

JOSEPHINE BUTLER CENTENARY.

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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SPECIAL NUMBER.

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Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give ;
Who knows the gifts which you shall give,
Daughter of the Newer Eve ?

—Francis Thompson.

The Centenary of Josephine Butler.

1828—1928.

By LEONORA DE ALBERTI.

This month we are celebrating the centenary of a woman who has been called the most heroic and sympathetic figure of the nineteenth century.

To some of our younger readers, Josephine Butler is, perhaps, nothing but a name attached to a shadowy campaign, long since fought and won. To those who know her history better, her name is a battle cry in the unending campaign against a double standard of morality, against State Regulation of Vice with all its concomitant evils.

Josephine Butler had a passion for justice, and was profoundly religious. I quote her own words, "she saw that the evil she and her little band of followers were combating, had its roots in deep scepticism as to the possibility of virtue and in the denial of eternal principles." An equal moral standard is one of the chief objects of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, and this special issue of the *Catholic Citizen* is to do honour to one of the greatest champions of an equal standard of morality, that this world has produced. When she threw down her challenge to the promoters of the Contagious Diseases Acts Josephine Butler made it quite clear that she was leading a sacred crusade. A consecrated rebellion she calls it in her Diary, against "those in authority who have established this accursed thing amongst us. We are rebels for God's holy laws. What

have I to do with peace any more?" . . .

She tells us that she never viewed the question as fundamentally any more a woman's question than it is a man's. "The legislation we opposed secured the enslavement of women and the increased immorality of men; and history, and experience alike teach us that these two results are never separated. Slavery and License lead to degradation, political ruin, and intellectual decay, and therefore it was that we held that this legislation and the opposition to it were questions for the whole nation at large." (Personal Reminiscences of a Great Crusade. By Josephine Butler, p. 37.) She was, of course, a supporter of the enfranchisement of women.

It is well to remember that though in these days we can hold meetings and publicly discuss moral problems and suffer no harm; in the days of the Great Crusade Josephine Butler and her colleagues suffered much insult and went in danger of their lives. This is no exaggeration, so violent were the passions roused by this campaign, that unruly mobs threatened hotels in which it was known that Josephine Butler was sheltering; and she was at times in grave danger.

To celebrate the centenary, the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene has published a Memoir by Dame Millicent Fawcett and Miss E. M. Turner, (Josephine Butler. Her

work and Principles, and their meaning for the Twentieth Century. 2s. 6d. net.) which is a fitting tribute to a great Pioneer, and makes the personality of Josephine Butler come to life again. Dame Millicent finds points of comparison between her and St. Joan of Arc, and, indeed, in the long roll of uncanonized saints she surely holds an honoured place. She did not enter on her campaign blindfolded, nor without earnest prayer; she fully realized all the sacrifice it would entail not only on herself, but on her husband and sons. But she did not hesitate. "What have I to do with peace any more?" Dame Millicent tells us (p. 71 et seq.) that when she gave her evidence before the Royal Commission on the operation of the C. D. Acts, it was soon perceived that the Commissioners were deeply impressed by it and especially by the contrast her whole demeanour and attitude of mind afforded to those of some of the promoters of the Acts. She not alone, but above all others, gave an example of endeavouring to accept in all its bearings the teaching given by the Founder of Christianity on the equality of the sexes . . . "He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone at her." . . . "It will perhaps best convey the impression produced on the Commission, (writes Dame Millicent) by Mrs. Butler's evidence to quote verbatim what was said of it by one of the Commissioners, Mr. Rylands. He wrote to a friend: 'I am not accustomed to religious phraseology, but I cannot give you any idea of the effect produced except by saying that the influence of the Spirit of God was there.'"

In reply to questions Mrs. Butler also said in giving her evidence, that for fifteen years she had devoted her leisure to these unhappy women, she had had five of them living in her house at one time, not as servants, but as friends and patients. She had sought them in brothels, night and day, in their homes and in the streets, in the Work-houses and Lock-Hospitals. She considered her labours successful in so far as the women became and remained virtuous. It was difficult to find situations for them, as they lacked industrial training. One cause of their down fall was the lack of good openings in the industrial world, another was the crowding and want of decency in their homes. The industrial question, she urged emphati-

cally was all important. "Economics," she argued, "lie at the very root of practical morality."

Asked whether the women were willing to receive advice as to leading better lives, she replied that "the fallen women are always open to the sympathy and influence of those gifted by Providence with the art of reaching hearts."

