrs. Laughton Mathews.
Traffic in Women.	B.S.H.C.	Miss Dickinson.

The Alliance was represented at two lunches given by the Women's Freedom League; one in honour of Lady Muir, a member of our Alliance, who spoke from personal experience on Women in the Diplomatic Service, the other in honour of Laurence Housman; the Alliance was also represented at a lecture under the same auspices given by Mr. Lewin of South Africa, the subject being the position of native women.

At the party given at Caxton Hall in honour of Mrs. Despard's 90th birthday, several members of the Alliance were present and Miss Spender presented flowers with our best wishes.

Three Receptions were attended by members of the Alliance, two for the purpose of raising funds for the Istanbul Congress—one given by Lady Daniels in Hampstead, the other at the American Women's Club; and the British Commonwealth League annual reception, this time at Leighton House.

At the joint meeting at the Central Hall to focus attention on the importance of passing the *Exportation of Horses Bill* organised by the International League against the Export of Horses for Butchery and Our Dumb Friends' League, we were represented on the platform by Miss Bain.

At the *Catholic Social Guild Meeting* at the Queen's Hall, Miss Barry was on the platform representing St. Joan's Alliance.

By request of the East Grinstead Branch of the *Catholic Women's League*, Mrs. Laughton Mathews spoke to their members on the ideals underlying the feminist movement, Miss M. M. A. Ward presiding; and by request of the Oxford Branch of the *Union of Catholic Mothers*, Miss Fedden spoke to them on Citizenship, Mrs. Feeney presiding.

#### Letters and Resolutions were sent to:

The Minister of Labour asking that a professional woman should be sent to the *International Labour Conference* particularly as the Night Work Convention was under consideration.

The Director of the I.L.O. giving the views of the Alliance on the various items on the agenda of the 18th Session of the *International Labour Conference* which concerned our work.

The Colonial Office asking what steps had been taken as regards the reported *Sale of girls in Cyprus*.

The Home Secretary asking that in the sections of the *Criminal Law Amendment Act* (1883) dealing with the procurement of girls and women the sentence which excludes prostitutes or women of known immoral character from protection against procurement should be deleted.

The Minister of Health placing on record our opposition to the further widening of conditions under which information on artificial *Birth Control* may be given at centres maintained out of public funds.

All members of the House of Commons, by request of the O.D.C. in co-operation with ten other organisations, protesting against the suggestion made in the *Report on Depressed Areas*, "that the limitation of the fields of female labour" should be considered.

The British Union of *Fascists* asking for their attitude on Feminism.

The Colonial Office asking that "*Child Adoption*" in Ceylon should be abolished and not legalised by being included in the new Draft Ordinance, also stating our concern that the Ordinance fixes seven years as the minimum age under which children's work should be limited.

The *Swiss Association for Woman's Suffrage* congratulating them on the occasion of their silver jubilee and sending our best wishes for the speedy attainment of their enfranchisement.

#### Deputations

*Married Women's Work.* On a deputation to the newly elected London County Council organised by the Open Door Council the Alliance was represented by Miss Dickinson. The deputation representing 28 women's organisations asked the Council to reverse its custom of dismissing women employees on marriage.

*Police Women.* Miss Graham represented the Alliance on the deputation to the Home Office organised by the National Council of Women to present a Petition asking for an increase in the number of women police and that it should be made compulsory for "preventive, detective and protective duties in connection with women and children" to be carried out by police women and that a woman Inspector be appointed to the Home Office. The Alliance had helped to collect signatures for this petition.

*Nationality of Married Women.* The Alliance was represented on two joint deputations from the British Commonwealth League and the Nationality of Married Women Pass the Bill Committee to the Acting High Commissioners of Australia and Canada. The deputations asked that the respective Governments should adopt legislation conferring equal nationality rights between men and women and support in the Imperial Conference the adoption of similar legislation throughout the British Commonwealth.

*International Labour Conference.* On a deputation organised by the Open Door Council to the Minister of Labour regarding various items on the agenda of the 18th Session of the Conference, the Alliance was represented by Miss Barry and Miss Spender.

#### Parliamentary By-Elections

Our questionnaire was sent to the candidates at the by-elections of N. Lambeth and Putney; candidates

were interviewed, their meetings attended when questions were asked. Two women stood, unsuccessfully, at these elections, Mrs. Alice G. Brown for N. Lambeth and Dr. Summerskill (Lab.) for Putney. To our great satisfaction Mr. Miles Mander, the author of an anti-Christian and anti-feminist book who was to have stood for Putney was unable to do so "owing to his professional engagements."

