

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

THE
Catholic Citizen

Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society), 55 Berners Street, London, W. 1.

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15th SEPTEMBER, 1934.

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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.

Outdoor Careers for Women

BY A. VANDERPANT

(Secretary of the Women's Farm and Garden Association)

Agriculture or the "Land," as the man in the street generally calls our oldest industry, has always arrested the spasmodic interest of town dwellers at various intervals. Undoubtedly that interest has much increased of late owing to recent legislation with regard to marketing, which, it is hoped, may be the means of setting Britain's most vital industry once more on its feet. This interest in matters agricultural brings forward many sentiments that have been heard before, such as the right to earn one's living on the soil by the sweat of one's brow. Praiseworthy as such a desire may be, one is apt to wonder if it is realised that turning over the soil by the sweat of one's brow is not so simple as it seems, and that it is necessary to know *how* to turn over that soil, *how* to nourish it, *how* to cultivate it and *how* to market its products.

A Catholic newspaper commenting on a favourable report from a women's agricultural society pointed out that when they had advocated a place on the land for Catholic women, critics had said such a scheme was impossible. It is possible that these critics did not realise that the "land" is a profession open to all women and there is no need to seek for a "place" for the right people. It seems hardly possible that there are still some who do not know that even before the fateful days of 1914, a good many women were studying both horticulture and agriculture with a view to making it their profession. There were also a considerable number of women working their own farms and gardens. It is true that the War increased the numbers of these women by hundreds and that many of those whose War work was undertaken in the ranks of the Women's Land Army and

the Women's National Land Service Corps discovered that they had found their "place."

The majority of those women who had decided to adopt horticulture and agriculture as a career passed into the colleges to add theoretical knowledge to the practical experience they had gained under emergency conditions. Sixteen years have brought many changes and therefore the following notes may be helpful to those who are seeking information, and enlightening to those who still think that the "land" is a place where any unskilled worker can find a job when everything else has failed.

There are steadily increasing openings for women in horticulture, dairying and poultry husbandry, but it is unnecessary to add that training and experience are absolutely essential and that there are no openings for the unskilled.

During the last few months the demand for trained dairy workers has exceeded the supply, and there is now very little unemployment in this particular branch of work.

A girl who feels that she desires, and is fit for a career in connection with outdoor work must be prepared to train, and train as seriously as she would for any other profession. If she is aiming at the higher branches of the work a course of training leading to the necessary degrees or diplomas is essential. If she only wishes to undertake practical work, a sound training is just as advisable, as practice goes hand in hand with science and no farmer or gardener can compete successfully nowadays unless he or she is up-to-date with the technicalities of the business.

Instruction in horticulture and agriculture can be undertaken at the recognised centres of training at fees varying approximately from

eighty to one hundred and thirty guineas per annum. There are also farm institutes in nearly every county offering tuition at moderate fees with reduced fees to residents of the county. In addition to the recognised centres there are some smaller schools which cannot give diplomas but which provide sound practical training for women who do not wish to enter the larger Colleges. Scholarships are awarded under certain conditions by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, County Education Authorities, and by some of the Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges.

After training, a woman who is aiming at administrative or instructional work will be wise to put in a certain amount of time in practical work, and those who have trained with a view to running their own farm, garden or holding will find that a few years spent in gaining experience as a gardener, stockwoman, dairy or poultry maid, will be invaluable.

There are openings for trained women as head, single-handed and under-gardeners, dairy and poultry maids and stock-women, with salaries of approximately 15s. to 30s. a week, all found, or its equivalent living out. Instructors are usually paid according to the Burnham Scale for teachers in Secondary Schools, and administrative posts may command a salary of £120 to £300 per annum.

Women who wish to specialise in commercial horticulture must be prepared to spend a year or more in a nursery garden in order to start from the bottom and make themselves familiar with all branches of commercial work. This should preferably be undertaken after they have completed a training in general horticulture. It may mean working without a salary for a time, but the experience gained will be invaluable for starting an enterprise of their own or for obtaining employment in connection with commercial work.

The recent developments in agricultural and horticultural legislation should provide a good opportunity for the trained and experienced woman to start on her own account.

To the experienced woman who has adopted an outdoor career and whose interests are centred in the countryside, the acquisition of a holding or market garden of her own will be, in all probability, her ultimate ambition. Provided she has experience and a small capital at her command the venture should be successful but common sense and business ability are essential. An enterprise of one's own does not mean an easy life spent in congenial surroundings, and the day of the slack and unbusiness-

like smallholder, content to drift along, has gone for ever. Produce must be well-grown and placed on the market in graded and well-packed marketable condition if the grower is going to compete with up-to-date requirements and conditions.