The campaign against the Contagious Diseases Acts, as a result of which they were finally repealed in 1886, has left a lasting mark not only on this country, but on many others, since the work was carried on internationally. Country after country has abolished the iniquitous system. The League of Nations' Committee of Experts endorsed the opinion of Josephine Butler and her colleagues that the system of licensed houses and the traffic in women are closely connected.

But that does not mean that all danger is over, that every country will hasten to abolish licensed houses. People who believe it to be possible for men to live chaste lives are, in point of fact, but a small minority; consequently in some form or another, attempts will be made to make vice safe. We should have seen State Regulation of Vice re-established in this country during the war, but for the vigilance of women. But the influence of Josephine Butler is not dead—"the world is better because she lived"—and we are confident that all such attempts will be challenged to-day as effectively as though she were still in person among us, and that ere long the principles for which she fought will be victorious the world over.

We call attention to the Josephine Butler Commemoration Meeting to be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, on April 25, at 8 p.m. Our members are asked to apply to the office, 55 Berner's Street, W. 1., for 1s., tickets in the block reserved for St. Joan's Alliance.

It will be a memorable meeting, and we advise members to apply at once for tickets.

We are grateful to St. Francis Xavier's Union for allowing us to send a speaker to their Annual Meeting to put our claims before an audience of Catholics drawn partly from Great Britain and partly from India. Miss Butler-Bowdon spoke on "The work of Catholic Women in the Feminist Movement."

Notes and Comments.

EQUAL FRANCHISE.

The second reading of the Equal Franchise Bill was carried by a majority of 377—only ten members, all of the Conservative Party—were found to vote against it. Other opponents of Equal Franchise bowed to the inevitable. This is so great a victory, that a final victory seems certain—we say *seems* as certainty can only come when the King's assent is given. As to the Bill itself, it is an equality Bill, and nothing else. The Prime Minister has honoured his pledge, as indeed we never doubted that he would.

The Home Secretary, who was responsible for the Bill, spoke with sincerity, and declared that those who thought the measure was just, were not to be deterred by the argument that it might be contrary to the Conservative interest. Mr. Snowden, in the name of the Labour Party, seconded Sir W. Joynson Hicks. Lady Astor, Lady Iveagh, Miss Bondfield, Miss Wilkinson, Mr. Pethick Lawrence and Mr. Henderson, made excellent speeches in support of the Bill. Lady Astor said that she believed that the entrance of woman into public life, would bring into it a moral and spiritual point of view. She could testify to the change in the House since women obtained the vote. Brigadier General Sir J. Cockerill, in moving the rejection of the Bill, supplied the "comic relief." The Prime Minister closed the debate in a noble speech, in which he admitted that he had been converted to women suffrage by the war, when he realized as never before that to build up a broken world half the human race was not enough. Men and women must work together for the regeneration of their country, and the regeneration of the world!

We congratulate Mr. Baldwin, and the Home Secretary on their victory. The Committee stage will be taken immediately after the Easter Recess.

The proposed banning of women medical students by King's College, Charing Cross and Westminster Hospitals is nothing short of a scandal. Various reasons have been given, but there is only one reason, and that is men's fear of the competition of women. It is this fear that is at the bottom of all restrictions on women's work, whether

in professional or industrial careers. The Senate of London University has set up a committee to enquire into the position, and it is to be hoped that the hospitals referred to, will be brought to see the injustice of their proposal.

* * * *

A Conference on Women Candidates for Parliament, was convened by the Women's Freedom League on March 19. A resolution was put to the meeting urging all political parties to nominate more women candidates. Miss Whatley, on behalf of St. Joan's S.P.A., moved the inserting of the words: "a fair proportion of women should be offered constituencies where they have a reasonable chance of success"; thus making the resolution accord with the one passed at the Annual Meeting of St. Joan's S.P.A. The amendment, seconded by Miss Nina Boyle, was carried *nem con.*

* * * *

We note with sincere pleasure the answer given by the Secretary of Scotland to the deputation from the Edinburgh Corporation which waited on him, to the effect that he would not be able to advise the House to give their Bill a second reading. We hoped that the meeting of M.P's. held in the House on February 22, would kill the Bill, and rejoice that the agitation against the Bill has met with this much success. We sincerely trust that the Bill when it comes up will be rejected.