#### Personal

We offer our congratulations to the following members of the Alliance: Dom Gilbert Higgins, C.R.L., on attaining his 85th birthday; and Mgr. T. J. Walshe on the Golden Jubilee of his priesthood. To Dr. Stella Boylan on the birth of a son; Miss G. Byrne on her marriage to Mr. Saunders; and Mrs. Cheux on the birth of her daughter, Jane; Miss T. C. Dowling on having been elected President of the Massachusetts Association of Women Lawyers; Miss Eleanor Fitzgerald and Dr. Sheridan on the successful production of their plays; Miss E. C. Fortey, J.P., on her re-election to Leicester City Council; Miss N. Fulcher on having composed, orchestrated, and conducted at Windsor the music of "The Marriage of King Henry IVth"; Mrs. Hallaway on having been appointed a J.P.; Dr. Isabel Heath on having been made a life member of the British Red Cross Society; Dr. Eileen Hickey on qualifying as a member of the Royal College of Physicians, Ireland; Mrs. C. J. Mathew, J.P., on her re-election to the L.C.C. for Limehouse; Mrs. O'Neill on the birth of a son; Miss Margaret Organ on entering the Canonesses of St. Augustine; Mr. Richard O'Sullivan on his appointment as K.C.; Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell on having been elected to the Court of Manchester University.

We owe thanks to all our members who have given help in the office during the past year, particularly to Miss E. FitzGerald and Miss J. Organ who have come regularly once a week. To Miss Butler-Bowdon we are again indebted for the great amount of assistance she has given us.

#### Obituary

The Annual Mass for deceased members, associates and benefactors of the Alliance was offered at St. Patrick's, Soho Sq., on Sunday, November 4th.

The Alliance has suffered an irreparable loss in the death of our beloved colleague and friend Leonora de Alberti. From the very early days of the Society she was always one of the outstanding figures and her clear judgment and inspiring personality were most valuable assets. She has left a lasting monument behind her in "The Catholic Citizen."—R.I.P.

At the Requiem Mass (Month's Mind) offered for Leonora de Alberti by Mgr. Canon Hall in the Church of St. Peter and St. Edward, Palace Street, a large congregation was present including representatives from many of the leading women's organisations.

We regret to record the deaths during the year of the following members and associates: the Rev. Michael Fennell, Inst. Ch., Dr. Morgan Finucane, Mrs. A. St. G. Huggett, Mrs. Yorke Smith, and Miss Wellbeloved.—R.I.P.

By the deaths of Archbishop McIntyre and Father Bede Jarrett, O.P., the Alliance has lost friends of many years' standing. The Alliance was represented at the Requiems said for Father Bede Jarrett both in London and in Oxford. We were also represented at the funeral of Mr. Frank Briant, M.P., by whose

death feminism in this country suffered a great loss. Internationally the woman's movement has lost a true friend in the noted scientist Madame Curie.

On the anniversary of Mrs. Pankhurst's birthday, Miss Barry together with representatives of other societies laid flowers at the foot of Mrs. Pankhurst's statue in Victoria Gardens.

#### Press Report

The death of Miss Leonora de Alberti received wide notice in the Catholic and Feminist press both at home and abroad. "The Times" Obituary stressed the fact that her chief work was the foundation and Editorship of "The Catholic Citizen."

Members of the Alliance took part in an important correspondence in "The Universe" concerning the passing of a resolution by the annual conference of the National Council of Women, at Edinburgh, which urged the Government to legalise voluntary sterilization.

Letters from our Editor and Hon. Press Secretary appeared in "The Catholic Times" in answer to an article by "Nestor" in which he asserted that women could only excel as interpretative and not as creative musicians. A letter from our Hon. Secretary, calling attention to the importance of examining the preliminary list of Parliamentary Registers by all entitled to vote, thus avoiding omissions and inaccuracies, was published in the leading Catholic Weeklies. In "The Times" a letter appeared from the Hon. Press Secretary, correcting a statement made by Sir Patrick Hastings re St. Joan. "The Shield" published a letter from our Chairman correcting a misapprehension regarding Catholics which had appeared in an Editorial.

Answers to a questionnaire sent by the Alliance to the candidates of the N. Lambeth By-Election were published in "The Universe" and "The Catholic Herald." During the Putney By-Election, "The Wandsworth Borough News" gave considerable space to Mr. Marcus Samuel's replies to our questionnaire and also to Dr. Summerskill's replies to a deputation of electors in the constituency representing feminist organisations, including members of the Alliance.

"The Woman Teacher" and "The Cambrian News" reported the memorandum regarding Married Women's Torts, which was submitted to the Law Revision Committee by the Alliance and four other feminist societies. "The Times" and "The South Wales Journal of Commerce" reported at length the deputation organised by The Open Door Council and supported by the Alliance which was received by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour regarding four items on the Agenda of the 18th Session of the International Labour Conference. "Opportunity" commented favourably on the article "Women in the Civil Service" published in the "Catholic Citizen."