In conclusion it may be of interest to point out that to the domesticated woman with an inclination for rural life there are increasing openings as teachers in rural home management. Special tuition is available for teachers of domestic subjects who are destined to carry out their work in rural districts. The instruction includes rural housecraft, dairy farming, poultry keeping, gardening, fruit and vegetable preservation, bee keeping, rural economics, etc. The courses are, also, open to women who are not necessarily training as teachers but who are anxious to obtain instruction of this kind as a preparation for life in the country. Tuition of this nature also serves the needs of intending emigrants and equips them with much information that becomes invaluable to them in the Dominions and Colonies.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES—Continued from page 79.

We note with regret from *"The Catholic Women's Review"* (New South Wales) the death of Dame Mary Barlow. Dame Mary Barlow was associated with the National Council of Women and was one of the founders of the Catholic Women's Association, of which she was president for the past twenty years. In 1917 she was awarded the Cross of Leo and, in 1928, as a recognition of her valuable services at the International Eucharistic Congress in Sydney, the Papal honour of Dame of the Holy Sepulchre was conferred upon her. She was one of the signatories of the International Petition of Catholic Women demanding that a woman, whether married or unmarried, should have the same right as a man to retain or change her nationality, which was presented to the 13th Assembly of the League of Nations in 1932.—R.I.P. S. A. B.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Hon. Sec.: Mrs. A. Stewart Mason, B.A., "Brinsworth," Grosvenor Rd., Birkenhead. On Saturday, August 11th, we held our annual Garden Meeting at "Brinsworth," Grosvenor Road, Birkenhead. We were delighted to have with us Miss Barry, Miss Bain, Miss Gadsby and Miss Spender from headquarters. Besides spending an enjoyable afternoon a fair sum of money was made for the branch.

The next meeting will be held on the first Monday in October, when we hope to have an address on Russia by a member of the Economic League.

Notes and Comments

After the signing of the Equal Nationality (Dickstein-Copeland) Bill by President Roosevelt, on May 24th, the U.S.A. Senate voted for ratification of the Equal Nationality Treaty adopted by 21 American Republics at the Pan-American Conference at Montevideo in December, 1933.

The Treaty, which is open to nations of the world for adherence, provides that "there shall be no distinction based on sex as regards nationality in their legislation or in their practice." The Treaty is known as the Stevens Treaty after Miss Doris Stevens, leader of the campaign at the Pan-American Congress.

We congratulate both the National Women's Party and the Inter-American Commission of Women on their victory.

* * * *

On July 23rd Captain Crookshank, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Home Affairs, received a deputation at the Home Office, led by the National Council of Women, to present the Petition mentioned in our last issue asking that certain duties be made compulsory to Policewomen and that a woman Inspector be appointed at the Home Office. St. Joan's Alliance was represented by Miss Graham.

Captain Crookshank said he was impressed by the weight of public support contained in the petition, and he would report the representations of the deputation to the Home Secretary and Secretary of State for Scotland.

Although, as the *"Policewomen's Review"* reminds us, this year marks the twentieth anniversary of the inauguration of the movement for the employment of women police, in England and Wales there are only 154 police women appointed by 41 police authorities and 142 police authorities have made no appointment. This number, though ludicrously inadequate is certainly an increase on the twenty police-women which, in spite of the efforts of Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham in the House of Commons, were all that the Home Secretary of 1932 was willing to concede, the country seemingly being unable to afford this very necessary social reform.

Miss Nina Boyle, Miss Damer Dawson and Miss Mary Allen, with other pioneer women, founded the first women police organisation in this country.

Forty-one of the fifty-three new magistrates appointed in the County Palatine of Lancaster are women. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Lord Lieutenant are to be congratulated on this substantial representation of women which will, we hope, give an example to the rest of the country.

* * * *

Under the new Unemployment Acts Mrs. M. D. Stocks, B.Sc., J.P., and Miss Katherine J. Stephenson, C.B.E., J.P., have been appointed members of the Unemployment Insurance Statutory Committee.

* * * *

Several members of St. Joan's Alliance, among whom it was a pleasure to number Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes of Berlin and Miss Kathleen Walsh of Melbourne recently spent a delightful day at Oxford, when Mrs. Bacon very kindly entertained them to lunch and tea. Owing to the kindness of Father Dunstan, O.S.F.C., students from the Franciscan Friary took their round colleges in the morning and after lunch showed them something of Catholic Oxford.