* * * *

A concrete case illustrating the evil effects of special restrictions on women's work has recently come to light. Messrs. Partridge and Co., of Exeter, a firm of engineers engaged in rural electrification, train girls as engineers, in the course of which they have necessarily to work at night. This they have been doing all unconscious of the fact that women may not do work of this kind after 8 p.m. We understand that for the moment they are continuing to break the law. The Women's Engineering Society, supported by other women's societies, including St. Joan's S.P.A., has asked the Home Secretary to receive a deputation, to lay before him the injustice of thus handicapping women in earning their living.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

AND

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

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International Notes.

We learn from *Equal Rights* that Mrs. E. Howard Harper, a negro woman, has recently been appointed to succeed her husband in the West Virginia Legislature. She is the first negress to serve in any state legislature in the United States.

La Française reports with justifiable triumph the news that women are to be admitted to the competitive examination for the French Diplomatic Service. The triumph is still incomplete since the law of France does not, as it stands, allow women to hold posts abroad, in embassies or consulates. The gain is none the less an important one and we congratulate both French women as a whole and the Association des Femmes Juristes, through whose direct instrumentality it was obtained. The first woman candidate, Mademoiselle Luce Camuzet, Docteur en droit, will present herself for examination next June.

In Greece, however, according to *La Lutte de la Femme* (Athens), the old prejudice against women operates in the civil service. A woman who is a Doctor of Law has been excluded from the competitive examination for the post of attaché in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, women chemists are not admitted to the similar examination for posts in the chemical laboratory of the Ministry of Finances, and the Minister of Finances recently refused to

sign the nomination of seven young women who had successfully passed the examination for posts in his ministry, and gave as his sole reason that he could not admit so many women.

Accion Católica de la Mujer (Madrid) publishes a royal decree of December 27, 1927, which limits in Spain the right of emigration of single women less than twenty-five years old. Unless they are in the company of their parents, grandparents or guardians, or are on the way to join their legal guardians, they may not emigrate without a document which certifies that they will be, in the new country, under the supervision and in the care of members of their own family or of others whose "moral solvency" is sufficient to guarantee them against corruption of morals.

This curious enactment should be read in conjunction with the law of Spain which makes twelve the minimum age of consent and of civil marriage. It should also be compared with the argument that Spanish women mature early, which is often advanced to defend this low age of consent and marriage.

Our member, Frau Rudel Zeyneck, member of the Federal Council of Austria, has sent us a most interesting report which she has been commissioned to draw up on abortion. She comments on the alarming increase

of this offence, and ascribes it to the growth of economic distress and the decline of morals. While it is still less common among Catholics and Jews than among Protestants, it has increased among Catholics during the last ten years. She deprecates the present tendency in the Austrian press to ask for a modification of the penal laws against abortion, in view, in particular, of the shortage of housing, and she points out that the subject is one which should engage the attention of practising Catholics, and which has proved the value of the representation of Catholic women in the Nationabrat.

We learn from *La Bonne Parole* (Montreal), that the Fédération Nationale Saint-Jean-Baptiste, has presented to the Prime Minister of Quebec the resolutions passed at its last general meeting. These include resolutions in favour of mothers' pensions, the appointment of women to the Commission on the Minimum Wage, an increase in the number of women inspectors, and the formation of a government commission, in which women would be included, for the revision of certain articles of the Civil Code affecting women, notably those dealing with property rights of married women.

The Government of Hungary proposes to introduce a measure which will allow women to vote in local government elections but not to sit on the governing bodies. This proposal has aroused great protests from women of all parties. The women of Hungary already vote for Parliament and are eligible for Parliament, although under restrictions not applicable to men.

We learn from *The Week* (Calcutta) that Poland is to have a Polish academy on the model of the Académie Française. Unlike the latter institution it will admit women members. Of twenty members so far nominated two are women, Mademoiselle Illakowicz and Madame Nalkowska.

The *Bolletino dell'Unione Femminile Cattolica Italiana* (Rome) gives the programme of the Seventh International Congress of the International Catholic Women's League, to be held at the Hague, April 24th-29th.

H. D. I.

Bridge Party.

Mrs. Huggett, 40 Kensington Hall Gardens, West Kensington, W. 14, is organizing a Bridge Party on Thursday the 3rd of May, in aid of our funds. All Bridge-playing members and their friends are asked to come, and if they could make up a four Mrs. Huggett would be very grateful. Price 2s. 6d., including refreshments. At 2-30 till 6 p.m., or 8-30 to 11 p.m. Will anyone intending to come let her know at latest by April 21st, and say to which session they will come. Offers of help for refreshments will be most gratefully accepted.