Reference to the Alliance and its activities have been made in numerous publications abroad, including "The Catholic Women's Review" (Australia), "The Southern Cross" (South Africa), "Equal Rights" (U.S.A.), "Le Féminisme Chrétien" (Brussels), and "l'Egyptienne" (Egypt).

We wish to thank the Editors of "The Tablet," "The Universe," "The Catholic Times" and "The Catholic Herald" for reporting the Alliance's activities during the past year. We also thank "The Woman Teacher" for advertising our meetings under "Forthcoming Events." We are indebted to the "Universe" for favourable comments on reports

in the "Catholic Citizen," incorporated in their "Woman's Outlook."

Once more we are indebted to Miss Barclay Carter who has continued to act as our Hon. Press Secretary and to Miss Sheila Hynes for the upkeep of the Press Book.

#### Hon. Treasurer's Report

As usual, we close the year with a deficit, but it is a comforting thought that it is not as big a one as last year's. We owe £18 3s. od. for "The Catholic Citizen" as against £44 at the end of 1933. Two large appeals were launched, one the Leonora de Alberti Memorial Fund for "The Catholic Citizen" and the other for the celebration of Miss Barry's 21 years of service for the Alliance. These have caused our turnover to increase by over £72.

We have had some very pleasant money-making events which all help to swell the funds—a party given by Miss Fedden realised £1 10s. for "The Catholic Citizen"; a Halloween party by Miss Butler-Bowdon with the kind help of Miss Wall brought in 1 12s. 3d. and a sherry party by Miss Spender realised £3.

Our grateful thanks are due to all those who have continued to contribute to the rent, the most necessary and heaviest item of expenditure.

The Alliance also owes a very beautiful portable typewriter to the generosity of Miss Butler-Bowdon.

We are glad to record that subscriptions to "The Catholic Citizen" are again up this year, showing a steady, if small, increase in our circulation. Unfortunately the advertisements in "The Catholic Citizen" though still very profitable have not brought us in quite as much as usual. A generous Liverpool subscriber has paid for 25 copies of the paper to be sent to India for two years. This is a most valuable form of service both for financial and propaganda purposes. We should very much like to see more members volunteering to send the paper to various libraries, societies or individuals. Missionaries abroad for instance are often very glad to have "The Catholic Citizen" sent to them.

Our market barrow has again been extremely profitable and here again we show a larger turnover. We are very grateful to those members who give regular help in selling especially the Misses Atkinson, Dickinson, Keiser, and Spender.

We must also again thank those who helped so splendidly with our chief money-making activity, the Christmas Sale which together with sales at the office brought in over £50.

All our duplicating this year has been done through the generosity and kindness of our member Miss Springett thus saving the office a great deal of expense. We offer Miss Springett our grateful thanks.

#### Catholic Citizen

The death of Leonora de Alberti, editor of "The Catholic Citizen" since its foundation in 1915 was a tragic blow to our paper. Miss de Alberti had never missed editing an issue until her last illness and month by month readers all over the world eagerly looked for her vivid and trenchant articles and for the vigorous editorials which were both incisive and concise. No one can possibly fill her place but we were fortunate enough to secure Miss Spender as Hon. Editor who with the enthusiasm of youth and notwithstanding her lack of previous experience is carrying on the

tradition. We are grateful to Miss Spender for her courage and generosity in undertaking this difficult and responsible task.

Our paper continues to do valuable propaganda. It is exchanged with over 100 Catholic and feminist papers throughout the world. As in former years we are indebted to many distinguished experts for their contributions, in particular, once more, to Archbishop LeRoy this time for his article "On the position of Women in the British Cameroons and in Nigeria" which enabled us to do much valuable work with the League of Nations Mandates Commission. Much information on the status of African women has been published throughout the year. Besides the article already mentioned, by kind permission of "The Shield" we reprinted a valuable paper by the Rev. J. Thoonen of St. Joseph's Missionary College, Mill Hill, on "Tribal Customs and the Position of African Women." The many editorial articles and notes on this subject have entailed much study and research.

The paper was exhibited at "La Presse Feminine" in Paris.

Our thanks are due to our gallant band of paper-sellers, in particular to Mrs. Hand who is ready to sell on any occasion great or small; also to Miss Butler-Bowdon for the indefatigable way in which she has procured advertisements.

#### Liverpool & District Branch

The year has been a quiet one in the history of the Branch or perhaps it has seemed particularly quiet after the special efforts of our 21st birthday year.

The two previous years 1932 and 1933 showed a financial deficit which was most generously met each time by loans from our Hon. Treasurer and the Committee determined that during 1934 they would do their utmost to put the branch on a better financial footing.