* * * *

We offer congratulations to two of our members: to Miss T. C. Dowling on having been elected President of the Massachusetts Association of Women Lawyers, and to Miss N. Fulcher on having composed, orchestrated and conducted the music of "The Marriage of King Henry IV" which was performed at the Cathedral Close, Winchester, during the first week of July.

* * * *

Feminism has suffered an irreparable loss in the death of Frank Briant, Liberal M.P. for North Lambeth from 1918 to 1929 and again since 1931. In the House of Commons Frank Briant was always the staunchest defender of women's rights and could be called upon at any time to uphold their cause, and needless to say he was an ardent supporter of woman suffrage in its most unpopular days. We shall indeed miss his help in the House of Commons. Throughout his life he loyally served the poor of Lambeth and his practical interest in boys filled much of his time. He was a member of the Board of Guardians for 27 years and a member of the Borough Council from its initiation till 1919. The Alliance was represented at the funeral by Miss Barry and Miss Eleanor FitzGerald.

May he rest in peace.

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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The Catholic Nurse*

In the preface of this pamphlet on nursing Dr. Cardwell points out that the world stands in need of the best Catholic girls in the ranks of the nursing profession and that we look to Catholic young women—especially those of education—to rally to the standard, and to strengthen the nursing profession in its high vocation.

With much of the information given in this pamphlet we are in complete agreement and the author wisely insists that nursing is not only a profession but a vocation, that nursing merely as a means of earning a livelihood would be a disastrous experiment for nurse and patient.

We may question perhaps if it is wise to suggest, as is done to some extent in this pamphlet, that given the desired personal qualifications the future nurse will enter a Garden of Eden on joining the profession—a life where the conditions are all that can be desired and where it were folly to wish for improvement or inside reform. The well-known shortage of suitable applicants for the profession led to the recent enquiry by the Lancet Commission on Nursing, appointed in December 1930, to enquire into the reasons for the shortage of candidates, trained and untrained, for nursing the sick in general and special hospitals throughout the country, and to offer suggestions for making the service more attractive to women suitable for this necessary work. In the final report (1934) of the Commission we find in the summary of opinions given in evidence that the

conditions are not found to be sufficiently attractive absolutely, or relatively to alternative professions—that at least half the Hospitals do not get satisfactory replies to their advertisements for staff and probation nurses, that many other occupations are said to offer better salary and better prospects, more social amenities without the restrictions and long hours of institutional life.

It is not so long ago that a deputation of nurses approaching the matron of one of London's great institutions—with a request that the food served to them should be fresh and well-cooked—were answered thus: "Nursing is a vocation, not a profession." Sad misuse of a word not meant to clothe mismanagement and lack of consideration for others. We feel that the word vocation must be strictly guarded from such abuse, it is particularly liable to be misused when applied to those ministering for a just reward to the health of the community.

We doubt also if the high-spirited girls to whom the appeal is addressed will be distressed by the thought of nightwork, as suggested in this pamphlet, or if they will not rather be discouraged by the knowledge that they will have to forfeit many of their personal liberties and will be subjected to some restrictions which are galling to any adult—man or woman—if they are not essential nor designed to improve the efficiency of the service.

We would also consider it wise to point out clearly to the future nurse that she must be prepared to face many difficulties arising out of the application by public authorities of such regulations—old or new—as the giving of artificial birth control advice in welfare centres or the passage of any legislation specifically desig-

* *Nursing for Catholic Girls.* By Mary Cunnane, with a foreword by Mary G. Cardwell, M.D. (Catholic Truth Society, 2d.)

nating nurses and midwives as persons entitled to give birth control advice and supply birth control appliances.

The knowledge that these and other difficulties will have to be faced will not act as a deterrent to the right type of applicant. They will add their special appeal to those women who are ready to face hardships, to bring their own contribution and the clarity of vision derived from their Faith to the services of the nursing profession and to their patients.

F. SHATTOCK.

TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE EAST

A Conference organised by the Joint Council of the British Social Hygiene Council and the Conference of British Missionary Societies, was held on July 25th, under the chairmanship of the Earl of Lytton. Miss I. M. Dickinson represented St. Joan's Alliance.

The objects of the Conference were:

(a) To consider reports on existing methods of co-operation between Government and non-official organisations in combating traffic in women, in the rehabilitation of victims of the traffic and in educating public opinion on methods of combating commercialised vice and venereal disease.

(b) To discuss what measures can be promoted by and among non-official organisations in the East to prepare for the suggested Conference under the aegis of the League of Nations.

Mr. Karol Pindor gave a survey of the present position.

Dame Rachel Crowdy, speaking on the difficult subject of the rehabilitation of prostitutes, pleaded for a more discerning treatment of this question. She said that we should regard these unfortunates primarily as unemployed persons. If this were done, much of the false sentiment which hinders the work would be ended.