The flat is half a minute from West Kensington Station, District Railway, and from 28 Bus stop.

Dance.

A dance organised by Mrs. Kerr in aid of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, will be held in the Augustinian Priory Hall, Fulham Palace Road, W.6, (one minute from Hammersmith District Rail and Tube Station), on Saturday, April 21st. 8 p.m. till 11-30. Stewart's Orchestra. Refreshments at popular prices.

Members are urged to help to make this dance a success by applying at the office at once for tickets. (2s. each).

Jumble Sale.

The Finance Committee is contemplating a Jumble Sale in the near future. Members are asked to begin to collect for it. Sacks will be sent for this purpose on request.

We offer our congratulations to Mrs. Runciman, M.P., elected for St. Ives. This brings the number of women M.P.'s. to eight, the same as in last Parliament.

We also congratulate our member, Mrs. Mathew, re-elected to the L.C.C. Limehouse Division of Stepney; and Mrs. V. M. Crawford on her re-election, a guardian, for Marylebone. Mrs. Laughton-Mathews was unfortunately not elected to the L.C.C.

Street Offences Committee.

Summary of Evidence submitted by Miss Alison Neilans,

who was also asked to represent The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, The St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, The Women's Freedom League.

Miss Alison Neilans,

[General Secretary to the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene (a Society originally founded by Mrs. Josephine Butler in 1869 to fight the Contagious Diseases Acts).

The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene is the British Branch of the International Federation for the Abolition of State Regulation of Prostitution.

The witness has for 15 years been working on the legal, administrative, and, to some extent, the medical aspects of prostitution.]

* * * *

The Society which I represent originated the request for a Committee of Inquiry into the Solicitation Laws and has introduced Bills (the Public Places (Order) Bills) into both Houses of Parliament for the repeal of the laws specially directed against "common prostitutes" soliciting, loitering, or importuning.

The Bill was drafted to provoke public discussion on the subject with which it deals, and we realise it may require some verbal amendments but its general principles correctly represent the view taken by the above societies, these I summarize as follows:

1. There should be a uniform principle of law throughout the country for dealing with accosting or solicitation of one sex by the other.

2. In this connection there should be no special legislation applying only to "prostitutes" or "common prostitutes." We want these words struck out of these laws.

We consider that it should be a legal offence for any person to behave riotously or indecently in a public place, or to molest or solicit any other person to their annoyance or obstruction.

3. We desire to abolish from these

offences of loitering, soliciting, or importuning the words "for purposes of prostitution."

We regard this as an unprovable assumption in almost every case, and since it is not an offence to be a "common prostitute" nor, in England and Wales, to solicit "for purposes of prostitution," we consider the Court ought not to concern itself with these matters which, having to be stated in the charge, are contrary to the principles of English law inasmuch as they tend to prejudice the Court against the person charged.

4 We approve the general principle of English law which ignores irregular sex relations between consenting adult men and women. Our members agree that

"Prostitution is a matter which concerns the conscience but which does not constitute a legal offence."

Therefore, we consider that the action of the State must be limited to protecting the individual from annoyance or obstruction in his or her lawful use of streets and public places.

5. Consequently, the only satisfactory evidence that a person has been annoyed or obstructed is the complaint of that person. We cannot see that any other person, police officer or otherwise, can give convincing evidence that some unknown or absent individual was annoyed or obstructed, hence we ask that in such charges the complaint of the aggrieved person shall be required for conviction.

The above are the general principles embodied in the Public Places (Order) Bill, drafted by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

We have to meet the objection raised that men and women will not give evidence of annoyance, etc., and the allegation that streets and public places will be thronged with importunate women soliciting men and men accosting women, and the police will be powerless to maintain order and decency.

We would state, without prejudice to the arguments following, that we do not accept the view that morality can ever be safeguarded by injustice to a peculiarly helpless

group of women. Moral ends demand moral means. Injustice is itself immoral.

We further submit the following considerations:

(a) If the offence became one of simple annoyance or obstruction, with no reference on any kind to "prostitute," "prostitution" or "immoral purposes" some, at least of the present dislike to appearing as a witness in these cases will disappear.

(b) For all practical purposes girls and women have never had any legal protection against men accosting them. It is only in the last few years men have been taken into custody for so doing, and even so, the woman aggrieved is frequently required to attend—in many towns she must attend. There has been a high percentage of successful Appeals in cases of men convicted on uncorroborated police evidence of annoying women; and the reputable press is almost unanimous in condemning such convictions in the case of men.