There have been four ordinary meetings during the year. At the first in March Miss Todd gave us a very delightful talk on her work with the Townswomen's Guilds. In May Miss Chubb of the Women's Council spoke to us on Indian Women and the Franchise. In October Mr. Rattray of the Economic League addressed us on Russia To-day, and in December Miss Hickling another member of the Women's Citizens Council gave us a very instructive talk on young people and the Insurance Act.

At our annual meeting on January 29th we were delighted to welcome Miss Barry and Miss Spender—the former spoke on her visit to Geneva and the feminist programme and the latter on the work of the Alliance for the raising of the status of African women.

In February we held our Annual Party at the Hon. Secretary's house in Birkenhead when we made £1 15s. od.

In March the Hon. Secretary and Mrs. Murray represented the branch at the Annual Meeting of the Alliance in London and we only wish more Liverpool members would take advantage of the wonderful welcome that headquarters extend to their visitors.

In August we held a Garden Party at Brinsworth, Birkenhead, at which no fewer than four London members were present, Miss Bain, Miss Barry, Miss Gadsby and Miss Spender. This effort realised 30s.

During the year the branch has been represented on the Women's International League and the Merseyside Peace Council by the Hon. Secretary.

A letter was sent to the editor of the "Evening Express" protesting against the publication of a very objectionable article on women by Mr. Miles Mander.

A letter was sent out to all our members asking each to write to her M.P. on the subject of equal pay in the Civil Service, and the questionnaire of the Alliance was sent to the three Candidates in the recent by-election of the Wavertree Division.

The Committee has met five times during the year at the house of the Chairman Miss Wylie to whom our very special thanks are due. She has most kindly allowed us to hold our ordinary meetings at her house since last March, thereby enabling us to reach our present satisfactory financial position. She has also arranged for tea to be served at the meetings at a small charge, the profits going to the funds.

In answer to our letter congratulating Mgr. T. J. Walshe on his Sacred Golden Jubilee, we received the following from him: "We realised, and events have justified our policy that the God-given instincts of women would be an unfailing support of religious education, temperance and other benefits needed for the stability of the home. And surely in the present chaos of affairs—political and social—the cause for which the Alliance stands is more needed than ever."

#### OBITUARY

We ask the prayers of our readers for the repose of the soul of Nurse K. Burman, who died recently in Bristol. Nurse Burman had been a keen and active member since the very foundation of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society. She served with Nurse Cavell during the war and after having been taken prisoner at Mons, nursed wounded Germans until the end of the war. The late King Albert awarded her the Military Medal and Military honours were accorded at her funeral. The Requiem Mass at Clifton Pro-Cathedral was attended by ex-service men, ex-Army sisters and the Clifton Branch of the British Legion, of which she was a member. Members of the Bristol Mons Club formed the guard of honour and acted as pall bearers. Draped in the Union Jack, the coffin was taken on a gun carriage to the cemetery. The Last Post and the Reveille were sounded, and Flanders poppies were dropped into the grave.—R.I.P.

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## Married Women and the Law

The Lord Chancellor recently received a deputation organised by the National Union of Women Teachers, the Open Door Council, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, the Six Point Group, and the Women's Freedom League on the subject of the report of the Law Revision Committee on the liability of a husband for the torts of his wife and the liability of married women in tort and contract.

Miss Chrystal Macmillan thanked the Lord Chancellor for extending the terms of reference of the Committee. She welcomed the recommendations of the Committee placing a married woman in the same position in many respects as a man. But she specially urged that the restraints on anticipation which the Committee had proposed to preserve in existing settlements should be abolished from such settlements as well as from future settlements. She pointed out that otherwise the restraint on anticipation would continue to operate until the twenty-first century. She laid stress on the statements of the Committee that the restraint on anticipation was not a very creditable means of defeating creditors and that its continuance was no longer consistent with the present position of married women.

On the objection that the will of the settlor ought not to be overridden, she pointed out that under Statute the Court has power in certain circumstances to set aside the restraint and that a woman while a spinster or a widow has power by deed to override it.

Lady Emmot, representing the National Council of Women, laid stress on the injustice arising from the assessment of husband and wife for the purposes of income-tax and sur-tax, pointing out that the law amounts to a penalization on marriage.

Mrs. Laughton Mathews, representing St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, asked that all the remaining incapacities and disabilities which resulted to married women from the doctrine that the legal existence of a wife is merged in that of her husband should be abolished.

The Lord Chancellor promised that he would bring to the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer the observations made by the members of the deputation with reference to the position of married women for the purpose of income-tax and sur-tax. On the other matters he would consider carefully the views expressed by the deputation.

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