The work of a washerwoman is too often all that is offered to an ex-prostitute, but this would hardly satisfy an educated Russian refugee in China driven into a brothel by destitution.

Père Léon Robert, Secretary of the Missions Etrangères, spoke on the world wide work of the Nuns of the Good Shepherd.

The speech of Sir Cecil Clementi on the results of Mui-Tsai legislation, and that of the Anglican Bishop of Singapore, on the closing of brothels in Singapore, which has resulted in the springing up of numerous cafés to take their place, showed the paramount need of the education of public opinion on the question of

the double standard of morals and of that of the equal status of women.

After Sir Cecil Clementi's rather gloomy remarks on the impossibility of disposing of China's "surplus" girls while ancestor worship continues, it was refreshing to hear Miss Irene Ho assure the Conference that as all professions and trainings were open to women in the New China the difficulty of disposing of "surplus" women was by no means insuperable.

Miss Shepherd of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, whose work in India is in itself the best example of the value of liaison work between official and non-official bodies, told of steady progress in co-operation to prevent the traffic in women in India.

Mrs. Gupta and Mrs. Vakil said that women of all castes and creeds were absolutely united in this campaign.

The desirability of nominating women to assist official liaison officers should they be appointed, was urged by several speakers.

I. M. D.

WOMEN ENGINEERS

We quote the following, referring to a recent debate arranged by the British Works Management Association, from the "Woman Engineer."

"That women are not suitable for posts as productive and engineering executives," brought to light some amusing indications of the average man's attitude towards women in industry.

"In the minds of many men present the question seemed to hinge not so much on the suitability of women for such posts, as on their own desire to find a woman welcoming them home after their hard day's work, ready to wait on them hand and foot. According to several of the views expressed, the supposed loss of home comforts which the entry of a few women into industry would bring, is of far greater importance to Works Managers than that executive posts should be filled by the most suitable person for the job, irrespective of sex.

"Several of the men present were surprised and interested to learn of various important posts already held by women, and arguments based on ignorance of these facts were dealt with effectively. It was news to many that women had arrived in such posts as they hold, as a result of hard work and application, and without that blare of trumpets in the general or technical press which heralds the normal journalist's verdict that 'Women are News.'"

Dinner to Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes and Miss Douglas Irvine

On Sunday July 22nd, at the Wilton Hotel, St. Joan's Alliance entertained distinguished guests—Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes, the Vice-President of the German Federation of University Women, President of its Catholic Section, Committee-Member of the German Catholic Women's League, the Catholic University Board, and the Catholic Society for Scientific Research; and Miss Helen Douglas Irvine former Chairman of St. Joan's Alliance, who has just returned from Chile. Among other visitors present were Miss Kathleen Walsh, an Australian lawyer from Melbourne, Dr. Loewe, a German medical woman, and Mr. Fugin, from Holland.

Mrs. Laughton Mathews, in the Chair, introduced Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes by speaking of her services to the cause of women in general, and to St. Joan's Alliance of which she is a member. "We have no branch in Germany," said Mrs. Laughton Mathews. "But Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes is as good as a branch." She had been particularly helpful in the cause of the right of women to retain their nationality on marriage and had obtained nearly all the German signatures to the relevant petition to the League of Nations.

Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes returned very gracefully, expressing her joy in finding herself in such a community of Catholic and feminist women. She spoke of the value of a woman's movement not only to women, but to nations, and among Catholics, to the Church; a woman's movement was the conscience of a country and a great lesson in recent years was the small importance of such things as fortune, health or even life, compared with the supreme importance of the "forces of the spirit, mind, soul." What the valiant woman of the Scriptures was to a household, such was a valiant woman's movement to a country, and Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes declared her admiration for St. Joan's Alliance and its work.

Miss Douglas Irvine had been asked particularly of the position of women in Chile. Legally, they enjoyed certain coveted rights; while the municipal vote had only just been granted them, they could retain their nationality on marriage and had full access to the diplomatic and consular services. The whole community was Catholic: but, deplorably, the double moral standard remained. Young girls were rigorously chaper-

oned, from the age of eleven never allowed outside their cottages alone, not even allowed to engage in such farm work as milking or fruit picking. In the old days they had been able to enliven their seclusion by craftsmanship, producing beautiful weaving and basket work in the Spanish tradition, but the decay of these crafts with the import of cheap ready-made goods meant that the majority now led idle, empty lives.