General practice and public opinion demand corroboration, and yet women are rarely subjected to serious annoyance in the streets.

(c) This raises the point that there is no group of men who accost women habitually or obtain a livelihood by such accosting. That is true, but it is obviously disadvantageous to a woman who makes her living by sex intimacy to displease and annoy her potential customers. She used to be rowdy and disorderly because men did not greatly mind that behaviour in her. To-day men dislike it and accordingly she is quiet and comparatively unobtrusive in her street-walking.

The same change of conduct is observable throughout Europe regardless of differences in police regulations.

Prostitution is not a trade in any true sense of the term and analogies based on "regulating a trade" or on "street-hawkers" are misleading and confuse the real issues.

(d) We call attention here to the amazing change throughout the country which is very properly reflected in the number of prosecutions. Yet the law has not changed since 1849. It is manners and customs and public opinion on prostitution which have changed and are demanding higher standards of public decorum.

Criminal Statistics 1899-1925, published 1927: England and Wales.

Five-year annual average of persons tried for "Prostitution."

1899-1903	1904-1908	1909-1913	1914
9,841	11,032	11,065	9,808
1915-1919	1920-1924	1925	
5,655	4,317	3,222	

Note.—For 1914 and 1925 one year's figures only are given.

(e) The change noted in (d) above, makes the policeman's task more difficult as the women behave more decorously; it also makes the possibility of mistakes more likely. A considerable number of men dislike emotionally indifferent sex-relations with women of the town. This is due partly to knowledge of venereal diseases, but also probably, because a sense of shame is intervening—in short a public conscience concerning paid prostitution and in regard to the women themselves is developing. There is much accosting but it comes from men to business girls (often with no direct immoral intent) and from adventurous young women who want a little excitement and are generally able—or think they are able—to limit the incident to their own objective.

The dangers and difficulties of the police interfering with this sort of thing and drawing uncorroborated inferences therefrom are obvious, as they are themselves well aware.

(f) It is impossible to protect men (or women) from accostation and solicitation. Drastic suppression only makes it change its form, and become more subtle and more dangerous to inexperienced youth.

Open street-walking is a less danger to men and morals generally than its probable alternatives. Neither law nor police can effectively protect people from sexual temptation. Their own character and the collective opinion of their group will determine the result of solicitation. The street-walker is less dangerous to youth than a public opinion which teaches it that prostitution is necessary.

For reasons (a) to (f) we suggest that requiring evidence of annoyed persons need not in itself adversely affect order and decency in the streets. Our general proposals have the advantage that they provide a simple uniform code and one in accord with the

basic principles of British law.

The success or failure of any measure this Committee may recommend will depend largely on how it is received by the public and the police. The same consideration applies to the Public Places (Order) Bill.

The public is beginning to be concerned at convictions of alleged "prostitutes" on uncorroborated and artificial evidence; it will not tolerate similar procedure against presumably respectable men and women.

If the police think our Bill, or any other Bill dealing with Street Offences, is a reflection on them they will be sorely tempted to "let things rip" or "work-to-rule" and the results in either case may easily be disorderly streets. (See effect of 1922 Fitzroy Appeal on police and Chief Commissioner's warning to magistrates).

It would be wrong but it is human, and our police all over the country would not be so much liked if they were only disciplined automata. Our Bill is not a criticism of the police but of the obsolete laws dealing with unprovable offences which they have to administer.

We appreciate and respect the men of the British Police Forces and we make no reflection on them in saying we desire to have an adequate number of women police for general police duties and not only as a "morals squad."

We draw attention to the fact that there is no general statute which can be used against indecent behaviour, e.g., sex-intercourse in public, except in the case of a "common prostitute," when the man can be charged, with "aiding and abetting." If the woman is not a "common prostitute" the only means of procedure (difficult and expensive to use) is by Common Law indictment, or by special Byelaws. Some towns have no such Byelaws.

A number of large towns have no means of proceeding against men who annoy women by accosting. . . .

Indecency.

Under a general statute applicable to all persons we think genuine indecency, but not

mere solicitation, should be punishable subject to the use of the Probation Act in suitable cases.

Annoyance or Obstruction.

We think the present penalties are all that can equitably be awarded for such offences. We were, we believe, the first society to point out that fines constituted an irregular tax on prostitution and even imprisonment increased the woman's debts which she paid from the sale of herself. We have, therefore, no illusions about the value of such penalties in checking prostitution. We should like to see the Probation Act used whenever possible. Municipal grants to approved voluntary Training Homes or Colonies providing paid work might materially assist in the reclamation to good citizenship of some of the younger offenders of both sexes.

We look for a progressive reduction of these social evils to come not as the result of legal repression, but as a result of economic, social, educational, and religious improvement, and, more definitely, by a gradual change in the public attitude to the whole problem of prostitution. We believe that change has begun, and that it will continue and will tend to reduce commercial prostitution though, for a time, it may create other social problems which are probably outside the scope of this Enquiry Committee.

(Extracts from the Summary issued by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.)

French Militants.

We cordially sympathise with the French suffragists, led by Madame Maria Verone, who endeavoured to bring home to the French Senate, which continually blocks the way to Woman Suffrage, the fact that French women are getting restless. Mme. Verone and her friends scattered pamphlets and manifestoes on the heads of the senators, as General Hirschauer finished reading his report on the Military Effectives Bill, crying out as they did so: "Give us the vote, if you don't want to kill our sons." The demonstrators were taken to the police station, and, no doubt, the whole of France now knows that French women intend to get the vote.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. ANNUAL MEETING.

The Seventeenth Annual Meeting was held at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho, on March 17, at 2-45 p.m., the Chairman, Miss Douglas Irvine, presiding. The minutes of the last Annual Meeting were read and confirmed. Miss Pauline Brandt read the Annual Report, which was moved by Miss Almedingen, who spoke of the chief work of the year—the Equal Franchise campaign. Miss Kerr, in seconding the adoption of the report, said she was struck by the wonderful work done in the year. Miss Kerr, who is a very successful paper-seller, urged others to join the paper-selling Brigade.

Mrs. Laughton Mathews in moving the adoption of the Financial Statement, said that she was, as usual, amazed at the amount of work done on so small an income. Mrs. Mathews, who is Chairman of the *Catholic Citizen* Circulation Committee, appealed for new subscribers to the *Catholic Citizen*, and for paper-sellers. Miss Lucking, in seconding the adoption of the Financial Statement, also appealed for paper-sellers, saying that she found the work most interesting.

Miss Douglas Irvine, in addressing the meeting, spoke of the approaching victory, and of the past history of the suffrage campaign. In view of past events, suffragists were still on their guard. After Equal Franchise had reached the Statute Book, St. Joan's would have to consider future action. The Committee had decided to call a special general meeting in the Autumn to discuss this matter. There were still many victories to be won—equal moral standard, equal pay and opportunities for men and women, there was the question of protective legislation in Industry, etc., etc.

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

1.—EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS.

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

(b) *Women in the House of Lords.* St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to further legislation to enable peeresses in their own right to sit and vote in the House of Lords.

2.—EQUAL MORAL STANDARD.

(a) *Josephine Butler Centenary.* St. Joan's S.P.A. on the occasion of the centenary of Josephine Butler's birth wishes to express its deep thankfulness for her life-long struggle for justice and her persistent challenge to the double standard of morality which led to the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts in 1886. In particular it desires to express its

admiration for her courageous fight begun in 1869, for the abolition of State Regulation of Vice wherever it existed. It pledges itself not to depart from the principles of Josephine Butler in any work it may do to further the Equal Moral standard.

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

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

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

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

3.—EQUAL PAY AND OPPORTUNITIES.

(a) St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government and local authorities to establish among their employees a system of equal pay and opportunities for men and women, and freedom for married women to decide for themselves whether or not they shall engage in paid employment after marriage.

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

It believes that the only policy which safeguards their individual liberty and responsibility is that of basing all labour regulations and restrictions upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker, and calls upon the Government to apply this principle to all legislation.

4.—NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

St. Joan's S.P.A. calls upon the Government to give a lead to the British Commonwealth

by passing legislation to allow a woman the choice of retaining or changing her nationality on marriage with a foreigner.

5.—MATERNAL MORTALITY.

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

6.—AGE OF MARRIAGE.

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

7.—WOMEN POLICE.

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

8.—EDUCATION.

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

9.—WOMEN PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES.

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

10.—BIRTH CONTROL.

St. Joan's S.P.A. expresses its satisfaction with the continued policy of the Minister of Health in not allowing information on artificial Birth Control to be given at Infant Welfare Centres which are maintained out of public funds to which people of all opinions are required to contribute.

Miss Eleanor FitzGerald appealed for funds with a sincerity and humour which had an excellent result.