In another peasant community known to her, where difficulties of transit rendered Catholic influence less strong, there was a real aversion to marriage, the result of existing marriage laws; only unmarried could a woman keep her earnings, her children even, and unmarried she had more hope of keeping her partner's fidelity. Some adopted the expedient of being married in Church and refusing the Civil ceremony, since thus they avoided all the legal disabilities of civilly valid marriage. This happened especially in the case of second marriages, when the third of the first husband's property, accruing to the widow but forfeited on remarriage, would otherwise be lost.

Among the middle and upper classes, though the "separacion de bienes," giving a woman the right to her own property and earnings, was recognised, it was frowned upon by the more traditional families. Till some half dozen years ago, a husband had the right to punish an unfaithful wife in any way he chose, even by death—"hasta la muerte," and Miss Douglas could cite a neighbour who had murdered his wife and been acquitted on these grounds.

There were great tasks before the women of South America and especially the amendment of the marriage law, a fight against corruption in public life, and work for peace.

Miss Butler-Bowdon, moving a vote of thanks to the speakers, expressed her delight in the encouragement that Dr. Schlüter-Hermkes speech gave to us in our international work, and she recalled Miss Douglas Irvine's work as Chairman of the Alliance at the time the Equal Franchise battle was finally won.

The vote of thanks was seconded by Miss Margaret Organ—her last public appearance in the Alliance, as in October she will enter the Order of Canonesses of St. Augustine. In congratulating her, the Chairman bade her a regretful farewell and gave her the best wishes of the Alliance.

B. B. C.

International Notes

"The Horizon" (Melbourne) publishes a paper on "the emigrant's friend," Caroline Chisholm, recalling her as one of the pioneers of the Australian colony, whom it is fitting to remember during the centenary year of the foundation of the State of Victoria. During the years 1838-1866 Caroline Chisholm worked for the immigrants in New South Wales and Victoria. The immigration system was appalling—false hopes were held out to the immigrants and their arrival after a terrible journey, saw them wandering homeless and destitute in Sydney. Mrs. Chisholm and her husband worked untiringly for their good. In particular Mrs. Chisholm started a home for the women where they could stay on their arrival. She also ran a bureau by means of which work could be found for men, women and families. Mrs. Chisholm later returned to her native England where by arousing public opinion she obtained free passages for the wives and children of the immigrants. She believed firmly in family life, especially in its effects on morals, and used to refer to the wives and children of the immigrants as "God's police." Caroline Chisholm as a young woman was received into the Catholic Church. In one of her letters she said of the immigrants: "I promised to know neither country nor creed, but to serve them all justly and impartially," and this she did to the utmost of her ability. Michelet in "La Femme" called her the Saint of Australia, and declared that without money or help she had done more for the new world of Australia than all the immigration societies and the British Government.

* * * *

A member of ours has sent us from Egypt a copy of the magazine run by the girls of the Amira Fawziah Secondary School, Cairo. We are delighted that these Egyptian girls take such a keen interest in the woman's movement and are such excellent feminists. The very titles of the articles such as "The Progress of Girls' Education in Egypt," "Women in the Past and Present" indicate a feminist trend of thought. After reading this magazine we may share the conviction of the young author who writes: "Indeed the time will soon come when the Egyptian girl will enjoy her fair share of education. She will enter all the professions and have a fair reasonable opportunity of service in every branch of life."

"L'Egyptienne" (Cairo) records the 5th Congress of The Feminist Union of Syria, held last May in Beyrouth. Arabian women from all countries were invited to take part. Among the subjects considered were the rights and duties of women; reforms in the status of the family; compulsory and secondary education; education for the professions and the arts; child welfare, etc. Madame Nazira Sien Eddine, secretary, gave the inaugural address in which she explained that the object of the Union was to unite the feminist societies of Arabia in their efforts to raise the position of women and to secure their economic and political rights. Women had entered all the professions such as medicine, pharmacy, law, journalism, and there were 29 women's associations with different objects, which all united in the feminist Union so that they could co-operate with the other associations of Arab women throughout the world. We wish our Arabian sisters success in their efforts to obtain full economic and political rights.

(Continued on page 74)

HON. TREASURER'S NOTE

Will all those members who have not yet paid their annual subscriptions kindly do so as soon as possible. This appeal which we make so regularly is especially urgent this month as the office rent falls due at the end of September and we are still short of the amount to be paid. So donations to this object will be greatly welcomed.

It is unnecessary to add that as ever we are greatly in need of more jumbles for the barrow.

P. M. BRANDT.

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(Near Caxton Hall)

4 Course Luncheon - 1/6

5 Course Dinner - 2/-

TEAS. HOME-MADE CAKES.

NO TIPS.