The following telegram was received: "The Liverpool Branch congratulates Headquarters, and rejoices in the coming of Equal Franchise."

After an interval for tea, a public meeting was held, at which Miss Alison Neilans gave an address on the Solicitation Laws. Miss Neilans, in an admirably lucid speech, explained the objections to the present Solicitation Laws, and why the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene and the feminist societies asked for the Laws to be repealed. Miss Neilans said St. Joan's S.P.A. could always be relied on to take the right view on these moral problems. She explained the injustice of stigmatizing a woman as "a common prostitute," which in some instances put her outside the protection of the Law. We give elsewhere a resumé of Miss Neilan's evidence before the Street Offences Committee, which deals with this same subject.

We have to offer our sincere thanks to Miss Gorry, who provided the tea and attended to it.

The new Committee is given elsewhere.

After the meeting the Committee entertained Miss Alison Neilans and Miss E. M. Turner to an informal dinner.

Equal Franchise.

BIRMINGHAM.

We hope all our members and readers in and around Birmingham will make a point of attending the Joint Suffrage Meeting, organised by the National Council of Women, to be held at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, on Friday, May 4, at 7-30. One of the principal speakers will be our member, Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, who has already made a great impression on the public and the Press by her eloquence. The Chair will be taken by Commander O. Locker Sampson.

South Africa.

When we heard from our member, Miss Dorman, earlier in the year, the position of Women Suffrage was promising. The *Cape Times*, February 18, had an article: "Women's Franchise in the Offing." When the critical moment came, however, the Bill was killed by tactics similar to those under which we groaned in past years. The Death Knell of the Bill was due, on this occasion, to Labour's betrayal. We sympathise with our colleagues, but in spite of this new discouragement, we know that their perseverance will ultimately break down opposition.

Josephine Butler.

[By Virginia M. Crawford. Published by the Josephine Butler Centenary Committee. Price 2d.]

We welcome this pamphlet on Josephine Butler by our member Mrs. Crawford, and hope that it will have a wide circulation among Catholics, especially those who are not yet well acquainted with Josephine Butler's great work. Mrs. Crawford handles her subject with understanding, and brings out the salient features of Josephine Butler's character and work. She rightly says that had Mrs. Butler faltered "the whole moral history of England as regards this special subject would have been different."

St. Joan's
SOCIAL & POLITICAL ALLIANCE,

55 BERNERS STREET, W. 1.

OPEN MEETINGS

At St. Patrick's Club Room,

SOHO SQUARE,

(Entrance in Porch of Church)

On Monday, April 23rd, 1928,

At 5-30 p.m.

Speaker: Miss Fedden,

ON

"The Aims and Objects of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance."

Chair—Miss BUTLER-BOWDON.

And Monday, May 7th, at 6 p.m.,

Speaker: The Lady Balfour of Burleigh,

on "Josephine Butler."

Chair:—Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford.

ADMISSION FREE. Tea and Light Refreshments may be had before and after the meeting.

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NOTE.

to all the above, generously at the glad to announce yearly, either given received from Mrs. B. Donovan, Miss with another. The therefore guaranteed. particulars of three the Finance Com- welling the funds. re will appeal to all will be well

G. JEFFERY.

DICT BRANCH.

S. Parnell, B.A., Liverpool.

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St. Joan's S. P. Alliance.

MONTHLY MEETINGS.

The Alliance has arranged to hold regular meetings for its members and their friends on the first Monday of every month at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square, at 6 p.m. A speaker specialising on one of the points on our programme will address the meeting, after which there will be a discussion. Tea may be had at 5-30, and light refreshments immediately after. The first of these meetings will be on *Monday, May 7th at 6 p.m.*, when Lady Balfour of Burleigh will speak on "Josephine Butler," Councillor Mrs. Crawford presiding.

Before starting these meetings there will be a special meeting on *Monday, April 23rd at 5-30*, at St. Patrick's Club Room, for the many new members who have recently joined us and for prospective members, when Miss Fedden will speak on the aims and objects of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. Miss Butler-Bowdon will take the Chair.

All members are urged to do their best to attend, and to bring friends likely to be interested. Admission to all these meetings will be free.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

March 1-31.

	£	s.	d.
Alberti, Miss L. de	1	1	0
Anon. Donations at Annual Meeting...	11	7	
Bacon, Miss Harley	2	6	
Bain, Miss	4	5	0
Brady, Miss	13	6	
Brandt, Miss	10	6	
Branston, Miss	2	6	
Bumpsteed, Miss	2	6	
Butler-Bowdon, Miss E.	4	10	0
Campbell, Mrs. Gillies	3	6	
Carroll, Miss	2	6	
Carter, Miss Barclay... ..	2	6	
Challoner, Miss	2	6	
Clifford, Miss	2	6	
Crosse, Miss	2	6	
Demery, Miss	2	6	
Donovan, Miss	2	11	0
Dowling, Miss T. C.	1	7	
FitzGerald, Miss E.	1	10	0
Gaffney, Mrs.	2	6	
Gordon, Miss C. M.	1	0	0
Gorry, per Miss	1	11	3
Havers, Miss	1	10	0
Higgins, Revd. Gilbert, C.R.L.	2	6	
Hughes, Mrs.	1	6	
Keogh, Mrs.	2	6	
Laughton, Lady	11	0	
Liverpool Branch	2	2	0

Loughlin, Miss	2	6
Lucking, Miss	2	6
McCormick, Miss	3	0
Mathews, Mrs. Laughton	2	0
Meredith, Miss	7	0
Murphy, Miss A.	5	0
Murray, Mrs. Mary	1	7
Myott, Mrs.	1	0
O'Connell, Miss	2	6
Parker, Mrs.	5	0
Powndall, Mrs.	1	0
Quinn, Miss	7	6
Radcliffe, Miss	2	0
Robson, Mrs. Hope	1	0
Stammers, Miss	2	0
Singleton, Miss	1	0
Souza, Mrs. de	7	6
Sturzo, Don	2	0
Tilsley, Miss	1	6
Wall, Miss	4	1
Minimum Annual Subscriptions	1	8
	£33	8 1

TREASURER'S NOTE.

My warm thanks are due to all the above, including those who gave so generously at the Annual Meeting. I am also glad to announce that further promises of £5 yearly, either given or collected, have been received from Mrs. Kerr, Miss Stammers, Miss B. Donovan, Miss Challoner, and Miss Brandt with another. The whole of the office rent is therefore guaranteed. Readers will find elsewhere particulars of three interesting events arranged by the Finance Committee for the purpose of swelling the funds. It is hoped that one or more will appeal to every member, and that all will be well supported.

G. JEFFERY.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

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

The Whist Drive held on March 14 was a great success from every point of view. It realised £8 8s. 5d., after all expenses had been paid, and gained eight new members for the Branch. In order to make it easy for these new members to attend their first ordinary meeting, it has been decided to hold it in Fairfield on April 26. Members are also reminded that they are expected to attend the Josephine Butler Centenary Meeting at 8 p.m. on April 27, at the Philharmonic Hall, when Dame Rachel Crowdy, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., and the Rev. G. Studdert Kennedy, are to be the speakers.

The Hon. Secretary recently spoke on Equal Franchise in Harrogate to the local Branches of the National Council of Women and the Catholic Women's League, and also addressed the senior girls of the Holy Child Convent there on the significance of the vote.

The Hon. Secretary has been asked to speak on Josephine Butler at the C.W.L. Annual Meeting on April 18 at 8 p.m., at Colquitt St. His Lordship Bishop Dobson presiding.

**ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND
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Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 2d. monthly.

OBJECT.

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

MEMBERSHIP.

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

St. Joan's Social & Political Alliance.

55 Berners Street, W.1.

OPEN MEETINGS

At ST. PATRICK'S CLUB ROOM, SOHO SQUARE.

Monday, April 23, at 5-30 p.m.

Speaker : MISS FEDDEN, on *The Aims and Objects of St. Joan's S. & P. Alliance.* Chair : Miss Butler-Bowdon.

Monday, May 7, at 6 p.m.

Speaker : THE LADY BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH on *Josephine Butler.* Chair : Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford.

Admission free. Tea and light refreshments may be had before and after the meeting.

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Instruction in History, Hunter College of the City of New York.

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THE
JOSEPHINE BUTLER CENTENARY

April, 1928.

Great Commemoration Meeting

CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER,

APRIL 25th, at 8 p.m.

SPEAKERS :

Miss Bondfield, Mrs. Bramwell Booth, Miss Alison Neilans, Sir Michael Sadler, Revd. Dr. Udé (of Gratz University).

CHAIR :

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

Numbered and Reserved Seats 2/6. Reserved, but not numbered, 1/-.

THE JOSEPHINE BUTLER CENTENARY COMMITTEE,
ORCHARD HOUSE, GT. SMITH STREET, S.W.1.

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